

# *Merrymeeting Forge*

Gwennap,  
Cornwall, UK  
TR16 6BL

## *A History*



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2018

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## Prefix

This was supposed to be a short retirement project lasting a few months but it has turned into a fascinating, if at times frustrating, dip into local history records lasting, off and on, years, as the research was fitted around the normal demands of life with children leaving home, grandchildren appearing, etc.

The initial stages were straight forward enough – we have lived here for over forty years and had carried out many improvements and developments which led us to some detailed understanding of the structure and it also meant that the recent history was covered. The next stage was to use on-line resources such as the Census Records 1841 – 1911 and the Electoral Registers 1948 – 1982, the gap between 1948 and 1982 was covered by records held in the Cornwall Records Office in Truro. This section is where one of the great puzzles arose – see Chapter 2 (pg14), as the Merrymeeting site seemed to house an extraordinary number of people in the early period. The next puzzle came when trying to establish when the current building was actually built as the obvious resource of records from the previous owners, the Williams Estate (of Burncoose, Scorrier and Caerhays), could not be accessed. Even the history of the turnpike road running alongside the property proved elusive – see Chapter 4 (pg36). Resorting to a wider approach via general Cornwall road development maps and turning to the records of neighbouring estates, Tresamble and Trevince, together with a couple of local histories filled in some of the jigsaw.

Staff at the Redruth Reference Library were very helpful with a good range of maps; the curator, David Thomas, and his staff at the Cornwall Records Office in Truro, proved to be a font of knowledge; the resident curator, Angela Broome, at the Cornwall Museum also checked their archives; a friend from the Beauchamp family (owners of Trevince) delved into their family history archives to assist in this endeavour; and local neighbours contributed photographs and maps adding to the trail.

With all the twists and turns, the detective work required in following through the various sources and clues has proved a fascinating and absorbing exercise with an intriguing result.

The extract from a Descriptive Poem on Gwennap in Appendix 5 (pg 66) published in 1845 provides a description of the immediate area which could apply equally today (except we have far more traffic). It also gives an intriguing comment on Merrymeeting as it appears that the Cornish militia marched 'through it' to carry out war games across the road at Tresamble in the early 1800's. (From 1803–05, Britain stood under constant threat of a French invasion during the Napoleonic wars. The Royal Navy, however, secured mastery of the seas and decisively destroyed a Franco-Spanish fleet at the Battle of Trafalgar in October 1805). Does this imply a hamlet or that they passed by?

It proved a satisfying way to take advantage of periods of quiet in the course of daily life. Also my thanks to my wife, Sue, for her tolerance, or was it relief, at the times I spent out of the house on my researches.

As a final comment please note the research findings are limited and, in places, confusing. If anyone can help with further details or clarifications then please get in touch.

## Merrymeeting Forge



2017 (See Appendix 4 for more pictures)

### Introduction

Every house has a history and the house we live in is no exception. It started as a humble smithy with a cottage attached and has developed into a large family home of some character in the two centuries since it was built. The intriguing questions arise – why was it built here? When exactly was it built? Why is it called Merrymeeting Forge? Who lived here and what did they do? How was the building and use of it changed over the years? Since my retirement I have tried to answer these questions about the forge and have come across fascinating answers as well as puzzles which I have put together in a format I trust the reader finds interesting.

It is over half a century since the ring of hammering on an anvil sounded in Merrymeeting Forge but we are constantly reminded of the original purpose – recently I dug up another horseshoe in the garden.

It is now purely a domestic dwelling although the building was originally constructed in the early 1840's as a working forge in the traditional Cornish longhouse design with accommodation for the blacksmith and his family incorporated at one end. My wife and I have lived here happily since the late 1970's, our children were born, grew up and left home in the time since and, as have previous occupants, we made some changes to the building to make it a large comfortable home to suit our needs.

With any old building of character where usage has evolved over the years, there is always an intriguing history attached to its purpose, reason for its location, the alterations and adaptations over the years and, of course, the history of the people who have lived in it.

