

2010

COLENSO

DEVOTED TO

THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE REVEREND WILLIAM COLENSO FLS FRs



OCTOBER



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William Colenso's family

By Ann Collins

Many of the histories of the Colenso family record that the surname is derived from the Cornish words *ke lyn su*, dark hedged pool, or possibly *callen-su*, dark layer of iron-ochre on a rock-face. There is also the possibility that the name was taken from the Manor of Colenso in the parish of St Hilary. However, the theory put forward by George Colenso Carter in the 1920s is more interesting.

“There is a family tradition that the family is of Phoenician descent especially as traces of the name are found in the Eastern Mediterranean and Spain. The name is variously spelt in Cornish extant parish registers back to Henry VIII's reign, where the name frequently appears as Collenso, Callenza, Callenso, etc.

The small rocky inlet in Mount's Bay, Penzance Cornwall, on which the ancient castle of St Michael's Mount now stands was known to the Greeks and Romans as Ictis, or the Tin Island. To its little sheltered harbour on the east side, facing the mainland, the little Phoenician ships came for tin, no doubt changing their merchandise for the tin ingots. Phoenician and Greek coins have been found in the sea nearby.

A causeway from the mainland, about one mile in length is open an hour or two every day when the tide is out, and no doubt the tin was carried by pack ponies over the causeway to the ships.

Just opposite about a mile inland is an ancient holding of the Colenso family, viz:- Colenso Manor, now out of their hands for several centuries. Until a few years ago it was held by the Buller Family, who could not prove title, as Sir Redvers Buller admitted to me during his lifetime. The whole estate has been sold to farmers during the last 50 years.

The Manor of Colenso originally extended into three parishes; Germoe, Breage & St Hilary. It included the village of Colenso with an old Celtic Cross called the Colenso Cross. On the Manor is a very old, disused tin mine shaft.

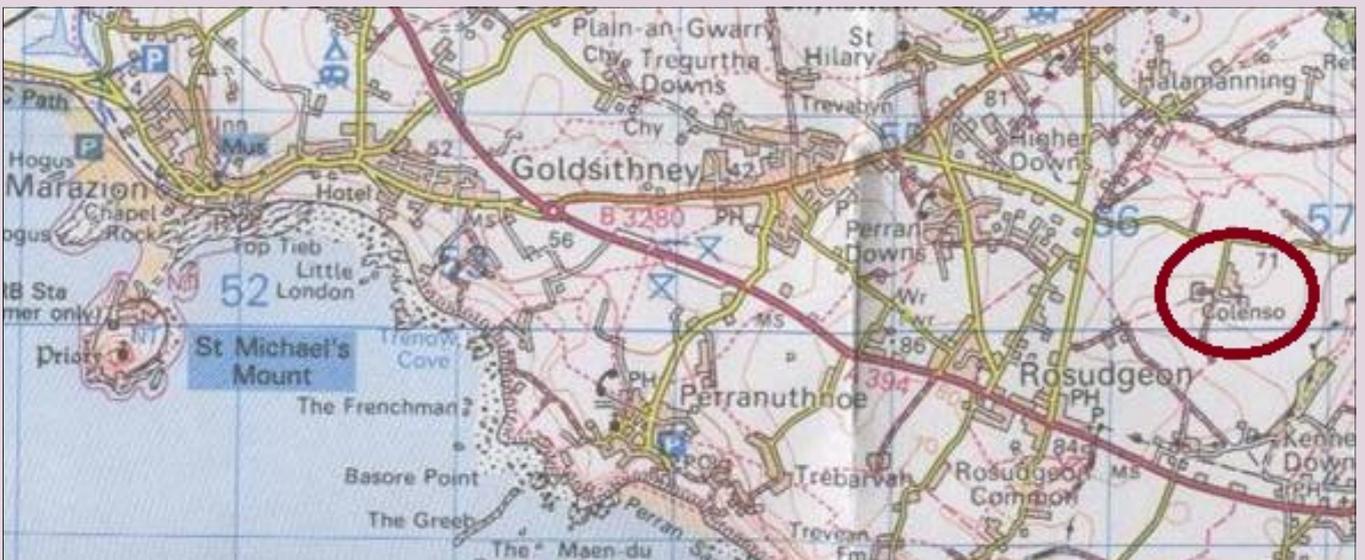
All the above details might lead one to the conclusion that the original Colenso was a Phoenician Trader in tin and took up residence in this part of Cornwall.”

The Colenso Manor did not exist when the Domesday Book was compiled in 1086. The surname is not mentioned until 1522, with only two men mentioned from St Hilary and Paul.

The manor of Calenso appears to have been part of the Estate of Francis Tregian (1548-1608) of Golden, near Probus. He was banished from Elizabeth I's court on trumped up charges and imprisoned for 21 years. Released under James I, he died at a Jesuit Hospital at St Roque in Lisbon and was buried standing up because “he stood up to Elizabeth and her heresies”. His son Francis (1574-1619) was a composer and was also imprisoned for recusancy.

The Tregian Estates were forfeited to the Crown on the 1st April 1577. They appear to have been acquired by Rashleigh family in 1610 and then by the Buller family by 1635 as part of what they called the Shillingham Estates. The parcel also included Golden, the principle Tregian Manor. The Calenso Manor was sold to tenants after 1917 and exists now as three farms.

An interesting titbit is that Sir Redvers Buller, who commanded the British forces at the Battle of Colenso, during the Boer War, owned the Colenso Manor in Cornwall. The battle was fought near the township of Colenso, named after John William Colenso, the first Bishop of Natal – William's first cousin.



Reynold Kelensoe
Born abt 1480

Reynold Kellensow of St Hilary is mentioned in the Military Survey of 1522.

Thomas Kellensow
Born abt 1506

Thomas Kellensow of Paul is mentioned in the 1522 Military Survey and the Tinnars Muster Roll of 1535.

Jenkin Kelensoe
Born abt 1523

Jenkin Kelensoe of Uny Lelant is mentioned in the 1545 Subsidy.

