

11 Who were the landowners?

Who were the landowners who put their marks to the boundary stones? Throughout this report references have been made to various landowners and the letters they had carved on these boundary stones to indicate ownership of land.

A brief biography is presented below for those landowners that have left their marks or initial on these granite posts. Here the writer has concentrated purely on the period when the boundary stones were likely to have been set up, from the late eighteenth century through to the beginning of the twentieth century. Several of these men were prominent and important figures in the nineteenth century Cornwall.

11.1 Gilbert

Davies Gilbert (1767-1839)

The mark of Davies Gilbert, a **G**, appears on several boundary stones on Blisland Commons, including the eastern face of Peverall's Cross, which was adopted as a manorial bound stone.

Davies Gilbert was born Davies Giddy in 1767, the son of a curate at St Erth, the Revd. Edward Giddy. Revd. Giddy died in 1814 at the age of 80 years (Polsue, 1867, I, 361). In 1809, Davies Giddy married a wealthy heiress Mary Ann Gilbert and later in 1816 at the age of 49, as a condition attached to her uncle's estate, had to change his name from Giddy to Gilbert to inherit her uncle's fortune.⁴⁹

Davies Giddy was recorded as being the Bodmin member of the Lords, Bounders, Adventurers and Tinnars that met for a general meeting in Penzance on the 28th July 1810.⁵⁰ As Davies Giddy he represented Bodmin as a Member of Parliament in 1806, 1807 and 1812, and as Davies Gilbert in 1818, 1826, 1830 and 1831.

Davies Gilbert was a prominent figure both in Cornwall and Sussex, where he later made his home, and nationally as a politician. He inherited the manor of Eastbourne and lived

⁴⁹ Todd, A. C. (1967), p.7.

⁵⁰ Rowe, J. (1993) *Cornwall in the Age of the Industrial Revolution*, p.179.

at the manor house there.⁵¹ Davies Gilbert became deputy Lieutenant for both the counties of Cornwall and Sussex. He was also at one time High Sheriff of Cornwall and President of the Royal Society. He was a learned man and compiled a parochial history of Cornwall in four volumes.⁵² As a Member of Parliament for Bodmin for twenty-five years, he was chairman of many parliamentary committees. According to Todd, *'he was a new man who walked the 'corridors of power': when industry, technology and science were changing for all time the face of Britain'*.⁵³

Davies Gilbert was also a mathematician and scientist and became a patron of Cornish engineers Richard Trevithick, Jonathan Hornblower and Humphry Davey. He supported Telford's project to strengthen the Menai Suspension bridge and assisted in choosing Brunel's design for the Clifden Suspension bridge.

Davies Gilbert purchased the Manor of Trehudreth in 1831⁵⁴ and held it until his death in 1839. The manor of Trehudreth passed to his son John Davies Gilbert who owned Trelissick House, but was later acquired by William Morshead in 1847. In the early 1830s, Davies Gilbert spent £12,000 on buying farms in the parishes of Blisland, Helland and St Mabyn, land that stayed in the Davies Gilbert family for three generations until it was sold in 1874.⁵⁵

John Davies Gilbert (1811-1854)

The son of Davies Gilbert purchased Trelissick House and made it the family home in Cornwall while also continuing to hold the manor house at Eastbourne. A brass memorial plaque to him and his family is situated on the east wall of the south aisle of Feock parish church. On the Tithe Apportionment schedule of 1840 he is recorded as the landowner of Trehudreth Common, parcel no. 1591, 194 acres, 3 rods 11 perches.

⁵¹ Today the manor house is known as the Towner Art Gallery and is owned by Eastbourne Borough Council

⁵² Gilbert, D. (1838) *The Parochial History of Cornwall*, founded on the histories of Mr Hals and Mr Tonkin with additions and various appendices in 4 volumes., J. B. Nickols and Son, London.

⁵³ Todd, A. C. 1967, p.7.

⁵⁴ Maclean, 1873, I, p44.

Carew Davies Gilbert (1852-1913)

Carew Davies Gilbert the grandson of Davies Gilbert resided at Trellisick and inherited lands in Blisland parish. Although a brass memorial plaque to him is situated on the east wall of the chancel at Feock Church, he is buried at Eastdean in Sussex. He was largely responsible with the Duke of Devonshire for building the town of Eastbourne. On the 2nd July 1874, the lands of Davies Gilbert were auctioned at the Royal Hotel (Sandoe's) Bodmin and included farms in Blisland, Helland and St Mabyn.

