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PLACE NAMES IN THE PARISH OF FEOCK

According to Dr Gover, Charles Henderson and many others, this is a baffling subject. By far the greatest number of place-names are in the Cornish language; a Celtic language closely akin to Welsh and Breton.

Names were given to places to meet a practical need; as more than one place in an area was settled they had to be named to distinguish them and as settlements grew so did the number of names.

The men who conferred the names had no thought of instructing or informing their posterity but took a meaning understood by those who used the names.

In Cornish the descriptive adjective follows the noun; for example, Tre- indicates a large farmstead (Tregew, Tregye, Trelissick etc), while Chy- is used for a smaller farm, sometimes situated among other cottages, e.g. Chycoose.

The place-names given in the table were taken mainly from Dr Gover's unpublished typescript and Charles Henderson's works, both in the library at the Truro Museum. We are especially grateful to Mr Richard Jenkin for his personal assistance, and have also studied works by Morton Nance and P.A.S. Pool.

With regard to the three main settlements, Feock, Devoran and Carnon Downs:

Feock occurs as Ecclesiam Sancte Feoce in 1264 (S.R.) later spellings vary considerably and it was first spelt with a 'k' in 1394. The name is said to come from the Irish saint Fiacc or Fiaco.

Devoran is mentioned as Deffrion in 1278 (Ass); the name is a derivative of dever or dover meaning water (Cornish dour the old name for the creek.

Carnon Downs occurs in the 1683 Recovery Rolls and means Rocky Downs, a mixture of Cornish and English.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>EARLIEST SPELLING</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>REF.</u>	<u>MEANING</u>
Tregew	Tregeu	1208	B.F.	Farm in hollow or recess
Tregoose	Tregueyt	1280	Ass.	Farm by the wood
Trevilla	Trevelle	1265	R.I.C.	Farm and personal name
Tregye	Tregy	1327	S.R.	Farm of the dog
Trelissick	Trelesyk	1280	Ass.	Farm - ?bushy (Dexter)
Tresithick	Trevethysek	1342	N.I.	Farm ?
Chycoose	Chiencoys	1378	P.R.	House in the wood
Chyreen	Chyreene	1692	R.R.	House on point of land/hillside
Clydia	Gwealeggia	1610	H.Ms.	Gweal - field
Penhale	Penhal	1327	S.R.	Head of the marsh
Penpol	Penpol	1327	S.R.	Head of the creek
Ponsmain	Ponsmean	1767	H.Ms.	Stone bridge
Porthgwidden	aqua de Porthgwn	1284	Ass.	Whitehaven
Goonpiper	Goon pypper	1547	H.Ms.	Downland plus personal name
Killiganoon	Kellygnohan	1296	Ass.	Grove of nut trees
Nancassick	Nanscasek	1416	H.Ms.	Valley of the mares
Lamouth	Nansmough	1535	H.Ms.	Valley plus ?pigs
Dower Ruth	Dower Ruthe	1626	R.I.C.	Red water
Loe Vean	Loo	1327	S.R.	Little pool
Algarnick	Heleginick	1748	Map	Hal - moor gwern - alder
Pill	Pill juxta la Feock	1490		Moulton Creek
Harcourt	Harcrack	13thC	H.Ms.	on the rock?
King Harry	from a former chapel here dedicated to our Lady and King Henry VI			

Ass.	Assize Plea Rolls
N.I.	Nonarum Inquisitiones
P.R.	Patent rolls
S.R.	Lay Subsidy Rolls
H.M.	Charles Henderson Manuscripts
B.F.	Book of Fees

Field Names

Some farm and field names are of equal antiquity and can be traced back to the 12th century. When farms acquired more than one field it became necessary to distinguish them by name. This was invariably in Cornish until superseded by English. As time went on, new farms were established and might be given an existing field name.

The following field names are taken from the Tithe Apportionment schedule of 1841 which is the only comprehensive source we have. Only the more unusual ones are listed.

Tregew

Silver Close
Park Wartha
Park Hale
Park Mullett
The Kestle
Fox Park
Bedlam Wood
Potter's meadow

Killiganoon

The Boggan
Chygwidden
Tippet's Hill
Great Mount field
Pease meadow
Cries meadow

Trelissick and Penhale

The Beacons
Namphillows
Marl Pit field
Algiers
Nancassif field
The Stennack
The Stitches

Lower Devoran

Little Park and Gullyy
Park and huns
Park Hains
Lower Park Nethon
Park Gilly
The Negus
Park an Grannick
Shote Plot

Trevilla

Park Dreens
Great Pile field
Crackadden
Colly Vease
Pons field
Moddrick

Tregoose

Outer Ninnis
Glana

Tresithick

Culver House meadow
The Gleaner
Stately field

Trolver

Great Trelarren
Stennack
The Gews
Carnon Mine Croft

Higher Devoran

Nonesuch
Boatswain meadow
Park Braws
Clodgy
Vineyard

Harcourt

Trelarren field
The Gears
Skipping close
Kite close

Penpol

Park an Wilkin
Homer great close

Chycoose

Minnin
Lower Lambraws

Sandoes

The Boggan

ORIGIN OF THE SOCIETY NOW WORSHIPPING IN
GOONPIPER CHAPEL

In 'More about the Early Methodist People' the late Dr Leslie Church refers to the work of Elizabeth Collett in establishing Methodist Preaching in Feock, giving as his source the 'Life of Mrs Elizabeth Collett', edited by her son Richard Collett and published in Volume 2 of Taft's 'Sketches of Holy Women' c.1828. Born Elizabeth Tonkin in Gwinear on May 9th 1762, at 16 she joined the local Methodist Society, which probably met at the home of one of the members. Four years later, in 1782, she moved to Feock and finding there was no Methodist society or chapel in the area, she obtained the consent of the family with whom she lived to have Methodist preaching in the house. She herself seems to have secured the Superintendent's permission for preachers to attend regularly to conduct services. Redruth Circuit covered this part of the county and its Superintendent Rev. Joseph Taylor was one of the first 100 Ministers appointed by Wesley under the Deed of 1784. In 1784, the Feock Society had 43 members but four years later these had dwindled to 14.

The Bishop of Exeter's registry of Meeting-house Licences has an entry stating that a 'lately erected house at Feock' was registered on April 4th 1807, at the request of Robert Shepherd, Charles Thomas and Hannibal Edwards. This may refer to the building traditionally regarded as the first Methodist chapel in Feock, which was on the road to King Harry Ferry at Sandoes. A farm building now stands on part of the site and the ruined wall adjoining may have been part of the chapel. The phrase 'lately erected' is no real clue, as registration, though required by law immediately on erection, was often delayed. This would appear to have been the case at Sandoes, for within a few years this building was replaced by a new one erected, it is believed, on the present site at Goonpiper, registered at Exeter on 19th July, 1819. Registration was at the request of Francis Truscott, Wesleyan Minister of Truro. The membership was then 40 and the ground leased to the trustees at 8/- per annum. There was seating for 180, the majority of the seats being backless benches. This chapel cost £154, of which £44 had