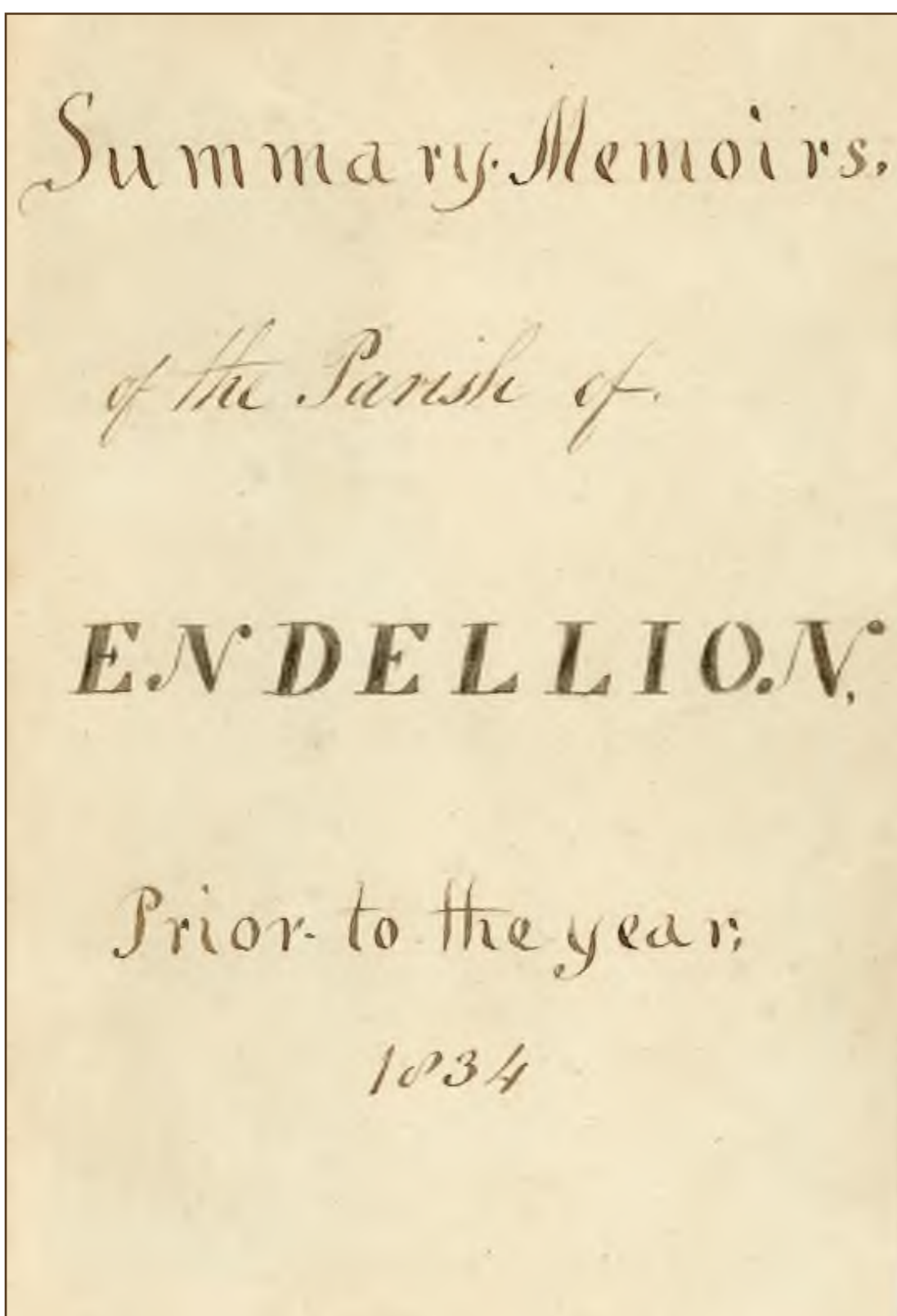


The memoirs of John Trevan 1834



These memoirs comprehensively describe the parish of Endellion and its people in the years immediately prior to the Victorian era

