

The Rame Peninsula – by Colyn Thomas

The Rame Peninsula is almost an island with 11 miles of sea coast and 1 ½ miles of land for boundaries.

The details below on farming are written from memory, notes and that of my cousin Mrs Barbra Lidestone (nee Thomas) daughter of Mr George Thomas of Coombe Farm Kingsand and Colyn Thomas son of Mr Elliott Thomas of Trehill Farm Rame, possible the oldest remaining relatives of Farmers living in the Rame Peninsula/area.

Other details supplied by Colyn and Marilyn Thomas, are from Colyn's mother's notes on Cawsand/Kingsand/Cremyll and Whitsands, Marilyn's Mothers memories of Millbrook and from information that Colyn has gathered over his 50 years interest in local history.

We apologise for any business's missing but the positions are changing on a daily basis and are based on local people's memories, past and present. They are not listed in Order.

Colyn Thomas
24 Aug 2008

Farms in the Rame Peninsula during the 1940 – 1960

- *Trehill Farm Rame: - Farmers – Edward. E . Thomas, George Thomas, Fredrick Thomas, Elliott Thomas, Mr Weatman.
- *Rame Barton: - Farmers – Rex Carne, Harold Carne
- * Rame Farm (Poundhouse) (Cross Park) :- Roy Carne, Bill Carne
- Penmillard Farm :- Mr Madiford, Bill Wilton, Lynden Wilton, Chris Wilton.
- Wringford Farm :- Mr Westlake, Horace Honey
- *Coombe Farm :- Mr Watkins, George Thomas, John Theobold (Killed on a tractor) Jim Parsonage
- #Florrick Down Farm :- Hedley Blake, Mr Wilton, Elliott Thomas, Bill Hookins
- *Home Farm: - Farmer Smith, Charles Martin
- Insworke Barton :- Jockey Line
- *West Park Farm: - Nelson Edwards, Fisty Edwards
- Voss Farm: - Mr Hocking
- Stone Farm :- Martin West, Sam West, Peter West, Hedley Blake
- Withnoe Barton:- Sam West, Peter West, Mr Ginn
- Tregunauke farm:- Hubert Downs
- *Wiggle Farm: - J. Smith, Frankie Pastmore
- *Trinnow Farm:- @ Ninney :- Alfie West, Dick West
- Freathy Farm :-, Mr Wilcox, Mr Jerald Lateman
- Higher Hounster Farm:-, Martin West, Tony West
- Middle Houser Farm :- Texas Skinner, Arthur Mathews, Richard Mathews
- *Maker Farm: - Farmer Frank Giles
- #Forder Farm :- George Thomas, Bing Valance
- Higher Penhail :- Mr Turner senior
- Lower Penhail: - Mr Turner Junior (Killed Sheering Sheep -electrocuted), David Turner
- # St Johns: - Percy Ware
- *Manor Farm Dodbrook:-Mr Will Bersey died in 1946 and Meryn Bersey took over both Millpool Head and Manor farms.
- *Millpoolhead Farm: - Melvyn Bersey
- Higher Tregantle Farm:- Tom West, Mr Rundle, Mr White
- Hounster Market Garden: - Charlie Acton, Ken Acton, Nigel Acton.

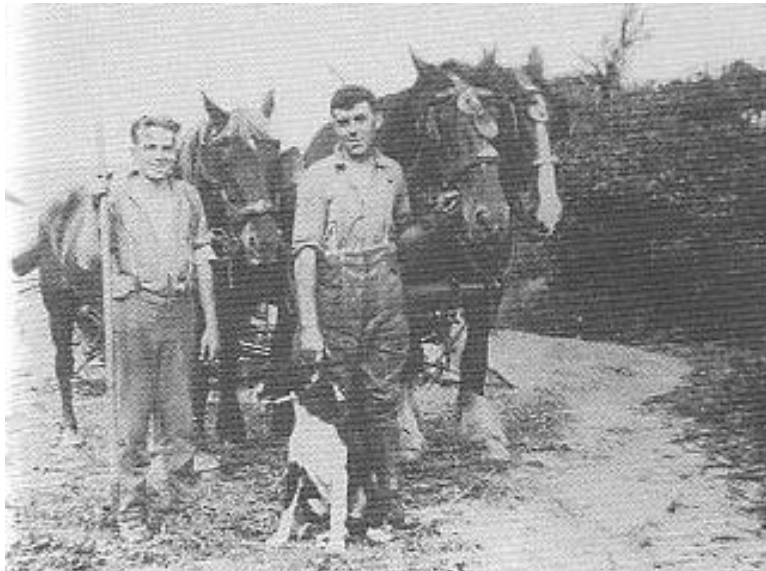
Note:

- * Farms run by a farm manager Charles Martin
- # Small farms less that 25 acres

Farming History

Farm Machinery

The first self binder in the area was used to cut wheat at Treninnow on July 31st 1899, It was an American machined called a Planet it had a 4ft right hand cut pulled by three horses



1932 with Elliott Thomas and Robert Lethbridge cutting corn with three horses and a later 1925 model Planet self Binder

Ploughs in the area were all horse drawn of a single furrow reversible type because of the very steep slopes. The models used were, “Cock up”, “Climax”, or “Digger” by Davy Sleep were common. An Excelsior was less common because it was tricky to use. A good ploughman could plough 1 acre per day.

