



THE ARTS  
SOCIETY  
FALMOUTH



# **ORIGINS OF CORNISH EXOTIC GARDENS**

## **A MYTH QUESTIONED**

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**A Garden History Project for The Arts Society Falmouth**

**Supporters :**

**The Cornwall Record Office  
The Cornwall Garden Trust**

**Acknowledgements:**

The Morrab Library  
The Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society  
The Royal Institution of Cornwall  
Kew Gardens  
Enys Estate  
National Trust Trelissick

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Alison Cameron

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    Nurserymen and West Briton – Alison Cameron  
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## Garden History Project: Imports of Exotic Plants into Falmouth 1750-1900

# THE ARTS SOCIETY FALMOUTH (Formerly Falmouth Decorative and Fine Arts Society)

### Garden History Project 2015/17

**Brief:** To record the importation and distribution of exotic plants from overseas through the ports of Falmouth and Penryn to enhance the content of gardens both local and farther afield between 1750 and 1900.

To emphasise the uniqueness of Falmouth and the richness (variety and wealth) of its historical estates and their gardens. Nowhere else in England is there the combination of port, climate and money linked with the opening of the new world and its plants.

**Method:** The project is research-based, examining sources, original where possible, for relevant information. It is hoped that it might be possible to make a searchable database of sources and results.

#### Originally intended Format of Information in a Database:

Date: 11.11.2011      Researcher: A N Other      Source: Penaubyn Records in CRO  
Plant: Chinese Knotweed  
Ship: HMS Seasick (Packet)      From: Honk Konk      To: Falmouth      Date of voyage: 16.6.1776  
Importer: Badger & Sons      Buyer/Requester: C Orange  
Plant Hunter: U R Fortunate      Nursery: Goodplants      Cost: 3 guineas  
Other: C Orange sent U R Fortunate to find Knotweeds in China during 1774, U F spent 2 years there and sent back a cargo on 5 occasions. He died of dysentery out there.  
*(Do not believe this information!)*

#### Dissemination of Information

The Arts Society Falmouth, as sponsors of this project, will retain ownership of this research document. Paper and digital copies will also be held by the main supporters: the Cornwall Record Office and The Cornwall Garden Trust. There is a publicly accessible link on the website of The Arts Society Falmouth - [www.theartssocietyfalmouth.org](http://www.theartssocietyfalmouth.org) in the “volunteers” section.

#### The Sources

Books too many to number  
The Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society reports  
The Royal Institution of Cornwall (including Royal Horticultural Society of Cornwall)  
West Briton and other old newspapers  
Botanical magazines  
The Internet in all its various guises  
Individuals

#### Disclaimer

The participants in this project are not professionals in respect of this work.

## Summary

‘A story of facts, however well attested, will not correct or dislodge a powerful story. The only response it is likely to produce is indignation: people only angrily deny facts that clash with the narrative ‘truth’ established in their minds. The only thing that can displace a story is a story. Those who tell stories run the world.’

*(George Monbiot in the Guardian Weekly, Vol 197, no 16 22-28 Sept 2017)*

We looked for records of plant introductions and imports. Not all kinds of plants. What should we be looking for?

### What People Expect to See in the Great Gardens of Cornwall

People are here to admire exotic shrubs and trees, but not perennials and annuals especially. So here is a brief description of a few plants brought from overseas that are usually seen in Cornish gardens.

1 ***Araucaria arauana*** (Monkey Puzzle). In 1796 Archibald Menzie on the HMS Discovery with Capt Vancouver sent seeds to Kew. In 1846 William Lobb returned seed from South America to Veitch.

2 ***Pinus radiata*** (Monteray Pine). David Douglas brought this back to Kew from North America.

3 ***Rhododendron ponticum/ Rhododendron arboreum***. The first comes from Pontus in the Black Sea and is recorded as being here in 1763. The second comes from the far east about 1810. There are, of course, many different rhododendrons (*Campbell-Culver, M; The Origin of Plants, p283, 379*)

4 ***Camellia japonica/sinensis/salunensis***. The first from Japan is 1739, the second from China (The tea plant) in 1768 and the third in China again, but not until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There are many camellias. (*Campbell-Culver, M; The Origin of Plants, p269*)

5 ***Magnolia grandiflora/denuata***. John Bartram sent this to Philip Miller in 1734 from South-east North America. The second comes from China, much later in 1780, and Joseph Banks sent it to London. (*Campbell-Culver, M; The Origin of Plants, p 264 265*)

6 ***Fuchsia magellanica*** This fuchsia was introduced in 1823 from South America (*Campbell-Culver, M; The Origin of Plants, p 249*)

7 ***Hebe hulkeana/odora*** The hebes come from New Zealand but not until after 1860. (*Campbell-Culver, M; The Origin of Plants, p373*)

8 ***Dicksonia antarctica*** (Tree Fern). The most sought after ‘tree’ in the Cornish repertoire. Reputed to have come into Falmouth from Australia as ballast in the late 1800s. Came originally from Eastern Australia and Tasmania in 1786, collected by Banks.

9 ***Dracaena*** came from Africa, by Francis Masson, plant hunter for Kew, 1770s

10 ***Agave Americana*** was brought from South America in 1640 (*Nicholson, George; Illustrated Dictionary of Gardening*)

11 ***Gunnera Manicata*** is from Brazil, Campos de Lages. “..one of the last and finest discoveries of our unfortunate collector Libon...” (Linden 1867, quoted in *Molecular Phylogenetics and Taxonomy, August 2002*)

12 ***Cordyline australis - often called dracaena palm*** New Zealand, Banks & Solander, collecting for Kew. (*RHS website*)

# **Garden History Project: Imports of Exotic Plants into Falmouth 1750-1900**

## **What we actually found**

We very quickly became aware that there was little information available about the importation of plants through the ports of Falmouth and Penryn. This was in part due to the lack of records particularly in the early period (1750-1800) but we soon began to realise that there were in fact probably few imports through those ports. Whilst we continued to make strenuous efforts to find particular examples of imports through Falmouth and Penryn we also focussed on why the local ports were not used.

The table opposite shows the information we were able to find on specific imports through Falmouth and Penryn.

It is noteworthy that there are few examples, they have a limited geographical origin, occur during a short time frame and Sir Charles Lemon is the primary recorded recipient. Also, the plants which were imported do not reflect what one expects to see in the major Cornish gardens. The additional focus of the team to provide an explanation of why imports through Falmouth and Penryn were so limited led the team to explore the areas and ideas set out below.

## **Recording the information**

The team recognised that establishing a negative as distinct from proving a positive requires extensive and diverse research. If this research is to stand up to scrutiny and be the basis for further work it is important to record information discovered and the sources used even where the detail may only be related tangentially to the particular objective. This is the approach adopted in the following sections of this report and it is hoped that this will provide useful background and avoid repetition of work.

## **Why not more? What happened? What about?**

### **Changes**

Time of change: technology but no social change

Period 1750-1800 little information, no societies, no newspapers, no exotic gardens

Period 1800-1850 time of interest for the project as the table indicates

Period 1850-1900 Falmouth bypassed

### **The Wider Picture**

Sail to Steam: 1807 First Commercial steamship

From Road to Rail: Bullion by cart to London, Railway to Falmouth in 1863

Voyages of Exploration (Banks, Darwin) to Plant Hunters (Veitch, Kew)

Wars with French (the usual suspect) and North America (a new player)

### **The Ships**

The Packet Ships 1688-1850 to Lisbon, then Central and South America coming to Falmouth

The East India Company 1600-1858 to the East going to London

His Majesty's Ships circumnavigating the globe and back to London

Convict Ships to Australia

Coastal trading – Bristol, London and places in between

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### Identifiable arrivals of plants in Falmouth Harbour

	Plant	From whom	To whom	From where	Ship	Arrive
1	Gesnera Suttoni Douglasii	Capt RS Sutton	C Lemon, Carclew	Rio de Janeiro	Stanmer Packet	Falmouth 1833
2	Ionepsis tenera Oncidium lemonianum	Capt RS Sutton	C Lemon, Carclew	Havannah Guatemala	Stanmer Packet	Falmouth 1835
3	Amaryllis Pancratum guineense	Capt RS Sutton	C Lemon, Carclew	Honduras	Stanmer Packet	Falmouth 1831
4	Passiflora sulivani	Lt B.J. Sullivan	C Lemon, Carclew	Rio de Janeiro	Thetis, then packet?	Falmouth 1827
5	Asclepiadoideae Calotropis procera	Lt B.J. Sullivan	C Lemon, Carclew	Porto Pyla (CVerde I)	Arrow, then Packet?	Falmouth 1832
6	Amaryllidaceae Habranthus gracifolia var. Boothianus	Lt B.J. Sullivan	C Lemon, Carclew	Maldonado (Uruguay)	Arrow, then Packet?	Falmouth 1833
7	Fumariaceae Fumaria roseo alba	Lt B.J. Sullivan	C Lemon, Carclew	Chile	Beagle	Falmouth 1836
8	Malaxideae Pleurothallis saurocephala	Via Mrs Lake	C Lemon, Carclew	Brazils	Probable Packet	Falmouth 1834
9	Aristolochia cadata	Lt Wright RN	C Lemon, Carclew	Rio de Janeiro 18.2.28	Hope Packet	Falmouth 14.4.1828
10	Amaryllidaceae Amaryllis kermesina	Lt Holland RM	C.L via Miss Street, of Penryn	Brazil	Ship?	Falmouth 1833
11	Epidendrum ochraceum et al	Capt RS Sutton	C Lemon, Carclew	Havannah	Stanmer Packet	Falmouth 1835
12	Encyclia rufa	Lt JH Turner	C Lemon, Carclew	Rio de Janeiro 18.6.1842	Ranger Packet	Falmouth 12.8.1842
13	“Seeds”	John Rule, mine captain	Lady Basset & Mr Pendarves	Mexico, Vera Cruz	Packet	Falmouth -.4.1837
14	Bravoa geminiflora	John Rule	C Lemon, Carclew	Valladolid	Packet fr. Vera Cruz	Falmouth 183?
15	Commilina orchidides	John Rule	C Lemon, Carclew	Real de Monte	Packet fr. Vera Cruz	Falmouth 1838
16	Echeveria secunda Echkandia ortega Tradescantia	John Rule	C Lemon, Carclew	Real de Monte	Packet fr. Vera Cruz	Falmouth 1837/8
17	“Specimens” - may be dry, or seeds	William Lobb	Veitch	Chile	Likely Packet	Falmouth, to Exeter 1843
18	“Live plants from Calcutta”	Robert Gillies	?	India	Hibernia	Falmouth -.10.35
19	Dicksonia antarctica	?	E & J Backhouse “10 gardens in Cornwall”	NZ/Australia		Falmouth 1880
20	Myosotidium hortensia	?	Enys	Chatham Islands	?	Falmouth? 1858
21	Oncidium trigretum altissimum	Capt Kempthorne	?	Jamaica	Antelope packet	Falmouth 1793

*References and sources are given in the relevant full text.*

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### **The Plants**

Seeds and specimens give way especially after the invention of the Wardian case (first test 1833) to movement of plants, hybridisation and commercialisation.

### **The People**

Our brightest hopes had been the Treseders and Foxes, but the Treseders are late and there is nothing to find among the Fox family. Future research may reveal something.

The Williams Family again are too late for the game,

The Lobbs worked for Veitch who imported through Topsham for Exeter and the Lobb brothers may have passed on the odd plant but they are on an exclusive contract.

William and Joseph Hooker, prime importers of plants for Kew, are importing through London

Various Europeans are also competing for plants and overseas territories.

Charles Lemon of Carclew is really the best source, he collects and encourages, and he receives from Capt Sutton, and from other Packet captains.

### **Port of Falmouth**

Originally castles give protection, water gives deep water access at all tides, land gives shelter from westerly gales and it is the first and last port of call.

But all this goes after 1850 with new technology and Falmouth becomes a backwater, this is visible in the population drop.

### **Conclusions**

We set out to see what we could find using as many original sources as we could. We found very little as you can tell. There are gaps and more research could be done.

In the period before 1800 there is very very little data.

The period 1800 to 1850 is the most fruitful: packet ships were bringing individual plants/seeds/bulbs/specimens to individuals, but not for garden planting, more for exotics in the stove house.

The packet ships from Falmouth ran to the Americas and the West Indies (Lisbon too) up to 1850 so plants are from those places, not the East.

The East India Company ships brought 'plants' from India directly to London.

There is some evidence that some packet captains brought seeds/bulbs/plants to Charles Lemon and by implication the Fox family and perhaps other locals.

Plant Hunters, including the local heroes Lobbs, have exclusive contracts with their employers. (Kew 1741 onwards, RHS 1798 forwards and Veitch 1840 forwards.) Any plants passed on by them were illicit and therefore unrecorded!

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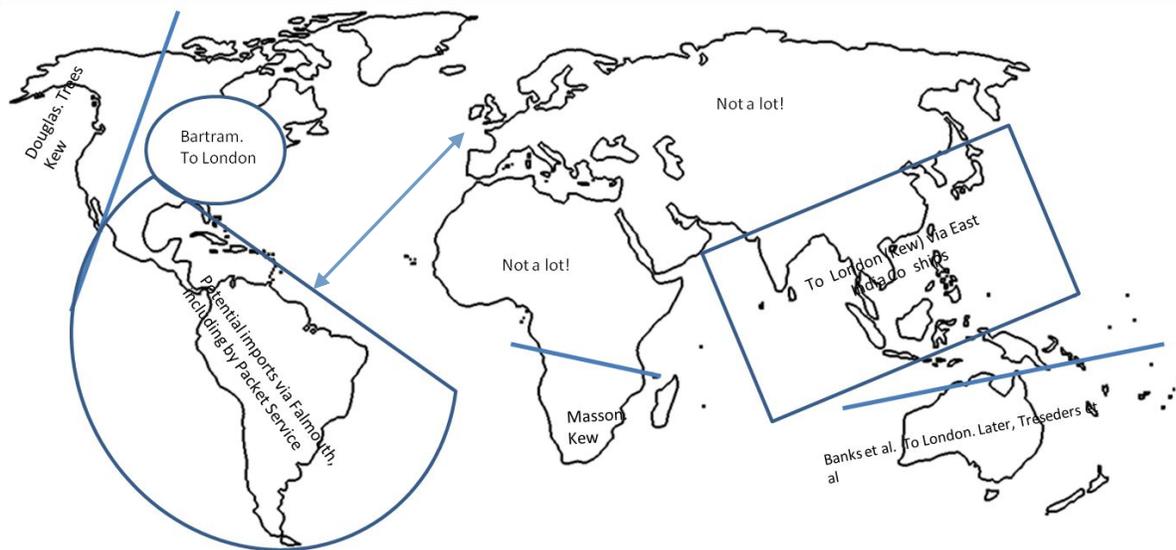
Local travellers, such as Carew Davies Gilbert of Trelissick, did not bring in quantities of plants to stock their gardens with camellias, etc

Plants from China, India, Japan and Australasia are late and come by East India Co ship, later steamer to London. The local nurserymen Treseders are late, into the 1900s.

In the period after 1850 there are no Falmouth packets, steamers generally went straight past so no imports and Falmouth is declining as a port.

The local gardens are actually stocked with plants from Kew and other commercial nurseries, such as Veitch and are mostly late in date. Tremough is getting camellias from Kew to hybridise and gross up. John Bull of Marlborough House buys native trees from upcountry.

So we conclude that the few imports of plants through Falmouth did *not* stock the local gardens.



Origins & destinations of plant imports

## **Setting the Scene**

### **The Port of Falmouth**

Falmouth, in Cornwall, is a deep water port at Latitude 50 degrees North, Longitude 5 degrees West. It is the first and last port of call before ships set off on long voyages across the world. Even now ships bunker or wait for orders in the bay before proceeding up-channel or out to the ocean. At this moment there are 13 ships in the bay, and 4 moored at the King Harry ferry. Before the building of Pendennis and St Mawes' castles in Henry VIII's reign the danger of piracy meant that the shipping trade was run from Penryn at the head of Penryn Creek, next to Glasney Abbey.

The new town of Falmouth received its charter in 1661 and from then on increased in importance. In 1688 the headquarters of the Royal Mail packets was established at Falmouth and the famous packet service began, primarily running to Lisbon. In 1705 5 packets were sailing regularly between Falmouth and the West Indies, and other shipping used the port extensively. In 1757 Benjamin Franklin paused at Falmouth on his way to the Americas, probably for supplies. A storm in 1815 saw 350 vessels of all types storm-bound in the harbour. In 1814 Lyson gives a list of imports coming from North and South America, Spain and Portugal, Northern Europe and France. The Eastern trade was in the hands of the East India Company based in London. Tin and pilchards were the main exports, together with copper, iron, cotton and woollen goods. There were regular ships to and from London and Bristol bringing foodstuffs and the London ships returned with tin. In 1853 on July 23<sup>rd</sup> 149 vessels were awaiting orders in Falmouth under 21 different flags. In 1872 3,945 ships entered Falmouth to and from overseas, this is after the loss of the packet ships. In the same year as many coastal traders docked. The Trinity House pilotage receipts for the 12 months ending 30.9.1872 amounted to approximately £15,000, a figure only exceeded by the Port of London.

By 1801 Falmouth had a population of 4,850 making it the largest settlement in Cornwall. The loss of the packet service in 1850 meant a decline in population which was in part remedied by the arrival of the railway in 1863 bringing trade again to the docks and also the expansion of the town as a seaside resort. In 1861 the population was 9,400 which rose to 12,000 by 1881. From the point of view of the project all the foreign vessels and indeed vessels calling en route to other British ports are unlikely to be sources of plant material to local gardens and estates.

Changes are exemplified by the following:

1867 Brazil and River Plate Lines and Cape of Good Hope Line

'superiority of Falmouth over other Channel ports and they land and disembark goods and passengers alongside the Docks Pier.'

1883 'shipping industry affected by use of steamer, which possessed greater carrying capacity than sailing vessels, could take cargoes direct to destination instead of calling at Falmouth for orders.'

*(Baker, A; The First 100 years, p11 & p23)*

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### Sailing Ships to Steamers: Roads to Railways

The Falmouth packet station was established in 1688, private sailing ships running under Post Office contract. The first service was to Corunna and Lisbon, mainly for the transferral of 'specie'. Russell & Co had a contract for carrying 'specie' from Falmouth to London. On 7<sup>th</sup> December 1745 a Post Office notice in the St James' Gazette advertised that packets would sail monthly from Falmouth to Jamaica, Antigua, Nevis and St Christopher, all in the West Indies. The Falmouth Packet service only served the Americas and Portugal: the East India Company served the eastern empire from London. The first three packets were the Countess of Leicester, Fawkner and Swallow. Falmouth was a suitable port because it was protected from bad weather, it had plenty of anchorage, was not dependent on tide and had two castles, Pendennis and St Mawes for military protection. From 1776 to 1814 England was variously at war with America and France. 24 packets were lost between 1777 and 1782, 5 between 1803 and 1805, and 10 captured between 1812 and 1813, as well as others lost in action or in adverse weather. Various changes were made to the routes as a result of the wars. In 1823 the control of the packet ships moved to the Admiralty. The sailing packets were replaced by naval brigs, thought by some to be less suitable. By 1827 of 39 packet ships, 18 were still former packets, rather than naval brigs.

The first commercial steamship operated in 1807, in 1816 the first regular commercial sea crossing from England to Ireland, in 1819 the first transatlantic crossing. The first steamer in the West Indies was on the coastal routes of Trinidad, and in 1830 there were mail steamers between the islands. By the end of 1841 the Royal Mail Steam Packets began operating between England and the West Indies. Sailing packets were still used for the South American service. Coaling depots had to be established, 2,000 tons of coal were sent across the Atlantic weekly, usually by sailing ship. Ships also had to be repaired in England. The first route of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company was Falmouth, calling at La Coruna and Madeira for coal, then going onto the West Indies starting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1842.

Before the railways, freight had either to go by sea, using coastal ships, or on rather inadequate roads. In 1729 Fry took over a business, Russell & Co, which had been set up in 1724 to provide a secure carriage of 'specie' imported by Packet ships at Falmouth to London by road.

*(Gerhold, D: Road Transport before the Railways, Russell's London Flying Waggon)*

In 1756 there was a daily post to Exeter, via Truro, St Columb, Bodmin, Camelford, and Launceston. In July 1799 the earliest Cornish mail coach ran from Mr Lander's New Hotel in Falmouth.

*(Noall, C: History of Cornish Mail and Stage Coaches)*

In May 1841 the railway had reached Southampton, but only Bridgwater to the West. The Admiralty still wanted to use Falmouth, but by 1843 Southampton became the Royal Mail terminal. The Falmouth Packet station was closed in 1842. The Cornwall Railway reached Truro in 1859 from the west, and Falmouth was finally linked by railway to the rest of the country only in 1863. In 1889 the Cornwall Railway was amalgamated into the Great Western Railway.

*(Lowe, Robson; Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps 1639-1952, Vol VI, Leeward Islands)*

It is clear that as soon as it was possible to move quickly and easily by railway on the land and by fast reliable steamship on the water they became the preferred way of doing things and the old system of sailing ship and road transport, both vulnerable to physical delay and attack by thieves, was closed down.

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### ***Books on Falmouth Packets:***

*Mudd, D; The Falmouth Packets:*

*Howat, Rev JNT, South American Packets:*

*Britnor, L; The History of the Sailing Packets to the West Indies, by British West Indies Study Circle, Paper No 5:*

*Beck, J; History of the Falmouth Post Office Packet:*

*Philbrick, ME; History Around the Fal, Vol 1, Post Office Packet Service from Falmouth:*

*Robertson, AW; History of Ship Letters of the British Isles 1688-1850; List of Packet Ships Falmouth Post Office Packet Appendix B2/A-B7*

### **The East India Company**

The East India Company was founded in 1600 with exclusive rights of trade with India and the Far East. In 1813 it lost this monopoly in India, and in 1833 with China. In 1858 The East India Company was dissolved.

The East Indiamen were the largest ships of their time, built at Deptford from 1609, though after 1649 The East India Company chartered ships rather than owning them

*(Royal Museum Greenwich Caird Library Research Guide F5 – East India Company)*

The ships left and returned to Deptford, London. Each ship had to file a journal and a log for each voyage. These documents are kept in the East India Company records.

In 1840 steamers from Falmouth left for Alexandria with the Indian mail at the beginning of each month, taking about 5 weeks.

*(Philbrick, ME; History Around the Fal, Vol 1 Post Office Packets)*

Mail for India usually went via the Mediterranean, with a French packet steamer from Marseilles to Malta, mail steamer Malta to Alexandria, overland to the Red Sea and an East India Company steamer onwards. The Suez canal opened in 1869. Steamers had problems of coaling stations and repairs. Coal had to be brought from South Wales and Northumberland, and repairs done in Europe.

Under sail letters took up to 4 months to get to Calcutta, under steam much less. In 1838 the steam cutter Atlanta reached Bombay in 41 days and Calcutta in 54.

*(Wikipedia; East India Company)*

The East India Company ran a 'factory' system; that is when East India Company ships returned to Europe, agents known as factors were left behind at trading posts to negotiate sale and procurement of goods. The East India Company's headquarters were in Leadenhall Street, London.

*(ga/en/briefhistory-english-east-india-co-1600-1858)*

See Research by John and Janet Pearce.

### **Other Ships and Companies**

Killick, Martin and Company: Voyages arriving in Falmouth from the far east between 1878 and 1885 and going on.

*(MacGregor, DR; The China Bird, App III, p305-332)*

N Wallich, Director Calcutta Botanical Garden, sent plants to England by a variety of ships.

*(Wallich, N; Report by N Wallich on Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta, 1840)*

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Many Convict Ships left from Falmouth for Australia.

The First Fleet sailed on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1787 and arrived at Botany Bay between 10<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of January 1788. After that there were constant departures for Australia, including many from Falmouth. On 11<sup>th</sup> January 1807 for example the Sydney Cove, under Capt Edwards, left Falmouth for Port Jackson, Sydney's harbour with convicts, she returned in October carrying skins to London. On her second voyage out she arrived having been whaling and sealing, in April 1808 and then went fishing off New Zealand. The Catherine, under Capt Simmonds, came from Ireland, left Falmouth, on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1813, with convicts, arrived at Port Jackson on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 1814 and left to go whaling on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 1814. These ships are hardly likely to be bringing plants to Falmouth!

*(Bateson, Charles; Convict Ships, 1787 – 1868, p 338, 340 and Arrival of vessels at Port Jackson & their departures, in Australian Town & Country Journal, Saturday January 3<sup>rd</sup> 1891, p16)*

### Voyages of Exploration and Discovery Giving Way to Commercial Enterprises

Early expeditions by ships were taken for a variety of objectives: horological, circumnavigation, arctic and antarctic surveys, expansion of empire, shipping routes, and lastly and least for the expansion of knowledge of fauna and flora, including crops such as breadfruit and tea.. Ships were mostly, but not exclusively naval. They carried a surgeon, who was often a naturalist as well. (Think of the Jack Aubrey tales!)

So in our period we have some notable voyages:

1764-6 HMS Dolphin, circumnavigation, again a year later:

1766 HMS Niger, exploring Newfoundland/Labrador with Joseph Banks on board:

1768-71 HMS Endeavour, Transit of Venus, with Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander on board:

1772-5 HMS Resolution & Adventure, circumnavigation:

1776-80 HMS Resolution & Discovery, the Bering Straits:

1791-3 HMS Providence, Pacific with breadfruit, brought 1283 plants to Kew,

1791-5 HMS Discovery under Capt Vancouver, Pacific and coast of North America with Archibald Menzies;

1801-3 HMS Investigator round Australia, R Brown

1831-6 HMS Beagle, circumnavigation with Charles Darwin:

1836-42 HMS Sulphur, Western America:

1837-43 HMS Beagle, Australia:

1839-43 HMS Erebus & Terror, Antarctica with Joseph Hooker, J Robertson and David Lyall on board.

Early colonists were mainly interested in clearing land for agriculture, for example the Acland family went through South Island, New Zealand, shooting the local game birds (there are no mammals) and burning the vegetation. They built themselves a sheep station as near a replica of home as they could make it. India was largely free of this activity except for tea plantations in Assam. Rubber plantations were set up in Malaya.

Some individuals were interested in the new countryside around them. For example William Colenso, a Penzance man, 1811-1899, settled in New Zealand, met Joseph D Hooker in 1841 and later sent him a large shipment of plants. He was also at the signing the Treaty of Waitangi in 1880. (*teara.govt.nz*) These people, as well as the naturalists on voyages of exploration, brought

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back seeds and dried specimens for the expansion of scientific knowledge. The specimens were put into herbaria, and the seeds germinated when possible, especially tree seeds. The early gardens tend to have trees, think of Trebah and Charles Fox supervising the planting of trees. He also had a stovehouse for choice exotica. It is not until the use of the Wardian case that plants were able to be transported easily, which leads us on to consider the development of commercial enterprises with regard to foreign plants. Of course economic and social transfer of plants had been going on for centuries, think of saffron being imported into Cornwall by the Phoenicians and tulip mania in the period 1634-1637. So we move to plant hunters.

