

11. FRANCIS JOHN BAWDEN
1886-1953



Francis John Bawden, the first of two sons of William Francis Bawden and Sarah Rosevear, was born in Camborne, Cornwall, on June 13, 1886.¹ As described in the previous chapter, it appears that John's father left for the United States sometime between 1887 and 1891. John was living with his mother and brother on Rosekear Fields (street), Camborne, during the 1891 U.K. census.² Ten years later the Victorian era came to a close with the death of the Queen. At that time, Sarah and the two boys were living on

¹Francis John Bawden, birth certificate (1886), General Register Office, Southport, Merseyside, U.K. Copy of original held by the author.

² Sarah Bawden household, 1891 U.K. census, Parish of Camborne, Cornwall, piece RG18/1850, folio 124, page 21, number on schedule 148.

Rose Cottages (street), Camborne.³ Sarah no doubt moved to be closer to her father, Charles Rosevear, who also lived at Rose Cottages in 1901.⁴ John, age 14 in 1901, was already working as a “bill poster.” Living with the family at that time was John’s cousin, Charles A. Bawden, age 12, born in Mexico.

John became a first-class cornet player as a young man. He started playing when he was nine years old; a year later he was playing Christmas carols in a band.



Camborne Town Band 1897
Francis John "Johnnie" Bawden (cornet player, middle row, second from the left)
George Rosevear, Johnnie's Uncle (trombone player, back row, third from the left)

³ Sarah Bawden household, 1901 U.K. census, Parish of Camborne, Cornwall, piece RG13/2243, folio 127, page 18, number on schedule 134.

⁴ Charles Rosevear household, 1901 U.K. census, Parish of Camborne, Cornwall, piece RG13/2243, folio 128, page 19, number on schedule 143. Also see: Charles Rosevear household, 1891 U.K. census, Parish of Camborne, Cornwall, piece RG12/1850, folio 126, page 12, number on schedule 84; and, Charles Rosevear household, 1881 U.K. census, Parish of Camborne, Cornwall, piece RG11/2335, folio 21, page 35, number on schedule 185.



Camborne Town Band circa 1903

George Rosevear, Johnnie's Uncle (trombone player, middle row, first from the left)
Francis John "Johnnie" Bawden (cornet player, middle row, fourth from the left)
Henry Rosevear, Johnnie's Uncle (middle row, fifth from the left)

About 1905, the famous Besses o' th' Barn band (www.besses.co.uk) visited Camborne, and one of their members recommended John to the bandmaster after hearing him play. John accepted their offer to join the band and spent the next two years on a world tour. Upon leaving home, it was reported that, "the bandsmen were jolly enough, but wives and sweethearts were sorely tried at the thought of so long and separation...the band [performed] 'Auld Lang Syne' and wound up with the National Anthem, the final bar of which was reached as the ship's siren for departure of the vessel was giving its shrill farewell, and the last gangway was being taken away."⁵ John and the rest of the band departed Liverpool July 25th and arrived in New York aboard the *S.S. Majestic* on August

⁵ "Besses-o'-th'Barn Band. Its Departure from England." *The Tuapeka Times*, September 29, 1906.

2, 1906.⁶ Latter in the month and still onboard the *Majestic*, John and his band-mates arrived in Port Huron, Michigan.⁷ The band's world tour is reported to have been 18 months long with stops in Canada, Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, and Tasmania.⁸ The band arrived in Christchurch, New Zealand on January 10, 1907 having departed from Wellington on board the *S.S. Mararoa*.⁹ A farewell concert was given at the Melbourne Cricket Grounds and was attended by an estimated 20-30,000 people.¹⁰ In fact, the Besses o' th' Barn band played to an estimated 50,000 people in the course of five days in Melbourne while nearly 50 concerts were given in that same city.¹¹ The band sailed for home in November 1907 from Perth, Australia and was reported to have made stops to perform at Colombo, Sri Lanka; Port Said, Egypt; Marseilles, France; and Gibraltar.¹²

⁶ John Bawden entry, *S.S. Majestic*, Passenger Manifest, August 2, 1906, page no. 36, line no. 18.

⁷ John Bawden entry, *S.S. Majestic*, Passenger Manifest, August 27, 1906, page no. 261, line no. 11.

⁸ Francis John Bawden obituary, *The West Briton and Royal Cornwall Gazette*, June 18, 1953.

