



A True & perfect Inventory of the Goods Chattels & Credits
of William Adams of Good Down Taken and appraised by
Theodore Harvey and Joseph Woolcock of the said Parish the 30th
day of June 1725. as followeth.

Item his purlo and wearing apparel	3=0=0
Item his Chattle Estate in Treggony	100=0=0
Item two Cows 4 th & 3 rd small heifers 2=10	6=10=0
Item a young mare	1=10=0
Item for 10 Hoop at home & 3 Hoop abroad	2=0=0
Item for 5 Lambs at home & 2 Lambs abroad	0=14=0
Item for Boos at home & abroad	1=1=0
Item Two Acres of barley	9=0=0
Item for Codding	10=0=0
Item Three silver spoons & a silver Taster	1=0=0
Item a Gun Boam & one barrow	1=0=0
Item two hog heads & five half hog heads	1=0=0
Item pots & brass	1=0=0
Item an old Cart and an old Gun	0=12=0
Item powder a Cart Cupboard and iron & Soil	2=0=0
Item a round Table two Bed Tables & a form	1=0=0
Item Eleven Chairs a Doyn & half of Glass & other	0=17=0
Item for Wood	1=0=0
Item for Debt paper at 0 & Deposits	15=0=0
Item for things forgotten & unappraised	1=10=0
	<u>£189=14=0</u>

Theodore Harvey & Appraisors
Joseph Woolcock

A TALK PREPARED FOR THE WESLEY GUILD
AT CARNON DOWNS BY THE LATE
MR T. J. TREBILCOCK IN 1952

The road from Truro to Falmouth ran through Playing Place and continued through the Killiganon estate to Carnon Downs, with five cottages of cob walls and thatched roofs as you entered the hamlet. One of these was a "Kiddlewink", the Cornish name for a public house where beer only was sold. There were four more cottages as one left on the Perranwell road which was then the main road to Falmouth. The present main road down Carnon Hill, thence to the Norway Hotel and through Perran-ar-Worthal, was made by the Turnpike Trust in 1830. The old cottage at the entrance to the present main road to Falmouth was also a "Kiddlewink", but when the new road was made and Turnpike Gates were placed there it became a gate house and was occupied by an employee of the Trust whose duty it was to let the traffic through and collect the tolls.

When the G. W. R. branch line from Truro to Falmouth was under construction and the Sparnock Tunnel, midway between Carnon Downs and Baldu was being built, the G. W. R. engaged a gang of Irish navvies and housed and fed them in wood buildings on the site. The nearest place at which they could obtain beer was Carnon Downs Kiddlewink, kept by Henry Nicholls. In 1895 his son Henry told me that these navvies came each evening and ordered several gallons of beer which his father poured into a tin bath placed in the middle of the room. They sat around it; the ganger was given a pewter pint which he dipped into the beer and after drinking the contents passed it to the next man, all drinking in turn until the bath was empty. The Falmouth branch of the railway was completed on 24th August, 1863.

The lane from the Bissoe road across the downs to the junction of the Perranwell road and Carnon hill at Trethewey Cottage, now known as Staggy Lane, was originally Kitty's Lane because it led to Kitty Martin's grocers shop. Kitty's husband kept a night school in the barn during the winter months. The barn is still there and in a good state of repair. Boys attended from all over the district. My father who lived at Playing Place Farm was a pupil. On dark nights they carried lanterns with tallow candles which were lit by their parents at the open chimney fire; these were the days of the flint and tinder box. Mr Martin lit the lanterns for the return journey.

The lane from the Carnon Valley across the downs passes the present Pottery, crosses the Perranwell and Carnon Hill roads and leads through Carnon Crescent to Deadman's Lane.

Here tradition says that a traveller supposed to be carrying something very valuable was unhorsed by a highwayman and murdered; a stone embedded in the bank marks the spot where the crime took place. This stone has dark red markings supposed to be the blood of the victim. The lane continued to Point and the tidal waters of the Restronguet estuary; it was a mule track, everything being carried at that time on mules' backs.

When the lease of the Wesleyan Chapel was granted by Lord Falmouth in 1824, all the land from the main road to the Carnon Valley was a downs of heath and furze, several hundreds of acres in extent. The Chapel was built in 1825 with a seating capacity of 536. William Gerrish, the builder, a Carnon Downs man, was also the builder of Devoran Church in 1857, having built Baldu Church nine years earlier in 1848. He also built Trethewey Cottage for his own residence and he owned the land at Carnon Crescent on which the council houses are built. The Reverend Cyril Davey, Methodist Minister, is his great grandson.

