

THE BERRYMANS,

1569 Muster Rolls. The Berrymans probably came from the burrough of Tregony and the name means 'Burrough man'. By 1569 eight Berrymans in Cornwall aged 16-60 were listed in the Muster Rolls as able to defend the kingdom. Alnot, Anthony, Nicholas, Thomas and Roger were at Tregony, John at Redruth, John at Sennen and Stephen at Morwenstow. Sennen is the nearest of these parishes to Zennor. John probably named his children Nicholas and Thomas after his relations in Tregony and they must have been born after 1554.

Subsidy Rolls. The most prosperous people were taxed on land, or goods if they hadn't any land. The first Berryman mentioned in Zennor was Nicus in 1597 (generation 1) who was assessed for an average sum of £3. His father may have been John from Sennen or William who died in Zennor in 1601 leaving a will. Thomas was churchwarden of Zennor in 1616, but living in St. Ives in 1641.

Protestation Returns. In 1641 all men over 18 had to take an oath of allegiance to the king. Of the 81 men in Zennor three were Berrymans. Nicholas was churchwarden (gen. 3), the other Nicky was probably his son (gen. 4), and the third was Arthur. They were probably literate and signed their own names with 20 others in the parish. Nicholas, son of John was baptised 1618. Arthur is mentioned in the Subsidy Roll for 1641 and Nicky was taxed on land (as opposed to goods).

Thomas was living in St. Ives. There was a John living at Madron, the neighbouring parish. (Sometimes mistakes are made in the addresses and he could be John the Elder). Arthur and George were living at Paul, and a Nicho at St Stephen-in-Brannel.

Hearth Tax. (Gen. 3-4) In 1664 Arthur had two hearths in Zennor, Nicholas two hearths and Nicholas junior two hearths, so they were a very well established family. Only Arthur was taxed and this time on goods. Most homes in those days had one hearth. A second hearth either meant a larger house or two parts of the family under one roof; e.g. son's family and parents, or several married children in same house. The Berrymans had three houses and five or six families at least.

Arthur (of the hearth tax), or one of the others, had a son David (gen. 5) who married Grace Roberts. David and Grace called their son Arthur and in 1716 he fell in love with another Grace (Carvossa) from the neighbouring parish of Madron.

This Arthur (who made a will) and Grace (gen. 6) named their first child Arthur but he died when he was two. Their second child was David who grew up and married. William was born in 1720 and died when he was 25. Jane grew up and wed John Renowden. Next was Grace who married Paul Quick and called her second son Israel. A fourth boy was born to Arthur and Grace and they called him Arthur but he lived less than a year. The next child was also called Arthur and, third time lucky, he lived. The next baby was called John and only lived a few days. Another John lived six months. Margaret was born in 1731 and the baby of the family was Thomas born in 1737.

In 1725 Grandfer David died leaving £40 each to his grandsons William and Arthur. (The eldest grandson was David age 7, William was 5 and baby Arthur died the next summer.) William's money was spent on a lease at Tregarthen and Arthur's on Boswarthen in Madron which John Oliver mortgaged to them.

Father Arthur promptly made his will. He had been married nine years and only six of his eleven had been born but his will begins, 'being sick and weak in body but in pefect sense and memory...' His possessions included;

One small tenement in Polmeor	on two lives
One other	" " one life
" "	" " two lives
" "	" Troon
" "	" Chygombs

Arthur's will begins with, "I give unto my well beloved wife Grace £10 a year after my decease to be paid quarterly out of the tenements of Porthmeor during her widowhood whereas I did in marriage with my said wife promise to settle a jointure on her and have not yet done it and in consideration of her future settle this £10 on her during her widowhood and no longer, that is to say that if she is to marry again that my will and meaning is that she is to receive £5 a year for her lifetime.

(Note that her wedding jointure amounts to nothing while he is alive.)

To my second son William I give the tenement at Tregarthen which I hold for him until the age of 21, and two years after that age he is to pay £10 to my executors whereas my father David Berryman deceased did by a deed of gift give unto his grandson William forty pounds which is laid out in putting his life on the above estate.