⁹ "The Besses O' Th' Barn Band. Arrival in Christchurch." *Star*, January, 10, 1907, page 3. This article lists all of the band members including John.

¹⁰ Advertisement Column 4, *Taranaki Herald*, November 4, 1907, page 4.

¹¹ "News of the Day." *Colonist*, November 5, 1907, page 2.

¹² "Band Column. Notes by Cornet." *Otago Witness*, December 18, 1907, page 69.



Left to right: Francis John Bawden, William Bawden, and Sarah Bawden

John started work as a miner after returning to Camborne, but he didn't remain in Cornwall long. On January 14, 1909, a celebration was held to send-off John and his Uncle Henry Rosevear who were both leaving for the mining community of Pachuca, Mexico.¹³ Two of John's uncles – Arthur and Charles Rosevear – apparently migrated to Pachuca prior to 1886.¹⁴ The celebration, called a 'smoker' (an informal social gathering

¹³ "Complimentary Smoking Concert to Messrs. H. Rosevear and J. Bawden," *Cornish Post and Mining News*, January 21, 1909, page 2D.

¹⁴ Sharron P. Schwartz, "The Cornish in Latin America," <<http://www.projects.ex.ac.uk/cornishlatin/database/searchforancestor.php?id=1407>> (November 1, 2004). Charles was "a very creditable round-arm bowler" for the Real del Monte Cricket Team while his younger brother, Arthur, played for the Pachuca Cricket Team. In 1895 the brothers were attacked by two mounted Mexicans while on their way home to Real del Monte after visiting Cornish friends at Pachuca. Charles shot one of the Mexicans – who had taken his sword – and was arrested and taken to Real del Monte Prison

of men), was held at the White Hart Inn in Camborne. Two of John's other uncles, George and Fred Rosevear, attended the gathering. George played the trombone and Fred, described as a "Cornish Goliath," sang. John also played that evening. The *Cornish Post and Mining News* reported:

The chairman presented Mr. Rosevear with a case of pipes, and Mr. Bawden with a silver cigarette case and match box as a token of their respect, and the company joined in the wish of the chairman that Messrs. Rosevear and Bawden would have every prosperity in Mexico, and that a similar gathering would be held [upon their return].¹⁵

Pachuca had been the destination for many Cornish miners as early as 1832 and a strong connection between the two regions existed during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In fact, the connection between Cornwall and Mexico remains to this day. One obvious influence in Pachuca and nearby Real del Monte is architecture. Many of the buildings in both towns have distinctly British characteristics. However, the most notable legacy of the Cornish is football (i.e. soccer). In 1900 Cornish miners established the first football team in Mexico. Pachuca is considered the "cradle of Mexican football."

Whatever John's plans were for Mexico, he didn't remain there long: he crossed the border and entered the United States in El Paso, Texas, on June 28, 1909.¹⁶ Almost a year later a man fitting John's description was living in Maricopa County, Arizona,

and then to Pachuca to await trial. A ransom was demanded for his release, but the Mexican recovered and Charles was freed.

¹⁵ "Complimentary Smoking Concert," January 21, 1909.

¹⁶ Francis John Bawden entry, Port of El Paso, Texas, List No. 207, June 28, 1909, page no. 807-808, line no. 5.

during the 1910 U.S. census.¹⁷

It shouldn't be surprising that John, like his fellow Cornishmen, was drawn to Arizona. As one historian points out, "the last area of significant Cornish penetration [in the United States], and where their contribution was a considerable one, was Arizona. Here again mining was of the first importance – indeed in this century, from about 1907, Arizona took the place of Montana as the leading state in the production of copper."¹⁸ Among the mining districts of Arizona is Bisbee where John would make his home for several years. Here is a description of that settlement:

In bare and treeless Bisbee, clinging by the eyebrows to its hill – like so many mining sties all over the West – the Cornish were a distinctive element, as old inhabitants have told me. The town covers the upper end of a steep-sided gulch, its houses clinging to the slopes of two long narrow canyons, terraced tier upon tier. Flights of stone and wooden stairs, dirt trails and casual uneven streets reach the uppermost dwellings, their foundations often level with the roofs of the houses below. But though a rough community, it was a stable one: Bisbee is a town in which many families have lived more than thirty years; it has good schools and churches, and almost as many solid, brightly painted houses as mining camp shacks.¹⁹

John married Katherine "Kate" Angelina Higgins (born in Leadville, Colorado, on November 12, 1893²⁰), daughter of Patrick John Higgins and Annie Elizabeth Coyle, in Bisbee, Arizona, on December 12, 1911.²¹

¹⁷ Francis Bawden entry, 1910 U.S. census, Maricopa County, Arizona, population schedule, Wickenburg precinct, enumeration district 79, sheet 2A, family no. 10, line no. 8. This Francis Bawden was a lodger in the home of John T. Jenkins.