### **The Plant Hunters**

The plant hunters are a different kettle of fish from the early naturalists. Plant hunters were usually employed by nurseries (Veitch) or botanical gardens (Kew, Chiswick) to collect plants in the wild. The plants were to be brought back, multiplied and sold to estate owners and gardeners. The botanical gardens began to make collections of living plants and exchange them with other gardens and propagate them with a view to making money. All European countries were involved in this activity and in some places overseas there was intense competition and a consequent stripping of the land to prevent other competitors from gathering 'exotic' plants. Seeds were collected, especially tree seeds until the invention of the Wardian case meant that live plants could be successfully transported by sea.

According to M Campbell-Culver introductions from different parts of the world were: 1680-1774 South Africa, 1772-1820 The Antipodes, 1820-1860 California and the West coast of North America, 1840-1870 South America, 1840-1890 India and the Himalayas and 1890-1930 China and Japan. See map.

*(Campbell-Culver, Maggie; The Origin of Plants, Page 4-5)*

### **The Wardian Case**

This was the invention of Dr Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward. It was a sealed collapsible glass container which enabled photosynthesis to take place, and therefore the plants to remain alive. In 1835 plants were sent to Australia in a Wardian case and arrived in good shape. Then plants were sent from Australia to Kew successfully. Kew used the Wardian case to send plants round the world especially commercial crops, like tea.

*(Campbell-Culver, M; The Origin of Plants, p 351)*

The Lobb brothers were among the earliest plant hunters, born and brought up in Cornwall, employed first as gardeners by Cornish estate owners, of which Charles Lemon was one, and then employed by Veitch nurseries of Exeter to seek out valuable plants and bring or send them back for propagating and selling to rich and influential people. William Lobb set out from Falmouth on the HMS Packet Seagull in 1840 to Rio de Janeiro. He returned by the same packet ship in 1848. While in South America he collected, among others, *Crinodendron hookerianum*, *embothrium coccineum*, *luna apiculata* and *aracaria araucana*. But from the project's point of view the Lobb brothers were under contract to Veitch. They imported their plants through Topsham on the Exe estuary. It is probable that they gave some plants to Cornish friends, but this would have been in breach of contract and so unrecorded!

Charles Lemon was an early sponsor of plant collecting, but not as a commercial enterprise, only as a scientific hobby of his own. He never set up a Botanical Garden. He proposed the awarding

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of a silver medal by the Royal Horticultural Society of Cornwall to any Packet Captain bringing most plants back. He had an excellent gardener in William Booth.

The Treseder family ran a nursery in various places at various times around Falmouth, and still have a nursery today at Lockengate. Family members went to Australia and returned with plants. Cornish individuals brought back individual plants but, as we shall see, Cornish gardens were largely stocked by Exeter and London nurseries with plants and seeds brought in through Southampton and London.

There was also a certain amount of inter-change between various European botanical gardens, such as Paris, for scientific research, and probably commercial firms also traded information willingly or unwillingly.

The **Royal Horticultural Society** of London 'between 1821 and 1864 ... commissioned 10 plant hunters to travel the world and between them they travelled to every continent, except Australia ... in search of new ornamental, tropical and commercial plant varieties. Plants, bulbs, specimens and seeds were sent back to the Society's original garden at Chiswick for scientific research and propagation and for seeds to be distributed to members. A large proportion of all plant introductions to British gardeners during this period were a result of the RHS collectors.'

The 10 plant hunters were:

- 1 John Potts, 1821, HMS General Kyd, China and India, Camellia, Primula, Aspidistra
- 2 George Don, 1821, HMS Iphigenia, West Africa, Brazil, West Indies, New York, Allium, Aquilegia, Rhododendron, Nicotiana
- 3 John Forbes, HMS Leven, East Africa
- 4 John D Parks, 1821, HMS Lowther Castle, China, Camellia reticulata, Chrysanthemum
- 5 David Douglas, 1823, NE America, 1824 & 1829, NW America, Conifers and shrubs
- 6 James Macrae, 1824, HMS Blonde, Brazil, Chile, Galapagos, Hawaii, Hippeastrum, Alstroemeria, Cleome, Oxalis
- 7 Karl Hartweg, 1836-1845, Mexico and South America, Orchid, lupin, pentstemon, cacti, conifers and pines
- 8 Robert Fortune, 1843-1846, China, Japan, tea plants to India, Rhododendron fortunei, orchids and others
- 9 Matteo Botteri, 1854-1856, Mexico
- 10 John Weir, 1861, Brazil, Columbia, (also worked for Veitch)

*(Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Leaflet Plant Hunters Journals 2016)*

Note that most people went on HMS ships which may have called at Falmouth but would most likely have continued up channel to Southampton or London.

The **Royal Botanical Garden at Kew**, under Sir Joseph Banks, also sent men out during the 1800s.

- 1 Francis Masson, 1741, HMS Resolution, 1772, Cape of Good Hope
- 2 Alan Cunningham and James Bowie, 1814, South America, Australia
- 3 Joseph Hooker, 1839, HMS Erebus, Falklands
- 4 Archibald Menzies, 1791, North West America
- 5 David Douglas, 1799
- 6 E M Wilson, 1900, China
- 7 William Kerr, 1803, China

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- 8 Richard Spruce 1849-64, South America
  - 9 David Solander, 1768 (with Joseph Banks and Capt Cook)
  - 10 Robert Brown, 1805
- and others

*(Royal Botanic Garden, Kew List of the Collectors whose plants are in the Herbarium of RBG Kew to 31.12.1899, Journal Article Vol 1901, No 169/171, p1-80)*

It is worth noting that they were strictly enjoined not to trade personally, all plant material and information was for the King only. A letter from Joseph Banks to Archibald Menzies, HMS Discovery, 1791-4 'when you meet with curious or valuable plants... you are to consider everyone of them, as well as all seeds of plants which you shall collect during the voyage as wholly and entirely the property of his majesty, and on no account whatever to part with any of them, or any cuttings, slips or parts of them, for any purpose whatever but for His Majesty's use.'

So these plant hunters were unlikely to bring plants into Falmouth for individuals.

### List of Messrs. Veitch's Travellers

- 1 William Lobb, 1840-57, Brazil, California, South America
- 2 Thomas Lobb, 1843-1860, India, Malaya
- 3 Richard Pearce, 1859-66, Chile, Peru, Bolivia
- 4 John G Veitch, 1860-1870, Japan, South Seas, Australia
- 5 David Bowman, 1866, Brazil
- 6 Henry Hutton, 1866-68, Java, Malaya
- 7 Carl Kramer, 1869-1870, Japan, Costa Rica
- 8 Gottlieb Zahn, 1869-1870, Central America
- 9 George Downton, 1870-1873, Central and South America
- 10 J Henry Chesterton, 1870-1878, South America
- 11 A R Endres, 1872-1874, Costa Rica
- 12 Gustave Wallis, 1873-1874, Brazil, New Granada, Tropical South America
- 13 Walter Davis, 1873-1876, South America
- 14 P C M Veitch, 1875-1878, Australia, Borneo, South Seas
- 15 Guillaume Kalbreyer, 1876-1881, West coast of Africa, Colombia, South America
- 16 Christopher Mudd, 1877, South Africa
- 17 F W Burbridge, 1877-1878, Borneo
- 18 Charles Mavies, 1877-1879, Japan and China
- 19 Charles Curtis, 1878-1884, Madagascar, Borneo, Sumatra, Java, Moluccas
- 20 David Burke, 1881-1897, East Indies, Burma, Colombo
- 21 James H Veitch, 1891-1893, India, Malaya, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand
- 22 E H Wilson, 1899-1905, Central and West China, Tibet

*(Veitch, JH; Hortus Veitchii)*

Note again on page 41 of *Hortus Veitchii*:

'Thomas Lobb agrees to proceed to the British Settlement of Singapore, in the employ of James Veitch & Son as botanical collector, to make collections of living plants, seeds, and dried specimens of plants, and to collect for the said James Veitch & Son and for not other person.'

It is likely that all contracts with the plant travellers included this constraint.

Also Veitch's shipments came into Topsham for the Exeter nurseries and presumably Southampton and London for his Chelsea nursery.

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## The Gardens of the Falmouth Area

### The Great Gardens of Cornwall

Nowadays people flock to Cornwall in the spring to admire the early flowering gardens: rhododendrons, camellias, and magnolias. Later they exclaim over agapanthus, crocosmos and hottentot fig as well as palm trees on their summer seaside holidays.

Most of the gardens are recently stocked, so there is a twentieth century overlay as one can read on the Trewithen Garden website.

There is no botanical garden in Cornwall. The Royal Horticultural Society of Cornwall established no garden. The Eden Project, recently formed, is the nearest approach to a public botanical garden. The gardens people come to walk through are all originally private estate gardens. The owners were enhancing their own properties and showing off to their friends and acquaintances. Socially there was little change over the period as compared with economic and technological developments. The families of Cornwall are often inter-connected, so plants were passed from one to another.

The Cornwall Garden Trust has records in the Cornwall Record Office of many of the Cornish gardens. Examining these and other records the earliest gardens are probably Enys and Clowance. The Fox Gardens begin with Rosehill and Grove Hill in Falmouth itself and extend to the well-known gardens of Glendurgan (National Trust), Trebah and Penjerrick. The Williams family also have a bevy of gardens, Scorrier and Burncoose early, Caerhays later. Carclew is a separate and important garden for the project. Records indicate that plantings from India and China, and Australasia come late in our period and even into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

At first glance it appears that these gardens were stocked with exotic plants brought on sailing ships from far away.

Another picture emerges in that most of the gardens were stocked by nurseries such as Veitch of Exeter or by Kew Gardens under Joseph Hooker. For instance the famous Captain Bull of Marlborough House ordered 500 elm trees from Mr Coombe to come by wain to Truro on 28 October 1824, and on 20 November 1,000 beech, 1,000 oak, 200 pineaster, and 300 Scotch fir from Mr Tallack. These are not exotics!

*(Beck, J; Captain John Bull of the Falmouth Packet Service)*

Trees were planted earlier than shrubs, coming from the Americas, one thinks of William Lobb and his explorations, as well as David Douglas who supplied Kew.

The conflation of the Fox shipping interests and the development of their garden estates has led to the belief that the two were combined. Is this true? They were also founders of the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society in 1833 which was intended primarily to promote technological developments, but did also encourage attention on the improvement of agriculture/horticulture. There is a report on the potato blight for example.

The Royal Horticultural Society of Cornwall was established in June 1832, an early society and it had a two fold objective: to encourage cottage vegetable gardens and to display wealthy people's plants.

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## Individual Gardens

### Enys, St Gluvias

Camden's Magna Britannia in 1709 talks of the fine gardens there.

J D Enys (1837-1912) 'enriched Enys... by the seeds and plants he ...sending home' (from New Zealand and Patagonia) *Myosotidium hortensia* (the Chatham Island forget-me-not) in particular.

In 1833 Henry Harrison produces designs for house and gardens. In 1889 *The Gardener's Chronicle* mentions a Ladies Garden at Enys.

In 1907 a Booklet of Trees and shrubs and plants growing at Enys is produced.

(Cornwall Garden Trust.org.uk: Pring, Sue; Report: Champion, B; Gardens under Restoration Cornwall Record Office, CRO)

See Research by Deirdre Neale and Linda Livingston-Beggs

### Clowance

The St Aubyns held the reputation of being skilful horticulturalists, the 4<sup>th</sup> Baronet experimented in hot-house exotica.

(Borlase, *Natural History in CRO X897/4/1*)

The Cornwall Garden Trust record in the CRO has a survey by G R Pring, August 1991, X897/4/1.

D: Garden features: *Trachycarpus* walk adajacent to walled gardens. First specimens intorduced in Cornwall in 1723.

E: Architectural Features: Orangery probably built sometime between 1758-1839

I: Outstanding plants: *Aralia chinensis*, *Platanus orientalis* possibly dating from 1723 representing first introduction in Cornwall.

(CRO)

'This is the first place in Cornwall where the western plane, *Platanus occidentalis*, was introduced.'

(Loudon, JC; *The Gardener's Magazine, Vol 13, March 1837, p121*)

Notice of the flowering of an *Agave americana* in the Flower Garden at Clowance.

(Agaves were introduced in 1640, according to the *Dictionary of Gardening*)

(Loudon, JC; *The Gardener's Magazine, vol 14, June 1838, p271 communicated by T Symons Cornwall Garden Trust, X897/4/1*)

FRAME PLANTS.			
Coronilla Glauca	18	c. g. l. S E	4
Edwardia Grandiflora	22	c. g. l. S wall	10
Microphylla	6	c. g. l. ditto	5
Sesona Fragrans	5	c. g. l. S	5
Eucalyptus Japonica	7	c. g. l. S E	4
Helianthemum Formosum	10	c. g. l. S W	1 1/2
Bonia Salicifolia	6	c. g. l. S	2
Lavendula Dentata	10	c. g. l. S	1 1/2
Formosa	6	c. g. l. S	2 1/2
Quercus Natrix	10	c. g. l. W wall	2 1/2
Amorpha Frutescens	12	c. g. l. S	1
Veronica Capensis	4	c. g. l. S	2 1/2
Verbena Venosa	3	c. g. l. S	2 1/2
Pulehella	4	c. g. l. S	2 1/2
Melindres	5	c. g. l. S	2 1/2
Stove Plants..... 10			
Green-house Plants..... 138			
Frame Plants..... 15			
Total..... 263			

The RHSC Journal for 1837 lists no less than 233 species flourishing in Grove Hill Garden, many being imported exotics. Alas, these are not what we are seeking - all are in three categories: "Stove Plants 10", "Green-house Plants 198" and "Frame Plants 15"

"Total 223"

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### Rosehill

The Fox family are numerous and interconnected. So as far as I can tell, Rose Hill belonged to Robert Were Fox and Howard Fox, Trebah to Charles Fox, Penjerrick to Barclay Fox, Grove Hill to George Croker Fox 2 and Glendurgan to Alfred Fox and George H Fox. Family members did move around as well.

A list exists of 300 naturalised exotic species.

### Grove Hill House

In 1788 George Croker Fox 2 has the house. Much later in 1837 a list of 233 hothouse plants is recorded and this receives the Banksian medal of Royal Horticultural Society of Cornwall

### Glendurgan

Alfred Fox 1820-30 originally planted this garden. The maze is dated 1833, a pinus pinaster and camellias 1833. George Henry Fox 1891 –1931 was a botanist and naturalist

*Glendurgan booklet with plant list, country but no dates.*

*(Pett, Douglas E; Parks and Gardens of Cornwall)*

### Trebah

In late 1830s and early 1840 Charles Fox prepared Trebah in readiness for first batch of plants to arrive. He planted *Pinus radiata*, *pinaster* and *Quercus Ilex* as a shelter belt. Robert Were Fox got camellias from Penjerrick.

In 1878 J & E Backhouse, the then owners, imported a huge collection of exotic plants and trees from all over the world. It is said that in 1880 a consignment of 300 *Dicksonia antarctica* to Trebah, was ‘offloaded onto Falmouth quayside and shared out between 10 of the best gardens of Cornwall’. Rhododendrons came from Joseph Hooker of Kew Gardens.

The *Plant and Tree inventory* of Trebah gives plant and origin but no date of acquisition.

*(trebahgarden.co.uk)*

### Penjerrick

Penjerrick was the home of R W Fox, and of Robert Barclay Fox..

Henry Mills, head gardener at Enys writes in *The Gardener's Chronicle 1871* ‘ Mr Fox receives seeds from all quarters’

In 1889 S Smith, the head gardener, was responsible for rhododendrons and their hybrids.

### Scorrier

Scorrier is associated with the Williams family who also have Burncoose and Caerhays.

General: Scorrier is ‘of interest due to the input of W Lobb who planted much of the Pinetum between 1866 and 1892 (?) ... There is also a high 19<sup>th</sup> Century camellia walk.’

C: ‘It is known that W Lobb both worked at Scorrier as well as sending plants back to Scorrier from his expeditions. Among the plants, which Lobb introduced to cultivation, include *Fitzroya cupressoides* 1849, and *Sequoiadendron giganteum* 1853, *Thuja plicata* 1853.’ ...’They may..... planted in UK honoring the Garden’s famous protege.’

*(Cornwall Garden Trust Record, CRO, X897/7/1 1990)*

William Lobb died in 1864.

### Carclew

From 1749 Sir William Lemon, and afterwards his son, William Lemon, were owners of Carclew. In 1793-4 there is an invoice from Luccombe’s of Exeter, a nursery garden, to W Lemon, in the Estate papers in the CRO. In 1820 a formal garden is started with many rhododendrons planted. In 1824 Sir Charles Lemon (1784-1868) inherits the house and garden. There is a list of plants from 5 different sources in the Report of the Royal Horticultural Society of Cornwall in 1837. Charles Lemon’s gardener is William Booth (1804-1874) who worked

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under John Lindley and studied camellias. J H Tremayne of Heligan introduces *Cornus Capitata* to his uncle, Charles Lemon. Because Charles Lemon had no children Arthur Tremayne of Heligan inherits in 1868..

A letter in 1822 from JH Tremayne to Caroline Lemon (Tremayne) mentions Nepaul seeds. (*Cornwall Garden Trust Record dated 1995 with its source Olivey, H; History of Mylor*)

And on April 1 1842 *Barclay Fox Journal 1832-1844 (p265)* mentions three superb Nepalese rhododendrons.

See Research by Catharine English

### Tremough

In 1720 a lime avenue was planted. In 1861 a greenhouse was built to William Paxton's design and in 1870 William Shilson worked, with his gardener Richard Gill, on the planting of rhododendrons.

1876 Henry Mills, gardener at Enys wrote an account of gardens at Tremough in *The Gardener's Chronicle*: 'eight glasshouses, Azalea house, Orchid house, stove, early vinery, Erica house, Fig house and Peach house'.

Joseph Hooker send seeds to Kew from his Himalayan expeditions in 1847-1851, the seedlings were sent for growing on to William Shilson at Tremough. The garden was famous for a collection of Sikkim rhododendrons, with early hybrids and varieties; and it was from here that many Cornish gardens were stocked. It seems that seeds were sent to Cornwall for propagation and development because of the mild climate. Richard Gill, gardener, grew many seeds from China and raised numerous hybrids, many of the most famous Cornish rhododendrons are from his work. He later worked at Penjerrick.

(*Cornwall Garden Trust Records March 1999*)

(*Trenoweth, R, ed; Gill's Triumphs, The Cornish Garden, Cornish Garden Society, April 2000*)

F Davey in the *Royal Institution of Cornwall Journal for 1897* 'almost unique collection of Sikkim rhododendrons.'

*Grose, Margaret; History of Tremough Estate: A Resource List Falmouth University & Exeter Cornwall Campus Archives and Special College Service*)

### Trelissick

In 1854 Carew Davies Gilbert inherited the estate as a child. He is referred to as a 'plant collector in America, Japan and South Europe.' The garden was stocked with shrubs, an extensive collection of conifers, and other plants by the late 1800s.

See Research report by Alice Pascoe.

### Pencarrow

1842 Gardens laid out by William Molesworth with Mr Corbett, his gardener

1842 Drive planted with trees raised from seeds obtained from W Lobb, J Hooker, D Douglas, Veitch (Exeter).....

1842 *Araucaria araucana* (Monkey Puzzle) acquired from Chile  
(CRO)

### Trewithen

The house was built in 1715 by Philip Hawkins, and enlarged by Thomas Hawkins in 1738.

George Johnstone is the creator of present gardens.

A *Magnolia campbellis subsp Mollicomata* introduced by George Forrest from China.

There are Champion Trees in the gardens.

(*Leaflet in garden*)

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### Carwinnion

Carwinnion was owned by the Rogers family and is close to Glendurgan.

In 1792 John Rogers grew *Leucodendron argenteum* from seed brought back by Commander Arthur Rogers from South Africa.

1854 Reginald Rogers associated with the Foxes of Glendurgan and Trebah

### Tregrehan

Edward Carlyon bought trees collected by the Lobbs and rhododendrons collected by Joseph Hooker from Veitch of Exeter. In 1845 he employed W A Nesfield, a gardener designer. They continued the work of his brother in planting the recently arrived exotica from Japan and North America.

In 1880-1894 Jovey Carlyon returned from New Zealand, planted new exotica, plants and seeds imported from all over the New World, ordering from well-known nurseries such as Veitch and Smith [www.tregrehangarden.uk](http://www.tregrehangarden.uk)

1<sup>st</sup> July 1894 letter to Jovey Carlyon from Gilbert Rogers, a Cornish forester based at Dehra Dun, NW Provinces from 1888-90.

‘I have sent you a box containing some seeds of *Quercus seme carpifolia* in charcoal’

The oak now stands 25m height at Tregrehan.

([cornwallmaps.org](http://cornwallmaps.org) Tregrehan House and Gardens Discover Cornwall.)

Most of the mature trees planted by Jovey Carlyon between 1880 and 1894; brought many back from New Zealand and carefully recorded each tree’s origin and price paid.

There are two detailed planting record books, and there exists correspondence with Kew, Veitch and Gilbert Rogers.

(Desmond, Ray; *Dictionary of British & Irish Botanists and Horticulturalists*)

### Heligan

John Hearle Tremayne planted *Cornus capitata* from seedlings in 1832 which are described in *Curtis’ Botanical Magazine April 1 1852, plate 4641 as Benthania frageria.*

John T Tremayne 1851-1901 was responsible for much exotic planting, he brought in palms, tree ferns and bamboos. The plants came from Joseph Knight of the Exotic Nursery Chelsea and Veitch nurseries at Exeter and Chelsea. Gardens and plantings are described in *Curtis’ Botanical Magazine 1852*, and in *The Gardener’s Chronicle 1896*.

A collection of ornamental shrubs were originally introduced having been acquired from Sir Joseph Hooker’s Himalayan expedition in 1840.

There are two estate plans of 1777 and 1810.

### Caerhays

‘The original Chinese-collected magnolia campbelli planted in 1910’

‘Magnolia dawsoniana originally introduced by E H Wilson in 1908. This plant arrived at Caerhays from France in circa 1927’

Reading the Caerhays Castle Gardens leaflet one notices that all the planting is 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

(*Caerhays Castle Gardens leaflet undated but recent*)

### Bochym

Stephen Davey restored and extended the gardens after 1825 with exotic and rare plants

(*Newton, Jill; Bygone Helston and The Lizard*)

William Lobb worked in the garden for 3 years from 1837, being released from Veitch according to Bishop J W Hunkin.

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### Trewidden

In 1789 Edward Bolitho acquired the house. but Thomas B Bolitho in the 1880s is the chief architect of the gardens. He got *Dicksonia antarctica* from the Treseders in Truro and in 1897 *Magnolia obovata*. It is said to be a Plant-hunters trophy garden.

*Meta sequoia glyptostroboides* is among the trees here.

*Butia capitata* planted around 1890

### Tregothnan

Tregothnan, home to the Boscawen family since 1334, 'has the largest historical botanic garden in Cornwall'. The 6<sup>th</sup> viscount and his brother, the rector of Lamorran, bought rhododendrons, rare trees, shrubs and ornamental camellias into the arboretum 200 years ago.

([Tregothnan.co.uk](http://Tregothnan.co.uk))

They do possess an original Wardian case, which implies that they did import some plants using it, whether from their own local import or from Kew is unknown. The present garden has been re-stocked recently, including a Wollemi pine.

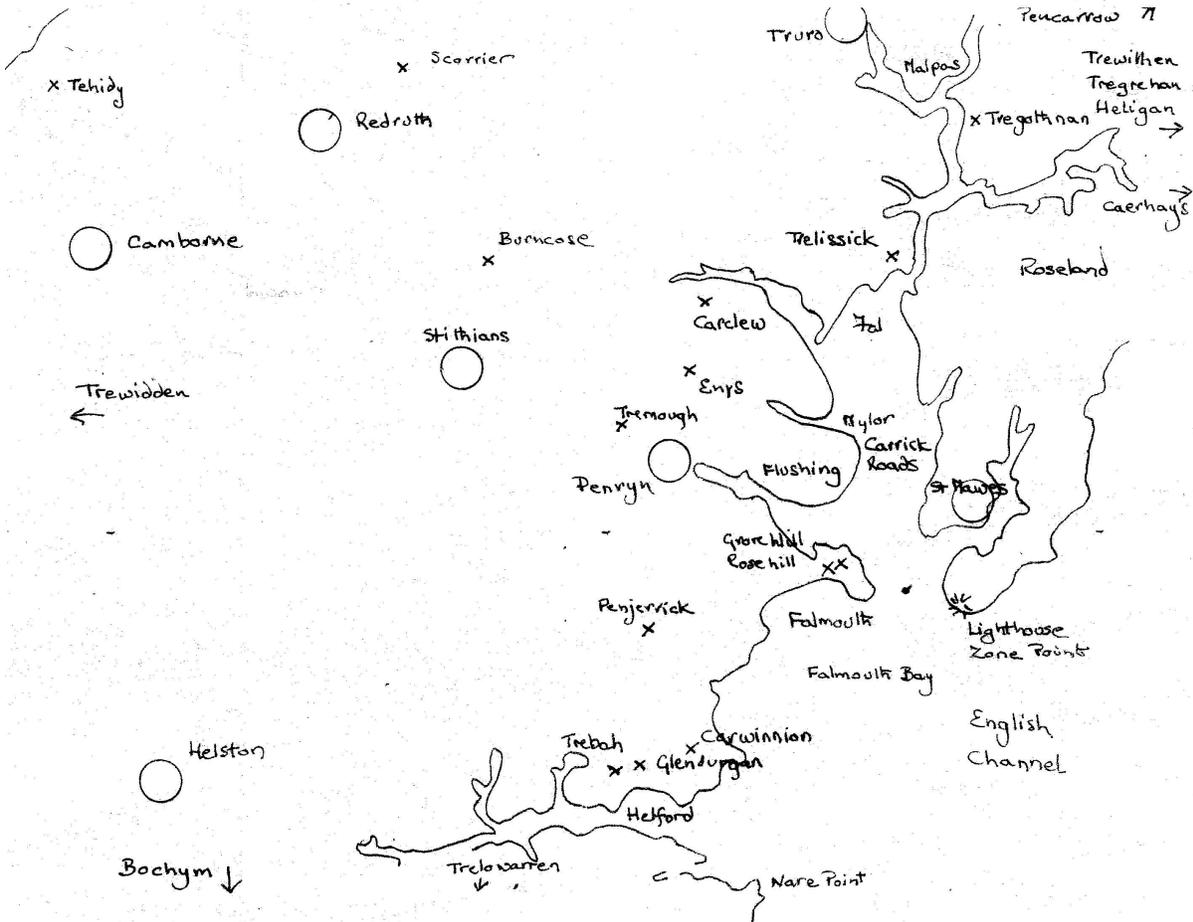
It is an official 'safe site' for the keeping of rare or endangered trees from all over the world. the garden holds some 'Red Book' endangered plants. It is said they also have a Repton Red Book. ([visitcornwall.com](http://visitcornwall.com))

We have recorded some information about individual gardens in Cornwall to see what evidence about the importing of plants might be gleaned. We looked at four early and important gardens in more detail as can be seen in the next Section. The evidence is so slight that it indicates that there is very little to show that gardens were stocked with plants brought in directly through Falmouth and Penryn. Plants may have been brought in by individuals when they returned home, or sent to family, and are unrecorded. They may have been brought by coastal traders rather than by waggon. But the gardens are more likely to have been stocked from nurseries, such as Veitch, or received plants from Kew. Cornish gardens have been redesigned and restocked in the 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century for the tourist trade.