Threshing

Formally Mr Grylls or Mr Dawe of Sheviock threshed most of the corn in the area, they had two Threshing machines with attached straw elevators and two steam traction engines, and they were kept when not in use at George’s lane Sheviock. There was always plenty of good casual labour for harvesting, threshing, potato picking, apple picking etc with a farm workers wage in 1908 – 1914 being 15/- to 18/- (15/- shillings per week = 75p). The usual perks were mostly extras, some spuds, eggs, turnips etc there being no overtime payment.

Bad Harvest Seasons

We have had extremely bad harvest seasons in the area well before this year with 2008 being no exception due to the amount of rain. 1912, 1946, were terrible bad harvests when Home Farm at Cremyll lost all their corn harvest and most of it had to be cut by hand using a scythe? It was reported in 1912 that two old men were engaged to cut two acres of oats in a field at Maker Lane by hand; the oats had been beaten over by rain. They were supplied with the usual jug of cider to quench their thirst but got drunk, went to sleep and did not cut any corn. 1948 was also an extremely bad winter, I remember my father digging sheep out of the snow at Polhawn.

Cider

Cider was made on many of the farms and the old apple pounds can still be found, there were crushers at Coombe Farm, Rame Barton, Insworke, Radford and Rame Cross which used troughs and a huge granite wheel.

Outbreak of Anthrax

In the summer of 1913 there was an outbreak of anthrax in the area and one farmer lost over 20 head of steers just becoming fit for slaughter and the horse died in the stable. The local Police had to supervise the burning, it was a great monetary loss there was no compensation in those days.

Pigs and Sheep

Every farm in the area carried a flock of sheep, about one mature sheep to every two acres, we ran sheep up on the cliffs at Polhawn for years and very often our ram would venture into Frank Pastmores fields and fight with his ram. The pigs were all large blacks up to about 1914, when lop eared whites, middle whites and saddle backs began to appear. Foals were reared on most farms with the best geldings usually being sold to towns and businesses when 4 – 5 years old. The farmers kept the fillies.

South Devon cattle and sheep were universal but just before the First World War some farmers started to use Hampshire Down rams to service their ewes for early fat lambs.

Millbrook Market

The focal point for farmers in the immediate area and for others beyond was Millbrook Market which was held on the first and third Wednesday in each month up until 1908 when it stopped. It was held on the quay outside Lyne's farm buildings were Quay garage is now. There were hurdled pens of pigs sold in carts and pony traps. A small farmers market was also run in Kingsands Market Street in the early 1800's

The directory of 1885 states that a cattle fair also took place in Millbrook which was held annually on the 1st May but it is no longer mentioned in the 1890 edition.

Blacksmiths and Wheelwrights.

Blacksmiths and wheelwrights served the farmers and many other local industries including the better – off people who had carriages. The smithies most remembered are Mr Colmer at Greenland's, Mr Pote on the quay, Mr Brown and Mr Jack Sammels at the bottom of Blindwell Hill, Mr Arnold on the Quay and Mr Knapman on Cawsand Bound. In the early days before 1914 farm horses were shod all around (4 Shoes) for 2/6d to 3/-shillings. The smiths made harrows, coulter, diggers, visgys; etc Tool handles were cut from elm and ash and bent with a series of 6inch nails on the barn walls to the correct shape.

Another smith well remembered at Millbrook was Mr Stanbury, The gate at Venton house made by Jack Potes father is another fine example of the smith's art. A family of wheelwrights the Rowell family used to put new steel rims on the farm carts, wagons and carriages.

Roads and Streets.

It is hard to imagine that there was no tar macadam on the local roads and streets until after the 1914 – 1918 war was over. Loose stones were put on the streets rolled in by steam roller and water bound. Horses with their iron shod hooves and the steel tyred wheels created a lot of dust. The American also improved many of the roads in the area during the 1939 – 1945 war.

Farmers and Tradesmen in the villages also ran horse brakes (2 Horses) and wagonettes from the steamboats to Whitsands and to Maker and Rame Churches on Sundays

Cattle Movement

Cattle had to be walked to various markets in the early days, there was no cattle lorries. Cattle that were purchased in Liskeard, Looe, Callington and Anthony etc were walked on foot to Millbrook. I remember my father telling me that when they moved from their farm in St Cleer near Liskeard to Trehill Farm Rame they had to drive the cattle all the way by road, stopping in a field at Trerule foot overnight and walking to Rame the next day. Of course some cattle would walk on while others would lie down and refuse to go any further. While you attended to the ones that laid down the ones that walked on would go the wrong way or get lost and get into fields and become lost for a day or two. News travelled slowly there was no mobile phones or telephones in the early days so you had to ride your horse from one farm to another to find them.

For the ones that laid down you had to either wait until they got on their feet again or a good way to help them get up was to pour some liquid in their ear i.e. Pee in it, they would immediately get up and shake their head.

Sam West has told me how he drove cattle to Millbay Station via the Torpoint Ferry to go by train to Liskeard, how they walked onto the ferry at Torpoint and off the other side right into the river Tamar before the Ferry had moved. Some would get swept away in the current and drown while others had to get rescued by boat.