11.2 Morshead

The Morshead mark consists of *M[^]P* and is acknowledged in the judgement of the Trehudreth Commons Court Case that took place in Bodmin between 1926-27.⁵⁶ The mark is sometimes referred to as *M broadarrow P* – Morshead post or property. In the early part of the sixteenth century the Morshead family resided at Penhergett in St Ive parish.

William Morshead (1722-1784) The Morshead family acquired the Manor of Trehudreth along with the Manors of Barlandew and Cassacawen in 1780 after marrying into the Treise Family.⁵⁷ The manors were vested in the Treise family of Lavethan and the Lord of the Manor, Sir Christopher Treise did not have an heir to the estate. According to Polsue,⁵⁸ Sir Christopher bequeathed the manors to his sister Charlotte who married William Morshead in 1745, on the other hand Maclean⁵⁹ states that it was Olympia Treise of Lavethan that William married.⁶⁰ Nevertheless, the Morshead family acquired Lavethan and the three manors. William Morshead was Sheriff of Cornwall in 1753.

Sir John Morshead (1747-1812) In 1784, when William Morshead died the manors passed to his eldest son, Sir John Morshead. However in 1809, Sir John lost his

⁵⁵ Todd, A. C. (1964), 'Davies Gilbert – Patron, Politician and Natural Philosopher', *JRIC* (NS) Vol.1V, pt.4., pp.452-480., and Todd, A. C. 1967, *Beyond the Blaze' A Biography of Davies Gilbert*, Bradford Barton, p. 273.

⁵⁶ Transcript of the Trehudreth Commons Court Case, Bodmin, 1926-1927.

⁵⁷ For the History of the manors of Barlandew and Cassacawen, see Maclean's *Deanery of Trigg Minor* vol.1, pp. 39-47.

⁵⁸ Polsue, J. 1867, p.68

⁵⁹ Maclean, Sir John, 1873, *The Deanery of Trigg Minor*, vol. I, p.80.

⁶⁰ Hawthorne, H. 1985, 'Memories of times past' in *Blisland the Past*, no4, 2004

fortune , allegedly through gambling in London, and was forced to sell much of his estate in Blisland.⁶¹ He died on the Isle of Man where he is buried. Sir John Morshead was made a baronet in 1784 and was Lord Warden of the Stannaries of Cornwall; he was reputed to be one of the largest landowners in the west of England. He was the Bodmin Member of Parliament in 1790 and 1801, and was also Surveyor General to the Prince of Wales in 1796.

General William Morshead (1748-1822) Sir John's younger brother purchased Lavethan while the Manors of Barlendew, Cassacawen and Trehudreth were sold to John Wallis of Bodmin (Attorney at law).⁶²

William Morshead (17**-18**) In 1847, after Davies Gilbert's death, the manor of Trehudreth was acquired by William Morshead of Lavethan, son of General William Morshead and Jenefer Hussey of Blisland. In 1867, the property was still owned by William Morshead of Lavethan.⁶³

Today, although no members of the Morshead family remain in Blisland, their name lives on within the parish. The Morshead coat of arms can be seen in the window of the south transept of Blisland parish church which was converted from the Lavethan Chapel to a mortuary chapel for the Morsheads. Their coat of arms also appears on the Jubilee Rock at Pendrift Downs.⁶⁴

11.3 Hayward

James Hayward (18** - c.1878)

The boundary stones with either an **H** or **HP** on the west side of Trehudreth Downs, Kerrow Downs, Greenbarrow Downs, Menacrin Downs and Newton Downs all refer to James Hayward. In 1840, James Hayward of Loudwater House in Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire purchased the Manor of Barlendew from John Wallis and later acquired the Manor of Cassacawn in 1846.⁶⁵ Loudwater House was built in c.1780 and is a massive late Regency house, today converted into 12 separate properties. In 1873,

⁶¹ Chadburn, R. 1983, 'General William Morshead' reprinted in *Blisland the Past* , No. 2004, p.14.

⁶² Lysons,D.,and S. Magna Britannia, Cornwall, vol.III, 1814.