John Colenso
Abt 1548 – 1586
Wife Jane

In the Cornwall Muster Roll of 1569, three men are mentioned John Calensow of Mr Vyvyan's men in Mawgan in Meneage, Alan Kelansawe of St Erth and Harry Kelensoe of Uny Lelant. John Calensowe had children in Mawgan in Meneage between 1568 and 1579.

William Colenso
1568 –
Wife Sebyle Michell

William was born and married in Mawgan in Meneage. He had four sons, whose lives were impacted by the Civil War (1642 – 1651). They were tied to Sir Richard Vyvyan, who fought as a Royalist.

John Calenso
1607 - 1688

One of William's sons was John, who is the most likely to have died in St Martin in Meneage in 1688.

John Colensoe

A John Colensoe had children in Penzance and Paul. These children included the following Thomas.

Thomas Colenso, cordwainer
1694 – 1766
Wife Phillippa Lewarne

Thomas was described as a cordwainer (luxury shoemaker) in his brother Stephen's will in 1759. Stephen was a mariner, who died in Stepney, but he named most of Thomas's children in his will. He also named a nephew Francis Calense Amos, who started a ship yard in Gosport that became Camper & Nicholson a luxury yacht builder.

Robert Colenso, innkeeper
1746 – 1814
Wife Elizabeth Williams

Robert was the innkeeper of the Queens Head in Marazion, before moving to the Kings Arms in Penzance in 1778, which he ran for 30 years. It was an "old Penzance house at which many of the borough's celebrations were given".

Samuel May Colenso, saddler
1783 – 1866

Samuel May Colenso ran a saddlery business, was a member of the Freemason's Lodge and a town councillor. He was named after his mother's maternal grandfather Samuel May.

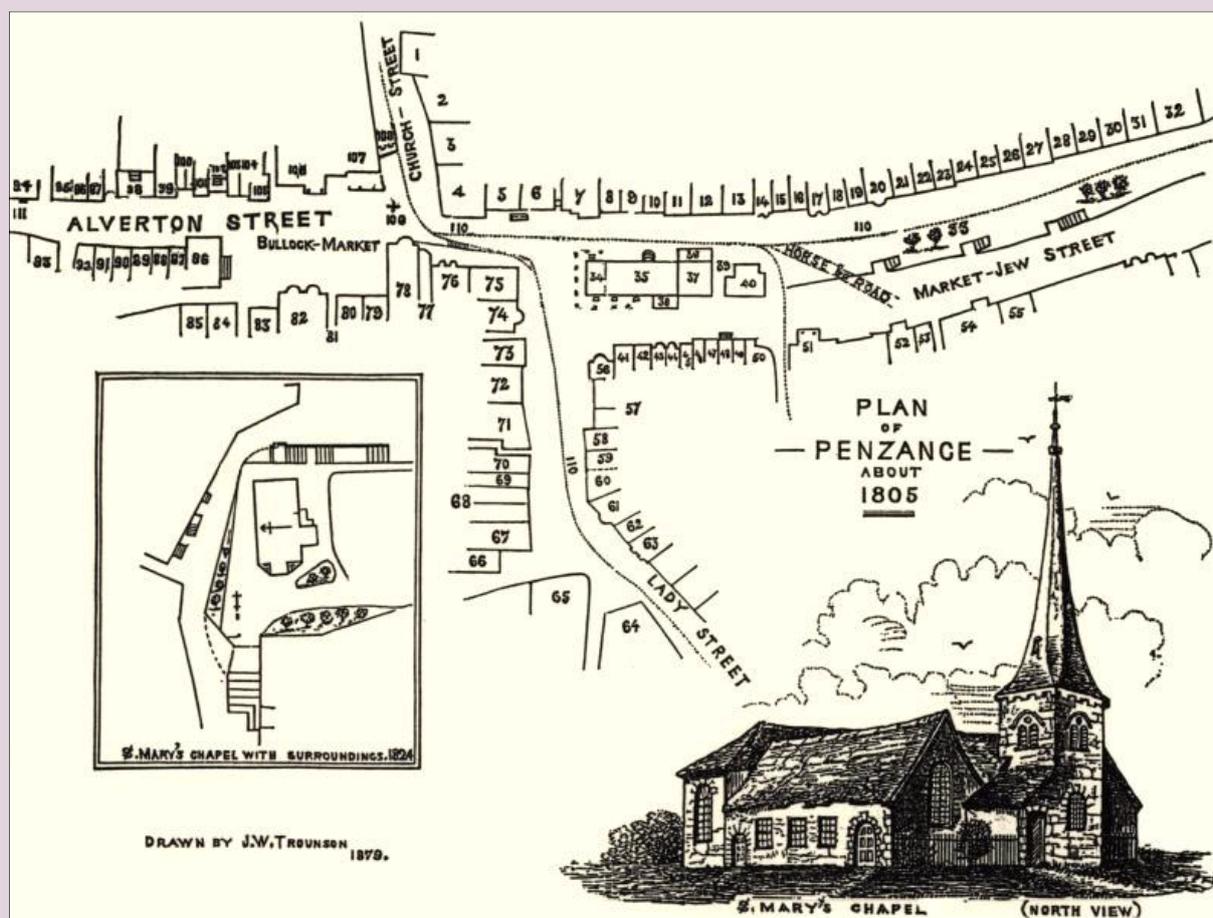
William Colenso
1811 – 1899

Paternal Grandparents – Robert Colenso & Elizabeth Williams

Robert Colenso married Elizabeth Williams on the 19th July 1771 in the Madron Parish, which included the town of Penzance. She was the daughter of John Williams and Johanna May. Robert was the innkeeper of the Queen's Head in Marazion. Robert took over the King's Head (maybe King's Arms number 42 below) in Penzance in 1778, which he ran for 30 years. The family lived at 10 Alverton Street (number 91 below).