It is hoped that the information here may be useful for further research.

# Garden History Project: Imports of Exotic Plants into Falmouth 1750-1900

## MAP OF LOCAL FALMOUTH GARDENS



## Garden History Project: Imports of Exotic Plants into Falmouth 1750-1900

### Date Line

1753	Species Plantarum by Carl Linnaeus
1756	Daily post to Exeter via Truro, St Columb, Bodmin, Camelford, Launceston
1759	Kew botanical gardens began
1759	G C Fox opens shipping office
1770	Directions for overseas carrying of seeds, J Ellis
1776	American Independence
1784	Speedy sails from Falmouth with J Enys
1786	N Wallich, director of Calcutta Botanical Gardens
1789	French Revolution (Republic 1792)
1791	HMS Discovery with G Vancouver and A Menzies
1800	Napoleonic war till 1815
1801- 03	Cornwall Gazette & Falmouth Packet paper begun, Thomas Flindell
1804	Royal Horticultural Society founded
1807	First commercial steamship
1808	First packet to Madeira and Brazil
1810	Packet ship mutiny
1821	Royal Horticultural Society moves to Chiswick
1822	Encyclopedia of Gardening by J Loudon
1823	Naval Packet Service until 1851
1824	C Lemon inherited Carclew
1826	The Gardener's Magazine by JC Loudon
1829- 48	Second Falmouth Packet & Cornish Herald
1831- 54	Garden Book of William Molesworth (Pencarrow)
1832	Reform Act
1832	Royal Horticultural Society Cornwall founded in June
1832-51	William Booth gardener at Carclew
1832-44	Barclay Fox's Journal
1833	Polytechnic Society of Cornwall founded
1835	Capt R Gillies letter to RC and RW Fox on transport of plants
1836	The English Annual article on Grove Hill
1837	G C Fox iii 233 tender plants to RHSC, received Banksian silver medal
1837	C Lemon 24 new plants from 5 seamen
1840	William Lobb sails on Seagull
1841	Kew Gardens William Hooker First Director
1851	Falmouth ceases to be packet station Seagull from Rio last vessel
1851	The Great Exhibition
1852	Branch packet to Falklands until 1880
1853	July 23 149 vessels waiting orders in Falmouth under 21 different flags
1856	China opens for European trade Japanese trade agreement
1857	Electric telegraph reaches Falmouth
1858	Lake's Falmouth Packet and Cornwall Advertiser
1859	Origin of Species by C Darwin
1861-65	American Civil War
1863	August 21 Railway line to Truro opens
1865	Joseph D Hooker becomes Director of Kew

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1872 Lizard Signal Station opened by Fox Shipping Co  
1883 Lloyds takes over the Lizard Signal Station  
1891 The Great Blizzard

### Some Relevant Books

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Beck, J; History of the Falmouth Post Office Packets  
Brett, RL, Ed; Barclay Fox Journals 1832-1844, 1854  
Britnor, LE; History of the Sailing Packets to the West Indies  
Browse, P McMillan; Heligan Survivors  
Bushnall, TA; The Royal Mail Ships 1839-1939  
Campbell-Culver, Maggie; The Origin of Plants, paperback edition 2004  
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Gay, Susan; Old Falmouth, 1903  
Gerhold, D; Road Transport before the Railways Russell's London Flying Waggon  
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Kilpatrick, Jane; Gifts from the Gardens of China  
Kohn, D; Darwin and the Beagle The Darwinian Heritage  
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List of Maritime Records of the late East India Co.  
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Miles, Tim & Rowe, D; The new Cornish Garden  
Mowl, Timothy; Historic Gardens of Cornwall  
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Nicholson, G; The Illustrated Dictionary of Gardening, Kew  
Noall, Cyril; A History of Cornish Mail and Stage Coaches  
Noon, J M; Honest Jack Parsons  
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Russell, Tony; Brett, RL, Ed; Trebah – A Guide to the Garden of Dreams  
Shephard, Sue; Seeds of Fortune A Gardening Dynasty, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, 2003  
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Sulivan, HN; Life and Letters of the late Admiral Sir B.J.Sulivan 1810-1890

## **Garden History Project: Imports of Exotic Plants into Falmouth 1750-1900**

The American Journal of Lt J.Enys 1784 in the Courtney Library  
Thurston, E; British and Foreign Trees and Shrubs in Cornwall, 1930  
Trenoweth, R, Ed; The Cornish Garden,  
The Cornwall Garden Society, 2007  
Treseder, Andrew; A Cornish Garden Notebook, Treseder, Suzanne; A Passion for Plants, The Treseders of Truro, Alison Hodge, 2004  
Veitch, James H; Hortus Veitchii, James Veitch & Sons Ltd, Chelsea, London 1906

## **Details of Research**

### **Work Plan**

The project is intended to confirm or dispel the well-known fact (or myth) that the great Cornish gardens were stocked from ships (usually said to be Packet Ships) bringing plants from the four corners of the globe (but not Europe) into Falmouth, either commercially, or for distribution amongst captains' friends.

This has been tackled from all sorts of angles –  
port records (no: these were not official cargoes)  
ship records (the same, with odd exceptions)  
learned societies and bodies (Poly, RIC, RCHS, RHS, Kew –very sparse information)  
newspapers and periodicals found in the Cornwall Record Office, Cornish Studies Centre and on the internet  
books of all sorts on plant hunters, gardeners, and academic theses  
garden records (few early enough)  
libraries ( Morrab, Courtney, Lindley, Rosemoor, Kew Gardens).

From all that there are a few specific records of plants arriving in Falmouth and going to an individual or garden. Many of these have uncertainties of date, of ship, bringer or recipient.

We began, in a sense, from Megan Oldcorn's thesis on Falmouth's Great Gardens of Empire published in Troze, Vol 6, No2, 2015

We built on Maggie Campbell-Culver's recognition that exotic plants came (ignoring Europe, long ago) first from the Americas, then Africa, India and China, and finally Australia and New Zealand. Their advent can be set against the period when sailing ships actually called at Falmouth – including the Packet Ships up to the 1840s: noting that the larger sailing ships, including the East India Company's ships, would not pause unless they had to, and that steamships increasingly predominated and generally passed by. We also observe the specific case of Veitch imports, which were taken to Topsham, and collectors, like the Lobb brothers, were forbidden to pass plants directly to customers or friends! Nearly all other well-known collectors were employed by Kew, RHS or other up-country institutions, until well after the relevant period.

So this suggested an inversion of the study, instead of scratching to find traces of early imports beyond the few found, it would be easier to consider the opposite: that indeed the preponderance of plants of interest bypassed Falmouth entirely!!

# Garden History Project: Imports of Exotic Plants into Falmouth 1750-1900

## Report on Findings: Charles Lemon and Others

I was fortunate enough to find a list of plants 'which have flowered in the collection of Sir Charles Lemon, Bart, M.P., at Carclew, in 1837' in the Annual Report of the Royal Cornwall Horticultural Society . So I began my research there, taking the donor and exploring their background and plant experience. I found a number of other interesting possibilities.

The 'Lemon' list is attached here:

*Which have flowered, in the collection of Sir Charles Lemon, Bart, M. P.  
at Carclew, in 1837.*

<i>Natural order and name of Plant.</i>	<i>Native Country.</i>	<i>Date of introduction</i>	<i>By whom introduced.</i>
<i>Fumariaceæ</i>			
<i>Fumaria roseo alba</i> .....	Chili	1836	Lieut. B. J. Sullivan, R.N.
<i>Macrocarnos, sp.</i> .....	E. Indies	1834	Unknown.
<i>Malvaceæ</i>			
<i>Hibiscus, sp.</i> .....	Madagas.	1828	R. Barclay, Esq.
<i>Passifloreæ</i>			
<i>Passiflora Sulivani</i> .....	Rio	1827	Lieut. B. J. Sullivan, R. N.
<i>Corneæ</i>			
<i>Benthamia fragrifera</i> .....	E. Indies	1825	Sir Anthony Buller.
<i>Gesnerææ</i>			
<i>Gesnera Suttoni</i> .....	Rio	1833	Captain Sutton.
<i>Douglasii, var.</i> .....	Rio	1833	ditto.
<i>Asclepiadææ</i>			
<i>Calotropis procera</i> .....	Porto Prya	1832	Lieut. B. J. Sullivan, R. N.
<i>Aristolochiææ</i>			
<i>Aristolochia caudata</i> .....	Rio	1828	Lieut. Wright, R. N.
<i>Coniferææ</i>			
<i>Pinus Lemoniana</i> .....	Unknown	..	Unknown.
<i>Orchideæ Tr. Vandææ</i>			
<i>Maxillaria crocea</i> .....	Rio	1833	Captain Sutton.
<i>    picta</i> .....	Rio	1833	ditto.
<i>    ochroleuca</i> .....	Rio	1833	ditto.
<i>Ionopsis tenera</i> .....	Havannah	1835	ditto.
<i>Oncidium ciliatum</i> .....	Unknown	1830	Unknown.
<i>    Lemonianum</i> .....	Havannah	1835	Captain Sutton.
<i>Tr. Epidendreææ</i>			
<i>Epidendrum nov. sp.</i> .....	Havannah	1835	Captain Sutton.
<i>    nov. sp.</i> .....	Guatemala	1835	ditto.
<i>    nov. sp.</i> .....	Havannah	1835	ditto.
<i>    nov. sp.</i> .....	Guatemala	1835	ditto.
<i>    nov. sp.</i> .....	Havannah	1835	ditto.
<i>    nov. sp.</i> .....	Havannah	1835	ditto.
<i>Bletia Suttoni</i> .....	Havannah	1835	
<i>Tr. Malaxideææ</i>			
<i>Plenrothallis saurocephala</i> .....	Brazils	1834	Mrs. Lake.
<i>Amaryllideææ</i>			
<i>Amaryllis kermesina</i> .....	Brazils	1833	Lieut. J. Holland, R. N.
<i>Habranthus gracilifolius var. Boothianus</i> .....	Maldonado	1833	Lieut. B. J. Sullivan, R. N.
<i>Panocratium guineense, var.</i> .....	Honduras	1834	Capt. Sutton.

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Note ships in **bold**, plants in *bold italics*, references in *italics* and comments in Arial typeface. RHSC refers to the Royal Horticultural Society of Cornwall.

### Sir Charles Lemon 1784-1868

Charles Lemon was educated at Harrow School and married Charlotte Fox-Strangeways in 1810 by whom he had three children, none of whom survived to adulthood. His nephews included WH Fox Talbot and Arthur Tremayne of Heligan. He was a MP and a Fellow of the Royal Society. In 1824 he inherited Carclew, an estate in Mylor parish near Falmouth, but he also had houses in Truro and Berkeley Square, London. In 1827 he was Sheriff of Cornwall. In 1836 he headed a petition to the Admiralty for the continuation of the packet service; he was also the second president of the Royal Statistical Society; and on the committee of the South-West Railway. The next year he became president of the Falmouth Board of Guardians. In 1840 he became a Freemason. He also was a director of the Plymouth Company for migrants to New Zealand. He belonged to The Cornish Club in London. In 1853 he was Deputy Warden of the Stanneries and funded the establishment of the Camborne School of Mines. He was the president of the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society from 1833-1868, the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall from 1840-1856 in Penzance, and the Royal Horticultural Society of Cornwall in Truro from its foundation. He was a friend of John Lindley who recommended William Beattie Booth to be his gardener. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century Carclew burnt down and the house and gardens are vestigial..  
*(en.m.wikipedia.org/howling pixel.com charles lemon/genealogynp.com.ships charles lemon (nzsg new plymouth) /en.wikipedia.org. West Cornwall/ discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ Records held by Cornwall Record Office WH/1/1-2152/Lemon Papers X62)*

Sir Charles Lemon received plants from the people on the Lemon list above but also from William Hooker of Glasgow and Kew and Hooker's son Joseph. He was among the first people in England to receive and grow *rhododendron seed* from Sir Joseph Hooker of Kew Gardens, who sent seed directly to Carclew.

*(en.wikipedia.org Carclew /Musgrave, Toby & Gardner, Chris & Musgrave, Will; The Plant Hunters p134, Naylor, Simon; Regionalising Science, p103)*

Sir Charles Lemon, via the RCHS, offered a silver medal to the packet captain bringing back the most exotic plants.

*(Royal Horticultural Society Cornwall Annual Report 1836, Campbell-Culver, Maggie; William Lobb, Cornish Garden Society Journal 2009, p39)*

This silver medal was given to Capt Sutton, formerly of HM Packet Service.

*(RHSC Annual Report for 1838)*

### 1. Plants on Sir Charles Lemon's List grouped by donor.

#### Captain Robert Shuttleworth Sutton 1779-1842

The most prolific donor on the Lemon list of plants is Capt Sutton. He was a packet captain from 1797 to 1835, and Flushing resident (Flushing is the village opposite Falmouth in Mylor parish) who brought back plants to Charles Lemon and the Fox family. He married Susanna Schuyler in 1807, whose father was also a packet captain They had children: Robert Shuttleworth II b 1818, d 1900: Thomas Musgrove, b 1827 d 1863 Lt Bengal NI, EIC: Robert Huntley Sutton the Captain of **HM Packet Lady Mary Pelham**. His daughter Emma married William Heyrick Macaulay Capt 21<sup>st</sup> Madras Rgt at Mylor 31 July 1840.

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(*Gentleman's Magazine* p422 Births and Marriages Oct 1840)

From 1835 to 1841 Captain Sutton was a Member of Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society, and on the committee in 1837. In 1835 he received a Silver Medal from the Royal Cornwall Horticultural Society

He was the Captain of the **Windsor Castle**, 1814 (Captured by Americans 1815), and the **Stanmer**, 1817, travelling to the West Indies and America

(*Norway, AH; History of the Post-office Packet Service between the years 1793 –1815, 1895 Robertson, AW; A History of the Ship Letters of the British Isles, 1688-1850, Appendix B2*)

All these plants are in the Lemon list of Plants as collected by Capt Sutton.

### **Gesnereae**

***Gesnera Suttoni*** Rio 1833

“ “ *Douglasii*, var Rio 1833

### **Orchideae Tr Vandaeae**

***Maxillaria crocea*** Rio 1833

“ *picta* Rio 1833

“ *ochroleuca* Rio 1833

***Ionopsis tenera*** Havannah 1835

***Oncidium Lemonianum*** Havannah 1835

### **Tr Epidendreae**

***Epidendrum nov sp*** Havannah 1835

“ “ “ Guatamala 1835

“ “ “ Havannah 1835

“ “ “ Guatamala 1835

“ “ “ Havannah 1835

***Bletia Suttonii*** Havannah 1835

### **Amaryllideae**

***Paucratium guincense var Honduras*** 1831

### **1 *Gesneria suttoni*, Captain Sutton's *Gesneria*, *Didynamia angiospermia***

‘In 1833 Capt Sutton of the Packet Ship establishment at Falmouth found a plant growing in a wood on a sloping hill near the Bay of Bonviago, Rio de Janeiro, at an elevation of about 30-40 feet above the sea...dug up the plant and brought it home. On his arrival in England in March 1833 he presented the choice collection of orchidaceous and other interesting plants he had found to Sir C Lemon and G C Fox of Grove Hill in whose garden the present plant flowers.’

(*Harrison, J; The Floricultural Cabinet & Florist's Magazine Jan-Dec 1834, Vol II, p18/ Lindley, J; Edward's Botanical Register, Vol 19, p1637/Loudon, JC, Ed; The Gardener's Magazine, Vol 10, 1834, p70*)

### **2 *Ionopsis tenera***

‘A native of Havanna from whence it was brought by Capt Sutton in 1835, and by that gentleman presented to Sir Charles Lemon, Bart, in whose collection it has bloomed...it was discovered in the ancient forests of Brazil.’

(*Lindley, J; Edward's Botanical Register, Vol 3, p109, No 22*)

### **3. *Epidendrums***

These are probably the ***Epidendrums nov sp*** collected by Captain Sutton and brought back to Falmouth taken from JC Loudon's *The Gardeners Magazine Vol 14 1838*.

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p142 *Epidendrum Boothidnum* Cuba 1835

‘..it is named in compliment to Mr W B Booth, one of the most intelligent gardeners in this country....Sir Charles Lemon has supplied me with some excellent specimens.

This curious plant is a native of the Havannah, whence it was brought by Capt Sutton, of Flushing, near Falmouth, and added to Sir Charles Lemon’s Collection at Carclew.’

(Also Lindley, J; *Edward’s Botanical Register 1838, No7, p5*)

p143 *Epidendrum fucatum* Lindl Havannah 1835

‘a curious species, imported from Havannah, and which flowered in Sir Charles Lemon’s collection at Carclew in July 1837’

(Also Lindley, J; *Edward’s Botanical Register Feb 1838, No 17, p15*)

p282 *Bletia havanensis* Booth differs fr *B. verecunda*

‘Introduced from the Havannah by Capt Sutton, in the spring of 1835 and added to Sir Charles Lemon’s collection at Carclew where it flowered in March 1837.’

(Also Lindley, J; *Edward’s Botanical Register 1838, No 35, p28*))’

p284 *Epidendrum lacerum* Havannah 1835

‘This is the third species of Epidendrum introduced from Havanna, in the spring of 1835 by Captain Sutton, and added to Sir Charles Lemon’s collection at Carclew, where it flowered during November and December 1836.’

(Also Lindley, J; *Edward’s Botanical Register 1838, No18, p17*)

p379 *Maxillaria Boothii* Lindl

‘Collected in Guatemala by G U Skinner, Esq, and introduced in 1835 by Captain Sutton who added it to Sir Charles Lemon’s collection at Carclew where it flowered in May 1838.’

(Also Lindley, J; *Edwards Botanical Register 1838, Vol No 95, p52*)

### *Epidendrum ocharaceum*

‘Mr Booth first sent it from Sir Charles Lemon’s garden at Carclew....it was first found in Guatemala by Mr Skinner.....In July 1836 I first received specimens from Sir Charles Lemon...brought to this country in June 1835, by Captain Sutton, who presented it with others from the same place, to Sir Charles Lemon, Bart, in whose collection it flowered in July 1836.’

(Lindley, J; *Edward’s Botanical Register, 1838, No 15, p14 and 26*)

*Gardener’s Magazine Vol 14, 1838, p 286*

### *Epidendrum aurantiacum*

Not credited here to Capt Sutton though it seems probable as it is reported: ‘Flowering specimens and a beautiful drawing were obligingly communicated to me by Sir Chas. Lemon.’

(Lindley, J; *Edward’s Botanical Register, 1838, No 11*)

‘One of his activities during his time as a Packet Captain was the collection of exotic plants from the lands he visited.... Packet Captains were encouraged... to bring home new and rare plants, and Robert brought number into the country, including the *Epidendron*, a dragon’s moth orchid from Havannah. He received the Society’s medal ...in 1836.’

(Redwood, Ursula; *The Schuyler Family*)

It is not necessary to delve into the background of the rest of the plants, though interesting, these serve as examples of the whole.

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‘Resolved – That one of the Society’s Silver Medals be presented....a similar Medal presented to Capt. Sutton, formerly of H.M. Packet Service, as a tribute of acknowledgement for the zeal he has evidence in the promotion of Horticulture, and of the many new and rare ... he has introduced to the Country...’  
(*RCCHS Annual Report 1837*)

Capt RS Sutton’s packet ships were:

**Windsor Castle:** Trips to Rio were made in 1808, 1811 and 1814,  
1808 leaving Falmouth Dec 10, travelling Madeira Bahia Rio de Janeiro and back to Falmouth in May 1809

1811 leaving Falmouth Aug 29, travelling Madeira Sep 16/17 Rio Oct 25/Nov 7 Bahia Dec 8/10 back to Falmouth Feb 7 1812

1814 leaving Falmouth Jan 24, travelling Madeira Feb 6, Tenereife Bahia Rio Apr 9 and back to Falmouth June 3.

### **Stanmer:**

Leaving Falmouth Nov 14 1832, Madeira Tenereife Pernambuco Dec 15/17 Bahia Dec 19/21 Rio Dec 21/27 back to Falmouth Mar 26 1833.

(*Robertson, AW; A History of the Ship Letters of the British Isles, , 1688-1850*)

He is one of the few packet captains that I have found named for bringing in plants to Falmouth and here we can name plant, ship, port and receiver.

### **Bartholomew James Sulivan 1810-1890**

B J Sulivan was born at Tregew, Flushing in 1810. He is a Naval captain, not a packet captain. In 1827 he was on the **Thetis**, and he joined the **HMS Beagle** in 1828 then took command of the ketch **Arrow** from 1831-6. Then he was on **HMS Philomel**, 1842-6, surveying the Falkland Islands. 1848-1851 he was again in the Falklands. He retired in 1865, but visited his mother in Flushing each summer.

(*Sulivan, HN; Life and Letter of the late Admiral Sir Bartholomew James Sulivan, KC*)

The plants he brought Sir Charles Lemon according to the list were:

***Fromariaceae Fumaria roseo alba*** Chili 1836

This plant was received by C Lemon from Lt B J Sulivan in 1836 presumably taken on and given on his return to England.

(*Lindley, J; Edward’s Botanical Register Vol 21 p 1792 and Journal of RCCHS 1837*)

***Passiflora Sulivani*** Booth Buenos Ayres 1827

It was originally introduced ‘by B J Sulivan, Esq, now of the H.M.S. Beagle, who procured the seeds, with others, from the Botanic Garden at Rio de Janeiro, in 1827 and presented them, on his return, to Sir Charles Lemon, Bart, MP, in whose garden at Carlew, the present plant originated.’

‘the merits of Mr Sulivan- to whose zeal, intelligence, and activity in the promotion of science, no one can be more ready to bear testimony than myself.’

(*Lindley, J; Edwards Botanical Register, 1838, Vol 24, April, p21*)

(*Loudon, JC; Gardener’s Magazine, Vol 14, 1838*)

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### *Passiflora onychina*

‘It appears that this pretty specimen of *Passion-flower* was first introduced to this country by B J Sullivan, Esq, ..... who brought seeds from the Botanic Garden of Rio de Janeiro to that of Sir Charles Lemon, Bart, at Carclew in the year 1827.’

(*Curtis Botanic Magazine, Vol 67*)

There is some confusion between *Passiflora onychina* and *Lt Sullivan’s Passion flower*. It is possible that the two passifloras here are one and the same. J Lindley in *Edward’s Botanical Register of 1838* says see *Bot. Reg. fol. 1339*.

Ship **Thetis**, but probably brought in by packet from Rio as **Thetis** remained in South America till 1828

*Asclepiadeae Calotropis Procera* Porto Pyla Cape Verde 1832

Presumably sent home from Cape Verde by packet ship when B J Sullivan was on **HMS Beagle**.

*Amaryllideae Habranthus gracillifolius var. Boothianus* Maldonado Uruguay 1833

This plant was received by C Lemon from Lt B J Sullivan in 1833

‘Bulbs of this pretty little species of *Habranthus* were, last year, presented to Sir Charles Lemon, Bart, MP, by Capt Thomas Ball Sullivan, CB, to whom they had been forwarded from Maldonado, where they were collected by Lt (B) James Sullivan, RN, of HM ship Beagle, now engaged in the extensive survey of that part of the South American coast.’

(*Lindley, J; Edward’s Botanical Register, Vol 10/23, 1837, No 1967*)

Other plants collected by B J Sullivan and brought back to Falmouth.

‘In 1842 it became necessary to undertake a further survey in connection with the Falklands and the Rio Plata. Beaufort again selected Sullivan for the task, and he was appointed to the brig **Philomel**.....my mother found time to make a collection of the flora of the islands. The plants sent home were arranged by Miss Warren...Lindley also examined them...’

(Miss Warren lived in Flushing so this implies a Falmouth arrival, see G English report)

(*Life and Letters of the Late Admiral Sir Bartholomew James Sullivan 1810-1890 by H N Sullivan*)

‘Three hitherto undocumented watercolours in the possession of the National Botanic Gardens, Dublin, are found to depict... an historically important painting of Port Louis about 1842, when it was the capital of the archipelago. From the evidence...

either B J Sullivan or his wife during a surveying voyage to the Falkland Islands in 1842-43, when he commanded the **Philomel**... seem to have been collected by B J Sullivan during 1838 when he visited the Falkland Islands as Lieutenant aboard the surveying ketch **Arrow**.....’

(*Archives of Natural History, Vol 13 issue 2 page 155-163 ISSN 0260 9541*)

### **The Falkland Islands**

From 1833 there was a permanent British settlement. From 1842 to 1852 the postal communication with the outside world was wholly dependent on irregular arrangements that the Governor managed to make with provisioning ships, sealers, whalers and other chance callers. In 1852 the Falkland Islands Company was founded with the ship **Amelia**, from Rio de Janeiro 21<sup>st</sup>

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June 1852 arriving in Port Stanley 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1852 and returning the 27<sup>th</sup> July taking homeward bound mail to Montevideo.

(Howat, Rev JNT; *South American Packets*, published by the Postal History Society 1984)

B J Sullivan is not a packet captain but a naval officer. It seems probable that plants in 1827 were sent home by packet ship and also in 1832 as the Beagle was continuing on its circumnavigation but in 1836 Sullivan probably brought plants straight back in person. In 1838 he was on the Arrow in the Falklands at the end of the voyage. The 1842 trip is quite separate and plants came by any means to South America and home by packet ship. There was a regular packet on schedule from Rio to Falmouth.

### Sir Anthony Buller 1780-1866

Anthony Buller married Isabella, the sister of Charles Lemon in 1805.

In 1816 – 1827 he lived and worked in Bengal. He brought home *Cornus capitata* from Nepal to J H Tremayne in Heligan and to Charles Lemon.

*Corneae Benthamia fragrifera* East Indies 1825 - another name for the same plant.

The long drive of *Cornus Capitata* at Heligan was planted in 1832 .

(*Cornwall Garden Trust.org.uk, Heligan/ Lindley, J; Edward's Botanical Register 1833, Vol 19, p1579*)

Most likely came by East Indiaman to London, unless Buller brought it himself on leave and disembarked at Falmouth.

