

## St. Piran's Day Meeting March 7, 2009

On March 7, 2009 twenty-two members and guests gathered in Puyallup, where we celebrated St. Piran's Day with a lively meeting, a special cake, balloons and daffodils. After the meeting we enjoyed hearing the story of St. Piran read to us by Shirley Ewart in her lovely British accent and a powerpoint presentation by Dot Hosking Huntley. We finished off the day with a delightful video of the "Mousehole Cat" brought to us by Marilyn Wright.



Dot Huntley and Alene Reaugh conducting the March meeting.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello Cornish Cousins,

On March 7, 2009 22 members and guests gathered in Puyallup where we celebrated St. Piran's Day with a lively meeting, a special cake, balloons and daffodils. After the meeting we enjoyed hearing the story of St. Piran read to us by Shirley Ewart in her lovely British accent and a Power Point presentation by Dot Hosking Huntley. We finished off the day with a delightful video of the Mousehole Cat brought to us by Marilyn Wright.

Shirley Ewart has suggested we put together a book about our Cornish Ancestors. As you all know, Shirley is the author of several Cornish books including the very popular "Highly Respectable Families, The Cornish of Grass Valley California 1854-1954." Shirley has suggested that members submit stories about their families that they would like to see included in the book. She will compile them and coordinate the printing of the book. Another idea she has is to interview members about how their family traveled to the Pacific Northwest whether it was 100 years ago or 10 years ago. As Shirley no longer drives we need to figure out how to get these interviews set up. Anyone with suggestions regarding this, please contact me.

The Grass Valley Gathering should be well represented by the Pacific Northwest group and Dot has arranged to have a table with information about us to distribute to the attendees. The program and activities sound wonderful and I encourage anyone who can manage it to attend. This is the first time the Gathering has been this close to us and well worth making the effort. I hope many of you will be able to make the trip.

Alene Reaugh, President PNCS

## Fact of the Day: genealogy

The first genealogy of an American family to be published was a 24-page pamphlet in 1771 by Ebenezer Watson of Hartford, Connecticut. It was Luke Stebbins's "The Genealogy of the Family of Mr. Samuel Stebbins and Mrs. Hannah Stebbins, His Wife from the Year 1701 to 1771" with their names, time of their births, marriages, and deaths of those that are deceased. In 1731, there was a 10-page supplement in The Memoirs of Captain Roger Clap that could be argued to be an earlier published genealogy.

**Yowann Byghan, Cornish bard and former board member of PNCS, holds his grandson, Toby, while in Vancouver to meet his new granddaughter, Bridget. Son, Gawan and his wife, Melody, brought Grandpa and the kids to Kazoodles for a little spoiling, while Yowann was visiting from Scotland, where he lives near Dumfries and works with special needs children.**



## **JULY ANNUAL PICNIC & MEETING**

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

July 25, 2009 at Fort Borst Park in Centralia

We tried a new format for our meetings at the Annual Picnic in July 2008. That new format seems to have worked and we will continue with it. As a little reminder and for those new to the group we will start at our regular time of 11:00 am with the Social Hour and Lunch followed by a business meeting and program. In 2008, we voted to change the by-laws to elect a new Board of Officers every other year beginning in 2008; as a result, we will not be electing new officers in 2009. We will be ready for a change next year, so I hope you will all consider contributing to our society by volunteering to be nominated.

We have not as yet formulated a program for the July meeting and I am open for suggestions and or volunteers. A lot of our members will be attending the Cornish Gathering in Grass Valley so our resources are limited. I promise that I will work diligently to come up with a good idea.

Hope to see you all there if you are not going to Grass Valley.

Alene Reaugh

## Shirley's Recent Trip to Cornwall



Shirley Ewart -Member

On a very recent trip to Cornwall (May 2009), I traveled to the U.K. together with Susan Peter, photographer for our book "Exploring the Tualatin River Basin." We started off in Falmouth. I was anxious to revisit the site of the Anti-aircraft gun on the River Fal where I had spent three years during WWII. There was a tour boat going from Falmouth, but when the lady selling tickets found out that I was one of the A.T.S. (British Army) girls who had served on the gun site, she insisted on giving me my ticket for free. It was strange to see the Fal looking so beautiful and peaceful. During the war, the American ships had been lined up three abreast prior to the invasion. Because of fear that the enemy might discover where they were, they couldn't use their own guns but relied on our big Anti-aircraft guns for protection. Our site was the only one entirely manned by women. The guns were not as mechanized as they are today, and the girls were sturdy Scots and North Country women able to muster the physical force to operate them. I was not a gunner, but a medical orderly. Further up the river, our boat passed the thatched house where General Eisenhower was reputed to have stayed just before the invasion. And then, there was a sad sight, three huge auto transports tied up. Due to the recession, the steady stream of autos from British as well as from European factories had just about ceased, together with the factory jobs and all the auxiliary work available from the automobile trade.