Using any available sources such as the house deeds, the Cornish library resources, Census records and relevant books written about the area (not, unfortunately, including the records of the Williams Estate held at Caerhays Castle from whom we acquired the property as many of their records of that period were destroyed in a fire some years ago) a fascinating picture emerges which may be the history of only one building but shows how we and our immediate environment are influenced by not only our own needs but also the local geography, local historic developments and the times we live in.



*Detail from the Gwennap Tithe Apportionment 1839. The property (in the north east corner of a long triangle) was described as 'Cottage and Court', the north west corner as 'Plantation' with the rest described as 'Close'. All belonging to John Williams Esq.*

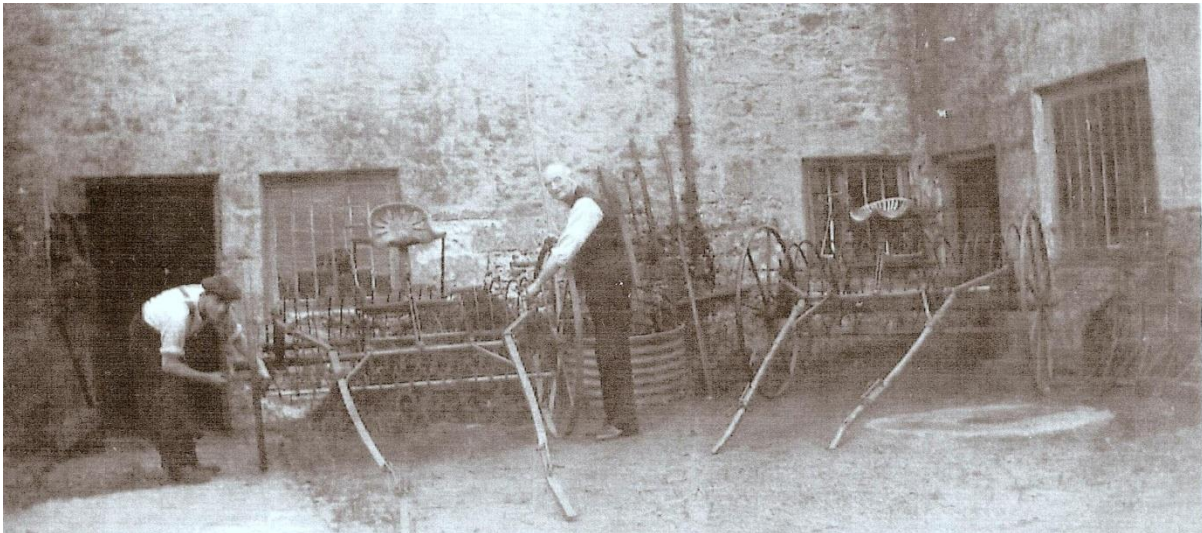
### **The name**

According to Cornish place names compiled by R Morton Nance, 'Merrymeting' is most likely an Anglicisation of 'myr an mytyn' which means 'morning aspect' in Celtic. The building is aligned north-south with the original front (and all the large windows) facing east thus it is lit up by the morning sun as it rises – this would have been even more the case where the forge was originally situated (between 1300's ( or earlier – see pg 28) and 1800's) further up the hill, at the other end of the triangle, on an exposed junction of roads. Another possibility is that it derives from the English 'pleasant meeting place' – a name for places where several roads meet (and it would be applicable to the site of a busy smithy). The prevailing winds blow from the south-west therefore the back of the current building (the side on the lane and the forge access – the new 'front' of the house you see on arrival) had only one window – a small window at the head of the stairs providing light to the landing and with (still original) wooden shutters, to withstand any winter gales. Another reason for the blank wall facing the courtyard would have been to keep sun out of the forge so that the smith could see the state of his fire and the colour of the heated metal more easily.