### Mrs Lake

Mrs Lake appears on the Lemon list. She is obviously not a packet captain nor naval officer. Mrs Lake of Falmouth was possibly the wife of William Lake, banker of the 1781 Falmouth Bank afterwards Carne, Lake & Co. Pigot's Directory 1830, p139-144, has a William Lake, ship owner. Are these the same person?

She gave Sir Charles Lemon a plant on the Lemon list .

*Tr Malaxideae Pleurothallis saurocephala* from Brazils in 1831.

#### *Pleurothallis saurocephala*

'The plant has been some years in the gardens near London but has always remained a scarce species. The species now before us was, with some other tropical plants added to the collection of Sir Charles Lemon by Mrs Lake of Falmouth'

(*Lindley, J; Edward's Botanical Register Vol 23 or 10 1837, No 1968*)

She is also recorded as having an *American Aloe*

'CORNWALL: Baroness Bassett, Truro; Sir John St Aubyn, Bart, Clowance. A celebrated American Aloe flowered in the year 1837, produced some 5088 flowers; Mrs Lake, Falmouth, Sir Charles Lemon, Bart, Carclew - Mr Booth,.....

(*The Floral Calender, monthly and daily... 1837, p 105*)

Mrs Lake is likely to have received this directly because she lived in Falmouth. The packets were running to South America and she presumably acquired plants through her husband's contacts.

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### Lt Wright RN 1794-1848

John Wright was a naval officer who served on the packets when they were under Admiralty control. He entered the navy on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 1806 and was made a Lieutenant in 1814. On 25.9.1824 he was appointed to the **Astrea** under Capt Wm King at Falmouth, on 31.5.1825 to the command of the packet ship **Hope** and on 19.10.1832 to the command of the packet ship **Hermes**.  
(*Naval Dictionary*)

He brought one plant to Sir Charles Lemon according to the Lemon list.

***Aristolochiae Aristolochia candata*** Rio 1828

Given by Lt Wright RN to Sir Charles Lemon in 1828.

(*Also in RCHS Journal 1837*)

Captain William King was appointed in 30.4.1823 as Admiralty agent in Falmouth on the supply ship **Astrea** stationed at Falmouth. The packet agent at the time was T M Musgrave.

The **Hope** sailed from Rio de Janeiro on 18.2.1828 and arrived Falmouth 14.4.1828, so this is a probable ship importing this plant.

(*Howatt, JNT; South American Packets, p59*)

This does seem to have arrived by packet through Falmouth.

### Lt J Holland RN

Lt J Holland served in the Royal Marines.

The Lemon list records that Lt J Holland RN gave Sir Charles Lemon a bulb (?)

***Amaryllideae Amaryllis kermesina*** Brazil 1833

Lt Holland of the Royal Marines presented bulbs to Miss Street of Penryn (daughter of S.S. Street Esq)

(*Loudon, JC; The Gardener's Magazine, Vol 10, 1834/ Lindley, J; Edward's Botanical Register, Vol 20 or 7, 1835, no 1638*)

The roots were brought from Brazil in the early part of 1833 by Lt Holland of the Royal Marines who presented them to Miss Street of Penryn,

(*Magazine of Botany and Register of Flowering Plants, Vol 1, p 12*)

Implies that he brought it himself and gave it to his girl friend!

### R Barclay, Esq 1751-1830

Robert Barclay of Bury Hill in Surrey married Rachel Gurney: their daughter Maria (1785-1858) married Robert Were Fox. Maria and Robert Fox had three children: Anna Maria, Robert Barclay and Caroline Fox. So Robert Barclay was intimately connected to the local Falmouth clan of Foxes with their shipping interests and their garden plantings.

Robert Barclay of Bury Hill, 1815, 1,000 acres bought by Robert Barclay, a wealthy Southwark brewer. Barclay was a great gardener and botanist. His gardener went on to found Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

(*exploring Surreypast.org.uk*)

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‘David Coleman, ALS Gardener at Bury Hill’

*(Gardeners Magazine, Article 1, Catalogue of Hardy and Exotic Ferns in the garden of Robert Barclay Esq)*

The Lemon list records him as donating a *Malvaceae Hibiscus sp* from Madagascar in 1828, but I have not found any information as to how. It may have been given personally after being imported through London.

Other plants recorded in the possession of Robert Barclay.

‘July last, from fine specimens received from the choice collection of Robert Barclay, Esq, of Bury Hill (Surrey) where it was raised last year from seed received from Mexico’

*(The British Flower Garden by Robert Sweet, Vol 3 p 278)*

***Argemone grandiflora no 1264***

‘Importations of Robert Barclay, Esq of Bury Hill...a native of Mexico.

***Fuchsia microphylla, no 1269***

From Jorulla, Mexico, raised by R Barclay Esq of Bury Hill.

***Fuchsia thymifolia, no 1284***

From Mexico to R. Barclay

*(Lindley, J; Edwards Botanical Register Vol 15, 1829)*

A possibility that R Barclay got plants from R W Fox of Falmouth by ship, but he lives in Surrey and so plants may have come the other way!

### Person Unknown

***Oncidium ciliatum***

‘This pretty little species of *Oncidium* has been cultivated for the last three years in the collection of Sir Charles Lemon, Bart, MP, at Carclew, Cornwall....I do not know who has the merit of bringing it to this country, but believe it to have been received through some of the officers of his Majesty’s Packet Establishment at Falmouth’ Mr Booth’s account. ‘

*(Lindley, J; Edward’s Botanical Register Vol 20 1835 no 1660)*

***Coniferae, Pinus Lemoniana***

‘ a new species or rather a very distinct and particular variety of *Pinus pinaster*, lately discovered in the plantation of Sir Charles Lemon, Bart, in Cornwall’

*(The Agricultural Manual, 1836, p343)*

This is not an exotic. Nicolson, George; An Encyclopedia of Horticulture 1887 refers to *Pinus pinaster* ‘South-west Europe 1596’

### End of Lemon’s 1837 list

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### 2. Other Plants Coming to Charles Lemon's Garden from Unknown Sources

*Iloudon, JC; The Gardener's Magazine Vol 14 1838 1 p543*

From Sir Charles Lemon, Bart,....some specimens of plants in flower in the open ground at Carclew in Cornwall; they having completely resisted the severity of the late winter in that mild part of Cornwall, among them were the *New Holland accacia diffusa and stricta, Azalea ledifolis..erica australis and mediterranea*, all of which were completely destroyed in the neighbourhood of London, and what was still more remarkable, shoots, in full flower, of *Rhododendron arboreum*, which Sir Charles Lemon stated was becoming a tree at Carclew. (*John Luscombe Esq of Coombe Royal in supplementary to the Encyclopedia of Plants and Hortus Britannica, p543*)

2 *Universallibrary.org*

*Cattleya lemoniana*, Lindl 1846, syn *Cattleya labiata*

'dedicated it to Sir Charles Lemon, Bart, MP, already well known for his attachment to this singular tribe of plants, and who has the merit of first introducing it. The specimen...was imported from the Brazils in 1842 and flowered for the first time at Carclew in September 1845.' (*Lindley, J; Edward's Botanical Register, Vol 9, July 1846, No 35*)

3 *Esperson, P & Saulea, RP; New World Orchidaceae – Nomenclatural Note – Issue ! October 10 2012 (ISSN 2325-4785)*

*Encyclia rufa* (Lindley) Britton & Millspaugh in Cuba

'In the protolog of *Epidendrum rufum*, Lindley in 1847 quotes a memorandum from Mr Booth, gardener to Sir Charles Lemon, that fully explains its history. "This plant was imported from Rio in 1842 by Lieut. Turner of H.M. Packet '**Ranger**', and presented to Sir Charles Lemon, Bart., M.P., with whom it flowered at Carclew, in May, 1844." Although Booth only states Rio, we know Booth meant Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, because in several other species, that Lindley describes, Booth states that plants presented to Sir Charles were received from Lieut. Turner from Rio de Janeiro.'

Lieut Turner is listed as in command of a Naval Brig employed as a Falmouth Packet from 1835. He served until 1843.

(*Robertson, AW; A History of the Ships Letters of the British Isles 1688-1850, Appendix B7/ List B/ A Naval Biographical Dictionary*)

Falmouth 8.4.1842, **Ranger**, John H Turner RN, sails

1) Madeira 15/16.4, Tenerife 18.4, Rio 22.5-18.6, Bahia 28.6, Pernambuco 6.7 to Falmouth 12.8  
2).Madeira 13/14.11, Tenereife 16/11, Peranambuco 5/6.12, Bahia 9/11.12, Rio 17.12-22.1, Falmouth 11.3.1843. Paid off on return to Falmouth.

(*Frajola, Richard; British Packet Sailings. Falmouth Packets Sailing to Brazil 1808-1859. rfrajola.com*)

#### 4 *Begonia villosa*

'our drawing was made in September last.. from a plant presented...by Sir Charles Lemon by whom it was raised from Brazilian seeds. A stove plant, readily increased by seed.'

(*Lindley, J; Edward's Botanical Register Vol 15 1829 no 1252*)

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### 5 *Epidendrum aurantiacum*, Guatemala

‘Flowering specimens and a beautiful drawing were obligingly communicated to me by Sir Charles Lemon...’

(Lindley, J; *Edward’s Botanical Register 1838 no 11*)

See earlier, was this a Capt Sutton gift?

### 6 *Maxillaria, variables; var unipunctata*

A plant of this... received from the Horticultural Society in March, 1837, by Sir Charles Lemon, Bart. in whose collection it flowered in January, 1838.

(Lindley, J; *Edward’s Botanical Register, 1838, no 26, p23*)

I get the impression that Sir Charles Lemon was an orchid enthusiast! See *Cattleya lemoniana*, ‘attachment to this singular tribe of plants!’

I like to think that John Lindley (RHS) names the plants with Sir Charles Lemon and William Booth (the gardener) in the potting shed or at the library table in Carclew! No photographs though Lemon’s nephew W H Fox Talbot is working on this and there is a photo of an oak tree at Carclew.

### Note on William Beattie Booth, Lemon’s gardener (1804-1858)

Mr Booth began his career as a gardener under John Lindley at the Horticultural Garden in Chiswick, and then was employed by Sir Charles Lemon at Carclew.

He contributed under his own name to Curtis’ *Botanical Magazine*, *Edward’s Botanical Register* and the Lindley’s *The Gardener’s Magazine*. The gardens at Carclew were considered to be among the most important in Cornwall. Mr Booth designed a kitchen garden for Lanhydrock in 1840. He was considered a superior man in the horticultural world of Cornwall.

(*wikipedia and CGT Journal on Lanhydrock by Jonathan Lovie*) .

He was an Associate of the Linnean Society of London.

(Loudon, JC; *The Gardener’s Magazine, Vol 8, p747*)

### *Camellia japonica punctata*

it is written ‘obliged to Mr W B Booth of the Horticultural Garden who has studied the varieties of *Camellia* more attentively than any other person... with Mr Chandler jun. is preparing a fine illustrated work.’

(Lindley, J; *Edward’s Botanical Register, Vol 15, 1829, no 1267*)

The Book was published in 1831 as *Illustrations and Descriptions of Camellias*.

Why did Mr Booth come to Cornwall? Did he come at this point because of the propagation and hybridisation of camellias? Was Mr Booth a key player in the formation of Cornish gardens? He was obviously valued by John Lindley. Or was he a hothouse plantsman?

### John Rule

John Rule was the Superintendent of the Real del Monte Mines, Mexico, 1823-1842

John Taylor of Norfolk contracted with John Rule of Camborne, captain of the United Mines, Gwennap to go to the silver mines of Real del Monte. He went out on the **Melpomene** from Falmouth to Mexico together with the **Courier**, the **General Phipps** and the **Sarah Cambria**. While he was in Mexico he did not get on with Vetch, also working in the mines, and returned to Cornwall in May 1834 leaving his brother William in charge. However he was persuaded to

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return in March 1835. He retired to Penzance in 1842 and was involved in the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall. (*Payton, Philip; The Cornish Overseas*)

### Plants Sent by John Rule to Cornwall

1. In April 1837 when Mrs Chynoweth and family returned to Cornwall after the death of Capt Chynoweth he sent by the **Enterprise** ‘a small parcel of seeds for Lady Basset, a box of seeds for Mr Pendarves and a box of minerals for John Taylor’.

(*Todd, ME, Search for Silver, p 109, and*

*RootsWeb; List of Cornish miners and others at Real del Monte, Mexico 1824-1947*)

#### 2. **Bravoa Geminiflora**

‘A beautiful quasi-bulbous plant, a native of the mountains near Valladolid in Mexico, sent by Mr Rule to Sir Charles Lemon, in whose stove it flowered in March 1838. It also flowered in the greenhouse at Carclew and it is expected to ripen seeds’.

(*Loudon, JC; The Gardener’s Magazine, 1838, Vol 14, supplementary to the Encyclopedia of Plants and Horticulture Britain, p 379*)

‘For the introduction of this handsome plant we are indebted to Mr John Rule, Superintendent of the Real del Monte Mines in Mexico, from whom it was received by Sir Charles Lemon, Bart, MP, in March 1838, and it flowered in the stove at Carclew, a few weeks after its arrival.’

(*Lindley, J; Edwards Botanical Register, Vol 24, No 98, p54*)

#### 3. **Commelina orchioides** Booth in Litt

‘Roots of this plant, with many others and a large collection of curious seeds, were received in April 1838 by Sir Charles Lemon, Bart, MP, from Mr John Rule, the zealous and active superintendant of the Real del Monte Mines in Mexico. It flowered in the stove at Carclew in May; and is to be regarded more as a subject for the Botanist than those who are fond of showy flowers’

(*Lindley, J; Edward’s Botanical Register, Vol 24, p53, also BMR July No 96, p28*)

Charles Lemon took delivery of plant specimens (**commelina orchioides**) as a ‘large collection of curious seeds from John Rule, superintendent of the Real del Monte mines in Mexico.’

(*Loudon, JC; The Gardener’s Magazine, March and April 1838, p53*)

#### 4. **Echeveria secunda** Booth in Litt

‘Plants of this curious succulent were received by Sir Charles Lemon...in 1837, and again in 1838, from Mr John Rule, superintendent of the Real del Monte mines, in Mexico, of which country it is believed to be a native.’

(*Lindley, J; Edward’s Botanical Register, 1838, No 112, p60 Also BMR Sept No 112*)

#### 5. **Echkandia ortega** 1837

‘This singular plant was among a collection received by Sir Charles Lemon in 1837 from Mr John Rule superintendent of the Real del Monte mines, Mexico, in the neighbourhood of which it is probably a native. It flowered in the greenhouse at Carclew in June 1839 and continued during July and August to send out a succession of 5 or 6 flowers daily. It promises to produce seeds, by which there is every chance of its being increased.’

(*Lindley, J; Edwards Botanical Register, Vol 24, p53*

*Paxton, Sir John, Lindley, J; Pocket Botanical Dictionary 1840* )

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### 6. *Tradescantia iridescens*

'is a native of the neighbourhood of the Real del Monte Mines in Mexico from whence roots of it were forwarded in the spring of 1838 by Mr John Rule to Sir Charles Lemon, Bart, MP, in whose collection it flowered in June.'

(Lindley, J; *Edwards Botanical Register, Vol 24, 1838, No 160, p87*)

John Rule could have brought these plants himself in 1834 by ship, but later would have sent his 'plants' from Vera Cruz on a packet ship to Falmouth.

### Mexico Packets

'Third Wednesday of the month, proceeds from Falmouth to Jacquemei, Jamaica, Belize, Vera Cruz, Tampico, back to Vera Cruz, Havannah and home to Falmouth.'

'Fresh vessels were supplied for the service as required, e.g it was reported on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1832 that "Another fine Schooner, perfecting new, was being introduced..."'

'On 18<sup>th</sup> March 1837 the Mexico Packet, which had been calling at Belize, was ordered to go direct from Havanah to Vera Cruz....'

(Britnow, LE; *The History of the Sailing Packets to the West Indies, 1973, British West Indies Study Circle, Paper No 5*)

### End of Plants Received by Sir Charles Lemon

\*\*\*\*\*

## 3. Other Plants which may have come through Falmouth

### Francis Jenkins 1793-1866

Francis Jenkins was born in St Clement's parish, Cornwall on 4.8.1793. St Clement's parish included part of what is now Truro. He died in Guwahati, Assam on 28.8.1866.

He was an employee of the East India Company, but not a ship's captain. He was responsible for the tea plantations in Assam. He was a collector of type specimens in 1842 at Nowgayo, Assam.

He was a Captain in the Mercantile Marine when given the task of assessing the resources of Assam (*Bhuyan 2006*). In the company of Indian army officers, R B Pemberton and Capt G T

Gordon he explored a route for communication between Assam and Manipur in January 1832.....Subsequently appointed as British Commissioner for Assam and Agent to Governor-

General for the north-eastern frontier of India, serving in that role from 1834 to 1861 (*Bhuyan 2006*).....had interests in natural history and botany (*Griffiths 1847*).....

([palm.org/palmsjournal/2010/vol 54, no 3, page 109](http://palm.org/palmsjournal/2010/vol%2054,%20no%203,%20page%20109))

*Livistona jenkinsiana*, Major Jenkins Fan Palm:. First described by William Griffiths. 1845 based on his field observations and a collection made in 1842 from Assam by Major F Jenkins and named in his honour.

*Jenkinsia lomcropsidaceae* is also named after him.

([jstsor.org](http://jstsor.org))

His herbarium is in the Natural History Museum, London

Jenkins was given honorary membership of the RCHS.

(*Other Sources: Diary and Notes of Capt F Jenkins, by F Jenkins, Publisher C B Lewis, Baptist Missionary Press 1868.*)

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*Marshall, Julie G, ed; Britain and Tibet 1765 –194,)*

These plants were sent by Capt Jenkins to people in the Falmouth area

1 In 1835 G C Fox was congratulated on his acquisition of ‘some choice exotics sent to him by Capt Jenkins of the East India Co at RHSC

*(Loudon, JC; The Gardener’s Magazine 1835 XI, Vol 1 new series, p 694)*

2 In 1839 Live specimens sent to Charles Lemon with request for plants in return.

*(Royal Cornwall Gazette 31.5.1841 & Falmouth Packet)*

3 In 1841 Seeds of *Camelia sinensis (Teaplants)* sent to RHSC

*(Royal Cornwall Gazette 21.5.1841 & Falmouth Packet)*

4 Plants sent from India by Capt Jenkins via the Calcutta Botanical Gardens

Aprl	1839	1417	Capt Jenkins	Gowhatty	26 dif plants	26 total
June 8		1437			58	75
June 10		1438			134	147(6cases)
June 26		1450		Assam	48	61
Sept 10		1588			63	86 (5 cases)

4 Date of Despatch Name Kind Total & Case

May 3	1836	81	Capt Jenkins	17	33	3
May 12	1836	83	“	9	42	0
Aug 13	1836	176	“	4	65	0
Dec 9	1836	360	“	10	15	0
June 28	1837	490	“	14	22	0
July 4	1838	965	“	34	57	5
August 11	1838	1065	“	47	113	6
July 10	1840	1900	“	38	260	2

No record of vessels. Report of Nathaniel Wallich 1840

*(kew.org/herbcat/gotoWallich.do)*

5 Miscellaneous Intelligence

Extra; East India seedlings raised from seeds forwarded to the Society by Capt Jenkins and which were distributed last year by G C Fox, Esq, Grove Hill.

*Floricultural Cabinet & Florists Magazine, m 1835, p210*

A local man but plants will have come by East India Co via London. He could have brought some back with him on visits home, but we have no evidence of this. He was a friend of Mr Tweedie, the Royal Horticultural Society of Cornwall treasurer.

### Nathaniel Wallich 1786-1854

Of Danish origin he was an employee of the East India Company. He corresponded widely and tried to facilitate the exchange of plants round the world. He sent and asked for specimens in return. He was Superintendent of Royal Botanical Gardens of Calcutta 1815 to 1846 with intermission 1828-1832. He published a Flora of India about 1820. In 1828 he was invalided to England, took with him some 8,000 specimens of plants, duplicates of which were widely

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distributed to both public and private collections. The best were presented to the Linnean Society. In 1832 he returned to India. In 1846 Nathaniel Wallich returned to England. He became vice president of the Linnean Society.

*(kew.org/learn/library/Nathaniel Wallich)*

The Herbarium of East India Company, known as Wallich Herbarium, is in Kew.

Plants shipped to Cornwall from Wallich as indicated in his report of 1840, these would have gone by East India Company ships.

1840 Wallich Royal Botanical Gardens, Calcutta

Jan 21 <sup>st</sup> 1837	41	Hort Soc Truro	30 34 2
Jan 10 <sup>th</sup> 1838	858	C E Trevelyan	18 18 1
Jan 1 <sup>st</sup> 1839	1310	Hort Soc Truro	18 18 1
Feb 29 <sup>th</sup> 1840	1838	Messrs Lucombe	23 30 1
Oct 28 <sup>th</sup> 1840	2070	Capt Boscawen	15 16 0
	1668	Capt Boscawen	sent 2 plants

Between 1836 – 1840

57 Royal Hort Soc of Cornwall **Richmond**  
1837 Jan 21<sup>st</sup> 2 closed cases

118 C E Trevelyan **Lord Hungerford**  
1838 Jan 10<sup>th</sup> 1 closed case

186 Royal Hort Soc Truro **London** Capt Wimble  
1839 Jan 9<sup>th</sup> 1 closed case

349 Messrs Lucombe Prince & Co Exeter  
1840 Feb 29<sup>th</sup> 1 closed case

*(Wallich, N; Report by N. Wallich Royal Botanical Garden, Calcutta, 1840)*

The **Richmond** sailed from Calcutta on January 21 1837 with 2 closed boxes for RHSC. under Capt N McLeod .

*(Calcutta Monthly Journal and General Register)*

The **London** sailed from Calcutta on January 9 1839 with 1 closed case for RHSC with Captain Wimble. The **London** was built 14.5.1832, a Frigate, for the conveyance of passengers to and from Calcutta. So 4.6.1832 Capt J Wimble Calcutta, 12.7.1836 Calcutta, 5.7.1839 Bombay, 13.8.1840 she sailed from London under Capt Shuttleworth for New Zealand, 12.12.1840 arrived in Wellington.

*(immigrantships.net: historic-shipping.co.uk)*

The **Lord Hungerford**, Captain Farquharson, sailed to London 12.1.1838 with 32 troops on board.

*(Calcutta Monthly Journal, p20, 1838)*

‘Mr W Tweedie .... referred to a letter received from Dr Wallich by Sir Charles Lemon stating that the doctor had forwarded from India a box of growing plants addressed to the society and requesting that the box might be sent back to him replenished with plants of South American or West Indian origin.’

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*(The Royal Horticultural Society of Cornwall.*

*West Briton & Cornwall Advertiser May 31: Gardener's Magazine Vol 5 p 675 )*

Ships' captains took cases of plants to individuals in England  
All of these cases are going via London, probably in East India Co Ships

### William Lobb 1809-1864

Everyone quotes the Lobbs as plant hunters who brought back plants to Sir Charles Lemon and the Fox family. They are the Cornish boys made good. William Lobb was born in Perranarworthal, employed at Pencarrow, then at Carclew. Subsequently he was employed by Veitch of Exeter in 1837 and was sent to Rio de Janeiro in 1840 as a plant hunter. He must have signed an exclusive contract with them in the same way as is recorded in *Hortus Veitchii* for his brother Thomas on 11<sup>th</sup> January 1843 (p41), so if he bought anything directly to acquaintance in Cornwall it must have been illicitly.

Plants in Scorrier gardens:

C Historical Analysis: 'It is known that William Lobb both worked at Scorrier as well as sending plants back to Scorrier from his expeditions. Among the plants, which Lobb introduced to cultivation, include *Fitzroya cupressoides* (1849), *Sequoiadendra giganteum* (1853), *Thuja Plicata* (1853). Thurston's visit in 1930 mentions all of these as being planted between 1865 & 1892. They may therefore have been among the first generation of these species planted in the UK honouring the Garden's famous protege'.

*(Cornwall Garden Trust in CRO, X 897/7/1, 4.10.1990 Scorrier C)*

In 1840 W Lobb sailed from Falmouth to Rio de Janeiro on **HMS Seagull** (after a visit to Kew) as a plant hunter for the garden nursery firm of Veitch of Exeter. In March 1841 a shipment arrived Topsham Docks. In May 1841 a next shipment came. And in January 1842 5 cases of plants, seeds and dried specimens were sent but the ship was unable to dock at Exeter and went on to Leith.

Lobb put a shipment on ship at Valparaiso to Exeter, went from Panama.

In 1843 William Lobb sent specimens to Exeter via Falmouth

*(Heriz-Smith, S; The Veitch nurseries of Killerton and Exeter 1780-1863 Part II Garden History 16 (1988) p174-188 Also Wikipedia)*

### *Sequoia gigantea*

'First introduced to Europe through William Lobb who sent seed and a living specimen to Exeter in 1853.'

*(Veitch, James H; Hortus Veitchii, p346)*

His contract with the Veitches finished in 1857 but he remained in California and sent collections of seeds to England. He came home in 1844, 1848, and 1853.

*(Veitch, James H; Hortus Veitchii, p37-40)*

San Francisco Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 1858

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Sir, I write.....I have forwarded ...to be shipped on the W India steamer 5 cases, seeds and specimens of plants.....Also a letter....Should this reach you before the arrival of the steamer at Southampton.....I am, your obedient servant, W Lobb

to Sir W J Hooker

*(Kew: North American Letters 1851 58 64 267)*

There is also a list of dried specimens from William Lobb from South America, July 1843.

Veitch Nurseries are in Exeter and their plants came in through Topsham docks. Also an exclusive contract precludes anything measurable coming directly to Cornwall. His letter indicates a steamer coming into Southampton.

### Robert Gillies

1 Method of preserving plants during a long voyage

The following letter was communicated to Messrs G C & R W Fox & Co by Capt R Gillies of the ship **Hibernia**. ‘...plants brought by me from Calcutta were put up.....when we arrived in England the plants were in beautiful health.... no water was given to them during the voyage and that they were landed in excellent order.’

Robert Gillies, **Hibernia**, Falmouth Harbour, Oct 2 1835

*(3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report of the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society, Falmouth 1835*

*Magazine of Horticulture, Botany and All useful Discoveries*

*Loudon, JC; The Gardener’s Magazine, 1836 Vol 2)*

2 A letter from John Gillies to W J Hooker from Falmouth on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1828 stating that Gillies has arrived and has his collections with him. He is having some cacti transported and thanks W J Hooker from recommending Mr Fox to help convey his collection to London.