¹⁸ A. L. Rowse, *The Cousin Jacks: The Cornish in America* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1969), 384.

¹⁹ Rowse, *Cousin Jacks*, 390-391.

²⁰ Francis Rosevear Bawden, manuscript, date unknown. Original held by Nora Jones (nee Bawden). Copy of the original held by the author.

²¹ Bawden-Higgins marriage, December 12, 1911, "Cochise County Marriages 1911-1920: Grooms A-B," <<http://www.mycochise.com/groomsa2b.php>> (December 4, 2003).



Left to right: Sarah Bawden (nee Rosevear), Francis John Bawden, Francis Rosevear Bawden, and Katherine Angelina Bawden (nee Higgins).

John and Kate had two children: Francis “Frank” Rosevear Bawden, born in Bisbee, Arizona, on September 23, 1912²²; and Lawrence “Laurie” Charles Bawden, born in Camborne, Cornwall, on February 22, 1915.²³

Why was Frank born in Arizona and Laurie in Cornwall? “During this period [about 1913], we went back to Cornwall to, as my father said, ‘to show-off my son,’ to my grandmother [Sarah Bawden],” John’s son Frank explains. “We lived in Cornwall for

²² Francis Rosevear Bawden, birth certificate (1912), Arizona Territorial Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, territorial number 5, county registrar number 405. Copy of original held by the author.

²³ Lawrence Charles Bawden, birth certificate (1915), General Register Office, Southport, Merseyside, U.K. Copy of original held by the author.; and, Lawrence Charles Bawden, Application for Account Number, U.S. Social Security Administration, November 30, 1936. Copy of original application held by the author.

a couple of years.”²⁴

Cornwall has always been renowned for its miners, and it’s this enterprise that explains the various destinations of John and his family. “He [John] was a cornet player and all the mines in those days had company bands. They used them for parades and to advertise the company. So my father would always go where there was a job as a miner and as a musician in the company band. So we moved to a lot of different places, lived in a lot of different places for that reason,” explains Frank.²⁵

It would seem that John traveled ahead of his family, sailing from Liverpool onboard the *S.S. Franconia* and arriving in Boston, Massachusetts, in August of 1914 (six months before Laurie’s birth).²⁶ John’s destination is listed as the home of his cousin Fred Rosevear in Kearsarge, Michigan. It is interesting to note that, this is the same destination for John’s brother, William, who emigrated seven years earlier in 1907.²⁷ This is just the first of many examples illustrating how these two brothers remained in close contact during the next several decades. The ship’s manifest also gives us a fascinating description of John: height 5’7”; complexion dark; hair color black; and, eye color hazel.

Kate and their two sons remained in Camborne for over two years before returning to the United States. According to the manifest of the *S.S. Rotterdam*, Kate and

²⁴ Interview with Francis Rosevear Bawden, by Mary Bawden, held in Eureka, California, in December 1989. Tape recorded copy held by the author.

²⁵ Interview, Francis Rosevear Bawden, December 1989.

²⁶ Francis John Bawden entry, *S.S. Franconia*, Passenger Manifest, August 22, 1914, page no. 95-96, line no. 17.

²⁷ William Bawden entry, *S.S. Saint Paul*, Passenger Manifest, October 19, 1907, page no. 882-883, line no. 7. William was 5’8”; complexion fair; hair color brown; eye color blue; and missing a finger on his left hand.

the two boys left Falmouth, Cornwall, on February 26, 1916 and arrived in New York Harbor on March 5th.²⁸ The manifest notes that the family had been living with “Mrs. F. Bawden, Rose Cottage, Camborne,” and were going to Butte, Montana, to join John. The document also provides us with a physical description of the passengers. Kate was 5’ 8” tall with hazel eyes and blond hair. Both boys had blues eyes.

Also worth noting is the fact that this voyage took place during World War I.