## Chapter 1

### The Building

Although built in granite and in the style of a traditional Cornish 'long house' as a blacksmith's shop incorporating accommodation at one end it earned the title 'Forge' as a development from 'Smithy' by extending the products beyond horse-related work such as farriery to include all sorts of metalworking – in its prime there were two forge furnaces in operation. I was told by a local farmer some years ago that he remembered a very busy business with two full-time blacksmiths and six apprentices in the early 1900's – as a boy on his father's farm he relished the occasions when he was sent to the forge with a horse for shoeing or some implement to be mended so he could watch all the bustle and activity accompanied by the noise of hammers, the flying sparks and the smell of hot metal. The original massive round stone wheel-plate on which metal tyres were fitted to cartwheels is still here although now propped up against the wall having been moved (with a great deal of effort) from its working position embedded in the forecourt outside the forge. The forecourt was mainly cobbled and a section remains in front of the main door.



Early 1900's (?) Note the granite wheel-stone set in the ground.

## The current Building

The building design was based on the Cornish Long House, it is 75 feet long, one room deep, 16 feet high, 2 foot thick stone walls of granite stone on the outside with rubble infill



in the middle. A lean-to coal store was built at the forge end. Dressed granite lintels over the windows and doors with square dressed granite quoins set outlining the buildings corners and door/window apertures show it was a solid construction of some class. As with most traditional Cornish buildings in the area the thick stone walls were laid on clay with no foundations, the forge floor was beaten earth and compacted ash and the cottage part had slate flooring laid directly on earth. The roof is traditional black/grey slate tiles. Originally a large wooden louvered air/smoke-vent structure was set on the forge roof to supplement the forge chimneys (visible in 1978 photograph above although since removed).

All windows are of the single glazed, wooden sash, type although the forge widows



overlooking the courtyard were metal uprights with overlapped glass panes set in between. The original sashes lack 'horns' which supports a building date before 1850. The forge part of the building had a main wide stable door (big enough for a shire horse to enter – on the wall opposite this door a tethering ring remains), a window beside it and a smaller (normal) door at the other end of the courtyard. One very tall window with a low sill looked out on to the garden and there was a door leading out into the garden beside it.

About one third of the long house was devoted to the living accommodation with its own access and divided off from the smithy by an internal, two foot thick, granite wall extending up to the roof.



The cottage front door opened into the living room/kitchen with a large window looking out on the garden and a back door opposite leading out into the rear cottage garden adjoining the forge courtyard; a Cornish range would have been set in the chimney alcove on the left; the room has a comfortable 7 foot 3 inch head height with exposed ceiling joists. To the right of the main door was a door leading into a square parlour with its own large



window looking out onto the garden and with a slate surround fireplace set in the thickness of the north wall.



A fairly steep narrow single-flight staircase (fully boxed in originally to stop heat from the kitchen escaping) is set opposite the window in the living room/kitchen leading to a small landing and (originally) three bedrooms upstairs.

All three bedrooms had a large window each facing east onto the garden and two had fireplaces. The only window on the west side is a small one on the landing at the top of the stairs which still has the original shutters.



Water for the smithy and the cottage was collected off the roof with gutters emptying into storage barrels at either end of the building. The rain water used for drinking and cooking would have been filtered before use.



There was no bathroom, and toilet facilities consisted of an earth privy set outside at the cottage end of the building although there may also have been one for use by the workforce at the other end. Interestingly the privy was still in place in the 1970's, complete with an old wooden seat and a wooden door but with sections of heavy corrugated metal from a Second World War Anderson Shelter forming the curved roof and sides.

The building is set on a plot of about one third of an acre with the main garden (now mainly lawn but originally set out as an apple orchard with fruit bushes) on the side away from the lane with a narrow garden at the north end of the building and a small garden and a courtyard on the lane side.

The large garden is bounded by the main road on the north side, woodland on the east and would have led into small fields on the south side (now self-seeded woodland) leading up to the apex of the triangle where the ancient smithy once stood.

The whole plot of building, gardens and woodland is positioned high up on the side of the Gwennap valley (at an elevation of 94m above sea level), triangular shaped, covering about two acres bounded by roads on the three sides – main Redruth to Penryn A393 road (previously the turnpike toll road) on the north side forming the top of the triangle where the current building is situated; the Gwennap to Stithians/Four Lanes road to the east/southeast; and the original Lanner to Stithians road (more of a tarmac lane now) on the west/southwest which meets the other at the southerly apex of the triangle. On the other side of the roads surrounding the triangle are fields on two sides and the wooded gardens of the Burncoose Estate on the other. Two bungalows from the 1920/60's are situated across



the lane opposite the forge courtyard on either side of the lane leading to ancient Devis Farm and a lane leading to Gwennap village branches off on the other side of the A393 main road.