Barrage Balloon Sites on various Farms

Mt Edgcumbe Park.
Furlanesend
Ninney Farm
Penlee.
Insworke

Milk Rounds Cawsand/Kingsand

Tiny West
Elliott Thomas
Horace Honey
George Thomas
Rex Carne

Milk Rounds Millbrook

George Blatchford
Percy Warren (Coop)
Mervyn Bersey (Delivery to Millbrook, Southdown, Maker and Cremyll)
H.L.Down Dairyman Delivery Service

Milk Prices (1920's)

Raw Milk was 3d per quart
Scalded Milk was 1 1/2d a quart

Remaining Milk to Dawes Creameries

Slaughter Houses

Animals were slaughtered and sold in local butchers shops with slaughter houses at:-

Four –Door Field (Mathews)
Florrick Down - Snell's Lane
Dawes Lane (Snells)
4, West Street (Berseys)
Pottery (West Bothers)

Millbrook

Businesses in Millbrook past and present.

(On the Quay or around Millbrook)

Petrol Station: - Skinners, Mick? Ted White

Skinners Parade Garage

Skinners Taxis

Skinners Coaches

The Coop Coal

Ted Hambly Shoe Repairs

Pete's Garage

Quay Garage

Wilcox's Garage

Wilcox & Broad Garage

Chapel & Deacon Garage

Spurrel & Bennet Garage

A Mathews Butcher

Hills Bakery

Mr Farley - Stone cracker

W G Staples Green Grocers

Poole's Green Grocer

Barclays Bank

The Cattle Market

George Buss car Body repairs

The Computer Shop,

Brian Smiths Taxis

Robert Triggs Taxis

Jean Bounsai Café

Ladies Hairdressers

J F Watts Butcher

Second hand Clothing Shop (Near New)

Island Farm

Dr Dexter's Surgery

Dr Khan's Surgery

Dr Scaglioni Surgery (Now at Greenlands)

J Weeks builder and undertaker

Millbrook Steam Boat Company

Millbrook Steam Boat and Motor Boat Company

Millbrook Steam Boat and Trading Co Ltd

Plymouth Boat Cruising

Stoneman's

The Bark Store

The Paper Mill (At Radford Lane)

Terry Stacy Plumber

J Elworthy Plumbing/Heating Engineer

Torpoint Plumbing and Electrical Service(Millbrook)

Millbrook Garden Centre

Florrick Down Garden Centre

Florrick Down Farm Products Centre

Stevens & Williams Electrical Installations
Atherton Builder
Arnold Brothers Builders
The Calor Gas Centre (Dave Clarke)
Millbrook Upholsters
Derek Simcox plumbing and heating engineers
Derek Chamberlain Chimney Sweep and Grass cutter
Peter Lester Plumbing and Heating Engineer
Mathews Piggery at Pottery
Rowell Wheelwright
Stoneman Photographer
Towel Hairdresser
Wilcox Fish and Chips
Landrey News Agent
Rich News Agent
Jewell Tobacconist
Mather Tea Rooms
Peach Tea rooms
Rich Bookseller
J Dennis General Dealer
P Dudley General Dealer
W. Stephens Builder
J Down Haulage Contractor

Undertakers

W H Pitt
Tom Davey
Harry Weeks
Reg Oliver Jobbing/undertaker (Top of West Street)
John Weeks

Pubs

Devon and Cornwall
Heart and Hand
Mark of Friendship
Commercial
Coopers Arms
New Inn

Blacksmiths:-

Mr Colmer
Mr Pote,
Mr Arnold,
Jack Samuels.
Mr Brown

The Mill

The present building at Insworke Mill dates back to 1518 although the date stone on the building shows 1589, it was said to be rebuilt in 1801. Tithe records of 1841 show the building being occupied by a Mr Lewis Parsons. The 1856 Kelly's directory records show a Mr John Parsons. The Parsons family extended their interests and were referred to as "Millers and Merchants) and by 1906 "Merchants and Steam Boat Owners" The mill is reputed to have been last used to grind corn in 1914, the miller being a Mr Harris.

It was worked by the tidal water being trapped in the 25 acre millpond at high tide. The millpond has since been land filled and covers the area of the football club, car park, football ground and park. The great wheels of the mill turned as the tide went out and the sluice gates were opened. The mill was commonly known as a grist mill, a term historically used to a local mill where farmers brought their own grain and received flower from it minus the "millers Toll". It could operate for a period of approx 8 hours in any 24 hour period. With a good head of water the water wheels used to rotate at 10 rpm and through the appropriate gearing the millstones rotated at approx 120 rpm.

It was originally a three storey building built of random stone rubble, and in the latter years the mill and quay was used by a local company of boat owners, The Millbrook Steam Boat Company, for the purpose of storage and repair of boats.

MILLBROOK STEAMBOAT AND MOTOR BOAT Co.

FINE FLEET OF EXCURSION STEAMERS,

"Hibernia." "Devonia." Motor Boat, "Queen."
"Britannia." "Cornubia." Motor Cargo Boat, "Despatch."