Frank remembered this part of the trip:

We had passage on a Dutch boat, which was a neutral nation in World War I. Theoretically, anyway, the Germans were allowing them to pass. They did, but they stopped the ship [we were on]. It was the *S.S. Rotterdam*, Holland-American Line, and they stopped the ship in the English Channel, not far off the coast of Cornwall. I can still picture this German officer coming aboard the ship from the submarine. The submarine surfaced right along side of the ship. The typical German guttural voice – you know, the voice you hear on the movies – demanding that the captain take him to the bridge and explain who his passengers were and where they were going. [He did] apparently, to the satisfaction of the German submarine commander, because he stomped back down the gangway and climbed back aboard his submarine and away we went.²⁹

Fortunately Kate and the two boys returned safely to America. Did they go through the processing station on Ellis Island? Probably not, for two reasons: 1) they were traveling as second-class passengers, and most likely didn’t have to go on the island itself like the third or steerage-class passengers did; and 2) during World War I, the facilities on the island were seldom used.

In May of 1917, the U.S. Congress passed the Selective Service Act which authorized the President to increase the size of the military through the use of a draft. All men born between 1873 and 1900 completed draft registration cards, including aliens.

²⁸ Sarah Bawden entry, *S.S. Rotterdam* Passenger Manifest, February 26, 1916, page 694, line 4. Copy of the original held by the author.

²⁹ Interview, Francis Rosevear Bawden, December 1989.

John registered on June 22, 1917.³⁰ He and his family were living at 148 East Daly, Walkerville, Montana, just outside of Butte. He listed his occupation as “pipeman in mine” for the “A.C.M.C.” This might be the famous Anaconda Copper Mining Company. He claimed an exemption from the draft on the grounds of “support of family.” A fascinating part of the registration card is the physical description of the register: John had hazel colored eyes and was partly bald with black hair. John’s brother, William, and his family were also living in Walkerville at this time.³¹

Sadly, Kate died not long after she returned to the U.S. She passed away on November 11, 1918 in Bisbee, Arizona³², during the Influenza Pandemic that swept through the world that year. While the rest of the world celebrated the end of World War I, John and his two young sons were mourning the loss of Kate.

John and his sons (nor John’s brother William and his family) don’t appear on the 1920 U.S. census, and the 1921 U.K. census won’t be available until 2021. Following his mother’s death in 1918, Laurie and his brother lived with their Aunt Mary Watts (nee Higgins, Katherine’s sister) and her family in Bisbee, Arizona. One of Mary’s daughters stated that she and her sisters were raised with the two boys and thought of them as their brothers.³³ How long they lived with the Watts family is unclear.

This is perhaps an appropriate point to write briefly about the Cornish dialect.

³⁰ Francis John Bawden entry, World War I Draft Registration Card, June 22, 1917. Copy of the original held by the author.

³¹ William Bawden entry, World War I Draft Registration Card, May 24, 1917. Copy of the original held by the author.

³² Francis Rosevear Bawden, manuscript, date unknown.

³³ Nancy McGonigal, “Bawden/Higgins Family History,” personal e-mail, January 29, 2008. Nancy is a great-granddaughter of Mary Watts.

This is what one of John's sons had to say about the subject:

When my father (John) came out to this county, he had a pretty heavy accent, and he realized that he would be labeled as what they called a "Cousin Jack." All of the people from Cornwall were labeled Cousin Jacks...If I were to go up there [Grass Valley], they'd say: Are you Cousin Jack? [That's] because of my name. Bawden is a Cornish name. It's common in Cornwall. The Cornish people, being kind of isolated in the southwest [of Britain], had a definitely distinct dialect, different from the rest of England. My Uncle Will and my father (John), if they were to stand together, you'd never know they were brothers to hear them talk...Uncle Will never did clean-up his accent.³⁴

It shouldn't be very surprising that John tried to change the way he spoke as many Cornish got rid of their dialect, and some almost became ashamed of the way their parents spoke. Children were told that certain words were only fit for people who aspired to no higher than menial jobs.³⁵ There is one very special point to make about Cornish dialect – some of the words survived or were derived from *Kernewnek*, the Cornish language. The loss of the use of the Cornish dialect caused one linguist to write:

The dialect is his birthright. It may be that in about forty years time, when the vernacular may have quite died out, the dialect could acquire a certain prestige as a dead language, and words like *wisht* and *new vang* and *zam-zoodled* may be...valued as a blend of shibboleth and talisman, to prove one's Cornish identity in a system that by that time may be geared to uniformity.³⁶

In 1925, John took his sons back to Cornwall once more, again onboard the *Rotterdam*. The family arrived in Plymouth – just across the River Tamar from Cornwall – on July 19, 1925.³⁷ Their final destination, not surprisingly, was Rose Cottage, Camborne. This

³⁴ Interview, Francis Rosevear Bawden, December 1989.

