

KINGSAND AND CAWSAND

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Names:	Kingsand alias Cawson	Edg deed 1539
	Kingsand	Maker Registers 1630 etc
	Kingston	Donn's map 1765 and S Shaw
		"Tour of West of England" 1788
	Cawson	Wenceslaus Hollar's Map of Plymouth 1643
	Cowsland	Customs Establishments 1675
	Corsan	Donn 1765 and Shaw 1788
	Cawsand	Edg deeds 17 th Century
	Cawsham	Edg deed 1568

The "King" part, at least, may have been due to Maker having been a Royal Manor. Ekwall says of Rame that it is situated where "many place names are of English origin"¹.

There were a great many caves there, some now blocked by coastal defence works: perhaps the name may be derived from Anglo-Saxon "cofa" – a cave and "ham". Note a number of "hams" on both sides of the Tamar – Ham and Keyham in Plymouth, Shillingham and Moditonham on the west bank, Whitsam, Morwellham and Syndenham on the east bank.

The local legend that "Kingsand" was the home of the King's men, as opposed to the smugglers, is disproved by the names antedating any preventive service. Cawsand is always locally pronounced "Causon".

Nettleton's Guide c 1829:

"... The town formed by Cawsand and Kingsand ... this place has partaken largely in the prosperity which the whole neighbourhood owes to the naval establishments in the district. In Carew's time it consisted only of a few fishermen's huts: it now contains above 300 houses, many of them large and well-built. Its support which, in time of war, was principally derived from the number of ships that resorted to the bay, is now confined to the fisheries, particularly that of pilchards which we regret has been very unproductive for many years past. Two dissenting places of worship are well attended by the inhabitants, the respective churches being at a considerable distance. On a rocky eminence which arises near the centre of Cawsand are the vestiges of a fortification at present called "The Bulwarks".

During the tremendous storm of 1817 this town sustained very great injury: some houses on the beach were entirely destroyed by the violence of the waters and property lost and destroyed to a considerable amount. It also suffered in the

¹ See Page 58

hurricane of November 1824 and January 1828 when the destruction of property was again very extensive”.

The West Britton of 27 January 1817:

“... On Sunday last soon after dark, a violent gale of wind came on from the South-East which about midnight increased to one of the most tremendous storms which the oldest inhabitants recollect to have witnessed, being scarcely equalled by that which carried away the Eddystone Light many years ago. Kingsand and Cawsand have suffered considerably; the damage done at these places is estimated at upwards of £5,000. One house, with a man who dwelt in it, was completely swept away. Some of the fish-cellars with nets etc were swept into the ocean. Nearly all the quays for loading limestone etc round the port are either damaged or entirely swept away. Of one lately built by Mr Fuge, which cost upwards of £600, not a stone is left on another”.

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The Fish-cellars or “Palaces”

These go back to the 16th Century².

In Kingsand, the high wall forming the north boundary of Kingsand House front garden appears to have been part of a barn which would have occupied much of the site of the present house. The house opposite³, was in local tradition, a farmhouse; it would appear that the road down to the sea ran through a farmyard.

In Cawsand there was⁴ a lime kiln a little above St Andrews Church and about opposite the end of Armada Road. There was a mill in Cawsand (Edg deed 1667) of which the leet survives, running alongside the road behind Penlee Lodge. St Andrew’s Place was formerly called “Millpool”.

The Methodist Church on The Green⁵ was dated 1801. The entrance was by about eight steps set side-ways to the road, climbing from the north. On the lower side was the entrance to the vestry, below the church and slightly below ground level.

² See extract below from A L Rowse ‘Tudor Cornwall’ in article below on “Fishing”. See also “Leases” in “Land Tenure”. In addition to those still visible, a cellar with rooms over stood at the extremity of the ground occupied by the café (now Cawsand Bay Hotel) on The Bound until the early 1970s although at that time there were only walls and a roof. The old church school on The Garrets, converted into flats in 1975, was probably also a cellar and may indeed be the cellar with rooms over which were rented out which belonged to William Ellis and which provides several entries in his book – copies in full among Parish papers, in Plymouth Local History library and RIC.

³ Lexden ?

⁴ Until the road was widened in the 1960s

⁵ Now converted into flats. In the process of conversion the original west wall of the chapel was partially demolished to leave only a boundary wall on the edge of the plot. A new west wall was built for the flats about 10 feet to the east of the original, thus creating a small court between the flats and the adjoining properties.