Leave the **PROMENADE PIER**, Free of Tolls,
FOR . . .
RIVER AND SEA EXCURSIONS,
DAILY AT 11 a.m., and about 3 p.m. SEE DAILY PAPERS.
Tram Terminus at Pier Entrance.

STEAMERS to MILLBROOK for WHITSAND BAY, and from SALTASH
to DEVONPORT & VICE-VERSA,
At the Hours and Half-Hours. FARES 1d.
According to Time Tables,
Obtainable on Board or of J. Clark & Son, Cumberland Street, Devonport.

STEAMERS ON HIRE FOR SPECIAL PARTIES.
REFRESHMENTS ON BOARD AT REASONABLE RATES.
Offices, Millbrook, Plymouth. Telephone No. 2 Millbrook.

Millbrook Steamboat and Motor Boat Co Advert

It originally had 4 wheels which were about 14 ft across, but latterly 3, using 2 for grinding and 1 for hoisting the grain in sacks to the top floor where the grain was funneled through a hopper to the grinding wheels below. There are stories of a Mr Hooper; Jim Hooper who was called The Mighty Miller

He was a giant of a man who delivered flour to two Bakeries. The sacks of flour were 280lbs in weight and it needed a giant to carry them up and down stairs and steps.

The village gets its name from the Mill, Mill on the Brook (Millbrook) and is a part of the design of our ancient borough seal.

Last Miller

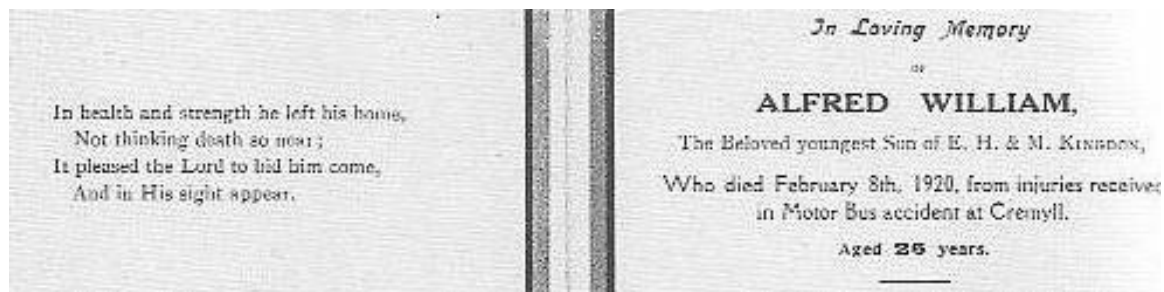
Mr Harris

The First Car in the Millbrook Area

The first car in the Millbrook area was a 1903 Wosley bought by a Mrs L Parsons of Higher Tregantle Farm

The First Man Killed in A Motoring Accident.

The first man killed in a motoring accident was a Mr Alfred William Kingdon who died from injuries received in a motor bus accident at Cremyll on 8th February 1920



West Street Businesses past and present:-

SWEB (The Electrical Shop)

Mr Elworthy Grocer

Alec Elworthy Menswear

J. Abbot fish and chips

Yates Cycle repairs, Bob Winyard.

Farley's Fish and Chips

Posh Nosh Cafe

The Picture house, Strutts

Uglows Bakery

Millbrook post office 101 West Street

Driscalls Bros Plumbing and Sanitation

Whites Papers

Ladies Hairdressers

Martins Shoe Shop

Downs Green Grocers

Bennett's shop Watches, Clocks, Guns

Hollis Top Shop

Wilton Top Shop

A B Henwood Baker/Grocer

Mr Towel Hairdresser
Wilf Jeffery Hairdresser
David Elworthy Menswear
Dave Cohrain Menswear
Mrs Elworthy Draper
Mrs Spillman Draper, Sandra Spillman Draper
Rowe & Company Provisions
Betty's Taxis
S West Butcher
Harry Weeks Builder/ Undertaker
Peters Logs
F.Ware Green Grocer
Avery's tea house
Coop Butcher
H. Downs Dairy Products
Coop Milk
Jim Webber Post Office
J Dunbar Post Office
Spar Shop
Brenda Fish and Chips.
Dave Rosson Hair Dresser
Ladies Hair Dresser on the Quay
Joe Carne, Pete Carnes, Cranes, Millbrook Hard Wear
George Blatchford Milk/ice cream
Joe Widicombe Greengrocers.
Finesse Hair Style
Chas Ford Shoe and boot Repairer
W Pawley Tailor
James Lander Flour Dealer
William Hyde Poulterer
Alf Bersey Butcher

Chapel/Churches

Baptist Chapel
Wesleyan Chapel (Methodist)
Millbrook All Saints Church.
The Old Church Millbrook (The Chapel of Ease)
The Chapel at Insworke

Fore Street

Chemist, Jury, Bicknell, Chapel, Lindsey Brown
Peninsula Estates Wally Hill
Brenda Fish And Chips
Brenda Clothing Store
Mrs Pearce's Draper (owned by Mrs Evans)
Acton's Vegetables
Mr Gales Sweet Shop
Kings Arms
The Forrester's

New Street

Grants Electrical/radio/TV
Commercial Hotel Pub
Honey's Post Office New Street
Post Office Island House

Newport Street

Post Office
C Collins Builder

Greenland

Cyril Eddy Coal Merchant

The first telephone in Millbrook

The telephone came to Millbrook in 1908 -1910, with the first telephone exchange being at 101 West Street, a man named Mr Mitchell looked after it and our telephone number at Trehill Farm, Rame, was Millbrook 256, Millbrook Steamboat and Motorboat Company was Millbrook 2, Bill Staple was Millbrook 246, F.J Skinner was Millbrook 5, Fred Elworthy was Millbrook 25.