³⁵ Joy Stevenson, foreword to *Oll Rite Me Ansum: A Salute to Cornish Dialect*, by Les Merton (Newbury, Berkshire: Countryside Books, 2003), 5.

³⁶ Kenneth C. Phillipps, *Glossary of the Cornish Dialect* (Exeter, Devon: Short Run Press, 1993), 1-2.

³⁷ Francis J. Bawden entry, *S.S. Rotterdam Passenger Manifest*, July 19, 1925, page 4, lines 105-107.

decade would become known as the Roaring Twenties, the era of the Charleston Dance craze, the first talking movies, and the like. However, Cornwall was in many ways still holding on to its Victorian past. John's oldest son Frank, now a teenager, had this to say about his second trip back to Camborne and his grandmother's home – Number 9 Rose Cottage:

She lived in a very typical Cornish rowhouse, built out of stone, brick and stone. Plastered upper walls. Two bedrooms upstairs and the living area downstairs with an open kitchen. The stove was a coal stove. A big, flat surface of cast iron called a "slab," that's where she did her cooking. They didn't refer to this cooking device as a stove. It was a slab. She used to polish it with black stove polish once a week. The brass handles, the brass hardware on the doors, and the knocker on the front door all got a polishing once a week. She considered anyone who failed to do that as a poor housekeeper.

The heat was from a small fireplace they called a "grate." [It was] a basket holding a few coals, but it produced quite a bit of heat. My chore, while we were there, was to go up to the nearby coal-yard and buy 50 pounds of coal, every week, and bring it home in a little wheeled basket. Everybody in the neighborhood did this, on Saturday. It was common to take you little basket, like a shopping cart, go up to the coal yard, and buy 50 pounds of coal to do you for the week.

Other things, like milk and bread, were delivered by deliverymen. Fishmongers [would] come with fish carts to sell you fish. Milk, you brought your own container out to the milk cart, and he ladled it out into your own container.³⁸

Frank also recalled that his father "made it a point to take us to London and nearby points of interest like the mythical King Arthur's castle – Tintagel. It was a magical area. It was suppose to have been King Arthur's castle. There was all kind of interesting things in Cornwall like Saint Ives, Saint Michael's Mount, various historical spots."³⁹

³⁸ Interview, Francis Rosevear Bawden, December 1989.

³⁹ Interview, Francis Rosevear Bawden, December 1989.

How long the family stayed in Cornwall is still unknown; however, they were back in Arizona two years later. A photo from the *Bisbee Daily Review* in 1927 shows a picture on John's youngest son Laurie.⁴⁰

On June 1, 1927, John married Winifred Grigg (born in Georgetown, Grant County, New Mexico, on June 6, 1886⁴¹), daughter of Moses and Thomasine Uren, in Bisbee, Arizona. She was the widow of Matthew "Matt" Chapman Grigg.⁴² Winifred had three daughters with her first husband: Enid, Phyllis, and Lucille.

⁴⁰ "Bisbee Public Schools – Grade School Classes – 1927," *Bisbee Daily Review*, May 25, 1927. Cousin Mildred Watts is also in the photo.

⁴¹ Judy Caldwell Schmidt, "Update," January 21, 2005, personal e-mail (January 21, 2005). Ms. Schmidt writes, "I have an affidavit, from the State of Nevada, County of Lyon, stating that Winifred Uren Grigg Bawden was born June 6, 1886, at Georgetown, New Mexico."

⁴² Matt Grigg was born in 1885 and died in Bisbee, Arizona, on October 5, 1921, in a mining accident.



