



Volume 27 • Number 2 • Autumn (Kynnav) 2018

## President's Greeting



Autumnal greetings, Cousins!

The heat has passed and I, for one, welcome these cooler blue-and-gold days as we transition into my favorite time of year, the non-hot period. Come on rain!

Over in Cornwall, the harvest celebrations are taking place with the ancient traditions of "Crying the Neck" and the Guldize. Crying the

Neck honors the teamwork of the community to work together to get in the crops needed to survive the winter. After the last sheaf is in comes Guldize, a night of food, drink, music and dance, that is the reward for the labors. Corn Dollies are fashioned to store the spirit of the corn safely over winter until it is planted anew in the springtime.

At the Eden Project the harvest is celebrated with a beer fest, featuring Cornish beer, cider and gin. The beautiful Lost Gardens of Heligan have a weeklong event with apple pressing, corn dolly making, heavy horses and demonstrations of pollination, wild food foraging and butchering.

The California Cornish Cousins celebrate Fall by pouncing on pasties and getting together for a good "natter". Jan Davis organized the SoCal member's luncheon at Dana Point, while the Central Coast members gathered at Richard and Joyce Knight's home to enjoy a pot luck and memories of Cornwall. NorCal members met in historic Mokelumne Hill for homemade pasties, saffron cake and heavy cake along with lots of chatter, laughter and a bit of area history.

Many thanks to all for organizing, attending and helping as it takes all hands to keep our group alive and well. Hold on to your hats as we enter the Hallowthanksmas season and enjoy the time with your loved ones. Happy Samhain to you all.

Sowena,

*Kitty*

## Cornish History Class

Registration is open for CCC Historian Gage McKinney's Cornish history and culture course at Sierra College in Grass Valley. The class will meet four Wednesdays from 2:00 to 3:30, November 7 - 28. For enrollment visit the Sierra College - Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) website at [www.sierracollege.edu/olli](http://www.sierracollege.edu/olli) or telephone 916/781-6290.

From the OLLI catalog:

### **Cornish History and Culture: the Cousin Jacks and Jennies**

*Come explore "the sense of difference" that propels a global culture emanating from Cornwall, a Celtic land in the United Kingdom. The course will uncover the wellsprings of culture in geology and geography, and then follow developments, including industrialization and migration. Giving attention to Nevada County, the Mother Lode and California, the course will trace the revival of Cornish language and music, and provide a context for King Arthur, Ross Poldark, and Doc Martin.*

*Gage McKinney - Nevada County Campus - Four Wednesdays - 2-3:30 pm. November 7-28 - \$20 (plus OLLI Membership)*

For those of us who can't travel to Grass Valley, wouldn't it be great if this class could be offered online?

## 2019 Gathering - Save the Date

We will gather at the Opera Hall in Sonora for the weekend of June 14-16. A highlight of the event will be a visit to Jamestown's 1897 Railroad State Park for a round house tour and steam train ride. Cousins, If you have ideas for other area activities, please contact Kitty. All thoughts will be welcomed and appreciated.

## Support the John Harris Bicentennial Festival

The John Harris Society has announced a bi-centennial festival to celebrate the Cornish poet who wrote vividly of his experiences as a hard-rock miner. The festival will center around the Alverton Hotel in Truro, Cornwall, October 16 – 18, 2020. The society is asking for responses from people interested in attending.

Responding won't commit you to anything now but will help the organizers to assess the interest and plan the event. The Harris Society is also seeking sponsorships.

To express interest in the festival, contact [tony.jasper@btinternet.com](mailto:tony.jasper@btinternet.com). For more details, and to read some of John Harris' poetry, visit the website at [www.JohnHarrisSociety.org.uk](http://www.JohnHarrisSociety.org.uk).

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### John Harris, Poet and Miner 1820 - 1884

by Tony Longford

*Reprinted with permission of  
the John Harris Society*

John Harris was born in 1820 at Six Chimneys on Bolenowe Carn, near Camborne, the eldest of 11 children.

Largely self-educated, he started school when he was six or seven years old and finished at the age of nine. John had an insatiable appetite for reading from his early years.

On his ninth birthday he started work, briefly as a ploughboy, then for a tin-streamer operating in Forest Moor.