The two witnesses at Robert and Elizabeth's wedding were Mary Ann Dunkin and Deborah Oliver. Mary Ann married William Davy in 1774. William was an uncle to Sir Humphry Davy, a pioneering chemist and Penzance's most famous son. Mary Ann was the sister of Robert Dunkin, an early mentor for Humphry Davy.

According to a Death notice in The West Briton 19 August 1831: [1] *"At Penzance on Thursday the 11th instant, Mr Dunking, [died] aged 70 years. – This most respectable man was a member of the Society of Friends; he was originally a saddler, which business he long carried on; but he was also an excellent mathematical instrument maker, and was well known to men of science by some valuable improvements in the barometer and the thermometer. He was an able mathematician, and in natural philosophy, especially in electricity and magnetism, he was deeply skilled – His amiable disposition, and the unassuming manners so well suited to his religious opinions, secured him the respect of all who knew him and will long endear his memory to his numerous friends."*



Robert and Elizabeth had four sons – Robert 1772, John Williams 1779, William 1782 and Samuel May 1783.

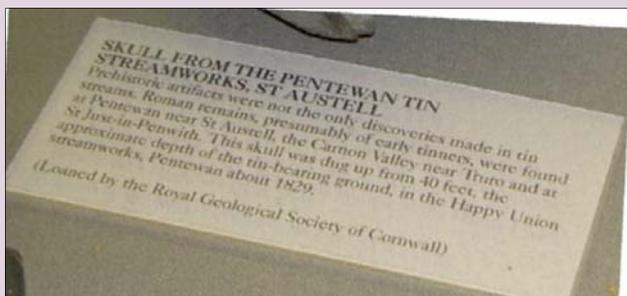
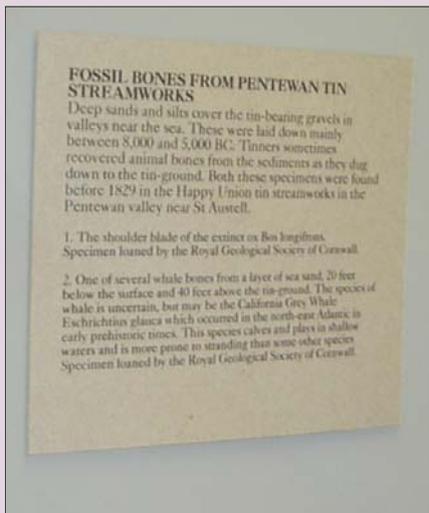
Paternal Uncles

Robert became a saddler, married Elizabeth Paynter and died aged 34 after fathering 4 children. His only son Robert, born in 1801, became an East India Company mariner – a second officer by 1826.

John Williams Colenso was a merchant in St Austell by 1806, he married a daughter of the Flamank family in 1808 and was widowed the same year. He was described as a coal merchant in Devonport in 1811 the same year he married Mary Ann Blackmore. Both his marriages were to young ladies of active Wesleyan families.

John Williams Colenso married Mary Anne Blackmore at Stoke Damerel in 1811. She was the daughter of Thomas Richard Blackmore and Ann Pomery. Not sure of her father's occupation, but her brother Walter Pomeroy Blackmore was a solicitor in Devonport and her sister Anne Sarah married Samuel Rowse, a solicitor in Plymouth.

He had a keen interest in geology and his paper for the Transactions of the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall, read in October 1829, has been described as the first description of "climate change". I found the fossils that he excavated in the Royal Cornwall Museum in 2003 – they were only described as "on loan from the Royal Geological Society". There are letters from Sir Henry Thomas de la Beche, the geologist, that mention Colenso's involvement in the "Great Devonian Controversy" which was bitter debate over the rock formations of Devon, finally resolved in 1839.



John Williams Colenso and Mary Anne Blackmore had the following children.

- John William born 24th January 1814 in St Austell, dying 20th June 1883 in Natal, Africa. Became the Bishop of Natal, after having been a mathematics teacher at Harrow School. Married Sarah Frances Bunyon in 1846 and had three daughters and two sons. He was accused of heresy, after mathematically analyzing the first five books of the Bible and publishing a book in 1865 questioning its literal interpretation. He also supported the Zulus, resisting the expansion of the British into Natal.
- Emily Frances, born 6th August 1815, dying 15th October 1879. Remained single, caring for her father and niece Mary Kendall and running a school in Devonport.
- Elizabeth Ann, born 17th February 1817, probably dying as a child.
- Sophia Ann, born October 1821, dying in 1854. She married Nicholas Kendall, chaplain of Bodmin Prison, in 1845. They had one child - Mary. She married Spencer Percival Butler (his father was Headmaster of Harrow School) and had many interesting children, and a grandchild Richard Austen Butler, who was almost Prime Minister of the UK.
- Thomas Blackmore born 20th June 1823, dying 28th September 1849. Educated at Harrow School, and then was a fellow of Exeter College Oxford, dying of tuberculosis.

Many biographical accounts of the life of John William Colenso, Bishop of Natal, attribute his questioning of the theology of the Church of England to his wife's association with F D Maurice and his mother's Wesleyan faith, but this Colenso family was also associated with the Wesleyan movement. John Williams Colenso's brother William was a lay Wesleyan preacher. Both brothers married into the Flamank family of St Austell, with JWC's wife dying after a few months in 1808. Regardless of the reasons, the children were first christened in Princes Street Independent Chapel in Devonport. In 1827 they were all christened again into the established church in St Austell.

Mary Ann Blackmore died in 1829, aged 40, when John William was 15. George Cox's biography states that John William was responsible for the education of his brother and two sisters and was weighted with support for his father. John Williams' reverses were due to the flooding of the Happy Union mine at Pentewan. This occurred around 1831, resulting in John William becoming an assistant at a school in Dartmouth. With assistance from his mother's family he was able to attend Cambridge late 1832.



