

Dedhyasow a Gernewek

Peswora Gradh

400-500 A.D. The Sub-Roman century. Roman rule and administration in Britain came to an end. Anglo-Saxon Invaders occupied most of the South and the East of the Island.

500-600 The "Celtic Century" Celtic kingdoms were established in most of the West and North. These included Dumnonia, (Devon and Cornwall), the Welsh Kingdoms, Rheged (around Carlisle), Elmet (around Leeds) and Strathclyde. Several historical figures of this period feature in Welsh and Irish legends not written down until much later. Maybe there were Cornish ones too which have been lost. Large scale migrations from West and South Britain to Armorica, which became known as Brittany.

577 The West Saxons won the Battle of Dyrham Near Bath, which led to the separation of Britons in Wales from those in Dumnonia, and the separation of Welsh from Cornish.

700 Exeter was in Saxon hands by this date.

722 Britons defeated at the Battle of Hayle, which led to the conquest of Devon.

815 Ecgburt of Wessex began subjugation of Cornwall.

838 Combined force of Britons and Danes a defeated at Hingston Down.

865 King Doniert of Cornwall drowned.

936 Athelstan established Tamar as boundary of Cornwall, and drove Britons out of Exeter.

10th century The Ricatus Stone suggests that Cornwall still had some autonomy.

9th – 10th century. Earliest records of written Cornish, Smaragdus glosses and Bodmin Gospels.

12th century. Vocabularium Cornicum. Most important record of old Cornish

- 1329 Bishop Grandisson reports that British was still spoken in the extremities of Cornwall.
- 1335 One priest licenced in Truro and one in Bodmin to preach and hear confessions in Cornish.
- 1336 St. Buryan Law case. Some local people could not speak English.
- 1339 A priest licenced to preach in Cornish near Padstow.
- 14th -15th century The "Ordinalia" plays written and performed.
- 1504 Manuscript of "Bewnans Meryasek" written.
- 1538 Bishop Vesey ordered use of Cornish for parts of Church Service in parishes where English as not spoken.
- 1549 Act of Uniformity. English to be used or all church services.
- 1560 Bishop of Exeter directed Catechism to be taught in Cornish to children who did not understand English.
- 1560 John Tregear translated Bishop Bonner's Homilies into Cornish.
- 1600 Richard Pentry preached in Cornish before Philip II of Spain
- 1602 Richard Carew reported Cornish was only spoken in uttermost parts of the shire, but miracle plays were still performed.
- 1610 John Norden made a similar report.
- 1611 William Jordan wrote or copied "Gwreans An Bys".
- 1623 Will of Francis John of Wendron was proved. He spoke Cornish, but could understand English.
- 1640 Cornish ceased being spoken at Feock about this date.
- 1644 Symonds diary states Cornish still being spoken beyond Truro, and at Lands End no English is spoken.
- 1667 Last Cornish Sermon at Landewednak.
- 1676 Cheston Marchant, last known Cornish monoglot, died.
- 1680 W. Scawen wrote "Observations" in which he gave sixteen reasons for the decline of Cornish.
- 1695 John Tonkin wrote songs about James II and William III in Cornish.
- 1698 Thomas Tonkin collected songs.

Late 17th century. Nicholas Boson was writing: "Nebbaz Gerriau tho Carnoaok"; "Jowan Chyanor" in Cornish, and the "Duchess of Cornwall" partly in Cornish.

Early 18th century John Keigwin's writings; Transcription and Translation of the Ordinalia, Gwreans an Bys and Passion Poem; Cornish translation of Letter icon Charles I thanking people of Cornwall.

1702 Lluyd wrote Archeologica Britannica, containing grammar of Cornish.

1700-09 Mr. Anstis M.P. discovered Vocabularium Cornicum and sent it to Lluyd.

1710 James Jenkins, writer of verse, died.

1711 John Boson wrote elegy in englyn form, in imitation of Lluyd.

1735 Gwavas and T. Tonkin found Cornish spoken only from Penzance to Lands End, and very corrupt.

1742 Samuel Barrinton's Cornish sailor from Mount's Bay was understood in Brittany.

1750 William Borlase published "Antiquities of Cornwall" with Cornish Grammar and Vocabulary, with definite intention of preserving the language.

1762 Daines Barrington 'discovered' Dolly Pentreath and her neighbour at Mousehole.

1776 William Bodinar's letter, regarded as last piece of traditional written Cornish.

1777 Dolly Pentreath, reputed "last Cornish speaker" died.

1790 William Pryce - Archeologica Cornu-Britannica.

1800 Probable date by which all normal communication in Cornish ceases.

1826 Davies Gilbert publishes John Keigwin's version of Passion Poem which he renamed "Mount Calvary"

1838 Franz Bopp proved that Celtic was a branch of the Indo-European family of languages. 1853 Johann Zeuss published "Grammatica Celtica".