### The buildings' evolution

There can be no certainty on the dates of the changes made to the building to suit the evolving needs of the business and the blacksmiths family occupying the cottage but the sequence was something like:

1840's – 75 ft longhouse-style rectangular granite building comprising of two-thirds blacksmith workshop and one third cottage accommodation with a solid dividing wall between them. The building is orientated North/South with the cottage at the North end. A lean-to coal shed was attached at the end of the smithy at the south end. Set in a triangular



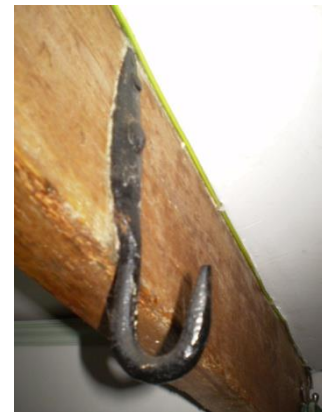
site comprising of one third of an acre orchard garden, one third of an acre of woodland, and one and half acres consisting of two fields divided by a low wall. A cobbled courtyard and kitchen garden were accessed from the lane. The whole site was contained between the lane and two roads. Water was supplied by collecting rainwater in large storage tanks and an outside privy was built in the narrow garden strip at the cottage end.

1860's – lean-to kitchen (9 x 13.5 ft external dimensions) added to the cottage on the west side entered from the house through the previous back door, the door itself was relocated on the north side of the new kitchen providing a more sheltered entrance.

A chimney was built into the north wall of the new kitchen to serve the built-in copper to heat water.

Maps of the period still show the area of the triangle consisting of the long forge building in one corner, a garden behind it with woodland behind that filling one third of the triangle, the rest, up to the apex, being two fields.

1870's – extension wing (17 x 22 ft external dimensions) built onto the forge end of the building incorporating the entrance to the coal shed and providing more forge space. The wall between the old and new building was taken down forming a new, much enlarged, L shaped space and the previous bottom forge entrance door was converted into a window. . The west wall of the extension incorporated a chimney to serve an additional forge fire. The original roof was left intact and a square pitched roof added over the extension. A second rainwater storage tank was added at that end to serve the new forge. By this time the two fields in the triangle had been allowed to turn into self-seeded woodland which remains to this day.





1890's – the blacksmith's large family required more space therefore an extra (fourth) bedroom was added to the cottage by building it upstairs in the forge space, providing access to it through a new door made in the solid dividing wall and taking a slice off the end bedroom to make a corridor to reach it. It would have been about this time that the fireplace in that bedroom was sealed off to make best use of the reduced wall space. A new window was built in the new bedroom overlooking the garden designed to match existing windows. At the same time the space formed below the new bedroom was converted into a forge office with a wooden partition separating it from the working forge and a window added to match the others on the garden side.

1930's – there are indications that the cottage had a major upgrade with a new brick-surround fireplace replacing the original in the downstairs parlour and a similar one put in to replace the range in the living room - the original large space was filled in behind it although the original mantelpiece remains. Removal of the range would only have been possible if an alternative means of cooking was in place – most probably a gas cooker in the new kitchen run on bottled gas. That would also explain the gas light fitting above the old range mantelpiece discovered embedded in the plaster when that wall was stripped for re-rendering in the late 1970's – there is no mains gas available in the area. The cottage still used an outside earth closet.



1940's – a small glass lean-to conservatory was added enclosing the original front door and the parlour window. Also a flimsy lean-to glassed utility area was added to the end of the kitchen where a sink was installed utilising water piped in from the storage tank outside. It would have been about this period that the flush toilet was built at the end of the coal shed with access to it both from the forge and from the garden. The below-ground block septic and soak away tanks were built to service the new toilet although water was still supplied from the rainwater storage tanks. The door from the forge into the garden was removed and the space filled in.