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Inside the church was a gallery at the east side, on the front of which was a painting of the Royal Arms (as in contemporary C of E churches). The pulpit, in its enclosure, with the Communion Table in front of it was at the west side and was provided with a stair down into the vestry

The chapel was in the Devonport circuit; there were only a few entries in the baptismal register which was removed for appropriate deposit⁶.

The Congregational Church⁷

The church was founded in 1793 although it had been agreed to build a church in 1779. Pensioners, Plymouth pilots, fishermen and shipbuilders contributed. The present minutes date from 1849; earlier minutes were lost in a fire.

In 1868 the Rev James Lucas was invited "to accept the church for what it brings in" and rules for church government written by the Rev John Angel James were adopted. When Lucas died in April 1870 his "last message" was printed and sent to his flock:

"Rev James Lucas in his last moments desires to present his Christian love and best wishes to his beloved friends, for all kindness received during his intercourse with them and departs in the full and joyful hope of a reunion with them in Heaven.

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The cellars under the church were used by fishermen and later with the adjacent yard for boatbuilding. They were eventually converted into a Sunday School with nearly 60 children.

In 1885 the church was extended and renovated at a cost of £625 towards which Prince's St Congregational Church in Plymouth raised over £100⁸.

The church is said to occupy the site of a Cromwellian fort; a large gun-barrel remains in the south yard.

Memorials

On the north side of the east wall:

⁶ The chapel was sold on the death in 1970 of Mr Reg Henwood, retired grocer of Market Street. The Sunday School belonging to it was on the north side of Little Lane and is now converted into a dwelling.

⁷ Information given by Mrs L A Jenkins (nee Edey) to Burness Martin and published in the Cornish Times in March 1949. Mrs Jenkins was secretary to the church. Her father, who died in 1937, was secretary before her and she helped him from the age of 14.

⁸ More renovations took place in 1909 when a large window was removed and an organ loft installed. There were several additions including a Communion Rail and a blue carpet in 1925 and the vestry was built in 1931.

Sacred to the Memory of William Rowe Esq of this town who fell asleep in Jesus 23 Sept 1849, in the 65th year of his age. Distinguished by unfeigned Piety and Christian Benevolence, he originated the first Sunday School in the place of which he continued the Superintendent for 40 years. He was also Deacon of the church during most of that period. He will live long in the esteem and affection of all who knew him and appreciated his worth, especially of the church and Congregation with whom he was connected and by whom this tablet is erected as a grateful tribute of respect.

“He being dead yet speaketh”

“Quies in Caelo”

William Rowe died of the cholera.

On the south side of the east wall:

Sacred to the memory of Rev George Moase who was Pastor of this Church upwards of 8 years. He entered into his rest on the 20th day of November 1856, aged 77 years. His benevolence was known to all and appreciated by many and also a faithful preacher of the Gospel of Christ. This tablet is erected by the Church and Congregation as a token of respect.

“Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord”

On the north wall, a plaque given by a family called Ellis:

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. They shall prosper that love thee. Psalm 122 v6 1896

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Chapel of Ease – Kingsand

The inconvenience of the parish church and the success of the Free Churches⁹ led eventually to the provision of churches in the villages. Services were first held in Kingsand in the ground floor room of a house next but one to Kingsand House then occupied by the Ashtons in the early 1870s¹⁰. Subsequently, in 1878, Lord Mt Edgcumbe built the Mission Room in The Green which soon proved too small. Steps were then taken to raise money for a larger building and the gift of land and materials by Lord Mt Edgcumbe are fully recorded in the parish papers. Unfortunately no conveyance nor terms of gift accompanied the land which led to much trouble later.

⁹ See Visitation Replies of 1821

¹⁰ Recollections of Granny Lee of Lower Row, born 1873

St Paul's Church, Egloshele, was built on the site of a 4 storey house occupied by a Mrs Vercoe. Her husband is recollected as having lived at Norrock in a house which he entered by a ladder which he pulled up after him. The church architect was J P St Auby. The church was served by a curate, successive holds of the office being:

Mr Sweet, from Canada, who lodged at Algoma on The Green
Mr Smith, who also lodged at Algoma
Mr Owen, a married curate who lived in a house in Little Lane¹¹
Mr Fred Biggs, the nephew of the vicar who lived with his uncle
Mr Baker who lodged at Prospect Place¹² and courted one of
the daughters of General Boyle of Rock House¹³ but being
rejected, went to sea
Mr Gamelin who lodged with Mrs Medland on Devonport Hill

An Infants' Sunday School continued in Ashton's house.