⁶³ Polsue, J. 1867, p.68

⁶⁴ For the Morshead pedigree, please see Maclean, 1873, I, 81.

⁶⁵ Maclean, 1873, I, 42.

Maclean cites Hayward as the Lord of the Manor of Barlendew,⁶⁶ although Polsue, incorrectly records that William Morshead of Lavethan was Lord of the Manor of Barlendew and Cassacawn as well as Trehudreth. Kelly's directory of 1873, names Hayward as one of the principal landowners in the parish of Blisland, although by the time of the 1878 edition this had changed to the trustees of James Hayward.

According to Brewster (1975, 315), between 1870-1880, Hayward allowed Frank Parkyn to work his land for China Clay at Durfold and also at Temple between 1861-1881. However, as Hayward was dead by 1878, his trustees must have been involved in the latter years.

11.4 Molesworth

The Molesworth family have owned the Manor of Blisland since December 1755, when they acquired the full title from John Cock.⁶⁷ The boundary stones marking their land usually have an **M** for Molesworth or an **MX** for the Manor of Blisland. These boundary stones appear to have been erected sometime between the time of the 6th baronet and the 11th baronet. It is difficult to ascertain which of the baronets was responsible for erecting which group of boundary stones. Several of them died young and at one time Polsue records that there were three Lady Molesworths in residence.

Sir John Molesworth (1729-1772) 5th baronet, acquired the Manor of Blisland in 1755, by his 2nd marriage to Barbara, daughter of Sir John St Aubyn of Clowance. From 1839, their name was changed to Molesworth St Aubyn by royal licence.

Sir William Molesworth (1758-1798) 6th baronet and son of Sir John Molesworth. Sir William is buried at Egloshayle. He was MP for Cornwall in 1784-90, and High Sheriff of Cornwall in 1791.

Sir Arscott Ourry Molesworth (1789-1823) 7th baronet, died at the young age of 34 years at Pencarrow and was buried at Egloshayle. Sir Arscott was High Sheriff of Cornwall in 1816. According to Lyson, Sir Arscott was the Lord of the Manor of Blisland in 1814.⁶⁸

⁶⁶ Maclean, 1873, I, 39.

⁶⁷ For a history of the manor of Blisland, please see Maclean's *Deanery of Trigg Minor*, vol.I, p28-37.

⁶⁸ Lysons, D., and S. Magna Britannia, Cornwall, vol.III, 1814, 25.

In 1816, he conducted a perambulation of the bounds of the Manor of Blisland (see appendices).

Rt. Hon. Sir William Molesworth (1810-1855) 8th baronet and son of Sir A. O.

Molesworth, he married Andalusia Grant, a young widow and singer at Drury Lane, London. Sir William was a radical reformer and MP for East Cornwall during the first reform election of 1832. Later he was MP for Leeds, and Southwark. He became the first Commissioner of Public Works and later the Secretary of State for the Colonies and was High Sheriff of Cornwall in 1842. Upon the death of Sir William in 1855, the estate passed to the Revd. Hugh Molesworth, cousin of Sir William.

Revd. Hugh Henry Molesworth (1818-1862) succeeded his cousin as 9th baronet, he was he was baptised at St Breock and died at Little Petherick. He was rector of St Petroc Minor, Little Petherick between 1842-1862.

Revd. Paul Wiliam Molesworth St Aubyn (1821-1859) 10th baronet married Jane Frances daughter of G. W. Francis Gregor of Trewarenick. The Revd. Paul was the vicar of Clapham and rector of Tetcott, Devon.

Sir Lewis William Molesworth (1853-1912) 11th baronet and son of the Revd. Paul Molesworth. He is buried in the churchyard at Cornelly beside the Gregor family. He was High Sheriff of Cornwall in 1899 and MP for Bodmin between 1900-1906.

11.5 Clinton

Lord Clinton owned the small parcel of land at the Trippet Stone Circle on Manor Common that is marked by boundary stones with a letter **C** for Clinton. Lord Clinton is a title of the Trefusis family of Trefusis in the parish of Mylor. Their home is near Trefusis Point which juts out into Falmouth Harbour. They were often known by the title Baron rather than Lord.