1949?



1978 West (lane) side

The building was left abandoned and neglected for a couple of years in the mid 1970's until we arrived finding leaking roofs throughout, internal soot covered walls in the forge part with a beaten earth floor, ghosts in the bedroom (according to my wife) and bats in the coal shed. The garden was overgrown and running wild with apple trees and fruit bushes only just discernible through the tall grass and weeds.

1970's – 1980's - major house renovation and conversion work included replacement of the tiled roof; removal of the vented forge cowling; reinforcing several blackened and soot-eroded beams in the forge (about a foot of soot was found to have accumulated above the fourth bedroom ceiling); soot-blackened walls (the forge space was open to the rafters) were cleaned; and bitumen flooring was laid over the broken cottage slate floor and a concrete floor was laid in the forge area (which also reduced the Radon Gas readings taken in 1979 to acceptable levels).



1978 East (garden) side

Mains water was connected via a buried supply pipe (in 1978) brought up from Gwennap village some quarter of a mile away – across two large fields, under the main road (fortunately a culvert was found and utilised), across two other fields, under the lane and to the courtyard. The rain water storage tanks at both ends of the building were removed.

A new drainage system was put in below ground with a new round fibreglass septic tank. The old square, slab built tank with its linked soak-away tank could not be used as it had been built too high up in the ground to allow sufficient flow or capacity for modern use as the old forge toilet had been built three feet above the building floor level. Both the old tanks were utilised as a soak-away for the new tank.

The smallest bedroom at the top of the stairs was converted to a bathroom.

A Rayburn Royal cooker (initially solid fuel but later converted to oil and since updated to a Rayburn PJ) was installed in the living room fireplace occupied by the range in the past.

The brick dividing wall between parlour and living room was reduced and the internal door removed to provide a large open plan room making a sitting room and a linked dining room.

The extended part of the forge was converted (in 1985) into self-contained accommodation comprising of two bedrooms, bathroom downstairs with living room and kitchen upstairs. Old door and window were replaced and new windows cut in the stone wall upstairs looking out onto the courtyard and downstairs looking out onto the lane. An internal door downstairs links the accommodation with the central part of the building. A platform decking was built on the kitchen level to provide external space, a rear access and fire-escape route.

A flat roofed garage (20x15 ft) with car pit was built attached to forge end/south end of house (1986).

A utility room (12 x 9 ft) with larder and downstairs toilet was added as an extension to the kitchen (replacing and enlarging the old, flimsy utility area), the old back door was relocated

in the new utility room to face the rear garden and an internal door put in its place. At the same time the copper and its chimney were removed and the end wall (which became the wall between the kitchen and utility room) replaced with a thinner one (1987).

1990's – central part of the building (the original forge) was converted into the drawing room with an en-suite master bedroom above (1993). The original large sash window in the forge looking out on the garden was converted to French doors and two windows added upstairs, one overlooking the garden and the other overlooks the courtyard. A Velux window provides natural light in the new bathroom.

The old forge office was converted into a study and the partition wall replaced by a block one with a glass section to allow natural light into a corner of the new drawing room.

A panelled entrance hall was built between the study and the main forge door which became the new main entrance to the house. The courtyard (west) side of the building became the 'front' of the house and the original front (east) side, looking out onto the garden, became the 'back'.



One of the alcoves on either side of the living room fireplace was knocked through to provide a door to the hall/study/drawing room and a door added thus linking up the building as one integrated house.

A large lean-to conservatory (54 ft x 9 ft) was added on the garden (east) side of the house (in 1996) enclosing all the downstairs windows and the French doors providing a considerable extension to the ground floor with access at both ends from within the house or from the garden.

A tree-house was built among the trees edging the garden (which still stands) boundary.

2000's – workshops added along the north side of the garden (aluminium construction on a concrete base).

Storage area added under the platform decking attached to the forge conversion on the opposite end of the building to the original cottage (2002).

The whole triangle was included in the designation of 'within a **World Heritage Site**' in 2009 as comprising part of the mining history of Cornwall as the site and building belonged to the Williams family at the time they were developing extensive mining interests in the area.