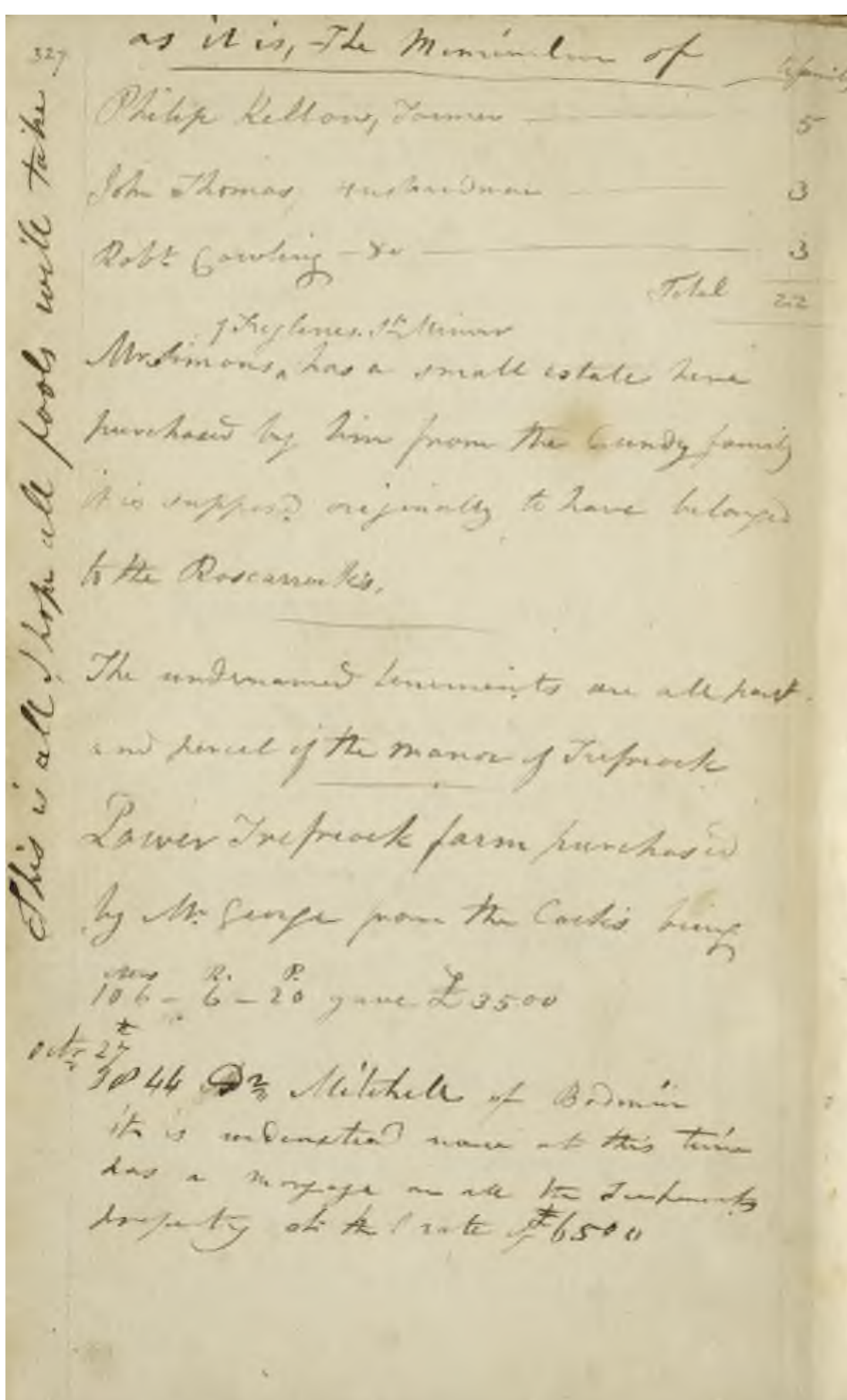
They were hand-written by John Watts Trevan in 1834

WHO WAS JOHN WATTS TREVAN

- He was born on December 2nd 1800, the second child (of ten) to John Archer Trevan and Ann Trevan (nee Watts), and he died on March 23rd 1857.
- Very little is known about him. The 1841 and 1851 censuses show that he was living with his parents, and in G C Boase's 1890 *Collectanea Cornubiensia* he is described as 'of HM Customs' (his father was the local collector of Customs).

THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT

- The original manuscript consists of 328 small pages each 105mm by 170mm with delightful water-colour illustrations.
- It is hard bound, with 'Endellion' and '1833' on the spine.
- In the front of the book is the name 'Mr Trevan, Pendrean, Sidmouth' (or it may be R Trevan), and a bookplate for 'J A D Bridger, Bookseller, New & second-hand, Market Jew St. Penzance'. This Sidmouth Trevan is Dr Frederick Adolphus Trevan (1857-1916), John Watts Trevan's nephew, whose full address in the 1914 Kellys Directory was given as Pendrean, Salcombe Regis, Sidmouth.
- Possibly it passed out of the Trevan family on the death of Dr F A Trevan.
- There are old typed up copies of parts of this book, incorrectly attributed to John Watts Trevan's brother, Frederick, which are referred to in Monica Winstanley's 1973 book 'The Story of Port Isaac, Port Quin & Port Gaverne'.
- The most recent private owner was a London book publisher, who had acquired it from the Penzance bookseller in the 1970s. The Port Isaac Local History Group purchased the book from him in 1999, and it was deposited on permanent loan at the County Records Office, Truro the following year, so this unique original document will be available for future generations (CRO reference XI126).
- There are some items Trevan intended to include in the book, but never got round to. His text makes clear that he was going to put a watercolour of Roscarrock in the book, and he left four blank pages for this purpose.
- He tried to enumerate how many were in each household in the parish, and put the words 'No. to family' at the end of each entry. Unfortunately, he forgot to fill in the number for some of the families. Summing up the numbers he did include, and recording a single person where the number was omitted (it was most probably more), you arrive at a conservative population estimate of at least 990 people in 1834. This compares with the official 1841 census figure of 1,163 people. Had Trevan not omitted the number of members for some families, his estimate would have been much nearer the official figure, and shows the pretty reliable nature of his recording methodology.



There was some doubt on the author, but around the edges of the last two pages of the manuscript is the addition in darker ink by the same hand.

'This is all, I hope all fools will take as it is, the Memirandum of a very weak minded fool J W Trevan'.

This seems conclusive as to the author.

PUBLISHING THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT AS A BOOK

- Prior to its deposit in the County Records Office, all the illustrations, as well as the title page and the end two pages with Trevan's signature, were scanned and it is these scans which are reproduced in the book.
- Malcolm Lee, Robin Penna and Chrissie Everitt from the Port Isaac History Group took on the mammoth task of transcribing the manuscript.
- Trevan's handwriting was a challenge, not to mention his spelling! In many cases he would spell the same word in different ways, even within the same paragraph. Some of the words and place names were unfamiliar, either as a result of his spelling, or the word having gone out of use. With the aid of the Oxford English Dictionary and internet research, most of these terms were capable of being made clear.
- The final proof reading was only a matter of months before Robin Penna died, and is as close to the original as was possible.
- Trevan did not write this in strict alphabetical order. However, Malcolm Lee has produced an Excel spreadsheet recording all the people Trevan mentioned, cross referred to the page number in this book. A further comparison of these people with the data in the 1841 census has also been made, to enable names and approximate ages for the unspecified family members to be obtained. A copy of this spreadsheet can be obtained at no charge by emailing Malcolm Lee at gullrockportgaverne@btinternet.com

This Trevan book is a reprint of the Port Isaac Local History Group's publication and has been published by Port Isaac Heritage, the group of volunteers who continue to collect, record and exhibit the history of Port Isaac since the Local History Group disbanded. They were helped with finance for the project from the Doc Martin Fund.