

THE BOOK OF STICKER

With Lower Sticker, Paramoor and Hewaswater

Peter G. Twining

The Book of Sticker is intended to give its readers an insight into the past and more recent history of this ancient Cornish community. As the book leans heavily on visual content it naturally covers the period since the invention of photography in the mid 1800s. It contains a host of wonderful photographs mainly provided by local people and many of which have not been seen by the public before. Fascinating aspects of everyday life in and around the village are covered, from mining and farming through to shops and businesses, schools, sporting activities and places of worship. The book reveals the vast changes the place has undergone; for instance where once a hundred miners' cottages stood, today not a trace of them is to be seen, although the mines that employed them are easily identified by the granite engine house and chimney stacks that stand proudly on the skyline. Lower Sticker, Paramoor and Hewaswater are also included in the book for the important contribution they have made to the local history.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS & CONTRIBUTORS

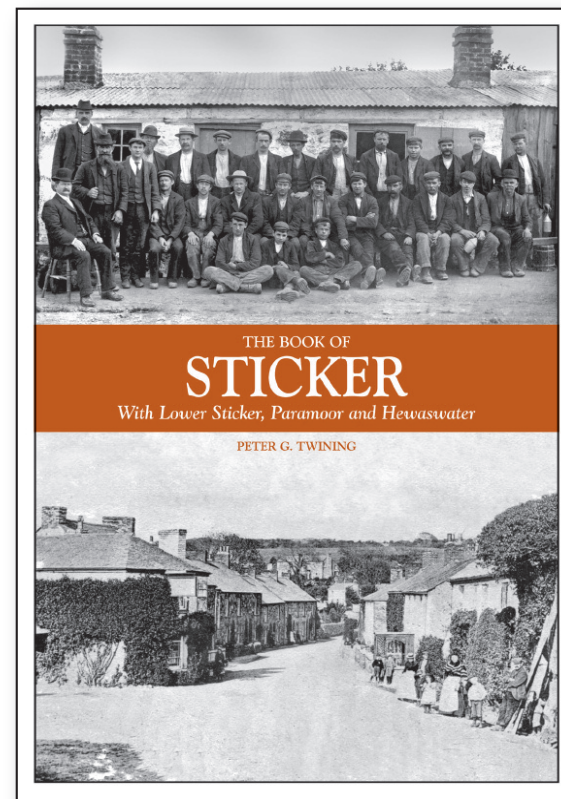
While Peter Twining has been the principal behind *The Book of Sticker* many other local people have contributed to the compilation of this book through the provision of text, photographs and in providing personal recollections of times past. Research has thrown up many facts previous unrecorded or forgotten, all of which have helped shape the village as it now is, and which make this publication so fascinating for anyone with a connection to Sticker and the region around.

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Above: An offer of help to build the bypass from the residents of Sticker, during carnival week. (D. Lobb)

Above left: This giant iron beam destined for the Ventonwyn mine, had been hauled by road from Grampound Road railway station. (M. Wilson)

Left: Harvest is over, time for a rest at Harvose. Jimmy, John, and Marion Davies with Alfred Trethewey? standing at the front are the children, Arthur Danning on the left and Melville Thomas middle, but the identity of the man on the right is not known. (M. Wilson)



The old village smithy with Henry Dowrick standing outside with one of his helpers. Above the smithy door is an advertising sign stating: 'Lloyds News: Latest News and Telegrams'. Standing in the doorway of the cottage is Henry's wife Louisa. (S. Pilling)

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South Polgoth mine's try-clad engine house. (S. Pilling)

Mining: An Ancient Legacy

Traveling towards Truro from St Austell on the old main road which follows the route set out by the Turnpike Trust, it's not easy to see much evidence of the mining activities in and around the villages of Sticker and Hevas Water. On the hill overlooking the Pentewan Valley and Polgoth are the remains of the engine house at South Polgoth mine, whilst further on and dominating the skyline above Hevas Water lies the almost 'sunken' Ventonwyn Engine House and its attendant chimney, together with the stacks of Great Dowgas. Unless the casual observer stops to look around there appears to be nothing to show that mining operations such as those that occur in the area around Canthorne and Redruth were happening in this district a hundred and fifty years ago.

Yet there are records of mining from the very earliest days, even as far back as when Phoenician traders sailed into the Cornish creeks and inlets and hattered for tin and other minerals. There is suggestive evidence in the surrounding landscape of a prehistoric or Iron Age settlement remains in a field near South Polgoth Mine could be a 'round', and a large enclosure stands on Treborth Common close to the old Sticker water reservoir, whilst the Pentewan Hoard of late ninth century silver found near Treborth is thought to have been hidden from invading Danes in a working tin stream. In 1757, at Parnewoe, the Majorian Police noted that the blade of a dagger had been found in a stream work. It was 8 1/2 inches long and 1 inch wide and thought by experts to be Roman in origin. Close to this spot there was a mine registered as 'Goodluck', and in 1590 this was in the ownership of Peter Edgcombe Esq. There is also some evidence of mining activities at Tregenna in 1682, whilst in 1720 the Hevas Mine was selling tin to the Gableck smelting house near Truro.

Tin streaming was a process that used water to separate the tin particles from the ore through the use of a running stream. Originally the ore would have been dug from the banks of the streams, but gradually the quarrying became deeper and wider until eventually shafts were excavated to follow the loads underground. The extraction process



The old Ventonwyn engine house circa 1980. (M. Wilson)



This view of Fore Street, shows Fred Mannell emerging from his house, which has replaced the old barn that used to be on the front right of the picture.