

9. RICHARD BAWDEN 1828-1904

Richard Bawden, the youngest of the eleven children of Joseph Bawden and Mary Ede, was born in 1828 in Mawgan-in-Meneage, Cornwall, and baptized in that parish's church on August 31, 1828.¹ Interestingly, Richard isn't listed living with his parents or his siblings in the 1841 British census (he would have been 13 years old), but was instead working as a servant for the Dale Family at Gilly.² This small farm is located less than a mile south from Richard's parents' home at Mawgan Cross.³ Gilly consisted of 10 members of the Dale family and Richard (their only servant) in 1841.⁴

Richard married Ann Banfield Stone (born in 1829 in Grade, Cornwall,⁵), daughter of James Stone and Ann Basher, on September 17, 1850 in Grade, Cornwall.⁶ Less than a year later – during the 1851 census – Ann and her twin newborn sons were staying at her mother's farm in

¹ Richard Bowden (*sic*) entry, "Parish Records for Mawgan-in-Meneage, Church of England, Parish Church of Mawgan-in-Meneage, Cornwall" (microfilm: batch no. C020931, source call no. 0226169), Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

² Joseph Bowden (*sic*) household, 1841 U.K. census, Parish of Mawgan-in-Meneage, Cornwall, piece HO107/0138, folio 12, page 17; and, Joseph Dale household, 1841 U.K. census, Parish of Mawgan-in-Meneage, Cornwall, piece HO107/0138, folio 10, page 12. Gilly means "grove" in Cornish.

³ Farms of this type reflected relatively simple social structures and were very much based around kinship patterns. This is because the population was on the whole grouped around what some historians have termed "farm centers" which are composed of several families (plus farm servants and laborers) living in clusters of dwellings and farm buildings surrounded by agricultural lands, variously worked by the people in the families who lived there.

⁴ For an overview of farming in this area during the nineteenth century, see: John Rowe, *Changing Times and Fortunes: A Cornish Farmer's Life, 1828-1904* (Saint Austell: Cornish Hillside Publications, 1996). This book is based on the autobiography of John Boaden (*sic*) who lived and farmed in the Meneage district of the Lizard Peninsula.

⁵ Richard Bawden household, 1861 U.K. census, Parish of Grade, Cornwall, piece RG9/1573, folio 117, page 2, number on schedule 7; and, Richard Bowden (*sic*) household, 1871 U.K. census, Parish of Grade, Cornwall, piece RG10/2306, folio 46, page 4, number of schedule 14.

⁶ Richard Bowden (*sic*) and Ann Banfield Stone entry, "Parish Records for Grade, Church of England, Parish Church of Grade, Cornwall" (microfilm: batch no. M023132, source call no. 0226160), Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Bruggan, Parish of Grade.⁷ Despite the fact that she was a widow (or perhaps because of it), Ann's mother was listed as a "farmer [of] 3 acres." Where was Richard during this time? He was working as an "outdoor servant" at Rosevidney farm in the Parish of Ludgvan.⁸ Rosevidney was home of the Tregonning Family who farmed 100 acres there. The farm is near Penzance and is over 10 miles from Mawgan and almost 20 miles from Bruggan.

Bruggan is another small settlement and is approximately 6 miles south of Mawgan. It lies within the Parish of Grade which is near the southern most point in Cornwall on the Lizard Peninsula. Between 1851 and 1871, only about 30 people (including Richard and his family) were living in Bruggan. John M. Wilson's *Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales, 1870-72*, describes the parish thus:

Grade, a parish in Helston district, Cornwall; on the coast, near the Lizard, 9½ miles SSE of Helston, and 14½ SSW of Falmouth...Acres, 1,981; of which 35 are water. Real property, £1,852. Population, 327. Houses, 69. The property is divided among a few. The living is a rectory, united with the rectory of Ruan Minor, in the diocese of Exeter. Value, £334. Patron, the Rev. F. Jackson. The church contains brasses and monuments of the Eriseys; and was recently in a very dilapidated condition.⁹

The move from Mawgan to Bruggan marks a turning point in the family's history and the beginning-of-the-end to a centuries-old way of life for the Bawden Family. While Richard will remain a farmer the rest of his life, industrialization in Cornwall will have a great effect on his children, and we – their descendents – are still living with those effects to this day.

⁷ Ann Stone household, 1851 U.K. census, Parish of Grade, Cornwall, piece HO107/1913, folio 181, page 5, number on schedule 16.

⁸ John Tregonning household, 1851 U.K. census, Parish of Ludgvan, piece HO107/1917, folio 106, page 27, number on schedule 70.

⁹ John Marius Wilson, *Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales embracing recent changes in Counties, Dioceses, Parishes, and Boroughs, 1870-72* (Edinburgh: A. Fullarton, 1880).

As mentioned in the previous chapter, farmers in Cornwall faced many challenges during the first half of the nineteenth century, and no doubt Richard faced similar difficulties. Again, the 1850s brought in a period of relative stability to farming.

The British censuses of 1861 and 1871 show us that Richard and his family continued to live in Bruggan.¹⁰ Additionally, we learn that in 1861 Richard was an agricultural laborer just like his father although the 1871 census lists his occupation was “van proprietor.” Richard’s mother-in-law, Ann Stone, was also living with the family in 1871. By 1881, Richard returns to farming but, more importantly, he and his family had moved from Grade to Camborne.¹¹

The move to Camborne is a true benchmark in Bawden Family history marking the family’s departure from the Lizard Peninsula where they had lived and farmed for centuries: now that pattern-of-life will be changed forever, due mainly to the after-effects of the Industrial Revolution which by this time already been felt in Cornwall.