*Animal traps and water hand-pumps found in the forge – all the contents were sold off by auction when the widow of the last blacksmith left in 1975/6. The building remained unoccupied until 1978.*

## Chapter 2

### The Occupants to date (estate tenants until freehold sold in 1978)

It has been quite a task but a fascinating journey to trace the previous occupants via Census records (from 1841) and Electoral Register records (from 1922). In addition records of Baptisms and Burials of residents of Merrymeeting from Gwennap Church records covering 1813 – 1845 (earlier records do not show places of residence therefore could not be used).

#### Baptisms of Merrymeeting residents 1813 - 1845

		Child's name	Surname	Parents	Fathers occupation
<b>1815</b>	Sept10	John	Herring	William, Alice	Labourer
<b>1816</b>	Sept16	Mary Ann	Trengove	Thomas, Martha	<b>Blacksmith</b>
<b>1817</b>	Feb9	Elizabeth	Sampson	Edward, Jenny	Miner
<b>1818</b>	Dec15	Samuel Thomas	Trengove	Thomas, Martha	<b>Blacksmith</b>
<b>1819</b>	Jan2	William	Sampson	Edward, Jane	Miner
	Dec25	Susan	Knockey	Richard, Susan	Miner
<b>1820</b>	Apr25	Benjamin	Whitburn	Edmund, Elizabeth	Farmer
	Dec25	Thomas	Wicks	William, Mary	Miner
<b>1821</b>	Feb4	Thomas	Trengove	Thomas, Mary	<b>Blacksmith</b>
<b>1822</b>	Feb2	Nicholas	Thomas	Nicholas, Susanna	Saddler
	Jun5	Benjamin	Whitburn	Edmund, Elizabeth	Farmer
	Dec22	May Ann	Wicks	William, Mary	Miner
<b>1823</b>	Jan9	John	Trengove	Thomas, Martha	<b>Blacksmith</b>
<b>1824</b>	Feb22	Richard	Knockey	Richard, Susanna	Miner
<b>1826</b>	Feb5	May Jane	Stevens	Richard, Mary	Miner
	Jun28	William	Kellow	James, Brigit	Miner
	Sept18	Elizabeth	Chapman	Matthew, Elizabeth	Husbandman (free tenant farmer)
<b>1827</b>	Jun3	William	Michell	James, Tamsin	Miner
	Jul26	Noah W	Gill	William, Jane	Miner
	Dec26	Joseph T	Kellow	James, Brigit	Miner
<b>1828</b>	Apr13	John	Herring	William, Mary	Husbandman
	May25	Mary Jane	Stevens	Richard, Mary	Miner
<b>1829</b>	Mar5	Martha Jane	Trengove	Thomas, Martha	<b>Blacksmith</b>
	Apr26	James	Whitburn	Edmund, Elizabeth	Husbandman
	Jun9	Mary	Kellowe	James, Bidy	Miner
<b>1831</b>	Jul31	James W	Trengove	Thomas, Martha	<b>Blacksmith</b>
	Dec31	Jane	Gray	John, Jane	Miner
<b>1833</b>	Oct6	William H	Trengove	Thomas, Martha	<b>Blacksmith</b>
<b>1835</b>	Apr20	May Anne	Gray	John, Jane	Miner
<b>1836</b>	Sep11	Charles H	Hughes	William, Anne	Gardener
<b>1837</b>	Apr21	George	Carbis	Samuel, Elizabeth	Miner

	May7	Richard	Bennetts	Jeremiah, Ann	Labourer
	Sep10	Elizabeth Anne Murton	Trengove	Mary Anne	?
<b>1838</b>	Aug31	William	Pearce	William, Elizabeth	?
	Oct7	George W	Carbis	George, Mary Anne	Miner
<b>1839</b>	Mar31	Martha	Carlyon	John, Alice	Husbandman
<b>1840</b>	Apr19	John Nicholas	Gould	Edward, Blanch	Yeoman (cultivates his own land)
<b>1842</b>	May8	George Harris	Bennetts	Jeremiah, Ann	Husbandman
	Sep25	Richard Pearce	Gould	Edward, Blanche	Farmer
<b>1844</b>	Feb4	John James	Penaluna	Thomas, Avis	Carpenter

