

Fishing in Port Isaac and the May Family



Thomas May, born 1819

lived in Dolphin Street
 Son of a Master Mariner (also named Thomas)
 He and his brothers John, Edwin, William and James, as well as his sister Amelia, were all Masters, owners or part owners of vessels (see list)

Boats & Ships owned by the May family

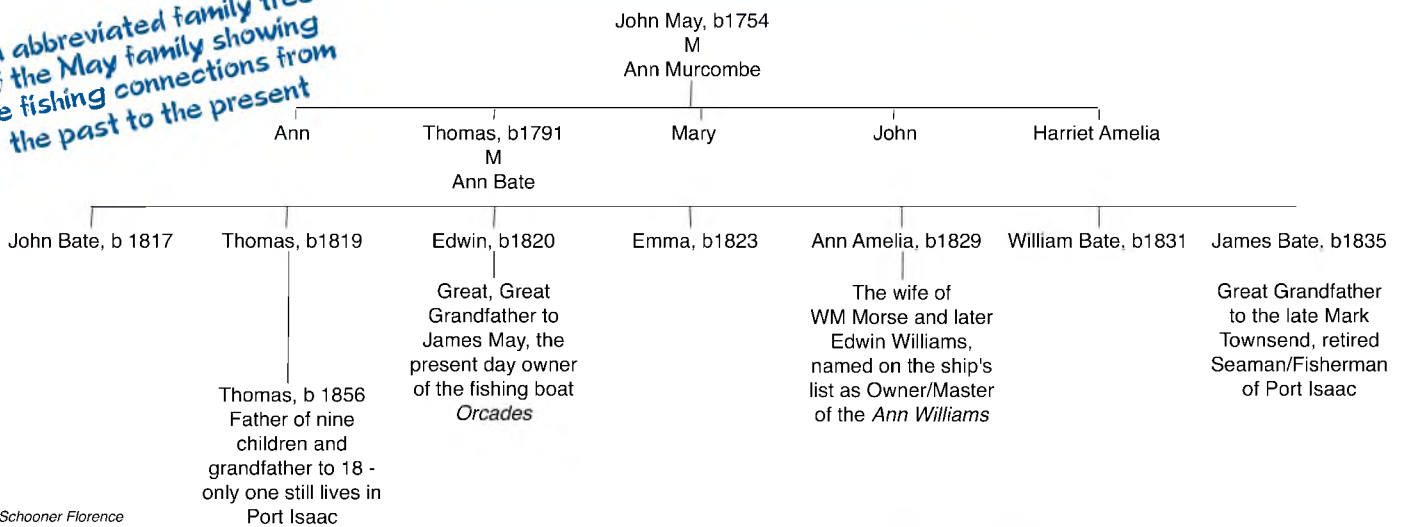
Ship/Boat	Place Built	Name of Master or Owner
Anne Williams	Padstow	May & Co, 1880; E Williams, 1864; W Moyses, 1875
Caroline	France	W May, 1801
Charlotte	Plymouth	J May, 1874
Charlotte	Sussex	WM May, 1875
Comet	Padstow	Ann Moyses (nee May), 1859 T May, 1862
Florence	Looe	T May Snr, 1888; T May Jnr, 1890
Harriet	Padstow	May, 1841
Hope	Mevagissey	T May, 1828; May & Co & Edwin May, 1843
Jane	Bideford	May, 1856
Jane Frances	Padstow	T May, 1881; R May, 1885; T May, 1892; A May, 1890
Lizzie May	Padstow	T May, 1857; T May, 1881; T May, 1868
Maria	Hayle	T May, 1894; T May, 1898; T May, 1900
Mayflower	Looe	E May, 1881
Nadir	Salcombe	T May Jnr, 1866
Orcades	Wadebridge	J May, 1989
Princess of Wales	Padstow	T May, 1870; T May, 1872; T May, 1875; R May, 1875
Rebecca	Wales	T May, 1884, 1886, 1888
Sappho	Padstow	T May, 1890; A May, 1890; R May, 1899
Sarah	Kingsbridge	R May, 1873
Susie May	Padstow	T May, 1880; T May, 1900; R May
Traveller	Padstow	May & Co, 1845; J May, 1840; T May, 1848; John Bate May, 1843; John Bate May, 1862
Victoria	Port Gaverne	T May, 1854, 1857, 1862
Revenge	not known	W May, 1804



Thomas May, born 1856

son of Thomas May, pictured on the left
 A Master Mariner known for his fearless escapades at sea, the most famous being recorded in the Maritime Registers at Greenwich when, during fearful storms in 1891 his ship, the *Florence*, was seen dismasted and wallowing with no sign of the crew. A passing ship reported the sighting when it returned to port and the *Florence* was "listed lost with all hands". However, two weeks later she returned to Falmouth and on arrival back in Port Isaac Thomas Jnr was thought by his father to be a ghost!

an abbreviated family tree of the May family showing the fishing connections from the past to the present



The Schooner Florence from an oil painting by an unknown artist



James May on board the Orcades in Port Isaac Harbour



Mark Townsend splicing a rope on his boat in Port Isaac Harbour