Tannery

Which was allied to farming in the area was kept by John Blight in 1885 and is noted as belonging to Blight and Sons, Tanners in 1870. Charles Blight is given as a leather currier in 1885 and lived in Dodbrook. Some of the hides were brought by boat, scraped off, and then put in pits for about three months. The tan was prepared by grinding the bark of trees in a mill, put into drying lofts and rolled on big rollers, the finished hides were then sent to factories as butts of leather.

Millbrook Fire Station

The Millbrook Fire Station was situated next to Week's Store.
It had a Land Rover and fire fighting equipment.

Bands

Cyril Honey and his Melody Makers

Brickworks: -

South Down Brickworks, Baked 20 -22,000 bricks per day using 50 staff.
Stack on Hoffman Kiln was 120ft high.

Pottery Brickworks, Baked 45,000 – 50,000 bricks per day with 125 staff.
Tallest stack of three brickworks 164ft. closed in 1913.

Foss Brickworks this was the first brickworks to open in Millbrook in 1872 and closed in 1914 before the war employed 62 men and 7 women the stack height was 130ft. Buildings used as furniture stores, storing furniture and personal effects from Blitzed houses during 1939 -1945 2nd World War.

Southdown Industries

Gun powder Works, 1650 - 1731 it used remnants of the skins from the Millbrook Tanneries which were boiled down here and turned into an Explosive Nitro Glycerine compound

The Kings Brewery. Was completed in 1750 ish and was part of the RN Victualling facilities, It was transferred to Stonehouse Plymouth in 1933.

1856 – 1870 **Gills Fish Factory** was established making fishmeal

1870 -1904 **A copper smelting and chemical works** was established, small amounts of silver taken from the by products helped pay for Silver Terrace Southdown

1902 – 1914 **Lomas Gelatin works** resided there manufacturing glue, resin and gelatine from animal bones.

Southdown Brickworks, Bill Luxton was the security officer/site manager

Schools in Millbrook in the late 19th Century:-

Myrtle Cottage at Millpool Head

Young Mens Club in the church hall on the quay.

Old Girls & Infants School in the Unionist Hall on the quay.

The Dame School in West Street.

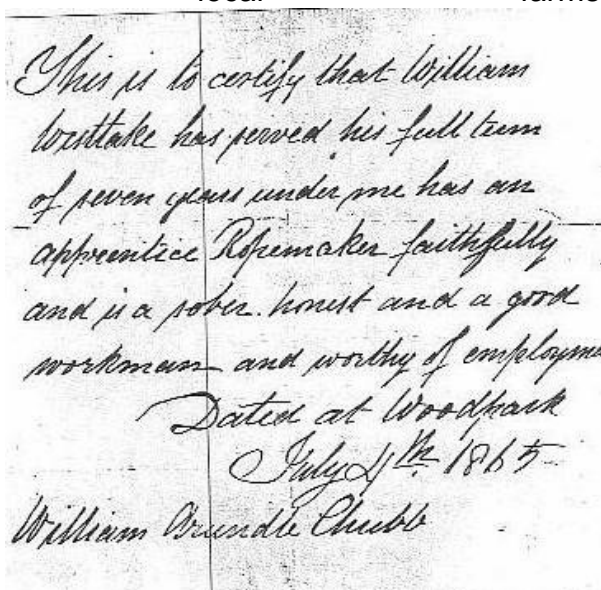
Millbrook School Blindwell Hill completed in 1916. Head Mistress Miss Jane Pearn, Teachers:- Mary Maddock, Ivy Lake and Margery Glass.

The Workhouse

Knill Cross House was the poor house for the parish of Maker

Anderton:-

Woodpark Ropery (Mr Chubb) supplied ropes to boats built at Anderton Quay, local farmers and



This is to certify that William Westlake has served his full term of seven years under me has an apprentice Ropemaker faithfully and is a sober, honest and a good workman and worthy of employment
Dated at Woodpark
July 1st 1865
William Arundell Chubb

fishermen.

The indentures of my great grandfather William Westlake who worked for Mr Chubb.

Boat Yards:-

Trago Voyager Boat Yard
The Multi Hull Centre
Multimarine
Mill Quay Boat Yard
Foss Boat Yard
Seamore Marine
Watermans

Local Activities of Yester Years

Good Friday Badger Hunting at St Johns
Fox Hunting

Withnoe and Hancock's fair which was the scene of stalls from West Street through Radford Lane and Donkey Lane with acts like The Dancing Bear, The Mad Man of Borneo, and the pony that answered questions by a shake of his head, or a tap of his hoof.