Left to right: Seated, Lawrence Charles Bawden, Francis John Bawden, Francis Rosevear Bawden, Winifred Bawden (nee Uren), and Lucille Grigg. Standing, Francis Rosevear Bawden, Enid Grigg, and Phyllis Grigg

On August 11, 1928, Richard Uren, Winifred's brother, signed an affidavit which established Winifred's date and place of birth for the legal record, since the State of New Mexico didn't start issuing birth certificates until 1919.⁴³ In the affidavit, Richard testified that John and Winifred were living in Victoria, British Columbia. It is not clear why John and Winifred were in British Columbia, but Judy Caldwell Schmidt, one of Winifred's granddaughters, states that, "I do believe that they left for England from British Columbia, but [I'm] not 100% sure."⁴⁴

What is certain, though, is where John and Winifred were living in 1930. The

⁴³ Judy Caldwell Schmidt, "Update," January 21, 2005, personal e-mail (January 21, 2005).

⁴⁴ Judy Caldwell Schmidt, "Affidavit," January 21, 2005, personal e-mail (January 21, 2005).

U.S. census records John and Winifred, John's two sons, and Winifred's three daughters all living at 829 West Copper Street in Butte, Montana.⁴⁵ John was employed as a miner at a local copper mine. William Bawden, John's brother, and his family were still living near by in Walkerville.⁴⁶ Therefore, William and John and their families lived near each other for many years.

In 1932 John's enigmatic father, William Francis Bawden, died in Nevada City, California. A year later John wife and youngest step-daughter Lucille travelled to Number 9 Rose Cottage, Camborne.⁴⁷ Perhaps they were going to care for John's mother Sarah who was well into her 70s at that time although Winifred had family in Cornwall too.

In 1934, John returned once more to his home in Cornwall. "He [John] went back [to Cornwall] when I was 21 or 22. He decided to go back. That's when I joined the Army. He went back to England and Laurie and I stayed in this country...He spent World War II working in an ammunitions factory in Camborne," Frank explains.⁴⁸ Perhaps John was motivated to return home to Cornwall by the death of his mother who died December 4, 1933 in Camborne.⁴⁹ Here is an excerpt from her obituary:

The interment of Mrs. Sarah Bawden, of Rose Cottages, Camborne, who died at her home on Monday, at the age of 74 years, took place at Roskear cemetery on

⁴⁵ Francis J. Bawden household, 1930 U.S. census, Butte, Silver Bow County, Montana, population schedule, enumeration district 47-16, sheet 4A, dwelling number 72, family number 83, line 13.

⁴⁶ William Bawden household, 1930 U.S. census, Walkerville, Silver Bow County, Montana, population schedule, enumeration district 47-1, sheet 7B, dwelling number 166, family number 166, line 74.

⁴⁷ Winifred Bawden and Lucille Grigg entries, *S.S. Aurania* Passenger Manifest, July 16, 1935, page 26, lines 1 and 2.

⁴⁸ Interview, Francis Rosevear Bawden, December 1989.

⁴⁹ Sarah Bawden, death certificate (1933), General Register Office, Southport, Merseyside, U.K. Copy of original held by the author.

Friday afternoon. The first part of the service was held at the North Parade Chapel, Camborne...Mrs. S. Bawden, who was the widow of Mr. William Bawden, leaves two sons on America. The deceased was well-known and respected in the town.⁵⁰

John worked in a factory when he returned to Camborne. He was first employed by the Holman Brothers, but in 1937 he took a job at the Bickford Smith factory in Tuckingmill.⁵¹ 1937 is also the year his first grandchild was born: Patricia Anne Bawden. John's first grandson – Francis Patrick Bawden – was born a year later in 1938.



Francis John Bawden in band uniform *circa* 1940

John continued his life as a musician in Cornwall and several interesting stories about him appear in a book written about the band's history. The book's author retells this story:

On one occasion Mr. Parker [the band's musical director] must have felt that

⁵⁰ Sarah Bawden obituary, *Cornish Post and Mining News*, December 9, 1933.

⁵¹ Francis John Bawden obituary, *The West Briton and Royal Cornwall Gazette*, June 18, 1953.

some of the players were not paying sufficient attention to his beat and he looked at Johnnie Bawden and said, “You must keep your eyes on me Johnnie.” The bandroom is a wonderful place for repartee, and spontaneous ripostes will often cause great hilarity. On this occasion Johnnie, using his broadest [American] drawl, came back with, “Well, you ain’t no oil painting are you Mr. Parker?” I have no idea of Mr. Parker’s response but I fondly think it may have been a chuckle.⁵²

In another story, a band member was asked “how he developed such a fine tonguing technique” and replied that “Johnnie Bawden had him spitting out peas and then transferred the skill to his playing.”⁵³

John played with the band from 1935 to 1953. During this time, the band won many championships. In a picture from 1939, we see John along with his band-mates celebrating their victory. Written on the back of an original photograph of the band is the following: This band won all first prizes, and all the cups, and trophies (*sic*) at one contest. The last one [contest] held before the war started.⁵⁴ In 1945 the band placed first in the National Brass Band Championship of Great Britain, won the Daily Herald Championship, and was the holders of the Prince of Wales Trophy. John became bandmaster by 1949 which was no doubt an acknowledgement of his skills.⁵⁵

⁵² Tony Mansell, *Camborne Town Band* (Penryn, Cornwall: R Booth, Limited, 2005), 22-23.