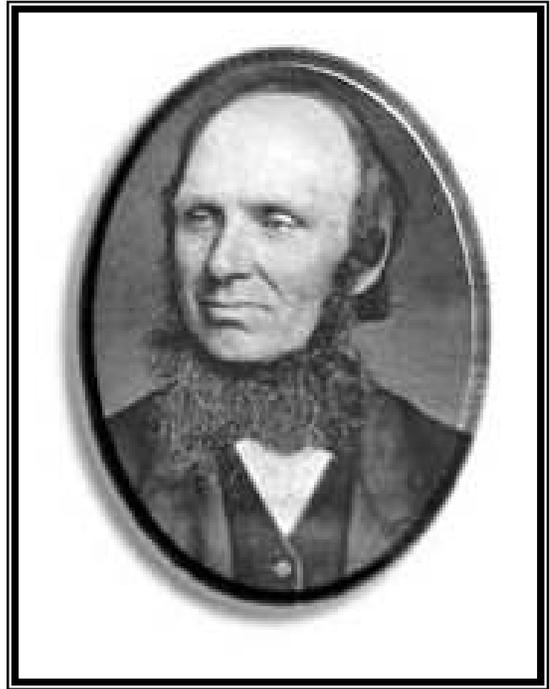
When he was 13, John went to work underground at Dolcoath. He was to ply this arduous occupation for 24 years, seeing the famous mine pass from copper to tin.

Poetry, or verse-making as he called it, had been part of John's life since his first attempts at rhyme at school when he was just eight years old.

Whatever he was doing, verses were forming in his mind and he scribbled these down whenever and wherever and on whatever he could. He used the clean side of cast off labelled tea wrappers, and when no paper was available, would scratch his poems on slate, using a sharp pointed nail.

In his mining days his miner's 'hard' hat was sometimes used for this purpose. When no ink was available, he used blackberry juice.

He fitted his writing into a busy life that, apart from his work and his family responsibilities, included being a Methodist lay preacher and a Sunday School teacher.



John Harris left Dolcoath in 1857 to take up an appointment as a Scripture Reader at Falmouth, a post into which he threw himself with enthusiasm.

He continued writing poetry and later began writing peace tracts. He became a Quaker.

John Harris died in 1884 and lies buried in Treslothan Churchyard.

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### My Infant Daughter Falling Asleep on my Knee

How softly dost thou fall asleep

Sweet cherub on my knee!

No bird can sing itself to rest

More carelessly than thee.

Five minutes since I heard thy song,

And stroked thy little head:

But now I lay thee down to rest

Within thy cradle bed

Sleep on, sleep on, my innocent!

When years are sped away,

O may thy rest be then as sweet

As it is now this day!

*-- John Harris*

## SoCal Fall Lunch



*Left to right, Back Row: Judy Berg, Walt James, Janna Pasco Morgan, Jill Amadio, Silvia Ibarra, Jan Davis. Front Row: Kathy Clark, Rosa Castro, Lupita Clark, Letitia Salido*

Lunch Organizer Jan Davis writes “Rosa, Lupita, Letitia and Silvia are members of the Duarte-Clark family that was in Mexico. Janna is an Oakland high school friend of mine. I am encouraging her to work on her family history. We barely knew each other in school and neither of us know we had a Cornish background then.”

## Central Cal Fall Lunch



The Central Coast Fall Luncheon was held on October 6 at the home of Richard and Joyce Knight in Arroyo Grande. Lots of good food and gab about Cornwall with everyone participating. →

## NorCal Cousins Meet in Mokelumne Hill to Pounce on a Pasty

It was one of those dazzling autumn days where the cloudless sky is so brilliant a blue that the contrast of the blazing colors of the turning leaves against it is almost too sharp to look at. A light, flirty breeze freshened the 80 degree day to a comfortable temperature so no one sweltered, very welcome indeed, as we know that the Golden State is often still cooking in October.

The event was held in the historic Town Hall, a very authentic building from the Gold Rush era, retaining many of its original features. Originally the town firehouse built in 1864, it somewhat ironically burned down in the town fire of 1874 and was rebuilt.