The Flower and vegetable Show held in the football field at Anderton in a large Marquee

Black Prince
Millbrook Carnival
Millbrook Majorettes
May Day Floral Dance
British Legion Carnival
Millbrook Lake Swimming Gala

Venton House Fetes
All Saints Church Fetes
Millbrook Rangers Football Club
The British Empire Day 1951
Millbrook Coronation Celebrations 12th May 1937
Millbrook Silver Jubilee Celebrations 6th May 1935
Alexandra Rose Day 1904

Residential Homes

West Park
Jenny Lee

Cawsand and Kingsand

Businesses Cawsand/Kingsand past and present

Miss Trevidick
Mathews
Tappers Fish and Chips
Tappers Marina Cafe
Tappers ice Cream
Tappers Electrical
Tappers Fruit and Veg
The Bistro
Mansells Shoe Repairers
Lentils Fish and Chips
Acton's Fish and Chips
Ray Hancock's Green Grocers
Mr Carne Builder and Undertaker
Mr Jim Humphreys Post Office
Mrs Humphrey Music Teacher
Honey's news Agent and General Store
Hills Bakery
Hills Stores
Hills Bread Delivery service
Dave Clarks
Reg Henwood
Mike Henwood Paraffin Sales
Bank
Institute Café
Bubbles Andrews Market Street Cafe
Ship Shape
Shapes and Scenes Gallery



Ye Olde Smugglers Café approx 1948

Panache Gallery and fine gifts
The Old Boat Store Café on the cleave
The Chemist
The Post Office
Norman Trethowan's Green Groceries
Dave Rosson Hairdresser
Mr Turpit Artist
Sam White Café
Graham Fellows Boats
The old Gig Boat House
Nor Rock Hotel
The Electrical shop
Various shops in Fore Street?
The Top Drawer Gallery
Premier Village Store and Off Licence
Morans Café and Delicatessens
N Cock Shoe Maker
Alf Kingdom Mason
Mrs Mathews Refreshment Rooms
The Shop in Little Lane
Richard Harris Solicitors
Kingsand Petrol Station (Skinners)
The Cawsand off licence
The Woodlands Hotel
Ye Olde Smugglers Café
Cawsand Bay Hotel Mr Hancock.
Mrs Williams Bound cafe
Sally Glasspool Bound cafe
Mr Glasspool Savoy Hotel
Mr Knapman – Blacksmith
The Old Bark House tar sales

Granny Dawes Shop
Mr Doneys oil store
Mr Cotton Coop Bread Delivery
Southern Butcher
Honey's top of Fore Street
Kings Arms Inn Kingsand
Haddies Bus's
Skinners Car Parks
Skinners Garage the Square.
Mathews Taxis
Honey's Taxis
Mr Locker - Horse drawn waggonet Taxis
Charlston Tea Rooms
Sally Forsyth Fish a crab sales & tea rooms
Mr Vanstone Ashes and scrap
Mr Brickwood Chimney Sweep
Tommy Stanton Rag and Bone man
Shoner Uings Chop Fire Wood
Mr Jenner – Ice Cream Cart
Mrs Discol Door to Door linen, elastic, tape buttons etc
Mr Hill Coal Delivery
Westcroft Gallery
The Youth Club
Ratcliffe Books
Ratcliffe Transport
J Ham Watchmaker
Richard Hocken Blacksmith
Cliff Wright Cow keeper
Virgoe Boat Builder

Lamplighter (For the village oil lights)

Mr Penny

Schools

Girls School Garret Street
Boys School Garret Street

BoatYards In Cawsand/Kingsand

Mr Burlace the Cleave Kingsand
Sam Hancock's Boat Yard
Mr Jobe Cawsand Bound

Bake Houses

There were many small bake houses in the villages of Kingsand, Cawsand and Millbrook these were used in the neighbourhood mainly for cooking people's dinners, cake and so on. The meals and items were prepared by housewives and baked for about two pence per dinner, this is because people could not afford to use coal, and very few houses had coal stoves, mainly having open grates. One such bake house oven was recently found

in Garret Street Cawsand during house renovation. Most baking was done in the bake houses on a Sunday when men were home for dinner and pasties, cakes etc were baked for the coming week. The bakeries were thus an extension of the work done at home.



This photograph shows a Bake Oven that was in a house being demolished at the bottom of Knill Cross Hill Millbrook in May 1963. The centre of the roof is showing the key holding the oven head

Gamekeeper

Penlee woods/Earls Drive Gate Opener

Mr Hawke

Fairs

Blackendown Fair or the Kingsand fair held in the 1870 – 1890's

Carnivals

Cawsand/ Kingsand Bay Carnival

Turke Town Carnival

Regattas

Cawsand Bay Regatta

Fetes

Church Fetes

Village Fetes

Pubs:-

Cawsand Bay Boatel

The Pilot Boat Inn

The Cross Keys – Mr and Mrs Butler
The Smugglers
The Criterion
The Ship Inn
The Devonport Inn
The London Inn (Blair's)
The Rising Sun
The Half Way House
The Nelson Inn
The George Inn (1862 Philip Phillips)
The Prince George
The Kings Arms (1863 Mrs Nicholls)
The Galleon

Beechfield House.