On the way back, crossing the bay to regain the Falmouth docks, the sea was rough. One wondered about the invasion troops, some of them from far inland states in the U.S.A. who had never been on a ship before, let alone to fight on a foreign beach. But remembering that those long-ago, involuntary "sailors" had made my peaceful and pleasant holiday possible, one murmured a prayer of thanks.

We did visit St. Ives, where I had spent most of my childhood holidays. My grandmother had been manageress of the Pedn Olva Hotel. The Hotel has been enormously (and hideously) enlarged, and is now owned by a German consortium. We then went up to St. Agnes, a charming and quite unspoiled little town on the North Coast. The blue-bells were rife all over the woods. The sun was shining and the footpaths along the coast very tempting. That, together with an excellent B & B, made St. Agnes a place where we both would like to spend more time. Incidentally, the number of "knacked" mines in the area indicate that this was a place that once housed the ancestors of many of the NW Cornish Association. After a week, we said goodbye to Cornwall and went up to London. Here I went to a school reunion, visited with my family, and enjoyed an enormous parade of army veterans, complete with bowler hats and umbrellas. We also relished lunch at the Ritz and a fine musical "Billy Elliot" at the Victoria Palace. And then, back to Portland.

## Memorial Day

### *Thoughts of a genealogist*

At this time of year, I can't help but think of cemeteries and how, as a genealogist, I have a need to find the gravestones of my ancestors. Last month I made a research trip to Butte, Montana. My Paternal Grandfather John Richards came to Butte for work; my Paternal Great Grandfather, John Pearce Peters, went first to the Comstock Lode as a mining engineer and then to Butte, where his daughter, Florence Peters, met John Richards, and became my Grandmother. From adjacent parishes in Cornwall, they met because both families left their beloved Cornwall to make a living in America.

On my Butte "to do" list was finding my Peters great grandmother's and great grandfather's headstone at the Mount Moriah Cemetery. Finding the plot, standing alone in this huge cemetery in front of the 4 foot high stone, seemed to bring me close to the great grandparents that I had never met.

**A memorable research trip it was!**

Jean Richards Timmermeister PNCS #003



**Pacific Northwest Cornish Society Store at Café Press**

<http://cafepress.com/pnwcs>

This will get you to the new store with Pacific Northwest Cornish Society items. Check it out!

Our grandchildren are both in Iraq this Memorial Day. As our grandson turns 25, he is out patrolling somewhere near Basra with his armored Humvee crew. His wife is somewhere near Talil in army intelligence. Both are ROTC officers. Sydney Neeley, Member

### **Tapestry**

Upon the wall of time it hangs,  
A panorama of the past  
Threadbare and worn, but vivid still,  
Its colors yet are cast  
Portraying those who went before,  
But left to me a part,  
Of blood and gene and courage  
They beat within my heart.

Pioneer with trudging step,  
You move across the warp.  
Patience in your weary feet,  
Your eye still keen and sharp.  
You shouldered rifle, headed west,  
With trust in God for keep  
Leaving home and family ties,  
Dry tears you never weep.

A soldier there! - in blue or gray  
It matters little now,  
You fought because the call came loud,  
No choice of when or how.  
My lady in billowing skirts  
Lily white of hand and face,  
You grace the home with charms so fair  
In muslin and in lace.

The days, the years, they pass before  
As I gaze upon the welt  
I try to reach you in my thoughts,  
To feel as you have felt.  
Woven around an obscure warp,  
Of stronger, common thread  
A Picture of family past now lives  
No longer is it dead.

A hundred years! They are nod dim,  
I see the faces clear.  
Great grandparents, uncles and aunts,  
Unknown, but oh, so dear.  
Dates and names mean little still,  
But each one ties a knot  
That makes my tapestry complete  
Except for **one** blank spot.

There must be room left at the edge,  
For one day I will be  
A part of someone's old and faded  
Ancestral Tapestry.

--- from Frances (Neeley) Dell's papers

### **Dick Colenso, flying his flags!**



## Cornish Pasties in Vancouver, WA!!!

Bob went to our locally-owned, neighborhood nursery today and came back all excited -- there's a new cafe on site where they serve Cornish pasties! We went back for lunch and they were delicious. This is run by the same woman who formerly had a restaurant in Battle Ground where you could get pasties. It's called the Bantam & Grouse, and it's at Shorty's Nursery, 10006 SE Mill Plain Blvd., Vancouver. Highly recommend it! There's meeting space there, should we ever want to gather around a pasty. And in summer, there's a nice outdoor area where you can eat.