John Williams was described as a Coal & Timber merchant in Devonport in the 1830 Directory. He continued to act as an agent for the Duchy of Cornwall and was elected Mayor of Lostwithiel in 1850, aged 71 (he also retired as Mayor in 1846 – so probably a few terms). His son writes of his father's health seriously failing in 1850, but he lives another 10 years, dying in Stonehouse Devon on the 23rd December 1860. When in Lostwithiel, he resided in the Norway House, shown below – not exactly poverty stricken.

William has been described as a fish merchant and a brewer. He married Frances Flamank in 1811, the couple had no children. William was a lay Wesleyan preacher and published at least two sermons:

- Remarks on Two Discourses on Methodism. Penzance 1809
- Loyalty enforced by religious motives; being the substance of a sermon preached at Uny Lelant, in the county of Cornwall on June 4, 1809, being the 71st anniversary of the King's Birthday. Penzance 1810

William's Parents – Samuel May Colenso & Mary Veale Thomas

William's parents Samuel May Colenso and Mary Veale Thomas were married in Madron in 1808. Samuel was named after his mother's maternal grandfather Samuel May – possibly a minister at St Mewan. The witnesses at Samuel and Mary's wedding were William Davy and Charlotte Thomas, Mary's sister. William Davy was possibly the son of his parent's witness Mary Ann Dunkin, and a first cousin of Sir Humphry Davy. One of William's brothers, Edmund was a Professor of Chemistry in Cork.

Like his brother Robert, Samuel was also a saddler, I wonder if they were apprenticed to Mary Ann's brother Robert. Samuel was reputed to have been an Alderman. He was also a Freemason - an affiliation that the family has maintained to the current day.

Samuel May Colenso and Mary Veale Thomas had the following children.

- William born 1809 and dying in July 1810.
- William born 17 November 1811 and dying in Napier, New Zealand, in 1899.
- Samuel born 1813 marrying Louisa Charles in London in 1836. He was a painter and glazier. After his wife's death in 1852, he disappeared to Canada with his two daughters. He married and deserted Eleanor Thompson Brock. His daughters married in Canada.
- Richard Veale Thomas Colenso born 1815, married Susan Ann Edmondes in 1836, and after fathering 19 children, 12 surviving childhood, he died in 1892. One of his daughters married Wiremu, another was Sarah Carter's ancestor. His son William was Mayor of Penzance in 1902. Richard was a painter and glazier and began the Colenso business.
- John Williams born 1818, was also a painter and married Christiana Grey in 1847. He died 6 years later of epilepsy.
- Jane Emily born 1817, married Colonel John Montmorency Tucker in London in 1848. He was 37 years her senior, a Waterloo veteran, twice court-martialled and author of a biography of General Wellington, one of Admiral Nelson and a collection of campaigning memoirs. William described her in his letters as "poor Mrs Tucker".
- Elizabeth Frances born 1821 and married a master mariner, John Bramwell Sutherland Stevens. She had one daughter, Minnie.
- Ellen born 1823, never married and worked as a dressmaker in London, returning to Penzance on her retirement, dying in 1907.

- Edwin born 1827, became a carpenter and emigrated to Geelong Australia in 1848. He married twice and died in 1897. He is reputed to have been at the Eureka Stockade. Most Australian Colensos are descended from him. He was my great great grandfather.
- Mary Ann born 1830, married James Symons who was successful wholesale saddler in Walsall. One of her sons studied mathematics at Oxford and married a sister of the poet A.E. Housman.

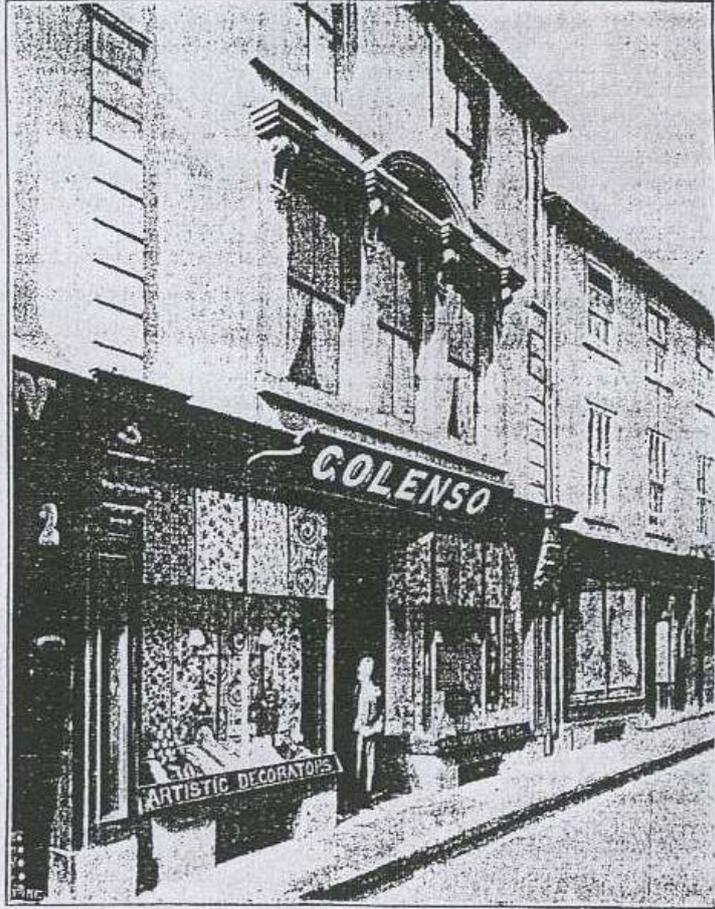
Before leaving Penzance for New Zealand William commissioned miniatures of his parents, which were bequeathed to the Penzance family on his death. They were probably painted by James Tonkin (1768 – 1846), who William wrote that he knew well. My father took these photos when he visited Wiremu's house in Penzance in 1979, then occupied by Doris Colenso, the widow of a grandson of Richard Veale Thomas Colenso.



Samuel May Colenso died in 1866, 10 years after his wife. They were both remembered in the Wesleyan Chapel at Heamoor, near Penzance. Their last two children were not christened in the Church of England as their older siblings had been. Edwin was christened as a Wesleyan when he was 15.