The family were prominent landowners in the Redruth area and were involved in the mining business. Several street names as well as a public house bear their name, Trefusis Terrace, Trefusis Road, Clinton Road and Clinton Arms.

Robert George William Trefusis (1707-1797) 17th Baron Clinton, he was buried in the Trefusis vault at Mylor. Robert Trefusis was MP for Truro between 1735-41.

Robert Cotton St John Trefusis (1787-1832) 18th Baron Clinton, he was a Lieutenant in the 16th Dragoons, and bore the great banner at the funeral of George III in 1820 and the banner of St George at the funeral of George IV.

Charles Rudolph Trefusis (1791-1866) 19th Baron Clinton, in 1840 he was recorded as the landowner at the Trippet Stones at the time of the parish tithe map.

Charles Henry Rolle Trefusis (1834-1870) 20th Baron Clinton.

11.6 Wallis

The mark of John Wallis of Bodmin, **W** can be seen on several boundary stones on Blisland Commons including the west side of Peverall's Cross and boundary stones on Greenbarrow Downs, Trehudreth Downs and Kerrow Downs.

John Wallis (17***-1842) John Wallis was the son of Nicholas Wallis of Maddern (Madron parish near Penzance) who settled in Bodmin in 1783. Wallis succeeded George Browne, attorney at law to his business in Bodmin and, '*was an enterprising and speculative man*'. He was also deputy recorder of the borough of Bodmin and according to Maclean, '*exercised a considerable influence therein for many years*'.⁶⁹ In 1828, Wallis was also Vice Warden of the Stannaries and was mayor of Bodmin six times, in the years, 1808, 1816, 1824, 1827, 1831 and 1833. In 1809, he purchased several manors from Sir John Morshead, including the Manors of Barlandew, Trehudreth and Cassacawn. He regularly held manor courts a practise that was later to be discontinued. In 1816 he is named as Sir Arscott Molesworth's Under Steward and took part in the perambulation of the manor of Blisland (see appendices). On the Tithe Apportionment schedule of 1841, John Wallis is recorded as the landowner of Greenbarrow Common., parcel no. 1269, 107 acres 3 rods, 0 perches.

⁶⁹ Maclean, 1873, I, 322

Revd. John Wallis (1789-1866). Although, no documentary evidence exists to suggest that the Revd. John Wallis inherited any of his father's lands at Blisland, a note about him has been provided here to reduce confusion between them, they were both important men in nineteenth century Bodmin. The Revd. John Wallis was the son of John Wallis of Bodmin and was born at Edgehill, in Fore Street, Bodmin where he was an Attorney at Law and articled to his father. Later in 1817, he entered Exeter College Oxford where he gained an MA and took up the curacy at Blisland under the Revd. William Pye and later that year became vicar of Bodmin. Revd. Wallis is well known for compiling, both the Bodmin Registers and Cornwall Registers, which are full of topographical and statistical information about Bodmin and the surrounding parishes and also generally on Cornwall. He died at the age of 77 at Bodmin vicarage and was buried at Berry Cemetery. He was vicar of Bodmin between 1817 and 1866. Revd. John Wallis was Mayor of Bodmin in 1822. The Revd. Wallis had a twin brother Capt Henry Wallis who was died in Madras, as well as two additional brothers Christopher and Preston, both of whom were Attorneys at Law, while a sister, Louisa married a William Morshead.

11.7 Rodd

Only one boundary stone has been recorded during this survey that displays the letter **R** for the Rodd family. The Rodd family held Trebartha Estate in the parish of North Hill and purchased large areas of land from Dame Elizabeth Morshead in Altarnun parish. They held the Manor of Trevague in Altarnun.

Francis Hearle Rodd (1766-1836) Francis was the eldest son of Francis Rodd by his first wife Jane Hearle and died at Trebartha and is buried at North Hill.⁷⁰ He was High Sheriff of Cornwall in 1818, and was a partner in William, Foster & Co, Copper smelters and manufacturers of Swansea.

Revd. Edward Rodd (1836-1842)

The Revd. Edward Rodd was born at Trebartha Hall and was Rector of Dittisham, St Just in Roseland and Lamerton. He died at Trebartha and is buried at North Hill.

Colonel Francis Rodd (1806-1880)

⁷⁰ Boase, G. C and Courtney, W.P. 1878, *Bibliotheca Cornubiensis*.

