

The Cornish Extended Family Jim Thompson

<http://cornish-family.netfirms.com>

Just like many other family historians I joined several of the mailing lists concerned with genealogy in Cornwall to help further my knowledge of Cornwall and to make contacts vital to making my family tree grow. A few of the regulars on these mailing lists had their own websites which I found to be immensely informative and entertaining, often they made the person out there in cyberspace more than just an E-mail address or a name; they became real people, especially when they included a photograph of themselves. The vast majority of people didn't have websites however, so putting a face on the person you were corresponding with was all but impossible. I often heard the same old story, "I would love to have a website but I am a complete computer novice, I wouldn't know where to begin". These two factors were the primary motivation behind the starting of the Cornish Extended Family website, which was started in 1999.

In essence the Cornish Extended Family provides a free webpage including all the design and graphics to anyone with an interest in Cornwall. You need not be a genealogist although most are; in fact you don't even need to have a computer, you can just as easily mail the pertinent information to me and I will do the rest. You certainly do not need to know anything about web design. So now there is no excuse.

The site is very simple, firstly there is an index with all the member's names, and beside these names is a list of surnames and the locations of their particular interests. By clicking on a person's name you are then transferred to their individual webpage on the Cornish Extended Family site, this page will have more detailed information as well as contact information, whether that be E-mail address or a regular snail-mail address or both. All E-mail addresses are currently being encrypted to cut down on SPAM E-mails that you often receive when your E-mail address is out there in cyberspace. The site also has an excellent search feature and it is thus a very simple matter to search to see if someone else is researching the same interests as you. All the major search engines that give your page exposure to millions who might be searching the same surnames as you regularly index the site.

Over the years myself and other members have made many lasting friendships through the Cornish Extended Family and the companion mailing list Cornish-family@yahoo.com, we are truly like one huge, extended family. There are currently members in the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Brazil, Ireland, France & Tasmania, talk about extended! As you know we Cornish call each other cousin and this is not simply a term of endearment many of us are related! Many members have found actual cousins just by having a web presence; it is quite likely these contacts may never have been made otherwise. Some members have broken down those genealogical brick walls we all seem to have, by making

contact with someone who found them through a GOOGLE search. Having a web presence is vital in this day and age, and now you have no excuse not to have one.

Currently 99 individuals have a webpage on the Cornish Extended Family and there are 157 members of the mailing list. You can join either or both, won't you become our hundredth member.

Joining the Cornish Extended Family site couldn't be easier; there are two ways to join. If you have Internet access you can simply E-mail your name, where you live and a bit about yourself, family, hobbies, pets, occupation as much or as little as you would like to share; a list of surnames being researched and the locations of each surname; and finally a photograph uncompressed preferably (the photograph entirely optional, but it really makes the page come to life). If you do not have Internet access you can simply send the same information to the address at the end of this article (photos cannot be returned). Then simply sit back and in no time at all I will put together a personalized web page for you. What could be easier? Even if you are computer savvy and already have a website of your own it is beneficial to have a page on the Cornish Extended Family for additional web exposure, and of course a link to your webpage will be included on your page. You can even share family photos and GEDCOM files, simply send them along with the other information and I will make sure they are available from your page.

The mailing list is a bit different than most mailing lists in that anything Cornish related is fair game. You can talk about Cornish language, Cornish politics, Cornish cooking, Cornish religion, Cornish mining, oh and even Cornish genealogy; but the important thing is that it is Cornish related.

I am waiting, mouse in hand, ready to put a page together just for you.

Contact information and the address for submitting membership information is:

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How well do you know Cornwall?

1. In the story, JACK THE GIANT KILLER, where did the giant live?
2. What current hero has been known to belt out "Up Camborne Hill, Down" during emergency situations to calm people?

Quiz Answers

1. St. Michaels Mount
2. Rick Rescorla (World Trade Center bombing)