*(Director’s Correspondence Kew DC/43/165a)*

3 The **Hibernia** was launched at Cowes in 1810. She had a letter of marque as a West Indiaman. In 1819 she took convicts to Van Diemen’s Land

1825 **Hibernia** Capt Robert Gillies arrived 5.5.1824 at Sydney from Plymouth via Cape of Good Hope

1835 Capt Gillies London to Calcutta

*(Lloyds Register)*

4 Advertisement:

To sail on 20<sup>th</sup> August for Calcutta direct **Hibernia** Robert Gillies Commander (London)

*(Alexander’s East India and Colonial Magazine, 1835)*

5 **Hibernia** – Gillies from Bengal 12 Jan and Cape 25 March off Portsmouth

*(Asiatic Journal and Monthly Register Vol; 17 1835)*

Capt Gillies traded widely in the East. The **Hibernia** was not an East Indiaman ship, she called at Falmouth in 1835. The first letter quoted implies that he brought some plants for the Fox company. The second implies dried specimens and he is taking them onto London.

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### John St Aubyn / Rev Molesworth St Aubyn

The Molesworth St Aubyns lived at Clowance. They are an old established family and shared in the general culture of garden embellishment at the time.

‘*Agave Americana* ... in the ladies flower garden at Clowance....’  
(*West Briton*, 6<sup>th</sup> October 1837)

‘*Agave Americana* - We understand that this most magnificent and far-famed plant, at Clowance, the seat of Sir John St Aubyn...’  
(*West Briton*, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1837)

### *Camellia*

‘Mr Croft, the gardener at Clowance the seat of the Rev Molesworth St Aubyn...a beautiful bouquet of *Camellia* flowers....There are several places in this county – Trevince and Grove Hill, amongst others where the *Camellia* flowers to perfection out of doors.....’  
(*West Briton*, 19<sup>th</sup> February 1847)

The *Agave americana*, a Mexican plant, may have come to Falmouth, but no evidence was found.

### Francis Molesworth (1818-1846)

Francis Molesworth was the son of Arscott Molesworth and brother of William Molesworth of Pencarrow. He sailed on the **Oriental** September 1839 and settled in Wellington, New Zealand. ‘Among those Cornish accompanying Francis was James Bryant, one of the gardeners at Pencarrow, who collected exotic plants and specimens to send back to Sir William – an early example of a habit which would result in the establishment of some astonishing gardens in Cornwall.’

(*Payton, Philip; Cornish Overseas*, p 96)

Native seeds from New Zealand were sent by Francis Molesworth (to Pencarrow?)  
(*Garden book William Molesworth 1831-54*)

### Robert Lampen d 1849

Robert Lampen was the nephew of John Lampen of Antony 1878. He was Vicar of Probus, Cornwall and minister of St Andrews Chapel, Plymouth.

*The Christian Remembrance Vol 10 p58*

### *Plagianthus Lampenii (Asterotrichion discolor)*

‘This plant was raised about five years ago, by the Rev Robert Lampen, vicar of Probus, near Truro, from some seeds which had been sent him from Van Diemen’s land (Tasmania) of which it is believed to be a native.’

...specimens of it were first communicated to me by Mr Lampen in November 1836 and again in 1837....

(*Lindley J; Edward’s Botanical Register, 1838, Vol 24, No 25, p22, by W Booth.*  
*see also Loudon, JC; The Gardener’s Magazine Vol 19 p 35*)

I have not found a record of how they came to Probus.

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### Robert Fitzroy (1805-1865)

Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> 1836 Capt R Fitzroy of Charles Darwin's expedition on HMS Beagle called at Falmouth and visited Penjerrick the Foxes for tea but all he brought was a brain coral!

(Fox, Caroline; *Memories of Old Friends*)

Interested in Natural History, and breadfruit!

### George Croker Fox

G C Fox opened a shipping office in 1759. The Fox family were shipping agents not owners of ships.

In March 1833 Capt Sutton from Rio de Janeiro presented *Gesnea suttoni* to G C Fox Lindley, *J: Edward's Botanical Register Vol 19, p1637* (See also under Capt Sutton)

In July 1835 G C Fox was congratulated on his acquisition of 'some choice exotics' sent to him by Capt Jenkins of the East India Co at RHSC.

(Loudon, JC; *The Gardener's Magazine 1835 XI p694*)

### John Fox

There is now in flower in the greenhouse of Mr John Fox of Rosevale, near Penzance, a splendid plant of the *Cactus speciossimus*, having on it 73 flowers.

(West Briton Transcriptions 1836-1887, in [freepages.genealogy.roots.web](http://freepages.genealogy.roots.web))

### Robert Were Fox

1871 'R W Fox receives seeds from all quarters and buys anything he thinks will grow at Penjerrick.'

(Pett, D; *H Mills in Parks and Gardens of Cornwall*)

He exhibited some indigenous Plants at the third meeting of the RHSC: *Salvia pratensis*, *Antirrhinum Cymbalaaris* R W Fox, so he was a member of the RHSC

(Loudon, JC, *The Gardener's Magazine Vol 8 p747*)

The Fox Family were shipping agents in Falmouth and as a large family they were the owners of several estates in the vicinity. Anna Maria and Caroline Fox were the initiators of the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society, which encouraged modern technology and activities that would benefit the poorer classes of society. I think they received much the same things as Sir Charles Lemon, but there are, as far as I am aware, very few records. The packet service stopped in 1851, but other ships would still be trading in and out of Falmouth. More research is needed here.

### Edmund & Juliet Backhouse

This pair are members of the Fox Family. They inherited Trebah in 1878.

In 1880 Juliet and Edmund Backhouse took delivery of 300 *tree ferns* 'they were off-loaded onto the Falmouth quayside and shared out between ten of the best gardens in Cornwall'

(Russell, Tony; *Trebah, Garden of Dreams*)

### John Garland Treseder (1841-1923)

The Treseder family were local nurserymen. Three young men went out to Australia in 1857 and opened a nursery there. There were plant exchanges in the family. The Treseders are reputed to

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have brought back tree ferns in the 1880. In 2004 Suzanne Treseder wrote a book about the family history.

‘This list, dated July 1890, has been transcribed from a hand-written shipment ledger from the Sydney nurseries....’ ‘Shipment of plants from Australia, on **SS Ormuz** to A Pendarves Vivian of Bosahan, Helford’

*(Treseder, S; A Passion for Plants, Appendix 1)*

John G Treseder travelled extensively throughout Australia and was responsible for the introduction of many of the hardier Australian plants to our milder gardens, in particular the NSW tree fern (*Dicksonia antarctica*) He also visited several Pacific Islands including Norfolk and Lord Howe. He started an international seed trade and his main clients were seed merchants in Europe and the USA. He returned to Truro in 1897.

*(Treseder, Andrew, Cornish Garden Notebook)*

From 1892 forwards J G Treseder sent *tree ferns* directly from a nursery in Paramatta in NSW to various estate owners in Cornwall and latterly to the nursery at Moresk The trunks arrived by ship at Falmouth. ‘These importations continued up until 1914. The trunks arrived by ship at Falmouth and (so legend has it) were off- loaded onto railway trucks....In the early years of the twentieth century they were a regular item in the Treseder catalogues.’

*(Clench, C; Tree Ferns in Cornwall, Cornwall Garden Society Journal 2008, p72, extracted from Dicksonia antarctica, in Heligan Survivors)*

One of the most likely importers, but note late date. Plants would have come by steamer. More research needs to be done into the Treseder nurseries and their imports. The SS Ormuz sailed into Plymouth.

### John Enys

The Enys family have lived for generations at Enys near Falmouth.

In 1858 John Enys sent *Myostidium hortensia* home to Cornwall. Scene recorded in a painting hung ... at Enys

*(Campbell Culver, Maggie; Origin of Plants, p 375)*

Please see Deirdre Neale and Linda Livingston-Beggs’s notes.

### Charles Darwin

‘He (Darwin) shipped them back to Henslow whenever a sizeable number had accumulated.’ By the time Beagle left South America in early September 1835 Darwin had forwarded 8 consignments of specimens to Henslow at Cambridge. The following record of shipments was gleaned from Darwin’s letters to Henslow and his family.

1 August 1832 Box from Monte Video, Uruguay to Falmouth via **HMS Emulous**

2 November 1832 3 casks and a box from Monte Video to Falmouth via **HMS Duke of York**

3 July 1833 4 barrels from Rio de la Plata, Argentine via unnamed packet

4 November 1833 2 boxes and 1 cask from Monte de Video to Portsmouth via **HMS Samarang**

5 March 1834 seeds in a letter from Falkland Islands to Capt Beaufort in London

6 May 1834 boxes from Buenos Aires, Argentine to Liverpool via **HMS Bassenthwaite** by Ed L

7 January 1835 2 boxes from Valparaiso via **HMS Challenger**

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8 June 1835 2 boxes via **HMS Conway**

Then specimens were kept on the Beagle. Charles Darwin left the Beagle on 2.10.1836 in Falmouth as a passenger for Shrewsbury reaching there on 4.10.1836.

*(The Darwinian heritage ed David Kohn p 986)*

It is necessary to mention him but he is not a local man and is a scientist rather than a horticulturalist. He was interested in scientific specimens, dried, and seeds. He sent them to Henslow at Cambridge, sometimes on a ship coming into Falmouth. He has nothing to do with the establishment of Cornish gardens.

### Canon Arthur Townshend Boscawen 1862-1939

Canon Boscawen was the rector of Ludgvan, near Penzance, and was well known for his garden. He introduced anemones as crop plant in Cornwall.

290 acquisitions, but no plant list.

Plants were sent from New Zealand by Thomas Cheeseman and J H Boscawen (his brother in NZ forestry service set up 1897)

*(Hunkin, J; From a Cornish Bishop's Garden )*

Ludgvan is a late garden. It is probable that any plants came by steamer to London or Southampton, and he got his plants from commercial nurseries.

### Captain H A Boscawen

54<sup>th</sup> NI, Assistant Sec Governor of India

In 1839 he sent 2 plants from Calcutta

October 28 1840 Capt Boscawen sent 18 kinds of plants from Calcutta, via Wallich

*(Report of N Wallich 1840)*

Probably an East India Company ship if they come via N Wallich in Calcutta. If any are going to Tregothnan, Lord Falmouth's residence, it is possible they came directly up the Fal.

### Jovey Carlyon

The Carlyon family own Tregrehan, an estate near St Austell, Cornwall.

Between 1880 and 1894 most of the mature trees were brought back from New Zealand and planted by Jovey Carlyon .

Gilbert Rogers was a Cornish forester based in India at Dehra Dun, NW Provinces.

1894 1<sup>st</sup> July Letter to Jovey Carlyon 'I have sent you a box containing some seeds of **Quercus seme carpifolia** in charcoal ... this oak now stands 25 metres in height at Tregrehan'

*(cornwall maps.org Tregrehan House and Gardens, Discover Cornwall)*

I have not done any research on Tregrehan, but suspect the gardens are late and any plants would have come on an East Indiaman to London, or from New Zealand by steamer and arrived in London.

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### J H Tremayne

John H Tremayne of Heligan was related to Charles Lemon and to Anthony Buller so he probably got the *Cornus* seed from Buller in 1825.

A letter from J H Tremayne to John Hawkins of Trewithen. 4 June 1834, suggests that Hawkins would see *Benthamia fragrifera*, once called *Cornus capitata*. It is flowering now and should still be doing so in June. He has received a medal for the Society for it but 'of which I am most unworthy – it having grown by chance here among a parcel of seeds sent from Nepaul'.

([crocat.cornwall.gov.uk](http://crocat.cornwall.gov.uk) – but a description not a transcription, ref J/3/2/878)

'Mr John Roberts, gardener to JH Tremayne, Esq, of Heligan, St Austle, Cornwall most kindly sent us on December 26, 1833, specimens, bearing ripe fruit, leaves, and flower buds, of this newly introduced and highly interesting hardly evergreen shrub. Mr Roberts is the person who has the happiness to be the first who raised this plant; with whom it flowered for the first time in Europe.'

(Loudon, JC; *The Gardener's Magazine*, p69)

At the third meeting of the RHSC on October 1832 it was recorded that

'The most remarkable plant in the room was a new species of *Cornus*, raised from Nepal seeds, some years ago, in the garden of JH Tremayne Esq at Heligan)

(Loudon, JC; *The Gardener's Magazine Vol 8*, p746)

This is the only plant I have found recorded being received by J H Tremayne, his family connections would mean that he could have received plant material from other local gardens.

### William J Hooker 1785-1865

Plants Mentioned in the *Journal of Botany Vol III, William J Hooker*  
p157

He, Dr Wright, despatched the whole of his collection to Edinburgh...perished in wreck off the Cape of Good Hope, 1823....formed another collection, Vellore, Madras, sent to England by Dr Shuter, through the kindness of Robert Barclay....

p202

Mr Gardner, 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1840 from Ciudad Diamantina, South America Pernambuco, collection sent to Edinburgh, to Pamplin.

p362

The East India Company herbarium of Nathaniel Wallich presented to the Linnean Society.

p442

Rio de Janeiro 18<sup>th</sup> December 1840 from George Gardner. 'My great object will be to get living plants to take home with me ....Rio; a steam boat calls' along the coast.... I have just shipped on board a vessel bound for London, 3 boxes of plants, ....the other living plants for Mr Murray.....

### Joseph Dalton Hooker 1817-1911

He was the son of William J Hooker.

Ros Smith writes 'He went on expeditions to Sikkim and returned with *rhododendron* seed which he sent to Tremough, Carlew, Burncoose and Penjerrick and from there were moved between gardens through family connections, for example Mr Robert Were Fox sent plants from Penjerrick to Glendurgan and Trebah.'

(Smith, Ros; *The Origins of Cornwall's Historic Plants. The Cornish Garden, Journal No 51* 2008, p10)

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Date of Sikkim expedition 1847-1851 (Fox, Charles; *Glendurgan: A personal memoir of a garden in Cornwall*, Alison Hodge, 2004, p63.)

The Hookers, father and son, were the great men, with John Lindley, RHS, of the horticultural world at the time. William Hooker was Professor of Botany at Glasgow and then became Director of Kew. Joseph inherited his father's position. They both went on plant hunting expeditions, sent out plant hunters and corresponded with all the people interested in horticulture, both scientifically and gardening. But it is highly unlikely that they imported anything through Falmouth.

### Miscellaneous

HMS **Seringapatam** 20.3.1851 called into Falmouth and landed mails from Bombay 4.11.1851 arr Bombay from London.

(*London Shipping Gazette: historic-shipping.co.uk*)

**Camellia Reticulata 'Capt Rawes'** named after the Captain of the **Warren Hastings** brought from China in 1820 to Tregothnan.

(*Great Gardens of Cornwall* by Tim Hubbard)

**Oncidium triquetrum altissimum** from Jamaica, introduced from West Indies 1793.

1793 **Antelope** under Captain Kempthorne 41 days from Falmouth.

(*Royal Gazette Jamaica May 25<sup>th</sup> 1793*)

The **Antelope** left on June 11<sup>th</sup>

(*Royal Gazette Jamaica June 15<sup>th</sup> 1793*)

**HMS Providence** 1791-1792, Capt Bligh and Breadfruit

(*Wiles, J & Smith, C; Voyage of the Plant Nursery*)

Capt Bligh sailed from Jamaica on June 4<sup>th</sup> 1793 and 'we learn that, independent of the breadfruit; and other plants from the South Seas, and the collection of St Vincent plants, made by Dr Anderson, there are on board for the Kew Gardens near 1,000 plants, natives of this island; the greater part of them such as have never been introduced into any garden in England.'

(*Royal Gazette Jamaica June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1793*)

In the 1762 *Flora Anglica* William Glasson of Penzance writes of the clustering of non-native species growing near ports such as Falmouth...

(*Cornish Garden Society Journal 2011. Campbell-Culver, M; Cataloguing the World, p37*)

Seeds of **Ipomoea obata** from Sydney to J W Hunkin

**Akebia quinata** from the Far East to C Doughty in the Falmouth area

(*Hunkin, JW; From a Cornish Bishop's Garden*)

**Sisyrinchium odoratissimum, no 1283**

Capt King on board a HM discovery ship from South America, probably the HMS **Adventure**, survey vessel, 1826-1830. Charts were sent from Falmouth by South American packet to King.

(*Lindley, J; Edward's Botanical Register Vol 15, 1829/Wikipedia, Australian Dictionary of Biography/ Webb, Adrian; Troze, Sept 2009, Vol 1, no 5*)

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### Tresco Abbey Gardens

Plants were sent to Tresco from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, to establish Augustus Smith's (1834-1858) collection of exotics in his garden arriving by boat.

*(Hubbard Tim, The Great Gardens of Cornwall)*

An article from the Plymouth Journal notes the arrival at Falmouth of a consignment of rare and valuable trees from Carthage sent by Edward Watts for RBG Kew, including the *Bejuco de Guaco*, *Amaryllis longifolia* and *Canna coccinea* which were in excellent condition. Nine palms arrived in a doubtful state and two plants in a poor state.

By the ship **Plover** from Carthage a considerable shipment of plants for RBGT Kew have been received.

*(Press cutting from William Hamilton to WJ Hooker, 29.10.1829, Director's correspondence, Kew DC/66/93a)*

**Plover** is a packet ship (Naval brig) based in Falmouth under Captain William Dowbey in 1828.

*(Robertson, AW; A History of the Ship Letters of the British Isles, 1688-1850, B2/A)*

## 4. Research Notes on One or Two Items of Interest

### Rio de Janeiro Botanical Gardens

These were designed in 1808 by order of Jao VI of Portugal with tea plantations in mind. They were opened to the public in 1822. Friar Leandro, Professor to the Academy of Medicine and Science, was appointed to them in 1824. In 1861 they were transferred to the Imperial Agricultural Institute of Rio de Janeiro, as a practical school. In 1890 Joao Barbosa Rodrigues, a scientific man, ran a herbarium, a library and a museum there.

*(Wikipedia)*

### Calcutta Botanical Gardens

The gardens were founded by East India Company in 1787 by Colonel Robert Kyd intending to establish 'a botanical Garden, not for the Purpose of collecting rare plants....but for establishing a stock for the disseminating such articles as may be beneficial and....tend to the extension of the National Commerce and Riches.' As a consequence there was a concentration on 'use' plants. Nathaniel Wallich arrived in 1807, in 1815 he was appointed Acting Superintendent. He carried on a correspondence with William Hooker (the letters are in Directors Correspondence at Kew) The Gardens were open to the public and a criticism of them was that they were a pleasure garden, and informally designed.

*Information taken from an article by the School of Oriental and African Studies, by Richard Axelby 2008 in Archives of Natural History 35(1) 150-163, 2008*

### Veitch Nurseries

The Veitch nurseries were run by several generations of the Veitch family. John Veitch, from Jedburgh, was employed by Sir Thomas Acland of Killerton in 1808. James Veitch, his son, bought in 1832 ground at Mount Radford, Exeter. He established a successful nursery business, employing William and Thomas Lobb as plant hunters in 1840 and in 1843. In 1853 Mr Veitch

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bought an establishment in Chelsea and from then on the Veitch nurseries enjoyed great success selling exotics in particular and employing a number of plant hunters under contract.

*(Veitch, James H; Hortus Veitchii)*

### William Broad and Sons

Mr W Broad, d 1853, founder of the firm of shipping agents and merchants in Falmouth, formerly a Commander in the Mercantile Marine and a member of the old Levant or Turkey Company. His vessels, **Pelican** and **Phoenix**, were selected as repeating ships in all convoys, entitled to a pennant, crew protected from impressment. Gold medal of RNLI for rescuing passengers and crew of Larch, wrecked in Falmouth, 7<sup>th</sup> January 1828.

*(cornwall england newspaper West Briton August 1853 Deaths)*

William Broad, shipping agent.

*(Mitchell Noon, J; Troze, Honest Jack Parsons, Vol 6, No 1, March 2015)*

## Magazines

### Curtis's Botanical Magazine

1787 - 1801 The Botanical Magazine or the Flower Garden Displayed  
1801 Curtis's Botanical Magazine Editor John Sims  
1827 Series 2 Ed Samuel Curtis, descriptions by W J Hooker  
1845 Series 3 Ed WJ Hooker  
1881 Ceased until revived as the Kew Magazine in 1984

### The Gardener's Magazine and Register of Rural and Domestic Improvement

Title variants: Gardener's magazine; Loudon's Gardener's magazine; Register of rural and domestic improvements

by John Claudius Loudon, 1783-1843, FLS, HS Etc

1826 11 volumes in first series

1835 New Series, Vol 1

1843 End

### Edward's Botanical Register

It was started in 1815 by Sydenham Edwards and known as The Botanical Register

1819 Death of S Edwards

1820-1828 Published by James Ridgway

1829 Editor John Lindley 1799-1865 and called Edward's Botanical Register

1847 Discontinued

1839 John Lindley issued An Appendix to the First 23 Volumes

Catharine English, November 2017

# Garden History Project: Imports of Exotic Plants into Falmouth 1750-1900

## Report on findings: East India Company

### The Honourable East India Company

The records of The Honourable East India Company Service (HEICS) are now housed at the British Library in Euston, London. The Company was established in the year 1600 as a joint-stock association of English merchants who received, by a series of charters, exclusive rights to trade in the 'Indies'. The 'Indies' were defined as the lands lying between the Cape of Good Hope and the Straits of Magellan. Over the next two and a half centuries the Company grew to become the largest trading company the World has ever seen.

In 1833 the monopoly of the East India Company had on trade with the Far East was broken. Trade was opened up to competition and within a couple of years the great ships that had ploughed the seas under the East India Company's flag were either scrapped or continued as private merchantmen. The Company finally folded in 1857.

After the Company ceased trading and India House was demolished many tons of records were destroyed. Despite the destruction we are most fortunate that records covering the government of India, amounting to over 10 miles of shelves plus 70,000 volumes of official publications and 105,000 manuscripts and maps still survive. Amongst these records are many hundreds of ships' logs, journals, ledgers and paybooks. The vast majority of them have not been copied and virtually none of them transcribed. This website ([www.eicships.info](http://www.eicships.info)) is therefore a rare opportunity to access the contents of these magnificent tomes, with their windows into a world of everyday life on board a few of these ships.

NORTHAMPTON	Voyage to Bombay and Bengal under Captain Barker, log and journal.	12 Jul 1801 to 18 Apr 1803	<a href="#">h18</a>
GANGES	Voyage to India and China under Captain Thomas Talbot Harrington, log and journal, Imprest Book, Absence Book & List of those on board	14 Jan 1805 to 29 May 1807	<a href="#">h26</a>
EARL ST VINCENT	Voyage to Bombay under Captain Charles Jones, log and journal	9 Jan 1806 to 8 Sep 1807	<a href="#">h23</a>
HUDDART	Voyage to Bombay under Captain Thomas Gabriel Baycliff, log and journal	10 Mar 1806 to 6 Oct 1807	<a href="#">h16</a>
NORTHAMPTON	Voyage to Madras and Bengal under Captain Sanders, log and journal	4 Jul 1807 to 2 Feb 1809	<a href="#">h17</a>
LORD KEITH	Voyage to Calcutta under Captain Campbell, log and journal	29 Jan 1810 to 28 Oct 1811	<a href="#">h14</a>

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JULIANA	Voyage to Batavia under Captain Rawes, log, journal and ledger,	12 Mar 1812 to 15	<u>h8</u>
pay book	Sep 1813		
WARREN HASTINGS	Voyage to China under Captain Rawes, log and journal	13 Mar 1815 to 11 Jul 1816	<u>h9</u>
WARREN HASTINGS	Voyage to China under Captain Rawes, log and journal	25 Jan 1819 to 28 Jul 1820	<u>h10</u>
WARREN HASTINGS	Voyage to China under Captain Rawes, log and journal	24 Feb 1823 to 13 Jul 1824	<u>h11</u>
WARREN HASTINGS	Voyage to China under Captain Rawes, log and journal	4 Mar 1825 to 25 Jul 1826	<u>h12</u>
VANSITTART	Voyage to China under Captain Dalrymple, log and journal	15 Dec 1826 to 11 Jul 1828	<u>h19</u>
REPULSE	Voyage to Madras, Bengal and China under Captain Gribble, log and journal	4 Jan 1831 to 21 Apr 1832	<u>h22</u>

The ships shown all made their way to the HEICs warehouses at Blackwall via The Downs, with very few stops on the way. The Huddart made landfall at Start Point and stopped at Portland to land mail and a passenger. The Northampton made landfall at Guernsey and also stopped off Portland. The Lord Keith made landfall at the Isles of Scilly and landed at Portsmouth and Deal. All the Warren Hastings went directly to The Downs. Captain Rawes made no lists of his passengers on any of his voyages. The Vansittart picked up a Pilot 50 miles SSW of Lands End. The mind boggles at the idea of a Pilot hanging around off Bishop Rock awaiting for a ship to guide on up The Channel.

### Plants from China

Although Captain Rawes' main cargo would have been tea, he was also involved in bringing new varieties of plants back to England, notably Camellias, for his sister Elizabeth Palmer and brother-in-law Thomas Carey Palmer. The Palmers were plant collectors and lived at The Oakery, a large house near Bromley, Kent, and within a short distance of the Rawes Academy, the home of Richard Rawes' father and brother.

## **Garden History Project: Imports of Exotic Plants into Falmouth 1750-1900**

In 1820 Captain Rawes was responsible for introducing the 'Camellia reticulata' from Canton into England. The plant was subsequently named 'Captain Rawes' in his honour. He is also credited with bringing in the plant 'Primula sinensis'. It does seem that he made his way directly to his father's house on arriving at Blackwall and passed his finds to his sister. He seems a very one track sort of man.

### **Plants into Falmouth**

Specimens could arrive...General Post Office's maritime service packets...some captains brought in specimens in addition to their postal duties.

Captain Sutton, 1833, on the packet ship Stanmer, sponsored by Sir Charles Lemon of Carclew, brought *Gesneria suttoni*, from near Rio de Janeiro.

Orchideicious collection, plants to Sir Charles Lemon and George Croker Fox, Esq of Grove Hill. The Packet Seagull in 1843 carried plants sent from Panama to Exeter via Falmouth for Veitch, sent by William Lobb. The Lobb family used to work for Sir Charles Lemon.

1835 some choice exotics to George Croker Fox were sent by Captain Jenkins, The Honourable East India Company Service (HEICS), according to the minutes of the Royal Horticultural Society of Cornwall (RHSC). Captain Jenkins was on HEICS City of London.

March and April 1838 Delivery of plants and seeds from John Rule, superintendent of the Real del Monte Mine in Mexico, possibly by packet ship Seagull which traded with Mexico, Belize, Tampico, Vera Cruz and Havana to Falmouth.

May 1839 Captain Jenkins sent Sir Charles Lemon live specimens from India and a request for plants from either south America or the West Indies (RHSC, Royal Cornwall Gazette, Falmouth Packet and Plymouth Journal 31 May 1839)

May 1841 Captain Jenkins supplied RHSC with seeds of *Camellia sinensis*, that is tea plants from Assam.

### **Megan Oldcorn's article Falmouth's Great Gardens of Empire.**

John Parsons, 28.04.1851, Captain of the Packet Ship Seagull, was known to be keen on bringing back plants. The ships came from Rio de Janeiro.