Before the new turnpike down Carnon Hill was made, the road to Devoran from Carnon Downs was through Higher Devoran and Narabo Farms. When land was being acquired for building cottages and for small holdings, it was leased on the three lives system to revert to the landlord on the death of the last life. The land at Carnon Downs was apportioned in what were termed "plots", the number of each plot, its size, name of lessee and conditions of the lease were recorded. A few uncultivated parts remained until around 1900. It is interesting to note that Carnon is retained in the following place-names on the downs; Carnon Gate, Carnon, Old Carnon, Higher Carnon, Carnon Crease, Carnon Wollas, Carnon Hill, Carnon Mine and Carnon Mill. The mill situated at Old Carnon has long since disappeared. Two meadows adjoining it were gradually covered by the waste from the mines. The remains of the miller's cottage were removed for road widening when the Redruth and Chacewater Railway was closed during the first World War and the track from the bottom of Vitriol Works hill to Old Carnon became a highway thus making a direct road up the valley from Devoran to Bissoe. Previously the route was via Carnon Hill, Carnon Downs, Bissoe Road, Ringwell Hill to Old Carnon; the new road cut the distance by two thirds besides having the advantage of being practically dead level.

Ralph's Lane which leads from the top of Lodge Hill to Algarnick, links up with the lane down the Algarnick valley which emerges on the Carnon Downs-Bissoe road at Heath Farm. The site of the cottage on the corner of Ralph's Lane where it meets the Algarnick road was a waste piece on which timber was burned to make charcoal. The second holding down Algarnick Lane (Valley Lane), now called Samaria, was

originally Jinny West's. The public well outside the garden fence is still known as "Jinny West's well". A dozen cottages on the Bissoe road end of the village had to get their drinking water from it. The narrow road leading to it is called Row Hill. Halfway down on the right hand side there was a cot; it had two rooms one above the other - half a cottage, hence the name cot. When I was a boy it was occupied by William Burrows and his wife Lizzy. They had no family but he was known as Father Will. He was very short and stout and stammered badly. Lizzy was a match physically, the same height and size. When a portion of the Chapel was made into a school-room in 1857, a bazaar was held in it to raise funds to help in defraying the cost. Eliza Collins, who was a maid to a lady who did a lot of travelling, happened to be at home visiting her mother at the time and brought with her a galvanic battery. It was new to Carnon Downs and a source of wonder. On hearing that this bazaar was being held she offered to bring and operate it as a means of augmenting funds. Father Will came in the evening after he had left work and watched the contraption with puzzled curiosity for a time, then decided to pay his tuppence and have a go. The operator said "Now Mr Burrows let's see how strong your nerves are; when you have had enough say 'stop'." He gripped the handle pieces, the current was turned on and he soon started to squirm. His mouth twitched but he couldn't utter the word 'stop'. The large number of people in the room were suddenly startled and shocked as Father Will managed by supreme effort to shout at the top of his voice, "Hell!".

The first blacksmith's shop in the village was situated on the Tregye road near the present Grey Gables bungalow. Gig Lane did not exist at that time; a lane called Shop Lane led to the blacksmith's shop from the main road. The entrance to the lane was just above the present bowling green and followed its top boundary hedge to the Tregye road. The ruins of the shop and cottage were there in 1875 but soon after the remains were removed and site added to the field, a depression in the corner of which clearly indicated the old site. The next blacksmith's shop was on the site of Henry Wearne's bungalow on the corner of the Bissoe and Quenchwell roads and was part of a small holding with fields bordering each road. In addition to the shop there were cattle houses and a barn which extended from the corner of the Bissoe Road and formed the road boundary on the Quenchwell Road. The farmyard on the inside of the buildings was entered from the Bissoe Road. It was fairly large and square and at the back of it, facing the Bissoe Road was a thatched cottage and a smaller one built at a later date. The end of the latter cottage was on the Quenchwell Road in line with the other buildings. There was a small entrance on the Quenchwell Road serving the blacksmith's shop and the cottages;

the entrance to the cattle houses was from the farmyard. A Post Office letter box was built into the wall of the barn facing the road. The third blacksmith's shop is now the garage (and the fourth is now a pottery). See illustration in Feock Part II.