The dining tables were beautifully decorated by Rosemary Gamblin with the Cornish colors and handmade corn dollies. Fall foliage from her vineyard added to the festive fall feel. Pasties, crudités, saffron cake and heavy cake fed the group as we visited and learned a bit of history regarding Cornish settlers in the area (“wherever there’s a hole in the ground . . .”). Maps were provided to us by the town’s Historical Society for a walking



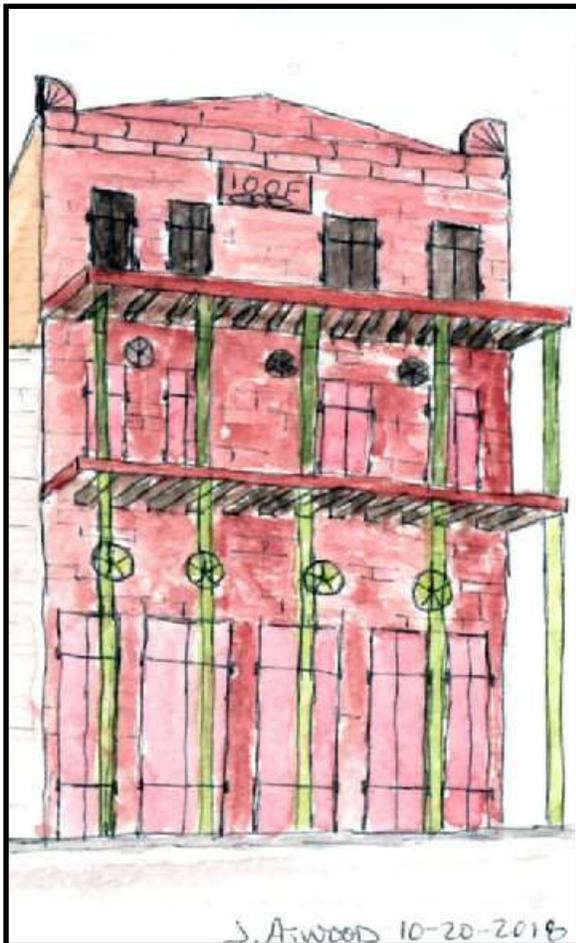
tour of the downtown’s many fine historic buildings.

Meur ras to the members who helped with setup and those who stayed to help clean and load up. Many hands makes light work. It was another fun event, we are so fortunate to be part of such a great group of people.  
Kernow bys vykken!

*Photos: Top, Mokelumne Hill’s historic downtown. Bottom, left to right: Kitty brings out the pasties; Yvonne Bowers and son Tony Montosa. He asserted he could easily eat two pasties. Wrong!*



**NorCal Pasty Lunch, cont'd.**



Photos, left and right above: Cousins Kay and John Phillips; Elaine DeFehr.

Left and below: John Atwood, Cousin and Sketcher, drew Moke Hill's Oddfellow's Hall, built in 1855.

John works on postcard stock and mails the card to himself to add to his collection of travel sketches.



## Mining Through the Past

### Cambridge student visits Nevada County to research Cornish heritage

by Jennifer Nobles

Sebastian Horton has always dreamed of visiting California. Growing up in Penzance, Cornwall, he'd imagine a land of sunshine and balmy temperatures, a place where he could surf and skateboard to his heart's content.

The 22-year-old finally made his California wishes come true, but the purpose for his trip is much more significant than he'd initially imagined.

Horton — a third year student at Cambridge University — is visiting Nevada County to conduct extensive research for his dissertation which will be presented in April. The topic of the project will be Cornish mine workers who ascended to positions of social and political influence.

“One thing would be the Cornish — kind of seeing how they rose up through the ranks,” Horton explained. “It’s the idea of the American dream. In Cornwall, if you were born in the poorest area you’re going to stay in the poorest area. You aren’t going to become mayor of London or prime minister. But you could do it here in this new world situation.”

Horton chose Nevada County because of its rich Cornish history and dense population of Cornish descendants. His home town of Penzance is sister cities with Nevada City, which piqued his interest.

When I initially proposed this project my supervisor came to me and said, ‘Are you going for a holiday or for a research project?’ said Horton. “After about five seconds I said, ‘research project.’”