6.12.1847 the Seagull came to Falmouth from Madeira, Teneriffe, Pernambuco, Bahia, Rio de Janeiro.

Captain John Parsons, Captain of the Packet ship Crane brought mails from Brazil and £10,000 of freight on 29.12.1850.

### **Honest Jack Parsons by Dr J Mitchell Noon**

Exotic plants were being brought successfully to Blackwall, London at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The principal route was through the East India Company which was importing tea from India and China as a result of the rising popularity for drinking tea.

As a result of his travels with Captain Cook in the Endeavour as surgeon and botanist, Joseph Banks (1743-1820) brought back live plants which he managed to grow in his London garden. He interested King George in his collection of exotic plants and as a result was made Curator of

## **Garden History Project: Imports of Exotic Plants into Falmouth 1750-1900**

Kew. He was a key person in the successful import of plants from China. The popularity among the wealthy grew for growing exotic plants, and the import of live plants became more successful. As a result of plants collected by plant hunters in China being grown on in nurseries in Canton (Whampoa) and then shipped home by East India ships, either in a special cabin looked after by a gardener or in Wardian boxes. Actual requests for specific plants were sent to resident Supercargoes (Trade Negotiators) in Canton. At this time the success, propagation and hybridisation of the plants depended on the skills of gardeners and plant nurseries in and around London, Kew and members of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS).

This is prior to the development of the great gardens of Carclew and Glendurgan in Cornwall. However whilst I could not find evidence from those logs of the East India Company ships that have been published, the East India Country ships did deliver cargo to ports around England departing from London and they could have brought plants to Sir Charles Lemon and George Croker Fox in Falmouth. The Fox family were at the beginning most interested in the import of fruit and vegetables. Lemons, pears, sweet oranges and apricots could be grown outside in the mild climate. They also employed skilled gardeners, one of whom managed to germinate a hundred seeds from Joseph Hooker's plant hunting expedition to Sikkim in 1849.

Outstanding possible research: cargo manifests for HEICS Country ships which may have called and brought plants to Sir Charles Lemon and George Croker Fox. How were 3,000 exotic plants delivered to G C Fox. By ship, or by cart before the railways were built?

### **The Carnatic East Indiaman under Captain Connor 1793**

*Camellia Japonica*, var. flore albo pleno

'First imported from China about the year 1793, by Capt Connor of The Carnatic, East Indiaman, for the gardens of the late J Slater, Esq, a gentleman of most indefatigable spirit, for the introduction of new plants to this kingdom; indeed it is to him we owe most of the plants received from China within these few years; he having procured a catalogue do be printed of all the described Chinese plants...the finest plants in this kingdom, of the double white *Camellia*, are now in the collection of Sir Joseph Banks...'

**Andrew, MC, Botanist Repository for New and Rare Plants, Vol 1-2, Plate XXV, Class XVI, *Camellia Japonica***

*Magnolia pumila* from China

To J Slater of Leytonstow 'one of that rich cargo brought home in The Carnatic for him by Capt Connor in 1793'.

**Bretschneider, Emil; History of European Discoveries in China, p 215, see also Botanical Magazine 1977 1806.**

These are not being imported through Falmouth. The Carnatic in 1791 went from Portsmouth to Madras and China and returned to The Long Reach on the Thames on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1792.

## Garden History Project: Imports of Exotic Plants into Falmouth 1750-1900

### References:

Anthony Farrington, Catalogue of East India Company's Journals and Logs 1600-1834  
[www.eicships.info](http://www.eicships.info).

Megan Oldcorn, Falmouth's Great Gardens of Empire: Wealth and Power in Nineteenth Century Horticulture, TROZE, NMMC.

Dr J Mitchell Noon, Honest Jack Parsons

Robert Fitzroy Voyages with Charles Darwin in the Beagle (1836 Falmouth)

Joseph Banks Voyage with Captain Cook in the Endeavour

Jane Kilpatrick, Gifts from the Gardens of China, p81f in particular. ISBN 13 978-0-7112-2630-2)

Captain Rawes, Log of the Warren Hastings

Captain Robert Welbank, family, on Google

Royal Navy [www.phenyon-plus.com](http://www.phenyon-plus.com)

The Nautical Magazine December 1834,

A journal of papers on Falmouth Packets.

<https://packet-ships-from-south-america-to-falmouth-1834>

### Conclusion

Plants from India and China seem to have been shipped directly to London, then to Kew, to nurseries or private gardens where they were propagated. They became fashionable. It seems that they did not arrive in Cornwall until later, when mining was profitable and gardens developed. Prior to the development of the railways plants would have come either by carrier, by packet ship, country ship or privately sponsored ship. Seeds could have been sent by packet ship directly to Falmouth, particularly from the Americas. As yet we have not been able to track down any records of plants being delivered direct to Falmouth, apart from the Beagle and some packet ships, although there are references to many ships trading into Falmouth

John and Janet Pearce, November 2017

# Garden History Project: Imports of Exotic Plants into Falmouth 1750-1900

## Report on findings: Enys

### Enys Estate

The Enys estate, near Penryn, has been occupied by the Enys family since the 13<sup>th</sup> century. In the early 1830s John Samuel Enys (1796 -1872)<sup>1</sup> commissioned Henry Harrison to redesign the house and garden and continued to improve the house and gardens over the next decades<sup>2</sup>.

John Samuel Enys had three sons and on his death Francis (Frank) Enys (1836 – 1906) inherited the estate. In 1906 the estate was inherited by his brother, John Davies (JD) Enys.

Today the garden at Enys is famous for the swathes of bluebells that appear in the spring. The garden is being renovated. In a presentation to a small group in May 2017 the head gardener at Enys stated that John Davies Enys had planted a New Zealand garden at Enys using plants obtained during his time in New Zealand. However, she also stated that she had not found any information on where in the garden the New Zealand garden had been placed nor what plants it had contained.

### Early findings

It is well known that John Davies Enys spent three decades in New Zealand (see overleaf). Information was also sought on members of the Enys Family who spent time overseas and may have sent plants or plant materials to the United Kingdom.

Valentine Enys (1653 – 1719), the third son of Samuel Enys, was a merchant in Penryn. In 1709 he wrote to Charles Dyer for seed of the Retamas that grow in the Canadas and also sought lenanuel seed from Orotava<sup>3</sup>. No record has been found that he received them and this is earlier than the target period for the project. [Retama is *Retama cytisus rubigenus*, the mountain broom. Lenanuel is Lena Noel, the rosewood tree native to the Canaries.]

John Enys (1757 – 1818) was an ensign in the Army in Quebec, Vermont and New York, returning in 1782, then again to Ontario and travels to the US East Coast. No evidence of plant collecting has been found in his letters home. An additional source may be his extensive journals held at the Cornish Record Office<sup>4</sup> but nothing has been found to suggest that he imported seeds or other plant material.

### John Davies Enys (1837 – 1912)

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<sup>1</sup> Dates of birth and death and positions within the Enys family are taken from the Enys family tree on the Enys family archive web site.

<sup>2</sup> Web site of Enys Garden

<sup>3</sup> Letter book of Valentine Enys Cornish Record Office EN/968

<sup>4</sup> EN/1799

## Garden History Project: Imports of Exotic Plants into Falmouth 1750-1900

On 16<sup>th</sup> April 1861 John Davies Enys departed on the Chrysolite and he arrived in Lyttelton, New Zealand in July 1861. After working with J B A Acland and his cousin Charles Tripp to learn about sheep farming he, with his brother Charles who had come to join him, took over Castle Hill sheep station<sup>5</sup>. He continued to pursue his interest in natural science and travelled collecting specimens. His interests were varied and in addition to flora his interests included fauna, geology and fossils.

During his stay in New Zealand J D Enys made several return journeys to England. When Charles fell ill and returned to England, John followed him home in 1891.

The following notes are taken mainly from “J D G Enys: An Early Patron of New Zealand Science”<sup>6</sup>. This article refers extensively to letters home by John Davies and Charles Enys which are held in the Canterbury Museum, New Zealand and to letters to the Enys brothers held in the Alexander Turnbull Library of the National Library of New Zealand. Some further searching of the Turnbull Library may be available on line at [natlib.govt.nz](http://natlib.govt.nz) but at this stage that has not been pursued.

- 1861 J D Enys refers to flax “especially in any damp part, so that it ought to grow in the marsh below the pond” at Enys.
- 1861 The tree fern (probably *Dicksonia Antarctica*) that he saw at Akaroa he considered “the most striking thing I have ever seen” – he determined to send specimens home. No information is given of route or arrival. However, given their size and spread, the *Dicksonia* below the ponds at Enys are from plantings of this period.
- 1863 Cabbage Palm 25 feet; noted growing in Akaroa, South Island (In 1874, J D Enys wrote to his sister in Cornwall that he was glad to hear one of the Cabbage Trees is alive and ten feet high). Collected new fern species “altogether between 50 and 60, there being about 116 in the islands”
- 1869 J D Enys dispatched tree ferns for Enys along with fossils on board ship *Mataoka* bound for London. The *Mataoka* was lost at sea.
- 1881 Seeds for the Chatham lily sent by J D Enys to botanist Marianne North at Kew.
- 1882 Discovery of “moonwort” the Fern *Botrychium lunaria* - rare in New Zealand. Not brought home.  
Two plants named for Enys: *Ranunculus enysii* & *Gingidia enysii* var. Not recorded as brought home.
- 1887/8 Shipped live sample of *Ranunculus lyelli* to Kew” “planted in our bog...in the rockery” presumably at Kew; also *Dracophyllum traversii* was sent to Kew.
- 1891 J D Enys returned home, bringing the Mountain Beech. This and the Manuka and *Pittisporum tennifolium* thrived at Enys - “among numerous representatives of New Zealand”
- 1893 The Chatham Island Forget-me-not was recorded and photographed flowering at Enys. By 1901 both the blue and the white varieties are reported as present.

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<sup>5</sup> Starke, June. ‘Enys, John Davies’ first published in the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography; volume 2 2010.

<sup>6</sup> Star, Paul, December 1992

## Garden History Project: Imports of Exotic Plants into Falmouth 1750-1900

J D Enys had extensive contacts with others interested in the natural sciences and with Kew. In addition to plants imported direct from New Zealand, it is probable that he obtained plants from other gardens, nurseries and botanic gardens such as Kew.

In some published articles<sup>7</sup> it is stated that J D Enys imported plants from Patagonia as well as from New Zealand. No information on the route is given nor is it clear when the imports took place.

Charles Enys did not have the same interest in natural sciences as his brother and there is no information to suggest that he sent home any plants.

### Conclusion

JD Enys has a reputation as an avid collector, of anything, not especially plants. His collections are in museums in New Zealand, Cornwall and London. Though it does seem he brought or sent a number of New Zealand plants to Enys, there is no information on route, and in this period ships would have been bound for London or Southampton. In the case of the Mataoka which was lost at sea it is known that the intended destination was London<sup>8</sup>. There is no suggestion, still less evidence they would have paused or unloaded anything at Falmouth.

Deirdre Neale

November 2017



Transcribed by Linda Livingstone Beggs

**Please note:-** The text and *handwritten notes (shown in italic)* are indistinct in places on the copy list being used for transcription. Where there is serious uncertainty about the characters these are omitted. The omissions are indicated as symbols [.]. The majority of the handwritten notes were additions in 1907.

The gardens fell into disuse in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and little remains of the original planting. Deidre Neale reported the small contributions of JD Enys himself, so the supposition must be that the remainder were sourced from upcountry nurseries (Veitch etc) and Kew as we have found in other contemporary gardens.

This exhaustive list is included for its own interest, and to assist anyone wishing to probe further.

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<sup>7</sup> Champion, Barry "Enys Gardens under Restoration" Cornwall Gardens Trust. Also leaflet issue by Enys Trust.

<sup>8</sup> Shields Daily News Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 1870

## Garden History Project: Imports of Exotic Plants into Falmouth 1750-1900

1_ ARUNDINARIA - Simonii	BAPTISIA - Australis	BUDDLEIA	-Colvillei
“ nobilis	BENTHAMIA - Fragifera	“	globosa
“ fortunei variegata	B[.] - Corralina BERBERIS -	“	Lindleyana
ARUNDO - Conspicua	Aquifolium	BUDDLEIA	variabilis
“ jubalum	“ Wallichiana	CALLUNA = LING-	
“ macrophylla glauca	“ Darwinii	“	vulgaris
ASPHODELUS - Ramocus alba	“ Nepal[.]	CALCEOLARIA -	Violacea
ASTER - Acris - Viminens	“ hypolenca *	CALLA = ARUM-	
“ patens Cassiope	“ lyceum	“	Richardia
“ grandiflora	“ Verescens	“	æthiopia
“ plavmicoides	“ macrocarpa	CALLISTEMON	-Florida
“ argophyllus Musk	“ Thunbergi	“	speciosus
Lace	“ vulgaris	CALTHA	-Palustris, Fl.pl.
ASH - See Fraxinus	BIRCH = BETULA -	“	radicans
ASTRANTIA - Major	“ alba	CALYCANTHUS - Flori[.]	
ATRIPLEX - Hortensis	“ pendula	“	occidentalis
“ atrosanguinea	“ papyrifera	CAMELLIA	-Donckelaari
ATHROTAXIS - Imbricata	BIDENS -Striata	“	simplici alba
“ laxifolia doniana	“ atrosanguinea	“	theifera = Tea
ANOMETHECA - Cruenta	BERGAMOT - See Mentha	“	reticulata
AUBRETIA - Campbelli	BIGNONIA - Tecoma Radicans	“	various
AUCUBA - Himalaica	“ Brachyglottis repanda	“	Sasanque dbl
“ japonica	BOCCONIA	“	“ alba
“ viridis	BOX = BUXUS	Buck Thorn see	
AZALEA - Obtusa	B[.] Palmata	Hippo Castanopsis	
“ alba	x Cornus Capitata	Chrysophyllaphæ + Rhamnus	
“ Indiaii var.	Banana Japonica	Integrefolie /07	
“ mollis “	Bambusa Fastuosa	Lady Humes Blush	
“ Ghent “	Berberis	Gauntletti /07	
“ fragrans	Atropurpurea	4_ CAMPANULA -	-Pumila
“ amoena	Stenophylla	“	capitata
“ flavum	Purpurea /07	“	perscisifolia
Atriplex Can[.]	Grandiflora	“	alba, Fl.pl.
Fraxinus [.] /07	3_ BROOM -Spartium	“	various
Ormus /07	BUCK BEAN - See Menyanthes trifolata	CANNA	-Various
Calycifolia /07	BROUSSONETIA -Papyrifera	CAREX	- Secta
Victoria Regina /07	BUPHTHALMUM =TELEKIA	CARMICHAELIA	-Australis
2_ AZARA - Microphylla	“ speciosissimum	“	flagelliformis
ADONIS - [.]	BUTCHER'S BROOM - See Ruscus	CARYOPTERIS	Mastacanthu
“ [.]		CATALPA	-Syringæfolia
ANOPTERIS - Glandulosa		CORCHORUS = KERRIA-	
CANDYTUFT = IBERIS-			
CARPENTERIA - Californica			

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CARPINUS	- Hornbeam	BRIDGESIA	-Spicata	CORDYLINE	-Australis
"	betulus	CHEILANTHUS	-Alpina	"	indivisa
CARYA = HICKORY-		"	various	"	Smithii
"	alba	CHIMONANTHUS	-Fragrans	Sanguinea	CORNUS -
CASSIA	-Marylandica	CHINODOXA	-Lucilia	"	florida
CASTANEA = CHESTNUT-		"	sardensis	"	elegantissima
"	vesca	CHIOSYA	-Ternata	COROKIA	<del>Buddleoides</del>
CEANOTHUS	-Veitchii	CHRYSOBACTRON -	<i>See Anthericum</i>	CORONILLA	-Emerus
"	Glorie de	CLEMATIS	-Davidiana	CORYDALIS	-Aurea
Versailles		"	cirrhusa	<i>Clianthus puniceus</i>	
		"	montana	"	"
CEDRUS = CEDAR -	deodara	"	Jackmani	<i>Cocas Australis</i>	
"	atlantica	"	various	<i>Cordyline</i>	
"	lebanon	CLETHRA	<del>-Arboreus</del>	<i>atropurpurea</i>	
CENTAUREA	-Dealbata	"	alnifolia	<i>Cornus Mas</i>	
CERASTIUM	-	"	<i>Canescens</i>	<i>[.Kousa] variegata</i>	
Tomentosum		"	<i>Celmisia Munroi</i>	<i>Spathea</i>	
CERCIDIPHYLLUM	-Japonicum		<i>Cæsalpinia</i>	<i>Florida</i>	
<i>Johanes Lavender [.]</i>			<i>Japonica</i>	<i>Capitata</i>	
<i>Blue Spirea</i>			<i>Montana Rubens</i>	<i>Banksii</i>	
<i>Azureus /07</i>			<i>/ 07</i>	<i>Cotoneaster /07</i>	
<u>5.</u>	<i>J.H.Veitch</i>		<i>Clerodendron</i>	<i>Macrocarpa</i>	
		6. CHIONANTHUS	<i>Trichotomum</i>	7. CORYLOPSIS	-Spicata
CERASUS	-Azorica	"	-Virginic	"	pauciflora
"	padus	CITRUS	retusus	CORYLUS	-Avellana
"	avium	CLIVIA	-Trifoliata	"	purpurea
multiplex		COLCHICUM	-See <i>Imantophyllum</i>	"	golden
"	laurocerasus	COLLETIA	-Autumnale	COTONEASTER	-Frigida
"	caucasion	COLLUTEA	-Cruciata	"	Buxifolia
"	angustifolium	CONVALLARIA	-Arborescens	"	microphylla
"	nobilis	"	-Majalis	"	Simonsii
"	Watereri	"	rubra	"	thymifolis
"	lusitanica	CINNAMONUM	-Comphora	"	<i>pannosa</i>
myrtifolia		CISTUS	-Laurifolium v <i>maculatus</i>	CRATÆGUS = HAWTHORN-	
CERATONIA	-Siliqua	"	lusitanicus	"	oxacanthus
CERCIS	-Canadensis	"	undulatum	"	coccinea, Fl.pl.
CESTRUM	-Elegans	"	salviafolia	"	precox
"	aurantiacum	"	florentinus	"	pauls crimson
"	fasciculatum	"	crispa x	DRIMYS	-Aromatica
<i>[.]</i>		<i>Ladaniferous</i>			
CHAMÆROPS	-Excelsa	CONVOLVULUS-Cneorum			
"		CONANDRON	-Ramondioides		
CRATOEUGUS	crus-galli	"	-alba		
		COREOPSIS	-Grandiflora		

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“	punica	CYTISUS	scoparius	DAPHNIPHYLLUM	-Glaucescens
“	rosea	“	capitatus	DIOSPYROS	-Kaki
“	<i>Lalandii</i>	EUCRYPHIA	ardoini	DIMORPHOTHECA	-Eckloni
CRINUM	-Moorei	<i>Cytisus proliferus</i>		DESMODIUM	-Canadense
“	amabile	<i>Irish Heath</i>		DENDROMECON	-Rigidum
“	Powellii alba	<i>Davidia involucrata</i>		DICHROA	-Febrifuga
“	“	<i>Sieboldii</i>		EDWARDSIA	-Tetraptera
coccinea		<i>discolor purpureum</i>		“	grandiflora
CRYPTOMERIA	-Elegans			ELEAGNUS	-Japonica glabra
“	japonica	CHELONE	-Various	“	aurea marginata
CUPHEA	-Melvilla	DABÆCIA	-Polifolia alba	ELDER	- See <i>Sambucus</i>
CUPRESSUS	-Macrocarpa	DAPHNE	-Blagayana x <i>Cneorum</i>	ELM - See <i>Ulnus</i>	
“		“	mezereum	EMBOTHRIUM	-Coccineum
“	lutea	“	“ alba	EPIMEDIUM	-Pinnatum
“	Lambertiana	“	lauriola	“	-musschianum
“	Lawsoniana	“	pontica	ERANTHIS	-Hiemalis
“		“	indica alba	ERCILLA -See [.]	
sempervirens		“	“ rubra	EREMURUS	-Himalaicus
<i>Coprosma Baueriana</i>		“		ERICA	-Stricta
<i>Correa Virens</i>		DELPHINIUM	-Various	“	herbacea
<i>Carnea grandiflora</i>		DESFONTAINIA	-Spinosa	“	codonodes
<i>Vitricolsa</i>		DEUTZIA	-Gracilis	“	vagans
<i>Speciosa Mayor</i>		“	<i>n Rosea</i>	“	carnea
<i>Bicolor</i>		“	Lemoinei	“	mediteranea
<i>Pieta Superba</i>		“	crenata, Fl.pl.	“	<i>Arborea</i>
<i>Crinodendron</i>			scabra	“	<i>Scoparia</i>
<i>Hookeri</i>		DIANTHUS	-Various	“	<i>Australis</i>
<i>Dependens [.]</i>		DICENTRA	-Spectabilis		<i>Iranovaal Margerite</i>
<i>Cratægus</i>		DICKSONIA	-Antarctica		<i>Eleagnus Macrophyllum</i>
<i>Orientalis Sanguinea</i>		<i>Diervilla Floribunda</i>			<i>Carnea hybrida / 07</i>
8.		<i>Syn Weigela</i> “			10. <i>Erig Coulteri</i>
CYDONIA	Japonica	<i>Cypripedicum</i>		ERIGERON	-Mucrona[.]
“	alba	<i>Spectabilis</i>		ERIOBOTRYA	-Japonica
“	Maulei	<u>9.</u> DIGATALIS	Purpurea	ERYNGIUM	-Alpinum
CYRTANTHUS	-Alba	“	various	“	amethystinum
CYTISUS	-Racemosus	DIANTHUS	-Barbatus	“	pandanifolium
“	laburnum spectabilis	DORONICUM	-Caucasicum	ERYTHRINA	-Crista-galli
“	<i>Racemiflora</i>	DIPLOPAPPUS	-Chrysophylla	ERYTHRONIUM	-Albiden
“	alpinum	DICTAMNUS	-Fraxinella	ESCALLONIA	-Rubra
“	<i>Acaule</i>	DICTAMNUS	-Fraxinella alba	macranth	
“	<i>Cyrilla</i>			GREVILLEA	-Alpina
ESCALLONIA	montividiensis	FRAXINUS	pendula	“	rosmarynifolia
“	michophylla				

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“	fœtidus	“	sorbus aucuparia	“	Freissii
EUCALYPTUS	-Coccifera	FREMONTIA	-Californica	GUNNERA	-Scabra
globulus		FREESIA	-Refracta	“	manicata
“	resinifera &	FRITILLARIA	-Various	GYNERIUM	-Argenteum
<i>various</i>		FUCHSIA	-Fulgens	GYPSOPHILA	-Paniculata
EUCRYPHIA	-Pinnatifolia	“	splendens	GINKGO	-Biloba
EUGENIA	-Apiculata	“	gracilis	GOMPHOCARPUS — F[.]	
“	ugni	“	globosa	GRAPE HYACINTH - <i>See Muscari</i>	
EUONYMUS	-Japonica	“	riccartoni	<i>Gladiolus .Principi</i>	
“	aurea	“	procumbens	13. GRISTIANA	-Littoralis
variegata		“	coccinea	“	macrophylla
“	albo “	“	michophylla	GAURA	-Lindheimeri
“	radicans	FUNKIA	-Grandiflora	HABROTHAMNUS - <i>See Cest[.]</i>	
“	europæus	“	Sieboldiana	HALESIA	-Tetraptera
EURYA	-Angustifolia	“	“ “	HAMAMELIS	-Arborea
“	latifolia	variety		HAZEL - <i>See Corylus</i>	
EURYBIA - <i>See Olearia</i>		FATSIA - <i>See Aralia</i>		HEDERA =IVY -	
EUPATORIUM	-Riparum	<i>Fagus Cliffortioides</i>		“	alba
EXOCHORDA	-Alberti	<i>F Macrophilla</i>		variegata	
FABIANA	-Imbricata	12 GALANTHUS -Nivalis		“	golden queen
<i>Erinus Alpinus</i>		GALTONIA - <i>See Hyacinthus</i>		“	baccifera lutea
<i>Escallonia</i>		GARRYA - Elliptica		“	various
<i>Langleyensis</i>		GAULTHERIA -Shallon		HEDYCHIUM	-Gardenerianum
<i>Eskianthus Campanulatus</i>		“	procumbens	HELIANTHEMUM -Crocatum	
11. <i>Fagus</i>	<i>Zlatia</i>	GAZENIA -Splendens		HELIANTHUS	-Miss Mellish
FAGUS = BEECH-		GENISTA -Monosperma		“	single
“	Cunninghamii	“	oethnensis	“	double
“	sylvatica	“	Andreana	HELLEBORUS	-Colchicus
“	incisa	NTIANA -Acaulis		“	grandiflora
“	purpurea	“	asclepiadea	“	nigra
“	heterophylla	GERANIUM -Traversii		HEMEROCALLIS -Flava	
FERULA	-Gigantea	“	ibericum	“	fulva
FICUS	-Repens	“	various	HEPATICAC	-Various
<i>Radicans var</i>		GERBERA Jamesonii		HERACLEUM	-Giganteum
FORSYTHIA	-Viridissima	GERMANDER - <i>See Teucrium</i>		HEUCHERA	-Sanguinea
FRANCOA	-Ramosa	GEUM	-Cocciacum,	HIBISCUS	-Syriacus
FRAXINUS =ASH -		Fl,pl.		HICKORY - <i>See Carya</i>	
“	Ornus	— “ —————	variegata	HIPPEASTRUM - <i>See Amaryllis</i>	
“	excelsa	GLADIOLUS Sandersii		HOLLY - <i>See Ilex</i>	
“	monophilla	“	rosea		
HOLLY-HOCK	-Althea	“	various		
rosea		ILEX	fructo-luteo		
		“	Webbiana	<i>Jasminum primulinum</i>	