Mention has been made of Kitty Martin's grocer's shop - the next one was on the Bissoe Road at what is now called 'Hazeldene'. It was kept by Nancy Dunstan, the wife of William Dunstan the village carpenter. These were the parents of Ralph Dunstan, Mus. Doc., to whom I shall refer later. The third shop was at Bryher Cottage on the main road just below Cross Lanes, the fourth was at the junction of the Falmouth and Bissoe Roads, the fifth the present Kiddlewink Stores and the sixth, the shop that now incorporates the Post Office. A Post Office was first opened in the village in 1936. The shoemaker's shop was situated in the centre of the village at the junction of the Truro-Falmouth main road and the Quenchwell road.

A strip of land for the construction of Gig Lane was given by Squire Penrose of Tregye. It was at the time when gigs were coming into fashion, and Squire was the first in the district to have one. When the lane was opened it was arranged for him to be the first to use it and he drove his newly acquired gig through it. Hence the name Gig Lane. Squire died on the 23rd March, 1838.

The public footpath through Gateshead, the Park and across the Point-Penpol road passes through Higher and Lower Tresithick and Penpol farms to Penpol bridge. From there it goes through Trolver Farm to the top of Feock village, enters Veage Lane and leads directly to the parish church where the older inhabitants of Carnon Downs are interred. Their graves lie close to the boundary hedge opposite the detached belfry.

Formerly, a village green was situated where the Tregye road joins the main road at the village. Both the main road and the Tregye road were much narrower than at present, having in many places wide grass verges on either side. The green was triangular in shape and sufficiently large for us boys to play leap frog and other games. Political meetings were held on it. At the time of the Boer War, a Company of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry marched through the county visiting towns and villages on a recruiting campaign; they were headed by their band which heralded their arrival with a stirring march. They came to Carnon Downs on their way from Falmouth to Truro and pitched on the village green. While the officers were addressing the crowd, members of the Company buttonholed eligible young men trying to induce them to join up.

The polling station for the whole parish was at Carnon Downs until 1900. It was at the old vestry, a small room above the stable and carriage house at the back of the Chapel. This room was used for various things from time to time. For two generations a dame school was held there and also a night-school for 'hobble-de-hoys' (teenagers), a cow club and a pig club. Sixty years ago it was a men's institute and about thirty years ago it was found necessary to lower the walls and re-roof it as it had become dangerous.

Tregie Manor was the property of a branch of the old family of Penrose of Sithney. There is a very beautiful marble tablet in the parish church on the south wall near the circular Norman font which bears the following inscriptions: "Sacred to the memory of William Penrose, Esq., of Tregie in this Parish who died suddenly on the 23rd March, 1838, an affc. husband and father, a kind friend and benevolent neighbour, he lived distinguished and when it pleased the Creator to end his term of days he died sincerely lamented. To the memory of William Roberts Penrose, Esq., of Tregie only son of the above named who in the prime of life was accidentally drowned by the upsetting of a boat at the entrance of Truro river on the 2nd July, 1842 in the 22nd year of his age. His amiable manners had endeared him to an extensive circle of acquaintances by whom his loss was most sincerely deplored and his untimely decease which cast a mournful gloom over the minds of his surviving friends is here most affectionately recorded by his sorrowing mother Juliana Penrose who died June 8th, 1850, aged 72".

Killigancon signifies "the grove by the downs". It is 300 feet above sea level and situated on the perimeter of the parish. The land on the west and south slopes to the Carnon Valley and Restronguet estuary. The land on the east slopes to the River Fal. Richard Hussey, son of John Hussey of Truro, attorney-at-law, purchased the land, built the house and laid out the gardens and grounds. He became a most distinguished lawyer having the honour of being appointed Attorney General to the Queen and Counsel to the East India Company. In 1768 he was Member of Parliament for Loce. After Mr Hussey's decease, Killigancon passed into the hands of a Mr Dagge. Two brothers of that name went to London from Bodmin to seek their fortune. One became the manager of Covent Garden Theatre, the other practised as attorney and ultimately retired to Killigancon. Afterwards Killigancon became the property of Admiral Spry who enlarged the house and improved the plantations. From him it passed to his son, Sir S. T. Spry. After him it came into the possession of Thomas Simmons, Esq. The house was destroyed by fire in 1872 and the Squire had it rebuilt. When he died he left it to his grandson, John Messer Bennet, Esquire, solicitor, who improved