Francis Rodd was born at St Just in Roseland, he inherited Trebatha on the death of his father the Revd. Edward Rodd in 1842 and held the estate for 38 years. He was High Sheriff of Cornwall between 1845 and 1846, and was also deputy Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall and a Justice of the Peace.

11.8 Collins

The mark **C** for Collins can be seen with the **MX** for the Manor of Blisland on a boundary stone at Trencreek Downs. The boundary stones displaying a **C** at Menacrin near the A.30 could also be those of the Collins family or of Lord Clinton.

Revd. John Basset Collins (1735-1790)

Trewardale descended from the Robyns to the Brownes, the late George Browne's sole heiress Elizabeth married John Basset Collins. He was Rector of Camborne 1771-1790, also Priest in charge of Temple 1784-1790, and died at Glynn, Cardinham.

Revd. Charles Mathew Edward Collins (1815-1877)

Upon the death of his uncle Commander Edward Collins R.N. in 1850, the Revd. Charles assumed by royal licence the name of Edward in addition to and before Collins. He died at Trewardale and is buried at Blisland. The Revd. Edward Collins was largely responsible for the discovery of China Clay in Blisland. In 1860, he invited Andrew Cundy, then prospecting in Roche, to investigate the Blisland area for clay.⁷¹

11.9 Onslow

The Onslow family acquired the manor of Hamethethy and Penrose Burden from Mrs Sarel the widow of Matthew Michell.⁷² The mark **O** for Onslow appears on boundary stones at Shallow Water Common and Menacrin Downs.

Sir Richard Onslow (1741-1818)

Sir Richard married Anne, daughter of Matthew Michell a banker. He had a fine Naval career, and was promoted to Commander in 1761, Rear-Admiral in 1793, Vice Admiral in 1794 and Commander-in Chief at Plymouth in 1796. Sir Richard was created a baronet with the freedom of the City of London in 1799.

⁷¹ Joseph, P. (2001), p.37-67.

Sir Henry Onslow (1785-1853) 2nd baronet

Sir Henry Onslow inherited the manors of Hametethy and Penrose Burden from Mrs Louisa Sarel, who died in 1847.

Sir Henry Onslow (1809-1870), 3rd baronet, of Chittern, Wiltshire and Hengar Cornwall is buried at St Tudy. He was succeeded by his son of the same name, the second Sir Henry married Ellen the daughter of Samuel Peter Esq. and having only daughters, his property passed to his brother Sir Matthew, Richard Onslow.⁷³

11.10 Gregor

The Gregors of Trewarthenick in the parish of Cornelly were extensive landowners in Cornwall. According to Polsue, the north aisle of Cornelly church is known as the Gregor aisle.⁷⁴ The Gregor's held the rights to Sprey Moor, and the mark **G** on boundary stones separating Shallow Water Common from Sprey Moor are assumed to represent them.

Francis Gregor (1760-1815)

Francis Gregor was High Sheriff of Cornwall in 1788 and an MP for sixteen years between 1790 and 1806, he died without children. He was MP for Bodmin in 1782. Francis Gregor spoke at the General Meeting of the Lords, Adventurers and others concerning the Tin and Copper Trade of the County of Cornwall on 8th December 1792.⁷⁵

Gordon William Francis Gregor (1789-1865)

The Gregor estates passed to Loveday Sarah Glanville of Catchfrench when the last of the Gregors died and Loveday married Gordon William Francis Booker, who in 1826 assumed the name and arms of Gregor family. He is buried in Cornelly churchyard.

Many of these gentleman, were connected either socially, through marriage or business. They would have attended the same public schools and universities. Several of them were Members of Parliament at the same time or Justises of the Peace and some held the office of High Sheriff. They were also often involved in mining activities, Rowe (1993,

⁷² Maclean, 1873, I, 364,380.

⁷³ Polsue, 1872, IV, 269.

⁷⁴ Polsue, 1867, I, 249.

6), stated that those not directly involved in industrial pursuits, 'acted as agents and officials of the stannary organization, notably the Boscawens and Gregors as well as the less well-known families of the Spreys, Coles, and Collinses who by the early nineteenth century were intermarrying with the older gentry, holding lucrative church livings, and even sitting in Parliament'.

⁷⁵ Rowe, J, 1993,173