Sutter County Courthouse  
Completed 1900

This courthouse is the third built on the same site in Yuba City. The first, built in 1858, was destroyed by fire in 1871. The cause of the disaster, according to one news report, was "mice gnawing the heads of matches left in the office." A second and larger courthouse, completed in 1873, was also set fire, this time by "a Cornishman who was in custody awaiting commitment to the Stockton asylum." The current courthouse is an elegant replica of the second, built in the Classical Revival style and largely preserved in its original state.

### *Amazon.com*

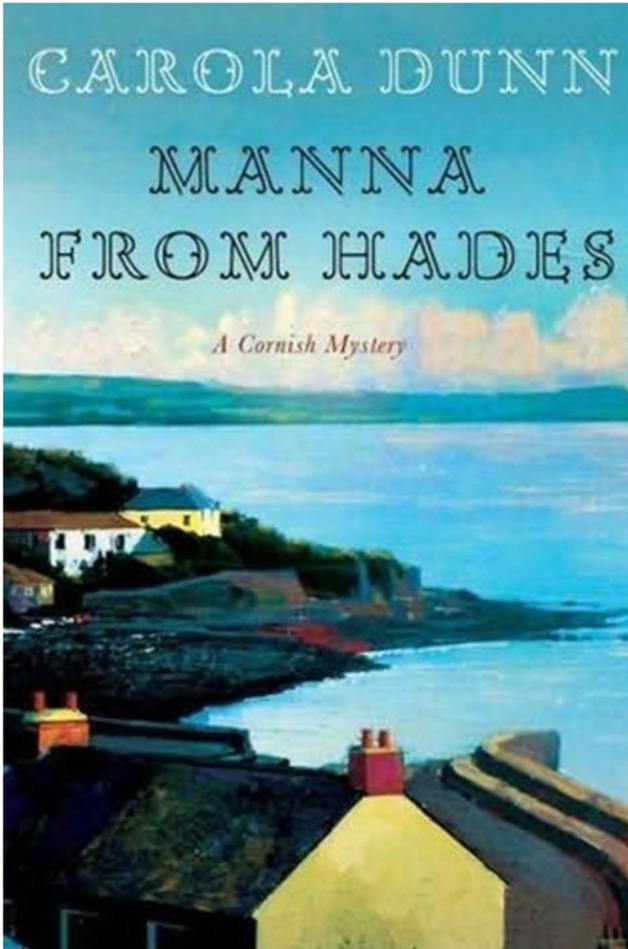
*There is a feature on our website that most of you may not know about. Mickey has added a link to AMAZON.com for our use. If you are planning on using Amazon for buying books or other products, just go to our website and click on the Amazon logo at the bottom of the home page. By accessing AMAZON.com thru our website you are benefiting our society. For every purchase you make this way, PNCS will get a donation.*

<http://www.nwcornishsociety.com/>



Carola Dunn's Daisy Dalrymple series is set in England in the 1920s, published by St. Martin's Minotaur and Kensington. The 17th book in this series is **BLACK SHIP**, and **THE BLOODY TOWER** is now out in paperback. **MANNA FROM HADES** (March '09, St Martin's), the first in a new series of Cornish mysteries set in the 1960s, is her 50th book (including 32 Regencies).

### **MANNA FROM HADES**



The first Cornish mystery **Manna from Hades** is set in Port Mabyn, a fictional fishing port that is a cross between Boscastle and Port Isaac, on the north coast of Cornwall. The date is somewhere between my childhood memories of Cornwall and the present reality, tilted toward the 1960-70s. Eleanor Trewyn is a widow in her 60s. She and her late husband worked for a big international charity. When he died, she retired and bought a cottage in Port Mabyn. She turned the ground floor into a charity shop, and she lives above it. Her niece, Megan Pencarrow, is a detective sergeant with the Cornish police, a woman in what is still a man's world. Nick Gresham, Eleanor's friend and next-door neighbour, is an artist. Jocelyn Stearns, the vicar's wife, runs the charity shop, as Eleanor is not business-

minded. In fact, the cash register breaks down if she so much as glances at it. Her contribution is to drive about the countryside collecting donations, giving her plenty of opportunities to get involved with all sorts of people. But in **MANNA FROM HADES**, she finds a body in the shop itself.

*Editor's note: I read this book, and found it not only delightful, but really captured the whole small town flavor of Cornwall and its people. I highly recommend you all get a copy of this book! And now read about Carola and Cornwall.*

# Cornwall & Me

by Carola Dunn

People have been asking what is my connection with Cornwall. I must have been 8 years old, I think, the first time we went there--"we" being my mother, my godmother, my sister and brother and I. We went to the south coast, a village called Mullion, and stayed in a farmhouse bed and breakfast.