### Burials of Merrymeeting residents 1813 - 1845

		<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>
<b>1818</b>	Apr17	Ann Hoskin	87
	Dec4	William Allen (Miner)	46
<b>1819</b>	Jan2	Marion Morcom	1
	Dec7	Ann Whitburn	62
<b>1820</b>	May1	Benjamin Whitburn	4 weeks
<b>1823</b>	Feb13	Thomas Jennings	?
<b>1829</b>	May4	James Whitburn	3 months
<b>1832</b>	Jan12	Anne Nicholas	87
<b>1834</b>	Oct3	Mary Jennings	87
<b>1839</b>	Jun5	Thomas Trengove – inflammation of the lungs ( <b>Blacksmith</b> )	44
<b>1840</b>	Jan18	Jean Matthews	86
<b>1841</b>	Mar31	Catherine Penaluna – consumption	25
<b>1842</b>	Apr13	John Penaluna	66
<b>1843</b>	Mar27	Jean Wicks	82
	Burials from Gwennap Workhouse (shown here out of interest)	1814 – 1 1815 – 2 1816 – 3 1817 – 5 1818 – 4 1819 – 2 1820 – 1 1821 – 3 1822 – 3 1823 – 1 1824 – 3 1825 – 3 1826 – 3 1827 – 4 1828 – 1	



### **Census records 1841 - 1911**

It emerged as (and still is) a confusing picture – on the 1839 Tithe Map the site is described as ‘cottage and yard’ but was it a row of cottages as there seemed to be eight families living there in 1841 i.e. 43 people ranging in age from 80 years to 10 months, including the family of a blacksmith (Tregrove) and a blacksmith’s apprentice?

By 1851 it was down to six families - 20 people ranging in age from 68 to 13 years. The Tregrove family were still there and one of the members had the occupation of blacksmith.

Ten years later, by 1861, there was a further reduction to three families – 6 people ranging in age from 57 to 3 years -no blacksmith. But there is a blacksmith (Henwood) and his family shown as living in Burncoose Cottage, just round the corner.

In 1871 John Henwood (a son of the Burncoose Cottage Henwoods), a blacksmith, and his family of wife, daughter and father-in-law were living at the forge.

By 1881 there is another change as Henry Rowe, blacksmith, with his wife and young family of three daughters and a son are living there with a sister-in-law.

The confusion arises due to the location descriptions used by the census – this cannot all be one site but maybe an interpretation of the immediate locality. In 1841 (eight families) it is called ‘Turnpike Road at Merrymeeting; in 1851 (six families), 1861 (three families) and 1871 (one family) it is called ‘Merrymeeting’; in 1881 Henry Rowe (blacksmith) and his family are shown as living on the Burncoose Estate (to which the forge belonged) and two other (non blacksmiths) families living at Merrymeeting. The record for 1891 shows the Rowe family (now with 8 children) still living on part of the Burncoose Estate with no mention of Merrymeeting. They are still there ten years later in 1901 although one of the children has left home. Merrymeeting is not identified as their residence until the census of 1911, by which time only two grownup daughters are still at home.

With this confusion, these records are no help in determining when the present building was actually built and first occupied. Architectural evidence indicates a date before 1850 and blacksmiths (Tregrove) certainly lived in the immediate vicinity and probably at the forge before that time but their records were lumped in with their near neighbours.

It is interesting to see from the maps in Appendix 1 (page 56) that up to 1870 the triangle consisted of the forge site with a plantation (woodland) and two fields. By 1878 the two fields had ceased to be used for agriculture or pasture and had been allowed to go over to woodland. This coincides with the move from multiple-family-occupation to the single blacksmith’s family in residence as seen above.

*At the time of writing this history we have another three years to wait for the 1921 census release (i.e. in 2021).*

It is also interesting to see the evolving occupations of the residents around and in the forge as initially they were based on mining and farming, moving on to include school teacher and post office assistant, and now people with degree-level occupations.

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