St Paul's Church was built in a water-bearing area which includes a former parish pump¹⁴. There was much reference to "water" and to the name "Egloshayle" in the form of service for the dedication¹⁵.

No 4 of the St Margaret's Magazine quoted in the "Western Antiquary" in 1889 said that "the fishermen's church of St Paul, Kingsand is said to have been built on the spot where St Paul, according to tradition, St Paul himself preached on his first coming to Britain". In confirmation of the truth of the tradition, the authoress says that during the building of the chapel, there was discovered "an ancient stone" which proves that a church once stood on the spot.

The name also of a cottage near by, in the garden of which a well exists which is reputed to have been that in which "the newly-made converts were baptized" is looked upon as giving confirmation to the idea, inasmuch as the name in question is Egloshele or "The Church by the Well".

Far-fetched as the "tradition" seems, comment in the West Antiquary that "Egloshele" is a modern name is unfounded, as is clear from leases of 1615 and 1680 quoted below under "Landowning".

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Note¹⁶

¹¹ Now the first on the south side from Fore Street

¹² Later called Grey House

¹³ Norrock

¹⁴ Now to be found at the west end of the lane. It was in working order until about 1965.

¹⁵ Preserved with the Maker Chronicle

¹⁶ Of the name "Egloshayle", Canon J H Adams wrote (1968): "The name 'Egloshayle' means the 'church by the estuary' and is Celtic in origin. It is a likely enough place for a Celtic Saint to have landed and settled and it is probably that the Saint's little oratory was rebuilt many times,

St Paul's Church was dedicated in 1882 and continued in use until the union of the parishes in 1943¹⁷. The marble base of the font and several commemorative tablets are now at St Andrew's. The disposal of other furnishings etc is recorded in the PCC minutes.

Chapel of Ease – Cawsand

It is clear from Cox and elsewhere that a Chapel of Ease existed in Cawsand from about 1840. According to Fred Carne of Armada Road¹⁸, the Rev William Cornwallis Evans (1867-94) first held services for Rame in Pemberknowse House, then the property of Carne's uncle Alfred Burlace. Thereafter the Rector had the Boys' School on the Garretts fitted up to serve as a chapel and there conducted a complete evening service, shedding his surplice for a black preaching gown for the sermon.

On St Andrew's Day 1878 the present church was opened. It was built on what had been Mt Edgcumbe land, probably on terms similar to St Paul's Kingsand but no evidence survives. It was a simple rectangular building, built on such economical lines that it did not qualify for a grant from the Incorporated Church Building Society. The chancel was added later¹⁹. The screen was also added during the incumbency of Canon Ekins who regarded it as a difficult building to make anything of. The figures on the screen came from St Paul's after its closure.

St Andrew's had its own supply of electricity before the village did. The generator was in the clergy vestry.

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When the boiler for the generator was being lowered from Penlee Drive, it broke away and went through the vestry wall. The use of sand from the shore in the building led to continuous trouble with the internal plaster. The small bell turret in the middle of the roof moved with the wind and was a continual cause of leaks²⁰.

Note²¹

perhaps at first for a series of hermits, and later becoming an unofficial chapel of ease for the fishermen of the district".

Of the "ancient Stone" he wrote: "the stone must have been worked – a mullion, jamb or piece of window tracery; there would have been no point in recording an ordinary bit of building stone. It might have come from an old house, but there is always a tendency, where possible, to build churches on traditional sites, and, at the time, the district was called 'Egloshayle'".

¹⁷ There was then a period of partial and occasional use until 1952 when it was converted into a church hall.

¹⁸ Who was the earliest known owner of William Ellis' Book

¹⁹ In Mr Ekin's time – 1900-40.

²⁰ It was removed with some local protest in the 1960s.

²¹ A total internal redecoration scheme was devised by Mr C W M French, for some years Agent to Lord Mt Edgcumbe, and carried out in the 1960s and 70s.

St Margaret's – Kingsand

A house near the northern end of The Cleave and now known as Norrock was occupied in the 1890s by a party of East Grinstead Sisters. They had a chapel, at first inside the house and later in a greenhouse-like construction built between the house and the cliff at about the first floor level.