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“	single	“	latifolium	
“	double	“	aquifolium	<i>Itea virginica</i>
HUMULUS	-Lupulus	“	“ Hendersoni	<i>Ledum latifolia</i>
<i>Hamamelis Zuccariaina</i>		“	“	<i>Lorepetalum Chinense</i>
	<i>Virginica</i>	“	“	<i>Lewisia redivisa</i>
	<i>Mollis</i>	LOBELIA	<i>Laurifolia</i>	<i>Tweedii</i>
<i>Halimondendron</i>			<i>[.]ianthus betulinus</i>	<i>Il[.] dependens / 07</i>
<i>Argenteum</i>			<i>Ilex integra</i>	<i>Kalmia angustifolia [.]</i>
<i>(Salt. [.]</i>		15. ILLICIUM	-Floridanum	16. LABURNUM - <i>See Cytisus</i>
<i>Hibbertia acicularis</i>		IMANTOPHYLLUM	-Miniatum	LACHENALIA -Minor
<i>Hippophae rham[.]</i>				LAPAGERIA -Rosea
14. HOTTONIA	-Palustris	INULA	-Glandulosa	“ alba
HYACINTHUS	-Candicans	“	helenium	LARIX =LARCH -
HYDRANGEA	-Acuminata	IRIS	-Stylosa	“ Europcea
“	hortensis	“	“ <i>alba</i>	“ “ pendula
“	paniculata	“	“ <i>speciosa</i>	“ sempervirens
“	grandiflora	“	“ <i>persica</i>	LARKSPUR -Delphinium
“	Thomas	“	ochroleuca	LATHYRUS -Latifolia
Hogg	thunbergia	“	syberica	LAURUS -Nobilis
variegata		“	germanica	LAVANDULA -Vera
“	climbing	“	tuberosa	“ dentata
“	quercifolia	“	Kœmpferi	LAVENDER COTTON - <i>See Santolina</i>
“	stellata	“	xyhioides	LAVATERA -Trimestris
splendens		“	fœtidissima	LEPTOSPERMUM -Scoparium [.]
HOHERIA ———— Popul[.]		“	various	“ ericoides [.]
HYPERICUM	-Calycinum	INCARVILLEA	-Delawayi	“ myrtiofolium
“	uralum	IXIA	-Viridiflora	LEUCOJUM -Hyemale
“	Moserianum	“	various	LEYCESTERIA -Formosa
“	densiflorum	JASMINUM	-Nudiflorum	LIATRIS -Pycnostachya
HORNBEAM - <i>See Carpinus</i>		“	officinale	LIBERTIA Ixioides
HYACINTH	-Plumosus	“	viridissima	LIGUSTRUM -Coriaceum
“	albulus	JUDAS TREE - <i>See Cercis</i>		“ vulgare
“	various	JUGLANS	-Alba.Syn. Carya	LILAC -Syringa
HYMENANTHERA -Crassifolia		“	regla	“ persica
HIPPOPHÆ	-	KALMIA	-Alpina	“ alba grandiflora
Rhamnoides		“	glauca	“ chinensis
HEDYSARUM	-Multijugum	“	latifolia	“ vulgare alba
IBERIS	-Coronaria	“	myrtifolia	17. LILIU -Gigant[.]
ILEX	-Opaca	KERRIA -Syn. Corchorus		“ auratum
“	Bessoni	“	japonica	“ Harrisii
“	ferox	MENZIESIA	- Syn. Dabœcia	“ lancifolium
		METROSIDEROS	- Syn. Callistemon	“ rosea
		MISTLETOE - <i>See Viscum</i>		NYPHEA
				marleacea

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“	tornlosa	MONTBRETIA	-Various	“	chromatella
LIME	- See <i>Tilia</i>	MORINA	-Longifolium	OAK	- See <i>Quercus</i>
LINUM	-Arborea	MORUS = MULBERRY-		GENOTHERA	-Various
“	narborensis	“	nigra	OLEA	- See <i>Osmanthus</i>
LIQUIDAMBER	-Styraciflua	<i>Magnolia alexand[.]</i>		<i>Onosma pyramidalis</i>	
LIRIODENDRON	-Tulipifera	<i>Alba Plenissima</i>		<i>Nepeta Glechoma</i>	
LITHOSPERMUM	-Prostratum	<i>Fuscata</i>		<i>Nandina laciniata</i>	
LOBELIA	-Victoria	<i>Manettia Bicolor</i>		2 <i>domestica</i>	
“	cardinalis	<i>Meconopsis [.]</i>		<i>W Minor C.1.6</i>	
“	Ge[.]	<i>petiolata</i>		<i>Juncifolius Greenhouse</i>	
“	purpurea	<i>Cambrica</i>		<u>20.</u> OLEARIA	- <i>Syn Eurybia</i>
LOM[.]	Procera	<i>Medicago gigantea</i>		“	Gunniana
LONICERA	-Semper[.]	<i>Moltkia petraea</i>		“	stellulata
“	odor[.]	<i>Melicytus [.] [.]</i>		“	Haastii
“	ta[.]			“	nummularifolia
“	Hildebrand[.]	19. MUCHLENBECKIA	-Complexa MULLEIN	OMPHALOIDES	-Verna
LOQUAT	- See <i>Eriobotrya</i>	-Verbascum		“	alba
LUPINUS	-Arb[.]	MUSA	-Japonica	ORNITHOGALUM	-Nutans
LYCHNIS	-C[.] Fl.pl.	MUSCARI	-Botryoides	“	various
“	Officinalis	“	-album	OSMANTHUS	-Illicifolius
LYCIUM	- See <i>Berberis</i>	“	-monastrum	“	argentea
LEUCOTHOE	-Racemosa	MYSOTIDIUM	-Nobile	“	variegata
MACARTNEY	-Rose	“	-white	O[.]	-Coccinea
<i>Lonicera [.]</i>		MYOSOTIS	-Dissitiflora	OZOTHAMNUS	-Thyrsoides
<i>Halleana</i>		“	-alba	ORACH	- See <i>Atriplex</i>
18. MAGNOLIA	-Conspicua	MYRICA	-Gale	OXONIS	-Fruiticosa
“	lennei	MYRTUS = MYRTLE -		OXALIS	-Ortgiesi
“	stellate	“	communis	PEONIA	-Moutan
- <i>grandiflora</i> Watsoni		“	buxifolia	“	various
“	hypoleuca	MAHONIA	-See <i>Berberis</i>	PALUTRUS	-Aculeatus
“ <i>Kobus</i>	obovata variegata	NARCISSUS	-Various	PANCRATIUM	-Illyricum
“ <i>glauca</i>		NEPHROLEPSIS	-Nana	PAPAVER = POPPY -	
Fraserii		“	compacta	“	various
“ <i>soulangiana nigra</i>		NOTOSPARIUM	-Carmichaela	PASSIFLORA	-Cerulea
MALVA = MALLOW -	mascata	NUPHAR	-lutea	“	Constance Elliot
MAPLE = ACER -	Striata	NYMPHEA	-Alba	PAULOWNIA	-Imperialis
MARIGOLD = CALENDULA -		“	Laydekeri rosea	PAVIA	-Flava
MATHIOLA = STOCK -		PLATYCODON	-Autumnale	PENSTEMON	-Various
MESPILUS	- See <i>Amelanchier</i>	PLUMBAGO	-Iarpentoe	PERNETTYA	-Mucronata
MENTHA = MONARDA -		PODOCARPUS	-Totara	PHLOMIS	-Fruiticosa
MENYANTHUS	-Trifoliata	“	purdieana	POLYGONATUM	-Multiflorum



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PLATANUS Occidentalis	-	RANUNCULUS = A[.] <i>Rodgersia podophylla</i>	“	racemosus
“	orientalis		“	hypophyllum
“	“	RHUS -Glabra [.]	SALVIA	-Bracteata
RHODODENDRON	barbatum	SMILAX succ[.]	“	patens
“	cinnamomeum	R[.] Sanguinea, Fl. Pl	SALISBURIA	-Adiantifolia
“	Aucklandii	RICHARDIA - See Calla	SALIX = WILLOW-	
“	anthopogon	ROBINIA -Hispidia	“	fragilis
“	barbatum	“	“	rosea
“	Broughtoni	“	SARRACENIA	caprea
“	campylocarpum	“	“	purpurea pendula
“	cinnabarium	R[.] -podophylla	SAMBUCUS = ELDER-	
“	Roylii	ROSA =D[.]	“	racemosa
“	Campanulatum	“ [.] alba	“	nigra
“	Wallichii	“	“	“ variegata
SALIX	Cunninghami	<i>Ribes alpinus aurea</i>		
“	calophyllum	<i>Rhodothamnus K[.]aticum</i>		
“	ciliatum	26. ROSA moschata alba	27. SANTOLINA	-Chamæcyparissus
“	cinnamomeum caucaseum	“ Macartney	SAXIFRAGA	-Pellata
“	<del>caucaseum</del>	“ centifolia	“	umbrosa
“	Edgeworthii	“	“	sarmentosa
“	formeum	“	“	crassifolia
“	Falconeri fastuosum-pleno	“	“	various
“	fragrans	“	SCHIZOSTYLIS	-Coccinea
“	ferrugineum	simplex alba	SCHIZOPHRAGMA	-Hydrangeoides
“	<i>Fosteriana</i> [.]	Blanche de Coubert	SCABIOSA = SCABIOUS-	
“	<i>Dalhousie</i>	“	“	lutea
“	<i>Argenteum Flowered</i>	“	“	caucasica
Feb & March / 04		“	“	“ alba
“	<i>Grandis</i>	Chas. Worth	“	various
“	[.] <i>Thompsoni</i> F /03	“	SCILLA = SQUILL	
“	<i>Blanfordiaeflorum</i>	“	“	amoena
“	<i>Coombe Royal</i> / 07	“	“	peruviana
-	<i>-Sinense</i>	[.] <i>crimson pillar</i>	“	campanulata
25. RHODODENDRON	-glauca	SWAINSONIA -Alba	SEDUM -Confusum	
“	Lady	SYMPHORICARPUS -Racem[.]	“	virens
E.Cathcart		SYMPHYTUM -Echinatum	“	spectabile
“	Lepidotum	<i>Sollya heterophylla</i>	“	various
“	hirsutum	<i>Spirea aruncus Kneiffi</i>	SENECIO	-Heritieri x <i>Grayii</i>
“	Minnie	<i>Stuartia pentaginea</i>	TILIA	pendula
“	Maddenii	29. SYRINGA = LILAC	“	spectabilis
“	Michael	SARRACENIA -Purpurea	“	
Waterer		<i>Mdm Lemoine</i>	TRADESCANTIA	-Alba
“	multiflorum	“	“	virginica
		“	“	flava

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	“	Nobleanum	STYRAX	-Japonica x [.]		
	“	niveum	STERNBERGIA	-Lutea	30. VISCUM	Alba <i>Washingtonia</i>
	“	præcox			<i>Filifera</i>	
	“	Smirnowi		<i>Vulgaris</i>	VITIS	-Heterophylla
SENECIO	pulcher	<i>Fosteri</i>	“	exoniensis	VERBASCUM	-Phœnicium
	“	petasites			“	Chaixii
SEQUOIA	-Gigantea		STUARTIA =PSEUDO-CAMELLIA -		“	olympicum
	“			<i>Chinensis</i>	WALNUT - <i>See Juglans</i>	
	sempervirens		TRICRATUS	-Syn. Abronia	WATSONIA	-Meriana
	“	“			WEIGELA	-Rosea
alba spica				<i>Alba grandiflora</i>	“	“ nana
SKIMMIA	-Oblata		TAXODIUM	-Distichum	variegata	
	“	japonica	<i>Tamarix Odessana</i>		<i>Weigela Eva Rathki</i>	
SMILAX	-Aspera			<i>Aestivalis</i>	WELLINGTONIA - <i>See Sequoia</i>	
		<i>Sauromatum</i>	TAXUS= YEW-		WINTER ACONITE - <i>See Eranthis</i>	
		<i>Guttatum</i>	“	baccata	WISTERIA	-Sinensis
		<i>Sarcocoea latifolia</i>	“	Fastigiata	<i>Wistaria</i>	<i>multijucea</i>
	<i>pruniformis</i>		“	cupidata	WAX TREE - <i>See Rhus</i>	
			“	adpressa	WITCH HAZEL - <i>See Hamamelis</i>	
28. SOLANUM	-Crispus		TEA	<i>Syn. Camellia</i>	XANTHOCERAS	-Sorbifolia
	“	jasminooides	<i>theifera</i>		<i>Xerophyllum</i>	<i>Asphodeloides</i>
	“	grandiflora	TECOMA	<i>Syn. Bignonia</i>	YACCA WOOD	- <i>See Podocarpus</i>
SOLIDAGO	-Virgeurea		TECOPHILÆA	-Cyanocrocus	YARROW =ACHILLEA	
SOLOMONS SEAL - <i>See Polygonatum</i>			TELEKIA	-Syn. Buphthalmum	YUCCA	-Filamentosa
SOPHORA	-Japonica		TELLIMA	-Grandiflora	“	gloriosa
	“	pendula	TEUCRIUM	-Canum	YEW = TAXUS	
SPARAXIS	-Various		<i>Teucrium</i>	<i>parvifolium B[.]</i>	ZENOBIA	-Speciosa
SPARTIUM	-JUNCCEUM				“	“
SPIREA	-Ariœfolia		THALICTRUM	-Adiantifolium	pulverulenta	
	“	pruniflora,	THUJA	-Borealis	ZEPHYRANTHUS	-Atamasco
Fl.pl.			“	occidentalis	ZAUSCHNERIA	-Californica
	“	canescens	“	elegans	“	“ splendens
	“	palmata	“	Lobbi	ZIZANIA	-Aquatica
	“	japonica	TUPA	Salicifolia		
	“	confusia	THUJOPSIS	-Dolabrata		
	“	Lindlyana	variegata			
	“	callosa	TIARELLA	-Cordifolia		
	“	hypericifolia	TILIA = LIME			
	“	salicifolia	“	alba		
STACHYS	-Lanata		“	latifolia		
STAPHYLEA	-Colchica					
	“	pinnata				
STATICE	-Alata					
SHORTIA	-Galacifolia					

# Garden History Project: Imports of Exotic Plants into Falmouth 1750-1900

## Report on findings: Trelissick

This report was prepared as part of a project sponsored by the Arts Society “To record the importing and distributing of plants from overseas through the ports of Penryn and Falmouth to local gardens and farther afield between 1750 and 1900”. Therefore, no account has been taken of the activities at Trelissick garden in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The current contents and design of the garden owes much to the activities of the Copeland family and the National Trust during the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. In addition to information about the ports of entry, wider information about the extent of importation of plant materials by Carew Davies Gilbert has been included.

### Introduction

The Trelissick estate lies at the head of Carrick Roads and part of Falmouth docks can be seen from many of the major rooms of the principal house. It is therefore possible to speculate that plant materials from abroad introduced into the garden at Trelissick were brought in through the port of Falmouth or were shipped directly to the beach in front of the house in Channals creek or to Roundwood quay a little further up the river Fal at the mouth of Lamouth creek. However, no evidence has been found to show this to be true.

Trelissick estate is now owned by the National Trust and initial enquiries were made of Trust staff with particular reference to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The reply received was “Unfortunately, we do not have individual plant records relating to this time or any historical records for individual plants of any significance really.”<sup>9</sup> However, an extensive collection of copies of publications and other documents relating to the garden at Trelissick was kindly made available.

### History and Records

It was then necessary to look at the history of the garden. In the period 1750 to 1900 the estate was owned or leased by three different families. The Lawrance family until about 1813 and the Daniell family to about 1832. In the period 1832 to 1844 the estate was owned by the creditors of Thomas Daniell. In 1844, the estate was purchased by John Davies Gilbert and when he died in 1854 control was passed to his wife Anne Dorothea Gilbert on behalf of her son Carew Davies Gilbert (1852 to 1913). The National Trust has reviewed maps of the estate and all three families developed and improved the garden and parkland but it is only in the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century during the ownership of Carew Davies Gilbert that there is any reference to exotics and plant collection or importation from overseas<sup>10</sup>.

Much of the wealth of the Gilbert family was derived from the development of Eastbourne which they did alongside the Duke of Devonshire. The archives of the Gilbert family are held by the East Sussex Record Office (“ESRO”) in Brighton but some documents which relate particularly to their Cornish estates were sent to the Cornwall Record Office. Further uncatalogued records are probably held by the Gilbert family. A summary of the Gilbert family history derived from

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<sup>9</sup> Lanyon, John, Head Gardener Trelissick, Glendurgan, Trerice and Bosloe e mail correspondence 2017.

<sup>10</sup> Internal National Trust documents reviewing the changes in garden layout.

## Garden History Project: Imports of Exotic Plants into Falmouth 1750-1900

the records at the East Sussex Record Office is available on the Internet<sup>11</sup> and there are on-line catalogues of the documents held at both Record Offices. In the summary of the East Sussex records, it is said of Carew Davies Gilbert “A great traveller, he spent the 1870s visiting Cornwall, Scotland, Norway, and Germany on his yachts *Stella* and *Windflower*, and the USA, New Zealand, Australia, the Far East, China and Japan by train”. This information is not referenced but the reference immediately preceding the quoted sentence is “Information about Carew has been taken from his personal papers, GIL 4/369-633 and his obituary in the *Eastbourne Gazette* 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1913”. The obituary does not refer to plant collecting. The notebook and correspondence relating to Carew Davies Gilbert’s travels are addressed later. The activities of Carew Davies Gilbert are listed but, in the summary and in the descriptions of the documents, there is no reference to collecting or importing plants or seeds.

### Travels

Carew Davies Gilbert travelled in his yacht to northern Europe, in 1876/7 on an extensive world tour, on his honeymoon to Continental Europe in 1881 and in 1887 to the USA. The information found regarding these journeys is analysed below.

The reference in the catalogue of the East Sussex Record Office to yachts owned by Carew Davies Gilbert suggested that there might be a source of imports into Falmouth worth investigating. However, a summary in the East Sussex Records Office catalogue of a log states that Carew Davies Gilbert set sail in the yacht ‘*Stella*’ from Portsmouth and she was declared unseaworthy in Shields. He then commissioned the building in Gosport of ‘*Windflower*’ a 68 foot yawl which he sailed to Scotland, Norway, and Germany. The later reference to Germany may be incorrect as he possibly did not travel to Germany in his own vessel (see later). Given the size and design of ‘*Windflower*’ it is unlikely that he travelled to anywhere exotic in her. The British Newspaper Archive has been searched on line and there are no references to epic journeys made by Carew Davies Gilbert. Also, Carew Davies Gilbert is mentioned as a founding member in the History of the Royal Cornwall Yacht Club but there is no reference to journeys to exotic places<sup>12</sup>. He sold ‘*Windflower*’ in 1881, the year of his marriage, and later acquired a smaller boat “*Little Windflower*”<sup>13</sup> which was even less likely to have been used for travel to exotic countries.

In probably 1875 Carew with a few friends travelled along the Rhine. It is not entirely clear from the travel notes<sup>14</sup> but he appears to have used a commercial ship to cross the Channel departing from Dover and skiffs to travel on the river. The port of return is not stated. There is no reference to plants or seed collecting.

In March 1876 Carew Davies Gilbert embarked on a world tour to the USA (New York, Philadelphia, Louisville, Memphis, St Louis, Pueblo, Colorado, Rocky Mountains, Denver, San Francisco)<sup>15</sup>, New Zealand (Canterbury)<sup>16</sup>, Australia (Melbourne, Sydney, Yandilla, Sofala)<sup>17</sup>,

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<sup>11</sup> Archive of the Davies-Gilbert family of Eastbourne, East Sussex, and Trelissick, Cornwall held by East Sussex Record Office

<sup>12</sup> Poole, Andrew A History of the Royal Cornwall Yacht Club 1871-2012.

<sup>13</sup> Lloyds Register of Yachts.

<sup>14</sup> DG/147 Cornwall Record Office (Thanks to a volunteer at Trelissick for the transcription.) The Record Office dates this as 1876 but it is more likely to be 1875.

<sup>15</sup> ESRO GIL 4/372

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Singapore<sup>18</sup>, Java<sup>19</sup>, Hong Kong<sup>20</sup>, China (Teinsen, Peking, Taku forts)<sup>21</sup> and Japan (Kobe, Nagasaki, Yokohama)<sup>22</sup>. During the tour Carew Davies Gilbert wrote frequently to his mother. He wrote about many topics including the scenery, food, sleeping arrangements, the politics of countries visited, gossip about fellow travellers, the health of his family (including Enys and Brune cousins), the health of and plans for breeding of his dogs and horses, the building work at Trelissick and Eastbourne, the bishopric of Truro, the despatch of curios and the return of excess baggage, investment in gold mining, commissioning of furniture for Trelissick, design of new greenhouses and swimming pool at Trelissick etc. In this extensive correspondence there are the following references to the despatch of seeds;

Letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> June 1876 to his mother from Yosemite Valley, California<sup>23</sup>

“Excuse a short letter. I enclose 12 big Photos + 6 stereoscopes by Post. Also 2 packages of seed, mostly Pine, they belong to a dry climate, please impress on Sangwin.”

Letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> July 1876 to his mother from the Christchurch Club, New Zealand<sup>24</sup>

“I enclose 3 lots of seeds given to me by Mr Potts a friend of J D Enys”

Letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> November 1876 to his mother from Yandilla, Queensland, Australia<sup>25</sup>

“I send home some seeds directed to Sangwin”

Letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> January 1877 from Singapore to his mother<sup>26</sup>

“I am glad the Californian seeds did well, I hope others I send may do so also.”

(William Sangwin was the Head Gardener at Trelissick.)

There is no information given about the route taken by the seeds but it is very unlikely that the seeds reached Trelissick via Falmouth because by 1851 mail boats were not using Falmouth<sup>27</sup>. Also, if he did bring back seeds when he returned, it is unlikely that these came through Falmouth as Carew Davies Gilbert preferred to travel by larger steam ships on scheduled routes which by 1877 did not use Falmouth.

An item in the Royal Cornwall Gazette dated 14<sup>th</sup> October 1881 describes the welcome given by tenants and staff to Mr and Mrs Gilbert on their return to Trelissick from honeymoon. The report

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<sup>16</sup> ESRO GIL 4/373

<sup>17</sup> ESRO GIL 4/374

<sup>18</sup> ESRO GIL 4/375

<sup>19</sup> ESRO GIL 4/376

<sup>20</sup> ESRO GIL 4/377

<sup>21</sup> ESRO GIL 4/378

<sup>22</sup> ESRO GIL 4/379

<sup>23</sup> ESRO GIL 4/372

<sup>24</sup> ESRO GIL 4/373

<sup>25</sup> ESRO GIL 4/374

<sup>26</sup> ESRO GIL 4/375

<sup>27</sup> Pawlyn, Tony The Falmouth Packets 1689-1851

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mentions that before travelling to Trelissick “After an extensive continental tour the bride and bridegroom spent a few weeks in Eastbourne”. If any plant material was brought back to Trelissick as a result of this tour, it is clear that the couple did not enter the UK through Falmouth or Penryn.

In April to May 1887 Carew Davies Gilbert kept a journal whilst touring the USA (New York, Washington, Richmond, Charlestown, Jacksonville, St Augustine, Toccoi, Sanford, Orlando, Birmingham, New Orleans, Dallas, El Paso, Saint Fe, the Indian village of Tuzique, Pueblo, Canon City, Rocky Mountains). He departed from Liverpool. This journal<sup>28</sup> does not contain any references to the collection of plant materials. If he did import plant material again it is unlikely that it was imported through Falmouth.

### Publications

By the 1890s there were exotic plants in the garden at Trelissick. In that decade, there are at least annual reports in *The Garden* written by William Sangwin (Head Gardener) describing the yield of fruit and vegetables at Trelissick but there are also a few reports where he refers to exotics for example *Gunnera manicata*<sup>29</sup>, *Choisya ternate*<sup>30</sup>, rhododendrons<sup>31</sup>, *Garrya elliptica*<sup>32</sup>. In the *Gardener’s Chronicle* of October 27<sup>th</sup>, 1894 there is an anonymous article about Trelissick and that part of the article describing the trees and shrubs is set out in Appendix I. It is clear, even accounting for the Cornish climate, that these plants were well established and were planted some considerable time before 1894.

The two reports found which were published before 1900 and which refer to imports of plants or seeds were both published in 1897 and written by Frederick Hamilton Davey, the Cornish botanist. In the *Journal of the Royal Institution of Cornwall* Volume XIII 1897 in an article entitled “Acclimatisation of Exotics in Cornwall (first paper); The Truro and Falmouth District” F.H.Davey states “By keeping an open eye for any titbit that he thought at all likely to flourish on the warm slopes of the Fal, Mr Davies-Gilbert made his travels sub serve a two fold purpose”. He then lists the plants that were “foremost among the exotics of Trelissick” (see Appendix II). The second reference is in the article published in the *Royal Cornwall Gazette* August 26<sup>th</sup>, 1897 and then republished in 1988<sup>33</sup> in an article entitled “Trelissick by the Fal”. It states:

“A fair sprinkling of foreign trees and shrubs has already been introduced into different parts of the grounds as a result of Mr Davies-Gilbert’s wanderings in remote regions of the globe. The seeds from which the several *Wellingtonias* were grown were gathered in the renowned Yosemite Valley in California; the maples whose loud coloured leaves enliven the surrounding masses of green came from the Celestial Empire; the promising specimens of fire tree (*Embothrum coccineum*) came from South America and so on. Among these we noticed the musk-scented aster *argophyllus*, the feathery-looking *Rhus continus*, clumps of the stately *Acacia affinis* from New Holland, the wax flowers of *Berbandopsis corellina* and the Royal

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<sup>28</sup> ESRO GIL 4/382

<sup>29</sup> *The Garden* September 30<sup>th</sup> 1893 p 297.

<sup>30</sup> *The Garden* September 12<sup>th</sup> 1896 p 203.

<sup>31</sup> *The Garden* September 9<sup>th</sup> 1893 pp 242-3

<sup>32</sup> *The Garden* April 10<sup>th</sup> 1897 p 257.

<sup>33</sup> *Cornish Garden, Journal of the Cornish Garden Society*, 1988

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*Fabiana imbricata* from Chili, the gawdy *Bupthalmum speciosissimum* from South Europe and many other plants common to most gardens along the south coast of Cornwall.”

The reference to the Yosemite Valley corresponds with the letter to his mother in 1876. However, it is interesting to note that William Lobb collected seed, shoots and seedlings of the *Wellingtonia* (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) from California and brought them to the UK in 1853 for the Veitch nursery. Veitch’s nursery offered seedlings of the *Sequoia* at 2 guineas each in the summer of 1854 when Carew Davies Gilbert was only a few years old<sup>34</sup>.

Of the lily pond area the article states the following:

“Among the rarer species and hybrids which have found a home there we noticed the fragrant *Nymphoea tuberosa*, *N. Marliacae-flava*, *N. Marliacae-rosea*, *N. Marliacae-carnea*, *N. Marliacae-albida*, *N. Marliacae-Devoniensis* and the beautiful blue *N. stellate zanzibarensis*.”

“Between these [calla lilies] and the footpath giant *Rumex*, flaming *Tritorias*, stately plants of *Herculeum*, *Erynginem pandanifolium*, *Polygonum Sieboldii*, *Spiroes* and Japanese irises”.

Mr F.H. Davey was shown round the garden by William Sangwin, head gardener. At the end of the article it is stated “As Mr Davies Gilbert spends much of his time abroad he has let the mansion to Justice Holmes of Ireland as a summer residence.” However, no records of travels by Carew Davies Gilbert in the 1890s have been found. It is possible that the Gilbert family hold records of later travels. Trelissick House was subsequently let to George Cookson for the period 1899 to 1913.