Why did the family move? The family may have been motivated by a new occupation – mining – which would directly influence the next three generation of the Bawden Family. Three of Richard’s sons were employed as tin miners in the area as can be seen in their 1881 census entries.¹² Another possible answer might have to do with Richard’s occupation – farming. The amount of farm land available for lease in Cornwall had been reduced by the mid-nineteenth century; additionally, landlords were refusing to renew leases, choosing instead to incorporate

¹⁰ Richard Bawden household, 1861 U.K. census, Parish of Grade, Cornwall, piece RG9/1573, folio 117, page 2, number on schedule 6; and, Richard Bowden (*sic*) household, 1871 U.K. census, Parish of Grade, Cornwall, piece RG10/2306, folio 46, page 4, number of schedule 13.

¹¹ Richard Bawden household, 1881 U.K. census, Parish of Camborne, Cornwall, piece RG11/2336, folio 57, page 5, number on schedule 25.

¹² Richard Bawden household, 1881 U.K. census, Parish of Camborne, Cornwall, piece RG11/2336, folio 57, page 5, number on schedule 25.

the farms into neighboring lands, thus forcing the farmers off the land.¹³ Moreover, a “great agricultural depression” suddenly descended on Cornwall in 1874 when cheap grain from America flooded the markets¹⁴. The family, therefore, likely moved to Camborne due to push of these farming issues and the pull of mining.

Richard and his wife Ann were living on Pendarvis Street in Camborne in 1891. Although he was 62 years old, Richard’s occupation continued to be “farm laborer.”¹⁵ Richard’s wife Ann died in Illogan (about 4 miles north of Camborne) on February 12, 1898.¹⁶ Ann’s death was noted in the *Cornubian and Redruth Times*:

The remains of Mrs. Bawden, aged 68, who died at Church Lane, Illogan, were interred at the church yard on Saturday. Those present included Mrs. Henry Bawden, Mrs. Philip Bawden (daughters-in-law, Camborne), Messrs. Henry Bawden, Thomas Bawden, A.P. Bawden (sons), and Master Bawden...Mr. Bawden [Richard] was ill in bed at the time of his wife’s death. He has since been removed to his son’s house.¹⁷

Ann is buried at the Saint Illogan Parish Church’s cemetery in the south-side area, row 3, plot 61.¹⁸ Richard died six years later in Illogan on September 26, 1904¹⁹ and is buried in the

¹³ Shirley Ewart, “Cornish Mining Families of Grass Valley, California,” unpublished M.A. thesis (California State University, Sacramento, 1980), 37.

¹⁴ Frank E. Halliday, *A History of Cornwall: The Essential Guide to Cornwall Past and Present* (Poughkeepsie, New York: House of Stratus, Inc., 2001), 335.

¹⁵ Richard Bawden household, 1891 U.K. census, Parish of Camborne, Cornwall, piece RG12/1851, folio 128, page 40, number on schedule 270.

¹⁶ Anne (*sic*) Bawden, death certificate (1898), General Register Office, Southport, Merseyside, U.K. Copy of original held by the author.

¹⁷ “Illogan News,” *Cornubian and Redruth Times*, February 18, 1898, 5.

¹⁸ Ann Bawden burial, February 15, 1898, “St. Illogan Parish Church Burial Ground Records,” <http://www.saint-illogan.org.uk/burials_a-d.htm> (June 4, 2006).

¹⁹ Richard Bowden (*sic*), death certificate (1904), General Register Office, Southport, Merseyside, U.K. Copy of original held by the author.

exact same grave as his wife.²⁰ The author searched the cemetery in January 2006 and found the location of the graves; unfortunately, the plot isn't marked with a headstone or memorial for either Ann or Richard.

Richard's death certificate lists his place of death as the "Union Workhouse, Illogan" and that may explain the lack of a headstone. Workhouses often evoke the grim world of Charles Dicken's *Oliver Twist*. People ended-up in the workhouse for a variety of reasons. Usually, it was because they were too poor, old, or ill to support themselves. This may have resulted from such things as a lack of work during periods of high unemployment, or someone having no family willing or able to provide care for them when they became elderly or sick. It would seem that Richard must have been one of these unfortunate few during the last years of his life.

Children of Richard Bawden and Ann Banfield Stone:

- i. James Stone Bawden, born 1850, Grade, Cornwall
- ii. Joseph Bawden, born 1850, Grade, Cornwall
- iii. Richard Bawden, born 1855, Grade, Cornwall
- iv. Mary Ann Bawden, born about 1862, Grade, Cornwall
10. v. William Francis Bawden, born 1862, Grade, Cornwall; died July 2, 1933, Nevada City, California
- vi. John Bawden, born about 1865, Grade, Cornwall
- vii. Thomas Bawden, born about 1867, Grade, Cornwall
- viii. Henry Bawden, born about 1870, Grade, Cornwall
- ix. Phillip Bawden, born about 1872, Grade, Cornwall; died April 25, 1899, Camborne, Cornwall

²⁰ Richard Bawden burial, September 29, 1904, "St. Illogan Parish Church Burial Ground Records," <http://www.saint-illogan.org.uk/burials_a-d.htm> (June 4, 2006).