MESSRS. R. COLENZO AND SON, DECORATORS, PAINTERS, PAPER-HANGERS, ETC., 13, NORTH STREET.—The name of Colenso is associated with the refined and cultivated in decorative art. Established for fifty years, they enjoy the confidence and patronage of the gentry of the town and neighbourhood, and employ a larger staff than any similar firm in the west. Their artistic workmanship has placed them in the foremost rank of decorative painters, and to them could be safely entrusted the embellishment of cottage or castle. House decorating in its higher phases is producing results far more artistic and pleasing than was the case only a few years ago, and Messrs. Colenso have been quick to adopt new ideas, and such improvements as have come to the front, therefore anyone desiring the best effects in artistically decorating their homes or offices will always do well to engage the most skilled men in the trade. The best work of this kind is generally the cheapest in the end, to say nothing of its greater charms, and the more pleasing results attained. Messrs. R. Colenso and Son can show a heavy record of work done in this direction. Many of the principal county families are regular patrons, and in order to execute their commissions promptly, skilled workmen are regularly employed. Their workshops contain a large stock of paper-hangings, painters' materials, lamp oils, etc. In paper-hangings, Anaglypta, asbestos, and Lincrusta Walton decorations, there is no greater choice in any other house in the west of England. Messrs. Colenso also keep a comprehensive stock of artists' colours and materials for both professional and amateur painters. The principal work of the firm is painting, decorating, graining, writing, glazing, paper-hanging, gilding, etc., they are agents for the Brilliant Sign Co. Ltd., those beautiful and attractive letters which are meeting with equal success in the provinces as in London, and also for Jesty and Co.'s anti-fouling composition, which is the very best for the bottoms of yachts and boats.



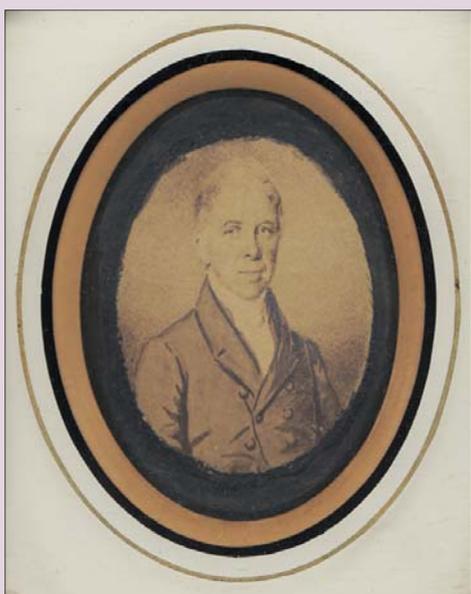
3, NORTH STREET.



Maternal Grandparents – William Thomas & Jane Veale

Mary was the daughter of a Penzance “scrivener”, William Thomas (1749 – 1821), possibly a solicitor. Traditionally a scrivener was a person who could read and write – they developed into a public servant, accountant, lawyer or petition writer. His parents were William Thomas and Grace Trethouan.

Her mother was Jane Veale (1748 – 1812), daughter of Richard Veale and Anne Richards. She was born in St Hilary. Her father was probably descended from the Veale family of Trevaylor, and may have been a minister of the Church of England.



Sarah Carter has the above miniatures in her family archives. We are guessing that he may be William and she may be a daughter. William and Jane had the following children.

- Caroline born in 1779 and died in Truro in 1833.
- Celia born in 1780 and died in Penzance in 1810.
- Anne Veale born in 1782, married Commander Robert Julyan RN in 1804 and died in Canada in 1833.
- Charlotte born in 1784.
- Jane born in 1785.
- Mary Veale born in 1786, married Samuel May Colenso.
- Richard Veale born in 1788, married Ann Matilda Rumball in 1819 in Manchester, and then Harriet Brindley in 1838 and died in Manchester in 1869.
- Grace born in 1790.

William and his wife Jane, their daughter Celia were all buried at the non-conformist Lower Meeting Yard in Penzance.

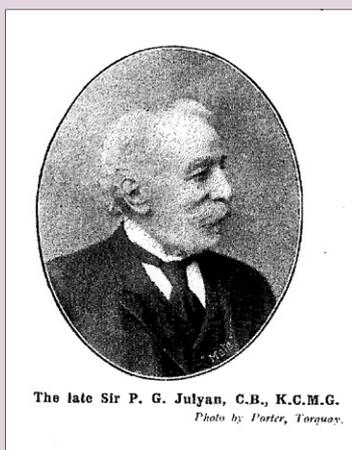
Richard Veale Thomas’s first marriage doesn’t appear to have been happy. He had two children by his second wife, before marrying her after a divorce or bigamously in 1838. Their five children were known by the surname Trethowen – probably a variant of his paternal grandmother’s name. His first wife died in 1849.

Maternal Aunt's Family – Anne Veale Thomas & Robert Julyan

On the 4th August 1804 Mary's sister Anne Veale Thomas had married naval Lieutenant Robert Julyan. Robert was the son of John Julyan and Jane Thomas (possibly a relative), born in St Enoder. He had joined the Navy in 1793 and had seen action in Toulon, Copenhagen, Cadiz and the West Indies. At the time of his marriage he was assigned to the Sea Fencibles, a naval home guard, in northern Cornwall. Anne was the Aunt that William visited in St Ives and later in Truro.

Robert went back to sea in 1810 when the Sea Fencibles was disbanded, until the Napoleonic war ended. He then moved his family of five children to Ontario Canada, where he was appointed the assistant Harbour Master at Quebec. Anne died in 1833 at Frampton, Ontario. Robert married Nancy Mitchell, later that year. She was a native of Padstow, Cornwall.