1859 Edwin Norris edited "Ancient Cornish Drama" containing text and translation of the Ordinalia with a grammar.

1860 Prince Louis Lucien Bonaparte and Rev. John Garrett erected a memorial to Dolly Pentreath. Bonaparte bought Gwavas and Tonkin manuscripts and found that Pryce's work was mostly copied from these.

1860/1861 Whitley Stokes edited and translated "Passyon agan Arluth" from the original manuscripts.

1861 Charles Rogers wrote vocabulary. Not published but bequeathed to the Bodleian Library by his son in 1898.

1864 Whitley Stokes published edited text and translation of Gwreans an Bys"

1865 Robert Williams published Cornish dictionary "Lexicon Cornu-Brittanicum"

1869 W. Wynne found text of "Beunans Meryasek" and Williams confirmed that it was Cornish.

Whitley Stokes published 2000 word glossary based on it.

1879 Henry Jenner read paper on "The Cornish Language" and brought new impetus to the study of the language. R. Morton Nance born.

1875 W.S. Lach-Szyrma joined Jenner and visited people taking down the last traditional scraps of Cornish.

1876 Jenner gave paper on the ancient Cornish Language.

1877 Jenner discovered the "Charter Fragment", the oldest known piece of Cornish. He married Kitty Lee and decided to stir up an interest in the language.

1877 Jenner and Lach-Szyrma organised a service to commemorate the centenary of the death of Dolly Pentreath. The publicity became the main sparking point of the language revival movement.

1877 John Rhys, first professor of Celtic at Oxford, revived Lluyd's work on Celtic scholarship. 1887 Dr. F.W.P. Jago published Cornish English dictionary.

1890 Lach-Szyrma published "Last Lost Language of Europe" with elementary Lessons in Cornish.

1891: John Davey, one of the last people with traditional knowledge of the Cornish language, dies. The Cranken Rhyme, a song he had learnt as a child, is supposed to be one of the last recorded pieces of the Cornish language oral tradition.

1903 Jenner made Breton Bard "Gwas Mikael" Addressed meeting of Bretons in Cornish.

1904 Jenner published "Handbook of Cornish Language" - history and grammar of Cornish.

1909 Jenner met R. Morton Nance who had studied Cornish in Borlase's "Antiquities" and Jenner's Handbook. They studied place names and searched for traditional Cornish.

1920 They formed the first "Old Cornwall" Society at St. Ives.

1924 Other societies had been formed and a federation was founded.

1924 E.G.R. Hooper contacted Nance and attended Cornish classes in Fenchurch St. run by Allin-Collins, who wrote stories and insisted on speaking Cornish.

1925 Twice yearly publication of "Old Cornwall" began.

1929 Nance published "Cornish for All" with Unified Spelling,

1928 First Gorsedh Kernow.

1930 A.S.D. Smith (1883-1950) began teaching Cornish at Tiverton.

1931 He wrote "Lessons in Spoken Cornish".

1932 W.D. Watson wrote "First steps in Cornish."

1932 First Celtic Congress in Cornwall.

1932 Smith (Caradar), Hooper (Talek) and Chirgwin (Map Melyn) admitted as bards.

1933 First Revived Church service in Cornish at Towednak.

1934 Smith launched "Kernow" - first ever all Cornish magazine.

1938 Nance published Cornish English dictionary.

1939 Smith published "Cornish Simplified."

1949 Discovery of Tregear homilies.

1950 Caradar died.

1951 Mebyon Kernow founded.

1952 New edition of Dictionary by Nance.

1952 "An Lef Kernewek" started by R. M. Gendall to replace "Kernow" (and continued by Hooper in 1953)

1959 Nance died

1967 Kesva an Tavas Kernewek (Cornish Language Board) established.

1976 "An Gannas" started by Graham Sandercock.

1979 "Dalleth" started to encourage teaching of Cornish to young children.

1983 "An Lef Kernewek" ceased publication.

1983 First "Esedhvos Kernow" at Truro. (National Cornish Eisteddfod)

1983 Kernewek dre Lyther started by Ray Edwards.

1984 "A Grammar of Modern Cornish" by Wella Brown Published.

1986 "The Pronunciation and Spelling Of Revived Cornish" by Ken George

1987 Language Board accepted proposals in this book to use Kernewek Kemmyn.

1979 Kowethas an Yeth founded

1990 Examinations set at all grades in old and new system. Controversy.

2002 The Cornish language is officially recognised by the Government.

2005 British government allocates £80,000 per year for three years of direct central government funding to the Cornish language.

2008 Standard Written Form (FSS) of the Cornish language is formally agreed.

Updated version of text by Ray Edwards, founder of KDL.