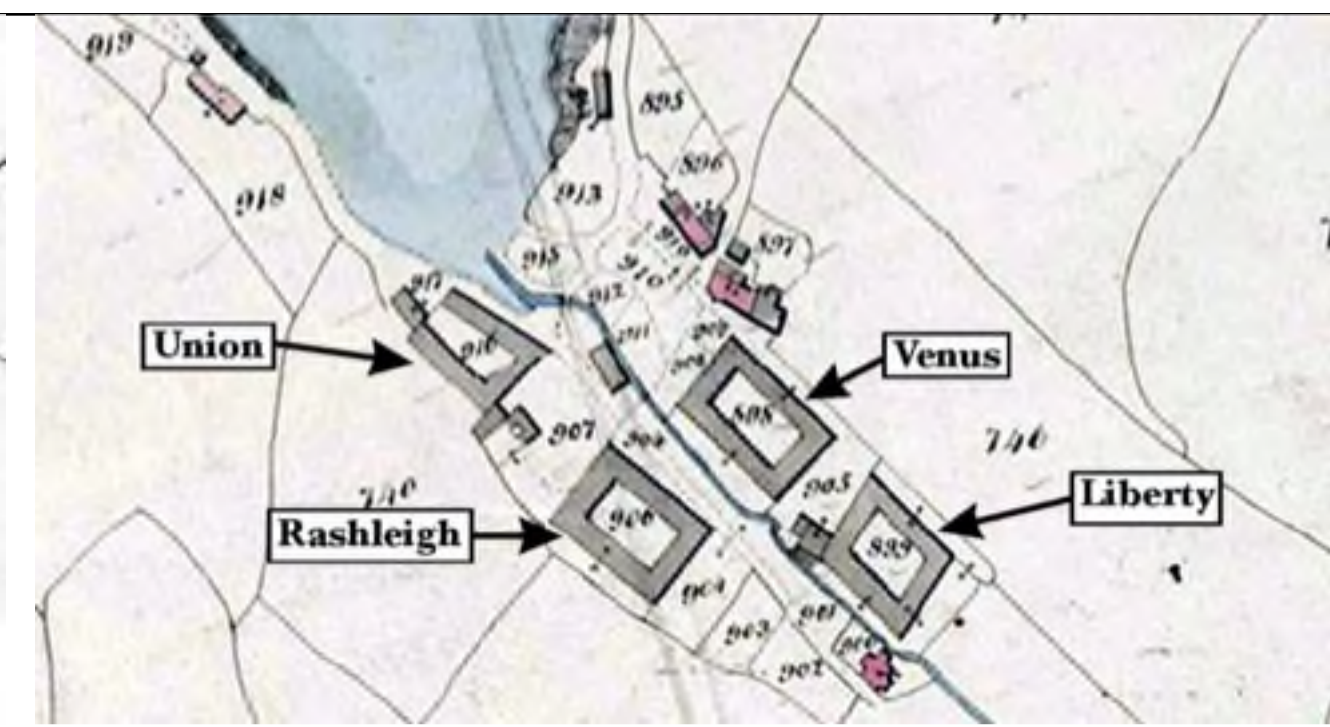


# Port Gaverne Cellars

**Union Cellar:** Earl Fortescue's estate map c1800 illustrates Port Gaverne before the fish cellars were constructed. It shows a long thin rectangular building of the same size, and in the same location, as the current roadside arm of the Union cellar. This was recorded as owned by Mr [Abraham] Hambley, with the land behind it owned by Mr Warwick Guy. This cellar processed a considerable pilchard catch of 650 hogsheads in the 1802 season. Perhaps it was extended in time for that season. Half that original arm has no socket holes alongside the road at the Port Isaac end, possibly as 10ft poles sticking out this end would block the road up the hill. Taking this into account, as well as the triangular plan, the pressing capacity was probably around 300 hogsheads. In 1841 the cellar was shown as owned by Mark Guy, the son of Warwick Guy. It remained within the Guy family until Mark Guy junior died in December 1918. Subsequently it was purchased by Lady Price, who bequeathed it, along with the adjoining Beach House, Rashleigh Cellar, Lime Kiln, and the foreshore, to the National Trust on her death in the 1950s. The Union cellar is principally accommodation now, but our fishermen use the roadside arm for storage. This arm is one of the prime examples to observe the traditional construction materials used in a fish cellar. The whole cellar is a Grade II listed building.



**Rashleigh Cellar:** On 10th September 1802 Warwick Guy gave a 'three lives' lease [*The death of the lessee would terminate an ordinary lease, but a three lives lease terminates either when all three named have died - and it is usually younger sons who are named in the lease - or on the specified end date of the lease, whichever is the earlier.*] on a plot of land 90 foot by 240 foot for a £105 consideration to "Edw. Fox of Egloshayle, merchant, on behalf of self and partners in Rashleigh Seine". The three lives were "Rob. Were Fox, jun., s. of Rob. Were Fox of Falmouth, merchant, Edw. s. of lessee, and his bro. Geo." All were members of the influential Fox family of Quakers from Falmouth. Edward Fox (1749-1817) of Egloshayle supplied important mineral specimens to the great collector Philip Rashleigh, after whom the cellar is named. Robert Were Fox Junior (1799-1877) became a renowned geologist, scientist, and inventor, and was a prominent member of Victorian and Cornish society. In 1848, he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society. A 90 foot width is typical of a fish cellar, but a 240 foot long plot is much larger than the cellar itself and probably included the current gardens at the landward end, together with half the land between it and the Union Cellar. The dimensions of the building itself are typical, and its pressing capacity would have been around 400 hogsheads. Two sixteenths of the 'Fox' Seine at Port Gaverne was sold in March 1823, an alternative name for the Rashleigh. In March 1837 it was again up for sale and was purchased by Mark Guy for £60. The 1841 tithe apportionment records he owned the cellar, which was occupied by the Rashleigh seine company. In 1896, with the coming of the railway to Port Isaac Road the previous year, this cellar was one of the first to be used for holiday accommodation, when church

youth groups from London put up hammocks in the old sail lofts during their stay. As with the Union cellar, it remained in the Guy Family until Mark Guy's death, when it was purchased by Lady Price and is now owned by the National Trust. The old smoke house on the right of the entrance is not original and was an early 20th century addition for smoking herrings. The Rashleigh is the best preserved of all our cellars and is a Grade II listed building.