⁵³ Mansell, *Camborne Town Band*, 18.

⁵⁴ “Camborne Town Band: West of England Champions, 1939,” photograph, 1939, original held by Nora Jones (nee Bawden), copy held by the author.

⁵⁵ Mansell, *Camborne Town Band*, 24.



Francis John Bawden *circa* 1950

John retired in 1952, the same year that his last grandchild – Nora Elizabeth Bawden – was born. That same year saw the death of King George VI and the beginning of the long reign of his daughter – Queen Elizabeth II. John died a year later in Camborne on June 14, 1953.⁵⁶ His obituary recorded some of the details of his funeral:

The funeral was one of the most impressive seen in Camborne for years. Traffic on the main A30 road was held up for nearly half-an-hour when [the] Camborne Band, under its musical director, Mr. F. J. Roberts, played the “Dead March in Saul,” from the Parish Church through town to [the] Camborne Cemetery.⁵⁷

⁵⁶ Francis John Bawden, death certificate (1953), General Register Office, Southport, Merseyside, U.K. Copy of original held by the author.

⁵⁷ Francis John Bawden obituary, *The West Briton and Royal Cornwall Gazette*, June 18, 1953.

John was buried June 17, 1953 at the Camborne Cemetery (grave number B7, X4).⁵⁸ The author visited the cemetery in January 2006, but just like his father and grandfather before him, there is no marker or memorial at John's gravesite.

John's second wife Winifred passed away three years later in Camborne on December 16, 1956.⁵⁹ Her place of death was the same as John's: 28 Dolcoath Road, Camborne. Her obituary notes:

The impressiveness of the funeral service in Gwinear Parish Church on Tuesday for Mrs. Winifred Bawden, aged 70, of 28 Dolcoath Road, Camborne, was enhanced by the singing by her grandson (Mr. B. Luxon⁶⁰), as a solo of "There is a Green Hill"...Mrs. Bawden was the widow of Mr. F. J. Bawden, who for many years was a playing member of Camborne Town Band. She is survived by three daughters: Mesdames. J. Kelly and R. E. Caldwell (both in America), and L. Luxon (Camborne).⁶¹

Children of Francis John Bawden and his first wife, Katherine Angelina Higgins:

- i. Francis "Frank" Rosevear Bawden, born in Bisbee, Arizona, on September 23, 1912, and died in Sacramento, California, on February 27, 1992
- ii. Lawrence "Laurie" Charles Bawden, born in Camborne, Cornwall, on February 22, 1915, and died in Fresno, California, on December 21, 1953

Step-daughters of Francis John Bawden, daughters of his second wife Winifred and Mathew "Matt" Grigg:

- i. Enid Cherry Grigg, born in Bisbee, Arizona, on February 9, 1912, died in Windsor, California, on August 13, 1991

⁵⁸ Claire Stocks, Direct Services Officer, Kerrier District Council, "Francis John Bawden," February 16, 2006, personal e-mail.

⁵⁹ Winifred Bawden, death certificate (1956), General Register Office, Southport, Merseyside, U.K. Copy of original held by the author.

⁶⁰ The following is a biography from *The International Who's Who, 1995-96* (London: Europa Publications, Ltd., 1995), 957: Benjamin Matthew Luxon, CBE, FGSM; British musician; born 24 Mar 1937, Redruth, Cornwall; son of Maxwell Luxon and Lucille Grigg; married Shelia Amit 1969; two sons, one dead. Address: Lower Cox Street Farm, Detling, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3 HE, England.

⁶¹ Winifred Bawden obituary, *The Cornishman*, December 27, 1956, page 2.

- ii. Phyllis Grigg, born on March 5, 1913
- iii. Lucille Grigg, born in USA on July 19, 1916, died in Saint Hilary,
Cornwall