

## The Cornish Diaspora 1857-1900: Newlyn East to Daylesford

Peter Gardner



Sam and Ann (nee Roberts) Angove c.1900

From 1830 onwards production in the copper mines of west Cornwall was generally declining, both in yield and tonnage, and thus employment was reduced in them. Mines that were able to do so changed over from copper to tin production. In large mines like Dolcoath employment dropped from 1600 in 1818 to 590 in 1838. (Barton D.B. *Copper Mining in Cornwall and Devon*) During the 1840s the East Wheal Rose at Newlyn East was the major lead mine in England and a major employer in West Cornwall. More than 1200 miners and surface workers were employed here for most of the decade.

Despite the calamitous flooding of this mine in 1846 leading to the deaths of 39 miners there were always more miners seeking jobs there than there were positions available. The decade was known in Cornwall as the “Hungry Forties” which culminated in the potato famine and exorbitant grain prices in 1847. As a result there were food riots across Cornwall which were

avoided at Newlyn East by the East Wheal Rose management buying and distributing grain at wholesale prices.

The decline in the East Wheal Rose production began in 1849/50 and fell steeply in 1851 coinciding with the discovery of gold in Australia. In the census of this year my great great grandfather Richard Angove was listed as miner of Newlyn East. My great grandfather Sam Angove, then aged 13, was listed as a ‘lead dresser’ or mine surface worker.

Gold was discovered in many localities in and around Daylesford in 1852. For the first few years the recovery of gold was by shallow alluvial mining with the miners rushing from one new find to the next. This resulted in a transient population and this situation continued until about 1860. Gradually the mining changed to deeper alluvial mining (deep leads) and then hard rock mining resulting in a more stable population.

Maddick in his *100 Years of mining in Daylesford* stated that in 1857 Richard Hocking and party were searching for a deep lead under the township. Besides Hocking he listed as members of the party the Tonkin brothers, Barkla, Tippet, and Clogan. They may have been joined later in the year by Richard Hocking’s first cousin Richard Angove\* and his brother-in-law John or James Pooley. I suspect that this party all, or mostly, came from Newlyn East and that numerous relations, friends and contacts of Richard Hocking followed him to Daylesford – a number of whom settled there on a permanent or semi-permanent basis. Sam Angove and his brother John arrived in Daylesford in December 1863.

Some of the family names so far identified from the Newlyn East connection and known to have definitely come to Daylesford include Angove, Hocking, Eade, Goldsworthy, Jewell (all first cousins). Other possible family connections to the goldfields (but not necessarily to Daylesford) include Trathan, Lanksbury (related through Trathans & Angoves) Tippet, Pooley, Ellis (Angoves) Nicholas and Opie (Eade). Other possible family names of individuals to Daylesford from Newlyn East include Tonkin, May, Pollard, Sampson, James, Andrew, Paul, Hattam, and Martyn.

Families from other, or unidentified, localities in West Cornwall and connected to the Newlyn East families either in Daylesford, or sometime previously, include Roberts, Dunstan, Lawry, Jenkin, Pascoe, Moyle, Opie, Wellington, Pope, Ford, Thomas, Hosken, Ellis, White, Rodda, Harvey, Trembath, Williams, and Paul/Paull. This list is only a brief survey and by no means exhaustive.

I assume that the naming of the township of Newlyn is somehow connected to this part of the Cornish diaspora, but have not been able to establish any direct links. The last connection my immediate family had with Daylesford was the burial of my great grandmother Annie Angove (nee Roberts) in 1936. The Daylesford cemetery has more than thirty of my relatives buried here, nearly all in unmarked graves. I understand that direct descendants of my great, great grandmother Miriam Roberts, buried in Daylesford in 1874, are still living there, as there also must be many other descendants of some of the families listed here.

\*Richard Angove died of typhoid fever on the Lamplough rush (just south of Avoca) in 1860. Surnames of his Lamplough party include Spargo, Clark and Thomas.