The following account was written by Mrs Ekins and published in The Courier in April 1952:

“St Margaret's was started in Mr Evan's time. A Mr Ley, a descendant of Parson Ley, possibly his nephew, offered his house and a £100 pa endowment for an East Grinstead Sister to live and work in the Parish of Rame. The then Rector of Rame, Mr Evans, a dear old Evangelical, was alarmed, smelt popery and refused.

When Mr Ekins and I arrived in 1900, Sister Isobel was in charge of St Margaret's House in Maker Parish. She was a large and imposing woman, a bit of an autocrat with rather a pompous voice, but she was a very capable woman and did good work in the earlier part of her reign. By the time we came, she was past her prime and could not get out much to visit in the parish but ran the Mothers' Meetings and did church embroidery etc. There was only one “PG” in those days, a permanent one, a friend of Sister Isobel. She dressed like a deaconess but was not one, was very delicate and a great dab at raising bulbs in the house and it was her money which kept things going.

Somebody said that “Old Mr Evans (the Rector) had played his cards very badly” in losing the house and the work of a Sister from Rame to Maker. Sister Isobel said that in refusing her he feared that “it would be the thin end of the wedge towards Rome – and I as the wedge”. She was far from thin and thought this a huge joke at which we were expected to laugh heartily.

At that time the Mother Superior of the community at East Grinstead was a daughter of John Mason Neale, the founder of the order. She was called the Rev Mother Ermytrude and was a wonderful person, very holy and such a dear.

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She was very fond of Canon Ekins and sent down another nun to live at St Margaret's and work in Rame parish. Sister Joan was the first and did no end of good, especially among the adolescent girls but she was TB and conditions at St Margaret's were too hard for her. Then came Sister Agnella – we called her the lamb – gentle and good but not very effectual. She could play, though, and Canon Ekins roped her in for the organ at that time. Sister Agnes Mary was there for a time and finally Sister Josephine who was there when Sister Isobel died. After her death, Sister Constance came and set to work on the house. She had the drains seen to, bathrooms and lavatories put in and all make clean and wholesome.

Then dear Sister Benedicta's reign began and Sister Amy came with her. My children loved them both. Sister Amy worked for Rame and was a worthy successor

to Sister Joan, the first Sister allotted to use, besides being so sweet and pretty, but alas, she was too young and useful to be kept from the big town missions where she was so needed, and as St Margaret's was then established as a sort of rest-house for PGs, Sister Agnes Margaret was sent to help Sister Benedicta and 'Auntie Trist', who was a permanent PG worked for Rame, while Sister Agnes Margaret was available for Maker.

When dear Sister Benedicta died (1928) everyone hoped Sister Agnes Margaret would succeed her as head of the house, but then the Mother Superior at East Grinstead thought that Sister Julitta (who had come temporarily while Sister Benedicta was ill) should carry on. We had known Sister Julitta in former years but to follow Sister Benedicta was difficult and she became disheartened".

D M Ekins²²

Penlee Point "Penleigh subter Makre" beginning of the "Aqua de Thamer" – Caption of Seisin of the Duchy 1337

Duprez' Guide 1871

... Penlee Point ... the Beacon, a lofty obelisk erected as a landmark for sailors. Here is also a pretty Gothic building called 'Adelaide Chapel' in honour of the Queen, who during a visit during 1827 made many excursions to the spot.

The 'Folly Tower' which stood above and on the same ridge as the 'Chapel' was said to have been erected by the first Earl so that his returns from the sea could be signalled. It was removed as a security risk during the 1914/18 War and only a few foundations remain. It is marked in early OS maps as 'beacon'. (Has Duprez' Guide become confused?)²³.

²² The editor of the Courier in 1952 wrote: "The end of the story of St Margaret's is recent history". Some of sisters are commemorated on a plaque in St Andrew's.

The house came into the possession of Mr and Mrs Nancarrow who used it as a guest house and after Mr Nancarrow's death it was converted into flats and later acquired by Canon A Doyle.

²³ Penlee Drive was barred to traffic by a locked gate of which the estate tenant of the Italian Lodge held the key. When Hilda (Hall?), daughter of the Principal Keeper, married a Lentill in the late 1930s, permission had to be obtained for the bridal car to go to the Hooter Station for her.