

THE EARLY MAPS OF LUNDY

-: by :-

A. F. Langham

I have called this short talk "The Early Maps of Lundy" and by this I mean all those maps and charts of Lundy which were printed before the 1884 map which is in use today.

I propose firstly to discuss the maps in chronological order and to discard the obvious copies; and then by comparing the places shown on the remaining maps to attempt to discover a little of the origin and history of Lundy place-names.

As far as I can discover there are 16 early maps of Lundy made by skilled cartographers, the earliest of which is the 1695 map by Robert Morden (a copy of which hangs in the Hotel Lounge on Lundy). It shows Lundy as an oval dumbbell but gives no details, and is of no use in this study as Morden obviously did not visit the island.

The second map is the 1765 one by Benjamin Donne. This is both detailed and passably accurate, but as Lundy is not as accurate in detail as are the parts shown of the North Devon Coast, I feel that it was most probably based on secondhand information as far as Lundy is concerned. Possibly the information had been gained from a visiting ship which had, nevertheless, recorded the sea depths and hazards clearly.

A map was produced in 1789 by John Cary which is obviously copied from Donne's map — on this there is an interesting drift of Rat Island to the south. This error was continued in Cole and Rogers map of 1805 in which Rat Island is shown due south of Lundy.

The first Ordnance Survey of Lundy was projected in 1809, but the map did not appear until 1820. This is excellent, and most useful. I suppose this compensates in very small measure for the destruction by the surveying party of the remains of St. Anne's Chapel.

Two years later, that is in 1822, a map was published by C. Smith which is remarkably accurate but difficult to explain. It appears to be based on the 1820 O.S. map but, however, does not show the Lighthouse. This must mean that either the Lighthouse was omitted deliberately (which seems unlikely) or that the survey took place before 1817 in which case the map was a long time appearing.

In 1825-6 Messrs. C. and J. Greenwood made an "actual survey" which they published as a map in 1829. This is quite obviously genuine and is an interesting supplement to the Ordnance Survey map in that it confirms the names shown there, and in fact includes one new one.

It would seem that the Ordnance maps were not universally respected, as a further map of Lundy appeared in 1830 in which the cartographer has attempted to reconcile the earlier maps with those based on the Ordnance Survey - with the result that, among other things, Rat Island is shown halfway between reality and imagination. Even today, the Map displayed in Southern Region Railway compartments shows a greatly distorted Lundy.

The next detailed map to appear was J. and C. Walker's, dated 1835. But the most interesting of all is the one prepared in 1840 when Lundy was offered for sale, having been in the possession of the Heaven family for only a short time. I came upon this by chance when I advertised in a North Devon paper. A lady at Appledore told me that she had an old

map, and though unwilling to sell it she very kindly allowed me to trace a copy from which our Secretary has made the very nice map on show today. This map is rather optimistic and shows a lavish Oyster Bed as well as sites for jetties.

Lastly there is the map which appears in Chanter's book, there being no change in this between the two editions of 1877 and 1887. The difference between this and the 1840 map is, however, remarkable and shows the effects of the opening-up of the quarries and also the improvements which had been made by the Heaven family. The map is virtually the same as that in use today, the most noticeable difference being the absence of the Threequarter Wall as this of course was not built until the 1890's. There are a few minor inaccuracies in this map, but considering that Chanter never visited Lundy it is remarkably accurate, and was probably compiled with the help of the Rev. H. G. Heaven.

From all these maps, a study of Place Names is interesting:-

Rat Island. Is marked and named as such as early as 1765. In the "compromise" map of 1830 it is called Rats Island, but this is certainly a copying error.

Millers Cake is a new name and did not appear until 1884.

Sugar Loaf, Gull Rock were first marked in 1820.

Tibbet's Point is first marked in 1809, but Tibbets Hill is not named until 1820. That this name derives from a family of that name seems likely as a Mr. Tibbet was involved in a shooting affair in the mid-Nineteenth Century. The name might derive from a ship, or even be a corruption of Gibbet.

Gannets Rock is a very old name dating from the 13th Century. The rock had been used continually by Gannets for breeding until the mid-Nineteenth Century when it is thought that the Quarry workings or workmen drove the birds away. They moved to the North-west point where they were nesting in the 1890's but the building of the North Light finally drove them away.

Gannets Combe first appears as such in 1840. Prior to this in the maps of 1820 and 1829 it is called Gallows Combe, and the name would appear to have been changed in the 1830's.

Johnny Groats House is marked on the 1820 map, but this became John O'Groats House in 1840 and subsequently.

The Constable is an old name, but is not marked on any map until that of 1820.

Hen and Chickens was first named in 1805 and the nearby Long Ruse was marked in 1884, but this is an error for Long Roost, a name bestowed by members of the Heaven family.

Jenny's Cove first appears in 1820, some twenty-three years after the wreck of the 'Jenny'. It is marked further south in the 1840 Sale map but this is most certainly an error.

Pilot's Quay first appeared as Pile's Quay in 1820 and again in 1829 but is marked as Pilot's Quay in 1840 and subsequently.

Shutter Point is marked as Shutters Point in 1820, as Shutters Rock in 1829, as Shatter Point in 1835 and back again as Shutters Point in 1840.

The Rattles is marked as such in 1820, but in the 1840 map is called "Rattles Landing Place".

New Town is marked in the 1820, 1829 and 1840 maps, but by 1877 is marked as "site only".

St. Ann's Chapel (with or without 'E') is marked from 1765 onwards, up to and including 1840. Its position varies slightly, but there is no mention of St. Elen or St. Helen until as late as 1877. This is a very interesting topic in itself, and one which is open to considerable conjecture; but on the present evidence I feel that St. Ann's and St. Elen's chapel are one and the same, and that they represent the only chapel on Lundy.

It will be seen that place names are very often reached by a process of evolution, and that this is continuing. I feel sure that in a very short time we shall no longer refer to "The Great Shutter Rock", but that it will simply be known as "The Shutter" to everyone.

Those names which are of too small a significance to be included on maps, but which are handed down by usage are obviously more prone to change — and, unfortunately, to loss. But I like to feel that in future years the small patch of grass outside the Tavern over which the trippers swarm on Campbell's days will still be known by Mr. Gade's poetic name of "The Greensward".