Is the house where Admiral Nelson stayed when his ship was in Cawsand Bay and at the end of the 18th century was named "The Nelson Inn"? The inn was opened from 1790 – 1825. Lady Hamilton stayed there with Admiral Nelson at times from 1801 – 1804.

Clubs and Local Associations

Christian Temperance Association
The Busy Bees
The Camera Club
Cawsand Bay Sailing Club
The Institute
The Youth Club

Doctors:-

Lewis
Patterson
Dexter
Curry

Midwife

Granny Striven
Nurse Amour

Fishermen

Neil Murry
Tony Jago
Sam Jago
J F Hooper
Tony Edwards
David Elworthy
Garry Hooper
Malc Baker
Tom and Sam Tregethan
Harry Marks

Bill Cullis
Jan Andrews
Spillers
Jack Baker
Alf Hocking

First Cars

The first car in Cawsand belonged to Mr W H Trethowan General Dealer
1910

The first Motor Car in the Rame area was owned by the Vicar of Rame in
1905

The First Telephone in Cawsand

The First Telephone in the Village was in 1908

The First Post Office

The prepaid 1d Postal Service came to the village with the first Post Office
in 1840 – In the house at the bottom of Fore Street, The Post Master being
a Mr A Jobb.

Cost of a Funeral 1890

The cost of a funeral was from £2-10-0d to £5-0-0d, If you required a
hearse and two waggonettes it was £2-0-0d extra

First cat whiskers radio

Mrs Sayers

First Radio Transmitter

Mr Walton was known for transmitting live broadcasts to the village by
standing a large radio on the wall of the lawn in Garret Street. Residents of
Cawsand and Kingsand went along to listen to it.

First TV in the Area.

Rex Carne of Rame Barton had the first TV in the area in 1948? Ish it was
His Masters Voice installed by Mr Grant of Millbrook, the aerial must have
been 150 ft high with guy ropes to support it. The second was Bert Pitt in
the Square Cawsand.

First Entry of Kingsand

Notes left by the fourth Earl of Mt Edgcumbe shows the first entry of
Kingsand are found in the Mt Edgcumbe library on the deeds of a house
which the family owned in 1569.

Cawsand Bay Ships Pilot

Frank White

Schools

Cawsand Boys School

Cawsands Infant School Head Mistress Miss Jane Pearn

Cawsand Girls School, Head mistress Miss Parish

Fourlanesend School erected 1912 with 268 boys Mr Wedlake was the head Master.

Vicars:-

Cannon Ekins

Truscott

White

Doyle

Cawsand Hookers or Bay Boats

In the early 1800 several years before the fishing decline set in there was two natural causes that reduced the number of Hookers in Cawsand Bay from which there was at least 60 of them. It was on a fine September Saturday Morning when practically all the Hookers and the Pilot Cutter ALARM were on the shore to scrub the weed off their bottoms when a violent south easterly gale arose and the safety of the boats was causing major concern.



Hookers on Cawsand Beach

As the tide rose and the waves became greater many of the boats were swamped from the sterns and became total wrecks. Only the hookers with counter sterns managed to get back on their moorings safely and were spared

Then in 1891 with the onslaught of the great blizzard many boats at anchor in the bay sunk with the great weight of the snow, other broke their moorings and were driven ashore to be pounded by huge waves and high winds, while the pilot cutter "Mystery" dragged her moorings and fouled other craft causing untold damage and sinking. Mr Andrews's boat was the only one left after the storm had blown itself out.

Fishing Cellars

Fishing for pilchards in Cawsand and elsewhere in Cornwall was a major industry and they were taken by drift or seine nets, Pilchard drifting, Mackerel seining and herring fishing being the principal occupation of the fishermen although some did get involved in crabbing. In order to preserve the nets during the close season they were treated in a solution of oak bark extract with the bark being boiled in huge vats and the nets were immersed into the boiling extract for a considerable time before being laid on the beach to dry.



Sandway, Kingsand with the ruins of the old fish cellars in the background

Originally there were four bark houses in the area, one at the extreme end of Sandway, another on the bound, the third on Girt beach and the fourth at the back of what used to be the Pilot Boat Inn. Then we had the fish cellars which stood at Cawsand, Kingsand, Polhawn and Portwrinkle.

These cellars to which pilchards were brought were leasehold when built and when the lease expired with the exception of the one at Portwrinkle fell into the hands of the Mt Edgcombe Estate.

The Building

The cellars to which the pilchards were brought consisted of a large rectangular building with a central courtyard open to the sky. The curing process was carried out on the floor, the fish being protected from the weather by net lofts supported on stone or timber pillars, under the roofs sloping inward from the cellar wall. This design permitted sufficient light and unobstructed circulation of air. As well as the net lofts being used for storage they were also used as accommodation spaces during the fishing season. Stone steps permitted entry from outside the main wall and to the right of the main gate.

The cellar floor was covered with round sea pebbles, which was known as "causing". The floor sloped inwards from the walls to drain into a gutter which in turn led to what was known as the "train-pit". Here was sunk a large cask for receiving the "Train-Oil" and "drugs" which consisted of brine and blood.