One of Anne and Robert's sons was Penrose Goodchild Julyan (1816-1907), who became Crown Agent for the Colonies between 1858 and 1879. Prior to this he had served in the corps of Gentlemen Volunteers during the Canadian Rebellion (1837-8), been Special Commissioner for Roads and Bridges in Lower Canada until he took a commission in the Commissariat of the British Army in 1845. During this time he was working at the Quarantine Station in St Lawrence River, which was



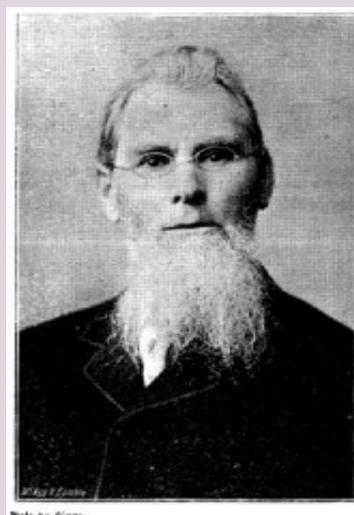
overcome with the impact of the Typhoid outbreak amongst Irish immigrants. Following this he was in Ireland during the time of the Irish Famine. His next assignment was the Royal Mint being established in Sydney. He was recalled for the Crimean War, and designed and built a floating flour mill and a floating bakery to provide supplies to the troops.

During the time he was Crown Agent for the Colonies the organisation remodelled and expanded its reach throughout the empire. When he retired in 1879 he acted for many years as a Financial Advisor for the Colonial Office and held office as Financial Advisor and Loan & Stock Agent to New Zealand Government until 1896. He was sent in 1873 as Special Commissioner to inquire into the condition of the Civil Service in Mauritius, and in 1879 was entrusted with a similar mission to the Government of Malta.

Robert Julyan's elder brother John was a tide-waiter (Customs Official), based in Penzance. His son Nicholas Bice Julyan (1801-1850) was a schoolmaster at the Penzance Grammar School and married Jane Harvey, daughter of a Penzance pharmacist. Their son William Harvey Julyan (1831-1915) was involved in similar community pursuits to William's nephew William. He was Mayor of Penzance for much of the 1890s, when William was planning the "Colenso Dole".

William Harvey Julyan married Mary Mortimer Courtney in 1859. She was the daughter of the Penzance Banker John Sampson Courtney, sister of Leonard Courtney (later Baron Courtney of Penwith) the liberal parliamentarian for Liskeard, who was married to a sister of Beatrice Webb. She was also sister of Louise D'Este Courtney, who was the second wife of Richard Oliver (1830-1910), a native of Penzance, sheep farmer in Otago and member of the New Zealand parliament.

I haven't been able to make a connection, but I wouldn't be surprised if Richard's grandfather John was a brother of the Deborah Oliver who was a witness at William's grandparents' wedding.



Richard Oliver

When William Colenso was born in 1811, Penzance was a relatively small town at the edge of the British island, but Cornwall produced ground-breaking engineers, chemists and artists. His father was saddler, member of the town council and the local freemason lodge. His grandfather was an inn-keeper. They both seem to have been involved in a community that participated in the changes occurring within Britain.

The family, at various times, was involved with the Wesleyan Movement and other non-conformist religions. There was an amateur interest in natural history, geology and mathematics amongst some of the members. A number moved to Canada, Australia, South Africa, USA and New Zealand. There was an activism in politics, usually taking a non-conformist stance of issues of the day.

William was born with intellectual gifts, which were encouraged by his childhood environment. This is possibly why he remembered Penzance so generously in his will.



NN COLLINS: “William is one of the well known members of the Colenso family, which I have been researching for 15 years as part of a One Name Study. I am descended from his brother Edwin, who settled in Australia in 1848. I am particularly interested in how he and his cousin John William Colenso, Bishop of Natal, developed into activists in the British Empire supporting the rights of the indigenous peoples (Maori and Zulu). On a broader scale examining the evolution of the Commonwealth from the British Empire through the stories of family members brings history alive. There are members of the family who settled in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, USA, South America, India and Burma.”



O THE EDITOR: Thanks so much for these beautifully crafted Newsletters from the Colenso Society. I am printing out your latest currently and we have instituted a Colenso Archive File. I do have one small correction, however, on the address of the Colenso home in Chapel Street (about which street I am presently writing, mainly in connection with the Branwell family but also the whole of the street). The Ganges Restaurant is at No 18 (*not* No 16 as you have it) Chapel Street. No 16 is our address—The Hypatia Trust—and I would not want any of your correspondents, especially the librarian ones, to have the wrong number for eternity! Anyone who has particular enquiries about Penzance and environs, can address us here, as we are building up quite a lot of political and family information in our Penzance Archive.

— Melissa Hardie, Director, Hypatia Trust,
Trevelyan House, 16 Chapel Street, Penzance, Cornwall TR18 4AW



Colenso is a free email Newsletter published irregularly by the Colenso Society Inc.
The editor invites contributions on any matter relating to the life and work of
the Rev. William Colenso FLS FRS.

Such contributions should be emailed to ian.stgeorge@rnzcgp.org.nz.

The cover is derived from Robert Coupland Harding’s “Typo”.



A Colenso is still trading in St Ives



Rev. William Colenso wrote to his nephew William Colenso in Penzance on 8 March 1876, "If you can manage it: without *great* trouble, I should like for you to send me a case (100 tin boxes, perhaps in a case) of the New Sardines,—or Pilchards put up Sardine fashion: I see there is a store at Mevagissey, and I believe one also at Newlyn near you. The *cost* I will *immediately* remit with thanks, indeed I would send the amount now if I knew how much. If you send any—they should be "halve" (the *larger* size boxes or tins), and of the *Best* quality."

In 2010 you can still buy them.

Bishop John Colenso's hei tiki



Stuart Park emailed that “Professor Charles Higham of the Anthropology Department at Otago University presented or loaned to Otago Museum about 1972 a hei tiki which had been given by Bishop Colenso to a Higham ancestor who was his clerk / deacon in Natal, from whom it had passed down the Higham family. As I recall it was a rather splendid tiki...”