Horton’s trip is being partially funded by Cambridge. He is spending much of his time with his nose in books at Doris Foley Historical Library and



Searls Historical Library. A typical day will find him moving between the two, finding as much information as he can about Cornish folks who made their way to our little town in the heart of the gold country.

“I’ve only really just started so I am still finding my feet,” Horton said. “A few years ago I had to do a smaller dissertation project and I did it on Cornish women in the 19th century where I live, which was really interesting. This year I had to do a dissertation as well and I was thinking I really enjoyed

the first project I did.”

It’s common, Horton said, for university students to travel in order to complete their dissertations. He explained that supervisors will instruct students to go to their location, conduct extensive research, and make a project out of it upon their return. He just feels lucky that his interests led him to California.

Because of the limited amount of research time — he plans on being on the West Coast for just over three weeks — he said the possibility is there that the focus of his topic will change before its completion.

In its final form, Horton’s dissertation will read about 15,000 to 20,000 words — about 30 to 45 pages. He will present it in

April though he is aiming to have the project completed by January, allowing time for any modifications he finds necessary.

Nevada County resident Gage McKinney — himself a well-known historical author — has been serving as Horton’s host and has been sure to show him some of Nevada County’s culturally significant



## Cambridge Student, cont.

historical sites, like Empire Mine and North Star Power House Museum.

“Seb’s arrival here testifies to the cultural diversity of our region and to the perseverance of our Cornish heritage,” said McKinney. “Cornwall has one of the great minority cultures of the world struggling to survive. Our community is remarkable for sustaining that culture and attracting talented young scholars like Seb.”

Horton has been bemused by the popularity of the Cornish pasty in our area, and admits he is “gobsmacked” to know locals might be interested in the work he is doing.

While in California, Horton hopes to see some sights beyond Nevada County and explore the parts of the southern state which he has seen so often in movies and television. An avid skateboarder, he looks forward to seeing places like Venice Beach, where so many of his skating heroes honed their skills.

“I did decide to kill two birds with this,” said Horton. “I’ve always wanted to come to California. Everybody wants to come to California.”

*Reprinted from the Nevada City Union*

*Photos by Elias Funes*

## Welcome, New Member Deanna Hoffman

Deanna Hoffman of Granite Bay, California has recently joined the CCC.

She is researching surnames Dunn, Knuckey, Harris and is interested in the areas of Redruth, Tuckingmill and Camborne.

We hope to meet you at the June 2019 Gathering, Deanna.



## Newsletter Submissions are always welcome

Do you have photos, stories or Cornish recipes you’d like to share with the Cousins?

Send them to Rosemary Gamblin:  
email: [rgamblin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rgamblin@sbcglobal.net)  
mail: 23 Maxwell St., Lodi 95240

*Thanks*

## Tintagel, a Symphonic Poem



Cousin Jan Davis recently enjoyed listening on the radio to this beautiful piece by Sir Arnold Bax. Jan remarked that parts “sound like the waves crashing against the cliffs!”

If you’d like to hear it, you can Google “Tintagel Bax” or listen on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FX95ET4qSI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FX95ET4qSI).

## Looking for Photos of “Your” Cornish Locations?



### AsBy Images:

Two photographers based in Cornwall capturing landscapes, seascapes and impressionist images of the duchy and beyond

While out and about, Cornish photographers Alan Swann and Barry Yelland have come across couples from overseas researching family histories and taking photographs of places connected to their ancestors. They realized there must be more who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to get to Cornwall to see family roots.

They offer to photograph any Cornish links a person may have, such as an ancestor’s birthplace, the church they married in, where they worked. They will take a variety of images, then put the photos on their website, in a private gallery, to be viewed or downloaded at their normal website prices. Prints are also available but, with the cost of shipping, might be expensive.

For more information, and to view a sample gallery, go to their website <https://www.asby-images.com/Family-History>.

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- *Membership in the California Cornish Cousins runs from May 1 to April 30 of the following year. Annual dues are US\$25.00. Dues, new membership checks and membership questions to Yvonne Bowers, (707) 843-0109.*
  - *Kenderwi Kernewek is published quarterly for members of The California Cornish Cousins. When reprinting articles, please credit "Kenderwi Kernewek, Newsletter of The California Cornish Cousins."*
  - *Website: <http://www.califcornishcousins.org>.*



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**Address Correction Requested**