The article quoted above also states “Acclimatisation of sub-tropical plants has not taken that important place that one might expect seeing how blest is the estate in equability of temperature.” This is also confirmed in the other publication in 1897 by the same reporter. This could lead to questions regarding the extent to which Carew Davies Gilbert chose to introduce plants which he thought until this date could not be acclimatised. In the article republished in 1988, F H Davey refers to “a run through the stove houses” but does not mention the contents. However, given the dates on the correspondence in 1876/77 it appears that the seeds from the Yosemite Valley were probably grown in a heated environment as seeds posted in June 1876 were doing well by January 1877.

The article republished in 1988 appears to be the source of references in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century to imports of plants by Carew Davies Gilbert either by a direct reference to the article or by similarity in wording.

In addition to the plants listed in the articles referred to above, National Trust staff attribute the following plants which survive today to planting during Carew Davies Gilbert’s ownership; *Cryptomeria japonica*, *Pinus pinaster*, *Pinus radiata* and *Cupressus macrocarpa*. Also, possibly the *Acer palmatum* in the Dell<sup>35</sup>.

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<sup>34</sup> Sheppard, Sue and Musgrave, Tony, *Blue Orchid and Big Tree* page 90, Radcliffe Press

<sup>35</sup> Internal National Trust document.

## Garden History Project: Imports of Exotic Plants into Falmouth 1750-1900

### Other Possible Sources

Many exotic plants would have been readily available in the UK in the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century either from nurseries such as Treseders of Truro or Veitch of Exeter or from other gardens in Cornwall. Carew Davies Gilbert's paternal aunt married into the Enys family and his maternal aunt married into the Prideaux-Brune family of Prideaux Place and he socialised with families from other large Cornish estates. Carew Davies Gilbert's first cousin John Davies Enys lived in New Zealand for some time and when he returned he brought with him plants to establish a New Zealand garden at Enys<sup>36</sup>. It is easy to speculate that the cousins exchanged plants.

Also, William Sangwin, had contacts with gardeners in other large Cornish estates and elsewhere. In May 1893 there was correspondence between John Garland Treseder of Treseder's Nursery and Mr Sangwin asking Mr Sangwin to act as agent to promote the sale of tree ferns<sup>37</sup>. Frederick Hamilton Davey says of Mr Sangwin "fewer still have rubbed shoulders more frequently and closely with the alumni of their own profession"<sup>38</sup>.

### Conclusion

By 1894 there were established exotic plants at Trelissick. There is information to show that Carew Davies Gilbert sent seeds to Trelissick from his foreign travels. No information has been found to show that the seeds were collected in a systematic way and there are no references to deviations from his planned route to collect plants. Plant collecting does not appear to have been a major preoccupation of his life nor does it appear to have been carried out in a scientific manner. No information on which particular plants were imported as seeds by Carew Davies Gilbert has been found.

No evidence has been found to show that imports were made through the ports of Penryn or Falmouth. In the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Falmouth was not used by mail ships or steam ships on scheduled journeys. It is unlikely that plant materials for Trelissick were brought in through Falmouth or Penryn.

## APPENDIX I

Extract from The Gardeners' Chronicle October 27<sup>th</sup> 1894.

"The lover of trees and shrubs will, however, be more attracted by the curious and interesting plants, and by the good taste which is evidenced in the manner in which they have been grouped. Two specimens of *Abies Smithiana* (*A. Morinda*), from the mountains of Northern India, plants of which are so often cut down by frost in the young state, are here 60 feet high, with glaucous foliage of an uncommon shade, and numerous pendant cones. *Benthamia fragifera*, plants of which flowered well, were fully 30 feet high. *Embrotium coccineum*, which was showing its last two trusses of scarlet blooms on August 16<sup>th</sup>, had been 25 feet high, but lost 10 feet during a

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<sup>36</sup> Web site for Enys garden.

<sup>37</sup> Treseder, Suzanne A Passion for Plants: The Treseders of Truro p38

<sup>38</sup> Davey, Frederick Hamilton, Trelissick by the Fal, Cornish Garden 1988

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blizzard, and is now not more than 20 feet, had been covered with brilliant flowers. *Paulownia imperialis*, which flowers here every year, 35 feet; *Ceanothus azureus*, 26 feet; *Cotoneaster Hookeri*, 6 feet high and as much across; *C. acuminata*, which flowers profusely, and is 25 feet in height; *Acer polymorphum*, 23 feet; *Acacia affinis*, which had been 40 feet, but was seriously injured by an unusual frost of 17 degrees this spring, is now shooting from the old branches up to 6 feet from the ground; *Abutilon vitifolium*, 20 feet, which had in spring a profusion of mauve-coloured flowers; large bushes 20 feet high, of *pittosporum Mackayii*, with its black-barked shoots; numerous specimens of *Retinospora aquarrosa*, of a similar size to the last-mentioned; an *Ozothamnus*, 9 feet; large bushes of *Choisya ternate*, which flowered three times last year; four white-flowered species of *Escallonia*, viz., *montevidensis*, *floribunda*, *scillonensis*, and *Phillipiana*; *Eulalia zebrina*; *Berberidopsis corallina*, covering a wall 12 feet high, with scores of its deep crimson pendulous blossoms; *Sparmannia Africana*, *Grevillea rosmariniflora*, *Raphiolepis Japonica*, *Cassinia fulvida*, 6 feet high and 8 feet across; *Rodgersia podophylla*.

### APPENDIX II

List of the foremost among the exotics at Trelissick in 1897 as set out in *Journal of the Royal Institution of Cornwall Vol XIII 1897. "Acclimatisation of Exotics in Cornwall (first paper); The Truro and Falmouth District"* by Frederick Hamilton Davey

*Abutilon vitifolium*  
*Abutilon vitifolium alba*  
*Acacia affinis*  
*Acacia longifolia*  
*Acacia Iophantha*  
*Aloysia citriodora*  
*Arabia Sieboldii*  
*Araucaria Cunninghamamira*  
*Agalia amoena*  
Bamboos in var.  
*Buddleia globosa*  
*Buddleia Lindleyana*  
*Carpentaria californica*  
*Caryopteris Mostacanthus (incana)*  
*Caryopteris azureus (coleruleus)*  
*Ceanothus azureus*  
*Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles*  
*Chamaerops excelsa*  
*Chamaerops Fortunei*

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Chamaerops humilis  
Choisya ternata  
Clerodendron trichotomum  
Cliaanthus puniceus  
Cordylines in variety  
Coronillia glauca  
Desfantainea spinoso  
Dickinsonia Antarctica  
Diplopappus chrysophylla  
Eccrermocarpus scaber  
Embrothrium conccineum  
Eriobotrya japonica  
Erythrina crista-galli  
Escallonia in var.  
Fabiana imbricate  
Furcraea longaeval  
Gabiona umbricata  
Gurcraea longaeva  
Ginko biloba  
Grevillea rosmarinifolia  
Hedychium coronarium  
Hydrangeas in variety  
Lomaria Boryana  
Mandeville suaeveoleus  
Melianthus major  
Nymphaea Marliacae albida carnea, Devoniensis, flava, rosea, stellate  
Zangzibarensis tuberosa  
Olearia argophylla,,Haastii  
Ogothomnus osmarinifolium  
Passiflora Constance Elliott  
Phormium tenax Veitchianum  
Pittosporum Maijii & undulata  
Romneya Coulteri  
Rhalpaiolepis ovata  
Skimmia japonica  
Solanium jas  
Sparmania africana  
Woodwardia radicum

Alice Pascoe  
October 2017

# Garden History Project: Imports of Exotic Plants into Falmouth 1750-1900

## Report on Findings: Nurserymen and West Briton

From the outset my own belief was that the place to find the link between the gardens of Cornwall and the various plant hunters was in the nursery gardens. This would, I believe, provide us with the signposts to how and where the plants and seeds would arrive.

Firstly I approached Tregothnan (I work there) and interviewed Lord Falmouth, who age 96 at the time, could recall much information about the garden. However regarding available information about the history of the gardens he said 'gardeners did not write'! He continued to say that there was no information.

After this I began a list of the important gardens and owners in the county so that if anything was mentioned it could be linked by name or place, often things can be overlooked by not knowing a name and its connection to a place, in this case, gardens. There are so many historic gardens that have been lost today.

My approach was rather scattergun: so I have tried to touch on and build on what I found as I went along!

I began to look at the nurseries in and around Falmouth, and established a few through The Post Office Directory of 1892

28 Baileys Yard: William Ruse, nurseryman, seedsman and gardener

6 Bakehouse Yard: Benjamin Nicholls, nurseryman, seedsman and florist

6 Market Strand: B Nicholls, nurseryman and seedsman

28 Church Street: William Ruse, seedsman and gardener

(This is a direction that needs further research.)

A guest at Tregothnan, visiting for a tour of that garden in August 2017, was the daughter of a family of nurserymen who go back many generations in North London into Lincolshire. I asked her if the family would have information, paperwork, about the nursery trade. This contact was not followed up.

There was a syndicate of wealthy families in the county and from across the country sending and funding plant hunters to return with exotic plant material. It is difficult to establish who was in the syndicate, as it was a closed group. Possible members were: Lodgers of Leonardslee, Wakehurst Place and High Beeches; Aberconnays of Bodnant; Duchess of Montrose, Brodick Castle; Osgood McKenzie & Mary Sawyer, Inverew, Wester Ross; Euan Cox, Peter Cox and Kenneth Cox, Glendoik, Perthshire; John Barr Stevenson, Tower Court, Ascot. The Cornish list is yet to be completed

Via the Natural History website I consulted:

Contributions to the Flora of Falmouth by William Pennington Cocks, 1791-1878

Specimens of Natural History procured in Falmouth and Neighbourhood, 1849

Contributions to the Flora of Falmouth: Field Plants, and Flowers, and Garden Stragglers from July 1843-1855

## **Garden History Project: Imports of Exotic Plants into Falmouth 1750-1900**

I also consulted:

Heligan Survivors: Phillip McMillan Browse

Early Nurserymen, John Harvey (1974)

Seeds of Fortune: A Gardening Dynasty, Sue Shephard

I also searched the West Briton Newspaper.

### **Notes from Phillip McMillan Browse's Heligan Survivors**

**p24** refers to John Garland Treseder who emigrated in the 1870s and set up a nursery in Paramatta, NSW. The Treseders were local nurserymen and J G Treseders sent plants back to the family.

‘Over some two decades from 1892 onwards, he sent literally hundreds of dry trunks directly to various estate owners in Cornwall, and latterly to the re-established Treseder nursery at Moresk. These importations continued up until 1914.....The trunks arrived by ship, at Falmouth, and (so legend has it) were off-loaded onto railway trucks which transported them to Truro....’

**p15** refers to Camellias

‘The search led from camellia collections to Cornwall to the shores of the Italian lakes; from hand-coloured nursery catalogues of the 1820s to tattered nursery stock lists of the 1880s. A set of rare books, twelve volumes dating from 1848-1860 provided clues to the Heligan collections.’

### **Notes from John Harvey's Early Nurserymen (1974)**

**p6** in the introduction

‘Beyond this line the hard facts of economics precluded the transport of luxuries except for those of great wealth. Near the ports this rule was somewhat modified by cheap coastal shipping, but the facts of geography and existing communications placed a premium upon self-support in the remoter half of England.....Another thirty years marks the transition to modern times. The year 1790 saw... the start of the trunk system of water transport...Overtaken by the the much speedier system of railway communication less than sixty years later.’

**p9**

‘even more than in many other occupations, there is a serious lack of documents. As a category of tradesmen, nurserymen seem to have been adverse from preserving their records.’

**p12**

‘...enough has been said to show that the botanical and horticultural world is and always has been largely rural in basis, even though its trading aspects are necessarily bound up with cities and the greater towns and markets. It was within this rural culture dominated by the great estates, that the early nurserymen had their being.’ ‘A good many nurserymen were members of the Society of Friends, and their personal relationships are known in the cases of the families of Maddock, Goring, Wright and Curtis.’

### **Notes from Sue Shephard's Seeds of Fortune, A Gardening Dynasty.**

(This book records the fortunes of the Veitch family, whose famous nursery was at Killerton, near Exeter. The story began in 1768 when James Veitch opened a nursery in Exeter, and began employing plant hunters. The first was William Lobb who went west to America and the next his brother, Thomas, who went east to India and the East Indies. Sir Thomas Acland inherited the

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Killerton estate in 1808 and settled there with his new wife Lydia. John Veitch and his family lived on the estate. Nathaniel Wallich was the Director of the Calcutta Botanical Gardens. )

### p36

‘ When Sir Tom (Acland) offered to do anything for him on a trip to Edinburgh, John (Veitch) asked him to place a large order...He also suggested, for Sir Tom’s own purposes, an even bigger order of larch and Scotch firs, to be sent in February “when they are dry-packed and directed for me at Killerton to be forwarded from London by Russell’s Exeter waggon.”’

### p42

‘Boxes of plants and sacks of seed began to arrive by boat into Topsham harbour at Exeter. The coaster *William the Fourth* entered in its log book: “Goods sent to Killerton to James Veitch, nurseryman, two hampers, fourteen trees and a sack of seed.”’

### Excerpt from pages 57 and 58

‘ Freelance collectors, working in all the five continents, were financed by syndicates of rich enthusiasts such as Peter Collinson, a wealthy Quaker merchant who formed a group of aristocratic patrons to pay for boxes of plants shipped home by travelling botanists hoping to make a bit of money....The most prolific was John Bartram... is credited with introducing more than 200 American ‘discoveries’ to the English garden such as *Magnolia grandiflora*..... ‘James (Veitch) was entitled to receive seed and plant brought back by Society (RHS) collectors and raised in their trial garden at Chiswick. He was also finding new specimens from increasingly wider sources.....Two of his most useful suppliers were Mr Freeman, a missionary in ‘Ashantee’ country in West Africa....and another who went to a mission on the ‘new Red river settlement’ in north-west America who sent James seeds of native American trees...There were also young gardeners sent out to work in foreign gardens....he promises to do what he can for us.’

### p59

‘He poured over the journals and letters from a growing troupe of friends and correspondents who were sending him packets, sacks and boxes of new plants and seeds.’

### p60

‘The nursery kept up regular contacts to service several large west country estates.’

### p75

‘Livingstone suggested that particular attention be paid to them from the time of the ship’s arrival in the Thames until they were unloaded – a critical period when many collections were lost.’

### p76

‘Nathaniel Wallich successfully sent back enormous quantities of seed including the first rhododendron seeds, packed in brown sugar.’

(There are other references to packing seeds and plants on these pages.)

### p77

‘the new ‘Wardian’ case first used by Joseph Paxton.’

### p78

‘... wrote to Mr Hooker telling him that he had booked Mr Lobb on the packet *Seagull* leaving for Rio de Janeiro on Saturday 7 November 1840.’

(If passenger names were listed for Packet ships it might be a field for research.)

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‘His older brother William was employed as a gardener to the Williams family at Scorrier near the port of Falmouth. There William watched the packet boats setting out and returning from long voyages, befriended some to the captains and listened eagerly to their colourful tales of voyages to the West Indies, Brazil and other far flung places.’

‘He longed to travel and discover for himself foreign countries and unknown vegetation.’

### **p82**

‘Meanwhile, news in March of 1841 of a package awaiting collection at Topsham Dock brought thrilling distraction...’ ‘when James (Veitch) received his first consignment of plants and seeds from William Lobb.’

### **p83**

‘William wrote that he had sent five cases of plants, seeds and dried specimens on the Packet. Unfortunately the ship had sailed past Falmouth without docking and gone straight on to Leith in Scotland.’

(This does in fact prove to some degree that specimens were sent directly and were intended to arrive at Falmouth. This cannot have been an isolated example.)

### **p113**

‘The Veitches were growing and selling ever larger and more affordable stock of plants which it was sending out to its expanding clientele on the new railways.’

(1863 Cornwall railway opens with the Truro to Falmouth branch line.)

### **Miscellaneous**

From the Universal Directory (1790s) ‘...putting on permanent record the names of all garden firms of any standing.’ ‘covered the whole country’.

## **West Briton Notices**

### **17.6.1836 PENZANCE**

There is now in flower in the green-house of Mr. John Fox, Rosevale, near Penzance, a splendid plant of the *Cactus speciosissimus*.....

### **3.11.1837 AGAVE AMERICANA (also 6.10.1837)**

We understand that this most magnificent and far-famed plant, at Clowance...continues to blossom.....

### **11 9 1840 ADVERTISEMENT**

To Horticulturists Unclaimed by J Ellis, Broker

Imported from Mexico, and to be disposed of for payment of Freight and Charges from 300-400 different descriptions of CACTUS and a few specimens of ORCHIDACEOUS PLANT, which will be SOLD by AUCTION without reserve at the STORES, on the NORTH QUAY, Falmouth, on THURSDAY, 17<sup>th</sup> inst., at Noon. For particulars and viewing (two days previous to the Sale) apply to W. BROAD and SONS, Merchants, Falmouth.

Dated 9<sup>th</sup> September 1840

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### 9.9.1842 THE YUCA GLORIOSA

Two of the rare and magnificent plants are now in full bloom at the nursery grounds of MR. JOHN FOX, Rosevale, Penzance.

### 19 2 1847 FACT FOR THE FLORIST

Mr CROFT, the gardener at Clowance, the seat of the Rev. Molesworth St. Aubyn has this week sent us a beautiful bouquet of Camellia flowers..... There are several places in this county – Trevince and Grove Hill, amongst others, where the Camellia flowers to perfection out of doors. This fact proves that the Camellia....may be acclimated in Cornwall,.....

### 5.10.1855 GREAT WHEAL VOR UNITED MINES

We understand that the managers of these mines have sent for a number of orchidaceous and other plants, to be placed in the large engine houses of the mines, which, it is thought, from the steady and sustained heat in them , will be found to be admirably adapted for stove plants. A number of plants are now on their way down from the Leigh Bridge nurseries.....

### Summing Up

Tantalizing is the word I want to use! Perhaps the others too agree with how close we are beginning to get via some routes (roots). However a line does need to be drawn. Perhaps we will keep an ear and an eye out, and perhaps, who knows, a few pieces of paper/evidence will emerge sometime in the future. Keep the word out there!

Definitely tantalizing.

Alison Cameron, November 2017



An original Wardian Case.

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## Garden History Project: Imports of Exotic Plants into Falmouth 1750-1900

### Report on Findings: Miss Elizabeth Andrew Warren 1786-1864

Elizabeth Andrew Warren was baptised in St Clements, brought up in Sunset House on Lamb's Creek, and then lived in May's Lane Flushing through her adult life. Her father, an Assayer of Tin, died when she was 11.

Somehow, possibly through her vicar uncle in Kent, she became an esteemed botanist. "One of the most important lady scientists of the nineteenth century". She collected Cornish plants, seaweed, mosses, lichens and contributed her collections not only to the Royal Cornwall Horticultural Society, and the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society (both awarded her their Bronze medals), but through Sir William Hooker in Glasgow, then Kew, and his publication *British Flora*.

Studying her 30-year correspondence with Hooker, it becomes apparent she also received large quantities of plants from abroad - every continent - partly through her friendships and relations in the Packet Service, Navy and Army, but also as a way-station in the arrival of massive collections despatched from Assam by her childhood neighbour, Captain Jenkins.(qv)

Many of these specimens were dried and intended for incorporation in *Hortus Siccus*, requiring naming and classifying, with Hooker's help. Some went to the RCHS, others and "any duplicates" went to Hooker and eventually Kew.

Others were live, or intended to be live plants, seeds or bulbs, and can fairly be included in lists of "exotics through Falmouth" though none can really be counted as stocking Cornwall's great gardens. In the list below, the latter are in bold type.

The extracts below are from some of 80 letters written by EAW to Sir William Hooker written in Flushing, Cornwall between 1834 and 1850, and held as part of the Directors' Correspondence Archive at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew. Until 1841 Hooker was Professor of Botany at Glasgow University; from then he was Director at Kew. His letters in response have unfortunately not been retained

February 22 1836:

'a small specimen of a production from the West Indies...appearance of a coralline substance...I am in the habit of seeing coral of various and beautiful construction, brought by the foreign packets from different places'

June 22 1836:

Here EAW plays a part in the career of William Lobb, then a gardener for Charles Lemon, who attracted her attention with a beautifully prepared and presented display of mosses at the RCPS Exhibition, and recommends him to Hooker: 'perhaps would make a good collector in any country ...' The rest is history.

July 27 1836:

'Sir Charles Lemon has lately bestowed a thousand a year, it is said, on the improvement of his gardens and everything in the place, I believe, is conducted by Mr Booth.' (Gardener. qv)'Mr

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Booth is much consulted by the Horticultural Society here...a very superior sort of man, far above any other, I believe, in a similar situation in the county”

January 25 1838:

‘very large collection of Indian specimens... presented by Capt Jenkins of Assam’ [dried]

February 23 1839:

‘The contents of the boxes...the Indian specimens ....folio sheets..I have got thro’ one third, & they stand nearly four feet high..all collected in Assam and the neighbouring hills’ This is a second batch!

**May 3 1839:**

**‘The *Jungermania* enclosed herein again small without fruit is one that Miss Fox has just brought me to be named. It was taken last year from rocks beside a waterfall at El Salto de Tequendama, South America.’**

December 1 1842:

‘we are in expectation of another 230 plants’ from Assam....arrives in London.’

December 22 1841:

‘our society has recently received a collection of specimens from North America...well laid out and dried.’

February 25 1842:

‘the plants from Dominica..[dried]...were collected by a Mr Hoskin’ and I have selected about 140 duplicates of those he has not named’ ‘The small box that contains them will leave Falmouth by the steamer of today.’ (To London) ‘ the box of East India specimens, so very long expected from Dr Wright has reached us safe.’

**December 17 1842:**

**‘Your letter for the Falklands reached me in time for the Packet which was about to sail...’ Commodore Temple and Elizabeth Warren are opening ‘some of his foreign dried treasures’ ...’a few tiny specimens of plants from the Falkland and lichens from Tierra del Fuego. ‘Is No 1 the much famed *Tussac grass*? No 2 is a little plant the people on the island use for tea and think it very palatable.....No 3 is labelled *Rock Creeper*, white flower yielding the most delightful perfume...’**

**January 16 1843:**

**A dispute about Commodore Sullivan’s Bulb. ‘The *Amaryllis*...is one from Rio de Janeiro and has blown with me very handsomely .’**

September 7 1843:

‘Another box of East India plants....find the specimens much better prepared.’ ‘I have put up 17 volumes, without however getting near the end’

March 25 1844:

‘specimens of the box of India plants that has reached the Society from Major Jenkins’ ..she is sending to Hooker [in London] by steamer.

**‘I hope you have succeeded in making the *Tussac Grass* and *Balsam* grow at Kew.’**

**September 18 1847:**

**‘forward to you, a dried flower from California’ (see next item)**

**September 30 1847:**

**‘the mesembryanthemum seed-vessel which has come safely back’**

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**March 27 1848:**

**‘...Capt Sullivan’s garden..[Flushing]...bulbs he brought from South America’**

**And ‘ by my nephew from New Zealand I have had the pleasure of receiving a collection of ferns and one solitary moss!’ (Hooker’s note on the letter; the moss is Milla Uniflora, Bot Mag 1 3327)**

**September 18 1849:**

**‘The enclosed flower...has been produced by a bulb that was brought from Buenos Ayres by Mrs James Sullivan. It seems to me to be a variety of *Habranthus bifidus*.’**

December 11 1855:

Miss Emily Stackhouse’s nephew in India ‘loading himself daily with the products of the Himalayas’ This is Lt Stackhouse Pinwill (*qv*)

June 8 1857:

Crimean plants – “a few wild flowers”. Collected by EAW’s last surviving nephew while on active service in the Crimean War. He was the one of her family who shared her botanical passion. He died of disease on his way home, and the plants were brought on. This, almost her last letter, is heavily tear-stained.

Elizabeth died at “Sunset”, her childhood home and her sister’s house, now Lamb Creek House, in Kea. She is buried near her parents and infant sister in Camborne Churchyard.

While Elizabeth Andrew Warren was a significant figure in the arrival of plants from the 1830s to 1862, and many did arrive in Falmouth directly, the vast majority are dried specimens, and virtually all are coming to her for identification and their scientific value. None are for large-scale planting. Though they no doubt contributed to the interest and collecting enthusiasm of Lemon, Foxes and others, they would not form part of their outdoor gardens.

Guy English, November 2017



# Garden History Project: Imports of Exotic Plants into Falmouth 1750-1900

## Report on Findings, Kew Garden Archives

Having established that a large proportion of the plantings of the “Great Cornish Gardens” came from the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew and other up-country suppliers, having been obtained by their collectors, brought in to London and propagated - the question arose:

“And did they come to Falmouth by sea from London” - which a pedant would say counted as “coming in via Falmouth” but is not quite what we had in mind when defining the project.

A search in Kew Gardens Archive “Outward Books” from 1836 to 1902 yielded virtually no information on transport method - just a truly vast amount of material pouring out to destinations ranging from London to the King of Siam’s Royal Botanical Garden.

ONE item - Dec 2 1878 - to Mr Rashleigh at Menabilly went by rail to Par Station near St Austell. At that date that’s just what one would expect.

A search of original Directors’ Correspondence for Cornish Garden owners’ names yielded scores of letters from Sir Charles Lemon, including requests for plants - and offerings. No transport methods were mentioned.

The earliest tome available was the “Record Book 1793-1809”. This was a combined Outward Book and everything else - essentially all in and out transactions, lists of desiderata from all over the world - and for Kew itself. It was less formal, and copiously annotated.

Two dispatches in 1796 to the Midlands via “the Stamford Waggon” (not surprising) indicated at least occasional references to transport.

Then: “11 November 1793 “From the British Waggon...2 boxes... Pimento...from the West Indies by the Hector”

And behold! “31<sup>st</sup> October 1793, (Sent to) Sir Francis Drake by the Exeter Waggon”

This is of course not the famous Sir Francis. But if the best way to reach an estate north of the port of Plymouth before the railway was by Waggon, it is a reasonable assumption that this would be the mode for Cornwall at that time.

Guy English November 2017

## **Conclusion**

As you can see between us we have looked at ships and ports, plant collectors and hunters, garden estates and nurseries, libraries and archives. We have examined newspapers, plant lists, log books and biographies, and made personal inquiries of knowledgeable people.

Out of these researches we have a trivial amount of largely hothouse exotica which came in by ship to Falmouth, but nothing on the scale to stock an extensive garden. There is always the possibility that we have failed to find just the right source.

We do have clear evidence that the gardens were stocked mainly from Kew, but also from Veitch of Exeter and other upcountry nurseries, the plants arriving by waggon rather than by boat, and later by rail. We must conclude that the attractive myth that Cornish gardens were sourced from plants brought in through Falmouth and by Packet ship is just that

- a myth.



Rhododendron arboreum, Bhutan (J Pearce)