Charles Higham replied to my email, “The tiki is in the ownership of the Otago Museum. This is what I know about it. My father told me that it came into the ownership of his father. He, the latter, was for some years the vicar of St John's Wynberg South Africa, and was on friendly terms with his Bishop, Colenso. My grandfather collected various items, including Zulu weaponry laid down by chief Cetshwayo's impis, and knowing of this interest, Colenso gave him the tiki, saying that it was collected by a Bishop Colenso when travelling through the east coast of the North Island. I am attaching a picture of a good cast which we keep in the family. HD Skinner said

the original was a fine specimen, possibly modified to provide some teeth with a diamond after European contact.”

Collected therefore by the Reverend William Colenso on the “east coast”—which could have been anywhere from the east coast of Northland to Cape Palliser—and sent to his cousin John Colenso, Bishop of Natal.

Both Colensos were evangelistic “Low Church” theologians, and their relationship and the origins of their liberal philosophies are the subject of work by Ann Collins, a member of this Society. William Colenso wrote to JD Hooker in November 1864, “You may make (or have made) the acq. of my good (1st) cousin ‘Natal’, at the meeting – not too great an heretic for you! Not a few of his views were mine: (we were very close correspondents until the Bp. of N.Z. divided us! – but enough).” Bishop George Selwyn disapproved of John Colenso’s views, and he demanded absolute obedience from William Colenso. It is not clear exactly when or how Selwyn “divided” them though.

Colenso said his birthday was on 17 November (and he should know)

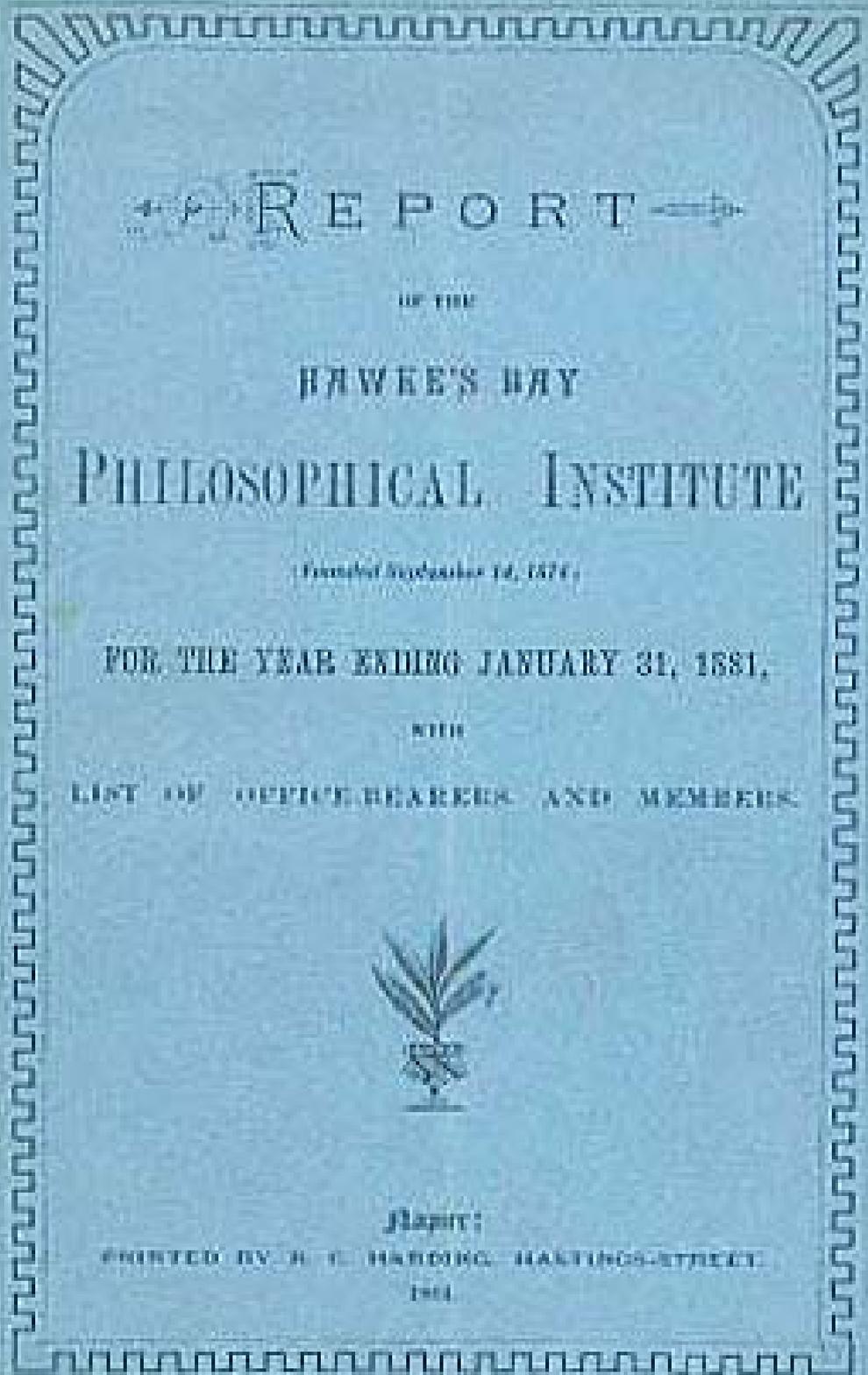
Bagnall and Petersen (and others since) have it as 7 November. Yet the Celtic cross on his gravestone has it as 17 November, and his 1833 journal begins,

*“Journal begun May 1st. 1833, at St. Ives.
Born Nov.17, 1811—baptized at Penzance
Church, Decr.13, 1811.”*

...and on 17 November 1833 he wrote in that journal in the self-vilifying evangelical style of his tortured youth,

