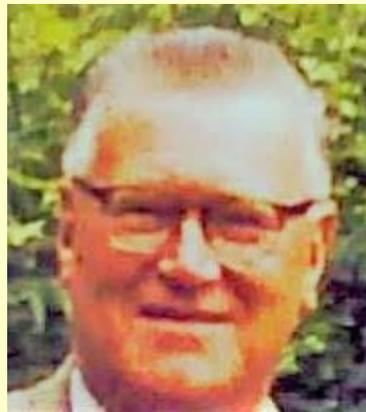


The Federation has been given a considerable amount of dialect material written by the late Ralph Bennett.

Dialect Recorder Paul Phillips has spent a considerable amount of time in making it presentable and it will shortly appear in the dialect pages of this website.

We hope that you enjoy it.

Ralph Pearce Bennett



Born in 1902 in Lostwithiel near Restormel Castle he was the youngest of a family of eight. His father was then an engineer on the construction on the Fowey to Newquay railway line. Ralph was educated at Bodmin School and upon leaving left for Plymouth and became a wages clerk in a corn merchants. It was there that he met Gladys Chubb who was a secretary with the same employer and they married in 1925 and lived in Plymouth.

He then obtained employment in the Plymouth City Treasury for which he was well fitted as he revelled in mathematics and had an immediate grasp of financial matters. He and Gladys loved singing and they both performed in Church services and concert parties with Ralph acting in his own sketches and monologues and reading his poems, all in the Cornish dialect. They attended Plymouth Wesley Methodist Chapel until was destroyed in a fire then the Plymouth Methodist Central Hall.

During the Plymouth Blitz Gladys and the two children stayed with relatives in Lostwithiel while Ralph remained in Plymouth because of this work at the City Treasury where he also spent many long hours on fire watch. In 1950 a caravan was purchased at Polzeath where the family spent most summer weekends and where Ralph extended his love of Cornwall by painting and by photographing the Cornish scenery, seaside and particularly moorland. The myriad of photographs he took became the slides that formed the talks on Cornwall he gave to church and general interest groups in and around Cornwall and Plymouth. He was a leading member of the Plymouth Cornish Association when I first met him in 1955 and all his Cornish interests were recognised in his installation as a Cornish bard in 1978 with the apt name of CAR RESTORMEL. The strong Cornish interests continued until his death in 1985.