(Why did William have to give back £10?)

To my son Arthur I give a tenement in Boswarth in the parish of Madron to him and his heirs forever at the age of 21 which was mortgaged by John Oliver to my father David but if John Oliver redeems the mortgage my son Arthur shall receive that money in lieu as his portion wheras my father David by deed of gift gave unto his grandson Arthur forty pounds which sum must be allowed to him by my executors when he obtains the age of 21 from the tenement of Bowarthen.

To my daughter Jane (age 4) £40 when she is 21 or when she marries, whichever comes first.

To my daughter Grace (age 2) the same. If either daughter dies the other is to receive her share. If either of my sons William or Arthur is to die the other is to receive £40 more on reaching the age of 21.

To my eldest son David all my estate known as Porthmeor so he pays his mother Grace £10 a year during her widowhood but if she marries again then £5 for her lifetime. He is to be the sole inheritor of all my goods and chattles whithin doors and without of whatever nature and kind that I shall be possessed of at the time of my death after my executors have paid my debts and legacies given.

I hereby appoint my brother-in-law Thomas Carvossa of Madron yeoman, my kinsman John Berryman of Zennor and my wife Grace as long as she remains a widow and no longer, to be guardians and trustees over my children until the age of 21 and to guide them according to their best judgement."

Father Arthur lived another 22 years after this but never altered his will, Baby Arthur died but two years later another son was born and called Arthur. (He lived to be 88 and his children inherited Porthmeor.) Father Arthur never provided for his two youngest children, Margaret who was 16 when he died, and Thomas who was ten, William at Tregarthen died in 1745, two years before his father and I wonder what happened to his share?

The heir to Porthmeor was David, the eldest son, who married the year before his father died, Heir David had six children, at least two died as babies, Twenty years after his marriage his wife died and his widowed mother Grace, David made his will then, in 1767, and mentions none of his children so perhaps they all died in infancy.

Heir David, a yeoman, left £10 to Israel Quick, born 1755 the second son of his sister Grace, David left £10 to his sister Margaret who was probably living with him as she was 35 and unwed, He left everything else to his brothers Arthur and Thomas, He died eight years later in 1775,

Arthur, the 'third time lucky' baby, became the inheritor of Porthmeor, He married in 1755 and in 1760 his three year old son Richard was buried, His wife must have died too as the next year Arthur the Lucky wed Mary Barber, widow, aged 30, Arthur was 32 and lived to be 88, His wife died six months before him, They had four sons William, Arthur, David and Thomas, Their two daughters died young.

William grew up to farm at Bosprennis, He had a son and four grandchildren but the I loose track of this line, His brother Arthur wed Ann Quick and farmed at Boswednack and I think they were childless, Brother Thomas I think wed and left the parish, This leaves David, the third son, who was born in 1771 and married when he was 27 Jane Osborne who was 18, With their children, who form generation 9, we weave another tapestry.

1841 Census, David and Jane (gen. 8) were at Lower Porthmeor with Grace, Wilmot, John and Catherine at home, A dairywoman and her two children lived in one of the cottages, and a blacksmith with his family in the other, At Higher Porthmeor two of the cottages were inhabited by miners and their families, Joseph Giles aged 25 farmed half of Higher Porthmeor and lived with Elizabeth Thomas his 25 year old female servant, Eighteen years later he got Mary Berryman into trouble and she had a bastard named Henry Giles (gen. 11).

William and Jane Michell had farmed at Chykembro when they married in 1828 but in 1840 they were at Higher Porthmeor and for the census they had five children and a servant Grace Wite aged 15, In the 1861 census William is given two sons aged 19, William and Arthur, but I have no other record of twin Arthur, The two younger brothers John and Robert in 1861, had 19 acres each at Lower 'Meor while William had 40 at Higher 'Meor.

BERRYMANS OF ZENNDR

William =
-1601 will

generation 0.