Curing

The pilchards were carried to the cellars in "gurries", square wooden containers with handles at either end and holding between 1,000 – 1,200 fish. Women and children would then lay the pilchards along the cellar walls, heads outside, each layer being covered by a layer of salt until the "Stack" was about five feet high. They remain like this in bulk for approx 4 – 5 weeks, in which time a large quantity of oil and drugs drained off them. The oil was then skimmed off the "train – pit" and used for lighting whilst the "drugs" was used on the farms for manure.

When sufficiently cured the pilchards were broken out from the bulk and washed and cleaned in large troughs. The women then placed the fish in circular layers in "hogsheads". These were especially designed casks made of clapboard whose joints were purposely made leaky to facilitate pressing. Fixed in the cellar walls were long beams on the ends of which were hung large pressing stones or "bullies". These stones would weigh approx 1cwt and had an iron hook leaded into them. On the top of the hogshead was placed a circular wooden cover called a "Buckler". The weighted beam acted as a lever on top of the buckler and the pressure caused any remaining oil to leak out of the cask. This process continued for about a week, the casks being headed up three times with extra fish as their contents settled. They were then sealed and branded with curer's name, the name, year and place cured and destination attached. Some were exported to France and Spain but most went to the Italian ports where there was a large Catholic market.

The best recorded Catch

The best recorded catch was at Portwrinkle on August the 4th 1804 when 200 hogsheads were caught; each hogshead weighed 476 lbs and contained 3,000 pilchards.

The decline

The effect of the French wars, shortage of salt, the introduction of the Spanish sardine and most of all the growth of drift fishing seen the decline in the trade. Tremendous gale started to destroy most of the boats and buildings and they became derelict. Others sold their boats and equipments at auctions.

PILCHARD SEANS AND BOATS, &c ,
For Sale at Kingsand, Devon.
To be SOLD by PRIVATE CONTRACT, the whole of the SEANS, NETS, and BOATS, with the Sails, Tackle, Apparel, and Furniture, together with sundry Utensils and Implements, used and employed in the Pilchard Fishery; also about Forty Tons of French Salt, the property of the "Industry and Farmer Pilchard Sean Company."
The Seans, Nets, Boats, Sails, Tackle, &c., are in excellent condition; the whole may be viewed at any time upon application to Mr. JOHN NICHOLLS, King's Arms Inn, Kingsand, who will be prepared to show an Inventory of the Property.
Further particulars may be obtained from Mr. JOHN E. ELWORTHY, Solicitor, Courtenay-street, Plymouth.

Sale of Sean Nets and Boats

Smuggling

Due to its close proximity of Plymouth and its insatiable market of contraband it was not surprising that Cawsand and Kingsand developed into a notorious smuggling centre during the 18th century and French/Spanish wars. Thousands of tons of Brandy, tea and tobacco traveled up the beaches of these two villages. Many tunnels were constructed for concealment of movement of these contraband goods. Coastguards were established in 1822 and coastguard cottages built to accommodate the revenue men, as they were called. This was to allow for the constant surveillance of the 11 ½ mile coasts of the Rame Peninsula. Although this severely curbed the activities of the smugglers the trade continued for many more years.

Empacombe

The home of the 8th Earl of Mt Edgcombe with its picturesque little harbour, were one of the wooden Eddystone lighthouses was assemble before being shipped to the Eddystone Rock. It has a very small inhabittance being only of a handful of houses. A Courtney Lyne Sandercock once lived there with his parents, being the son of John and Mary Sandercock. He was a Sub/Lt on H.M. Trawler Lochiel and was officially reported missing, feared killed on July 24th 1918 by enemy submarine or mine explosion. He was 23 years of age and had been an officer in the Merchantile Marine during the 1914 - 1918 war. He had made many voyages into dangerous waters without mishap but a month before his death volunteers were asked for in the R.N.V.R. and he promptly responded and lost his life. He was an efficient and popular officer educated at the County Secondary School Liskeard. His grave is reference 31 at Chatham Naval Memorial.

Cremyll:-

Cremyll Ferry Horseboat
Cremyll Arms
Rubies Ice Cream
Cremyll Antiques
Orangery Café
Francis Raily Market Garden

Cremyll Sports Day

Sports were held in the Obelisk field by officers and men off the Impregnable training ship.

The Orangery

Built in 1791 Restored in 1953

Cremyll Clock

The clock at the toll house was presented by Col Edgcumbe in 1885

Cremyll Pubs

Edgcumbe Arms

Cremyll School

A mixed School with 55 children, Mrs E Robinson was the head Mistress

Boat Yards in the area:-

Waterman's Anderton
Rogers & Co Cremyll Yard
Mashfords
Mill Quay
Foss
The Multi Hull Centre
Trago Voyager
Southdown Marina

Businesses Whitsand Bay:-

Mr Buckingham Undertaker Forder

Mr Valence Market Garden Forder

Julie Carne/Anthony Dunn Garden Centre Forder

Horrace Honey Market Garden Forder

Penmillard Farm Guest House

Whitsand bay holiday camp

Polhawn Beach Café - Edna Thomas

Polhawn Coastguard Cottages – Café

Rame View Café now the View

Tregunauke Cake

Freathy Stores

Eddystone Beach Café

Wilcox's Tea's and Donkey Rides etc

John Eddy Teas Withnoe beach