I may not be able to remember the title of the book I was reading last night, but I still know the names of the farmer and his wife (Doug and Marge), and those of the five freighters we saw in Falmouth Harbour, while taking a boat tour: Eradona, Lyria, British Destiny, British Diligence and British Resolution. I remember making Eradona into a song which we kids sang all the way home. (Why any of us survived our childhoods I can't understand!)

The following year, my godmother, Bet, found a farmer in North Cornwall who rented her a field on the outskirts of Crackington Haven, overlooking the sea. There she parked her little caravan, with a view of the two headlands, Cambeak and Penkenna. And there the caravan stayed for the next thirty years or so.



Penkenna

We used to go down every summer, and often at Easter too. We got to know the North Coast from Clovelly to Padstow: Bude, Widemouth (Widdymth) Bay, St. Gennys, Rocky Valley, Boscastle, Tintagel, Port Isaac; and

Bodmin Moor--a favourite hike was to the top of Rough Tor to climb the huge rocks piled there by mythical giants.



Rough Tor

One of my earliest Regencies, **The Miser's Sister**, is set on Bodmin Moor.

Bet's caravan was still on the cliff-top when my son first visited England at the age of 18 months. I have a photo of him stealing grapes from the "refrigerator," an old-fashioned meat-safe. The field had two dis-used water tanks, from one of which we were able to siphon washing water, though drinking water had to be carried up the hill from a friendly neighbour. There was a chemical loo in a tent behind one tank, where one could sit and watch the sun set between the headlands.

My present connection with Cornwall is that my sister lives on the Cornish bank of the Tamar, the river that separates Cornwall from Devon, north of Plymouth. She's just a few miles downstream from Cotehele, a 15th century fortified manor house. The first time I saw Cotehele, I knew I had to write about it. I was writing Regencies then, and I used it as the setting for **Smugglers' Summer**. After Daisy came into my life, I set a mystery there: **Mistletoe and Murder**. And I expect that one day Eleanor Trewynn, my sleuth in the Cornish mysteries, will find herself mixed up in murder at Cotehele, though her home is on the North Coast.

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**PNCS LIBRARY**  
*The PNCS Library is housed with the President. The PNCS Library will always welcome donated books about the Cornish. If you have a Cornish book you would like to donate to the PNCS library you can bring it to one of the meetings or contact Alene Reaugh at (503) 775-9653 or email her at [softwalk2@yahoo.com](mailto:softwalk2@yahoo.com)*

**PNCS WEB SITE**  
<http://www.nwcornishsociety.com/>  
Webmaster: Mickey Sieracki  
Contact the Society  
[softwalk2@yahoo.com](mailto:softwalk2@yahoo.com)

**HISTORY OF CORNWALL on CD**  
We have copies of the Parochial History of the County of Cornwall, a four volume set of books with lots and lots of information on old Cornish families. This set of books was donated to us from our Cornish member, Ron Lake, and we had them put on CD, so that all our members could enjoy them! They are available to borrow or purchase. Contact Joan Huston if interested in obtaining a copy!  
[Tregarthen@gmail.com](mailto:Tregarthen@gmail.com) or phone 360-613-1718.  
Or go to [www.archivecdbooks.org](http://www.archivecdbooks.org) and check out all their CDs.

**PNCS MEETINGS**  
**First Saturday in March, in the North**  
**To celebrate St. Piran's Day**  
**Fourth Saturday in July, Central location**  
**Annual Cornish Picnic**  
**Third Saturday in October, in the South**

**OUR NEWSLETTER DEADLINES**  
**First week in February**  
**First week in June**  
**First week in September**  
Send articles, pictures, ads, notices, whatever, to:  
[Tregarthen@gmail.com](mailto:Tregarthen@gmail.com)  
Or mail to: **Joan Huston, 10116 Stoli Lane NW, Silverdale, WA 98383.** Make sure they get to me prior to the above deadlines to be included in the next newsletter.

**Pacific Northwest Cornish Society Application for Membership**

Name:

Address:

City:

State/Province:

Zip:

Phone:

Email address:

Webpage:

\$10 Individual member    \$15 Dual Membership

List Cornish names and areas or Parishes interested in:

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Send form filled out to:

Pacific Northwest Cornish Society  
486 Plat B Road, Sutherlin, OR 97479-9799

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*The purpose of this society, organized as a non-profit corporation, shall be educational as provided in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and shall be devoted to furthering Cornish identity, relationships, heritage, and genealogical research for the members.*

**MEMBERSHIP:** Individual Membership: \$10.00  
Dual Membership: \$15.00  
Lifetime Membership: a one-time payment equal to fifteen (15) times the current annual dues.  
Annual dues are payable as of 1 July.  
Send dues payable to: Pacific Northwest Cornish Society  
Address: Pacific Northwest Cornish Society, 486 Plat B Road, Sutherlin, OR 97479-9799