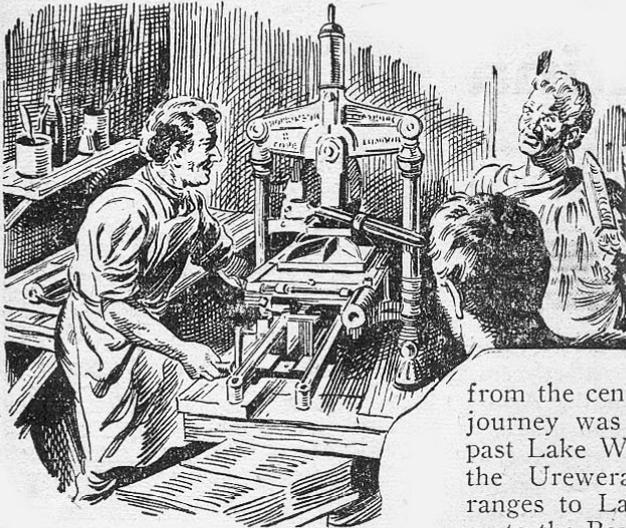
*“17. Sunday—my birthday. Twenty two years
have I lived on this globe and. how have I
served my God? I have served Satan zealously
and truly, but I now hate his ways, his works,
and all that is his; may my offended God,
cause me to hate him more, and Love his ways
instead; as my Saviour, to Thee I dedicate my-
self, body, soul, and spirit, I am a weak sinful
mortal, but thou cans't cleanse and purify me.
Lord root out all vile affections, and if thou art
pleased to spare the ‘barren Fig Tree’ yet an-
other year, grant that it may ‘grow in grace’
and in thy love.—Amen.—”*





This booklet was offered for sale recently by Bethunes@Webbs Rare Books. It was published by Coupland Harding while he was still in Napier. Colenso was Hon. Sec. and Treasurer of the HBPI for many years including 1881, and its President for two terms.

NEW ZEALAND EXPLORERS



One of the busiest of the earlier explorers of New Zealand was William Colenso, a Church of England missionary, who achieved fame as one of New Zealand's earliest printers. In 1833 he was engaged by the Church Missionary Society as catechist and printer, and in 1835 he produced the first book printed in New Zealand—some extracts from the Scriptures, printed in Maori.

When Captain Hobson arrived in New Zealand, Colenso carried out most of the printing in connection with the Treaty of Waitangi, of which he published in 1890 an authentic narrative based on his diary. He was born in 1811 and died in 1899. He was member for Napier in the 1861 Parliament and for a while in 1871 he was acting-Speaker.

Colenso was among the earliest white men to set foot on vast areas of the east coast of the North Island, his explorations ranging far and wide over Wellington, Wairarapa, Hawke's Bay, Poverty Bay and north to the Bay of Plenty and Auckland.

Another of Colenso's feats was his collection of moa bones from more than thirty birds. The specimens were at that time of great importance, as Europeans were then only just beginning to learn about the moa.

In 1841 and 1842 Colenso made the first journey (for a white man) over the ranges separating the east coast of the North Island

from the centre of the island. His journey was from Poverty Bay, past Lake Waikaremoana, through the Urewera country, over the ranges to Lake Tarawera, and so on to the Bay of Islands, via Rotorua, the Thames Valley, the Waikato, Auckland, Kaipara and Whangarei.

The primary purpose of his travels was missionary work, but in addition he did much valuable botany work. He collected for Sir William J. Hooker, famous British botanist, then director of Kew Gardens, a thousand botanical specimens, and he also gathered material for a paper about moa bones.

At Lake Waikaremoana.

In 1843 and 1844 Colenso made another arduous journey, in which he covered almost the same ground as on his previous travels. When he came to Lake Waikaremoana he found the surface like a raging sea, and when he held a church service his voice could hardly be heard above the roaring of the gale.

A few days later he crossed the lake to carry out a study of the Urewera country, moving from pa to pa to collect material for a census of inland Maoris which Bishop Selwyn wanted. He went down the Whakatane River to the Bay of Plenty and then walked overland through the Waikato and back to the Bay of Islands.

In 1844 Colenso was made a deacon and was sent to found a mission station at Waitangi, near the present Napier. He had a huge parish extending from Waikaremoana to Wellington, from Taupo to Hawke's Bay, and had to spend seven months of every

William Colenso Had Two Claims to Fame

Explorer and Printer

year visiting villages many miles from his station.

On his frequent travels Colenso always kept a sharp eye open for new flowers, and he collected hundreds of specimens with great care and skill. On one occasion in the high Ruahines, having no bag and no flax to make one, he took off his jacket and filled it with botanical specimens, then used his shirt for the same purpose and even stored the plants in his hat.

Colenso was described by one authority as "the foremost New Zealand botanical explorer."

William Colenso Bicentenary

9-13 November 2011, Napier

Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery
Join us in Hawke's Bay next November to celebrate the life of William Colenso. HBMAG, in association with the Colenso Society, is planning an exciting programme of activities including a two-day academic conference, tours, workshops and commemorative events.

If you or your business would like to partner, or sponsor this important event, or to register your interest contact
Eloise Taylor, Hawke's Bay Museum & Art Gallery 06 835 7781
or etaylor@hbmag.co.nz

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Fuchsia colensoi

Described by JD Hooker in his 1864 *Handbook of the NZ Flora*, from plants sent by Colenso from the North Is, and by Travers, Lindsay and Hector from the South Is.

It is now regarded as a natural hybrid between *F. perscandens* and *F. excorticata*. Colenso had probably found and sent it to WJ Hooker in 1846 when he sent No. "144. *Fuchsia*, n. sp., from woods Wairarapa Valley, – a procumbent flagelliform weak shrub, rising, however, among & over other shrubs & small trees to the height of 6-12 feet. – berries edible. – a sp. evidently between *F. procumbens* & *F. excortica*." Hooker didn't describe it formally. The following year Colenso sent it again: "1048. *Fuchsia*, n. sp., ditto: vide, 144 last lot." There is a specimen in Herb Col. at WELT from Dannevirke.

The photograph illustrates plants offered for sale for £1.75 from the Duchy of Cornwall Nurseries (see <http://www.duchyofcornwallnursery.co.uk/plants-and-flowers/fuchsias/pa-1/>).