the gardens, lawns and pleasure grounds and successfully farmed the land. He sold the property just before the Second World War. At present it is being used as a country hotel and riding stables. Before leaving Killiganoon I want to draw your attention to two things on the estate which are of historic interest. The first is the mound or beacon situated near the farm buildings. My mother, whose forebears farmed the land before it became an estate and trees were planted round it, told me that bonfires were lit on this mound. It was a link in the chain of bonfires through the county. The story that a bonfire was lit there at the time of the Spanish Armada in 1588 has been handed down through the family to the present day. It is fenced around and completely hidden by the trees which are planted on it. The second is the old water mill at Come-to-Good, close to the stream and only a stone's throw up stream from the boundary of the Quaker's burial ground. The remains are still there and several large stones scattered around were evidently taken from the wheel pit.

Two sons of the village who deserve special mention are Ralph Dunstan and Pope Manuel. Ralph Dunstan I have referred to as the son of William Dunstan the village carpenter. He joined the Chapel choir at the age of twelve and learned to play successively the piccolo, flute, euphonium, bassoon and clarinet. In 1877 at the age of twenty he went to London and entered Westminster Training College to train as a schoolmaster. In 1879 he completed his college course, coming out with distinction at the head of the College list. He was retained as junior tutor and on the advice of friends turned his attention seriously to music. In 1882 he was appointed music master of the College and three years later he received the like appointment at Southlands College. In 1892 he obtained the degree of Doctor of Music. Under the patronage of the Royal Institution of Cornwall, the London Cornish Association, the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies and the Cornish Gorsedd he arranged and published the Cornish Song Book. Among his numerous arrangements are Cornish Dialect and Folk Songs, Book of Carols and One Hundred Old Methodist Tunes. Dr Dunstan died in retirement at Perranporth in 1935 at the age of 77.

Contemporary with Dr Dunstan was Pope Manuel and he was also engaged in the teaching profession. He secured a headship at Dr Barnardo's Homes which position he held until Dr Barnardo's death. He was then appointed one of four Governors who were responsible for the administration of the homes.

A special event was the Carnon Downs Chapel Tea Treat. This was held at Tregye until the death of Juliana Penrose in 1850, following which it was held for the next sixty-five years at Killiganoon. Five to six hundred people patronised it. The

kissing ring and the game of twos and threes were the beginning of many a romance. If a young man walked home with a girl that meant taking her to Truro Whitsun Fair the following Saturday. If he treated her generously it soon led to wedding bells. One young man, according to custom, took his girl to the fair. The price of admission to the larger shows was six-pence, the smaller ones three pence and a very few small ones one penny. He could only afford a penny and paid it for the girl to go in while he waited outside. That's how William lost his Mary and how for the rest of his life he was known by the nickname of Penny Boy.

Note:

The above consists of extracts from two MSS of addresses prepared by the late Mr Trebilcock, and given by him at meetings of the Carnon Downs Wesley Guild, in the one instance, and of the Carnon Downs Old Cornwall Society, in the other: the former in 1952, and the latter some few years later. These extracts have been selected and edited for this issue by his son, Mr Frank Trebilcock, of Feock.

Mr Thomas J. Trebilcock was born at Tresithick, Carnon Downs, on December 8th, 1880, and except for the period of his service with the D. C. L. I. during the First World War, the whole of his long life of over 92 years was lived in Carnon Downs.

As a child he attended the Council School at Devoran, later studying book-keeping at a night-school in Truro, his proficiency in this subject securing him the offer of the post of assistant purser on one of the White Star liners of that day. Family pressures, however, led to his deciding against taking up the appointment; and giving his thought to work on the land, he became a highly skilled woodsman and gardener.

At Devoran he was greatly influenced by the late W. R. Cock, the village schoolmaster and a gifted musician. Under his training he became a member of the Devoran Choral Society, then newly-formed, and which in his time was a competitor in the first County Music Festival, winning the Buller-Howell shield for the best choir taking part. Later he became a member of the Carnon Downs Male Voice Choir, then under the direction of Gordon Hall, F. R. C. O.

A loyal and devoted member of the Methodist Church, there was no office open to a layman in the church and Sunday-school at Carnon Downs which at one time or another he had not held. A Trustee for many years, he was Secretary of the Trust when the present organ was installed. And in wider service still to the community, he served for about thirty years as a member of the Feock Parish Council.

Following some years of retirement, and still held in warm esteem, Mr Trebilcock passed away at Carnon Downs on the 17th of June, 1973, in the 93rd year of his age.