

BYERS in Cornwall and Devon in the 18th and 19th centuries

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Introduction

The previous PDF listed those Byers names I came across in 17th century Cornwall. I'm not convinced they necessarily relate to the Scottish/North England Byers families, except maybe many generations earlier.

I reckon the William Byers/Louisa Kinkade [Kincaid] family had more recent connections with Scotland. Kinkade is another strongly Scottish surname and their children were given names that fit so closely with those used in many Byers families in Ireland over the next century and more.

We can continue to question what brought the family to Cornwall (a sea-faring job perhaps) and what made them stay until c.1717. And we can also wonder what made them move to Cavan in Ireland.

However I also wondered if some of the family might have stayed on in Cornwall and Devon.

Evidence of the Byers name in Devon and Cornwall does indeed exist, if a century or so later. Of course, these could just as easily be descendents of the earlier 'Byers' Cornish families (the Byres, Byas, Bees, etc.) rather than from the 'Scottish' Byers families of William and Louisa. Nothing is proven!

This following listing, somewhat outside the remit of the website and not very well organised, gives details of the Byers families I came across. It is far from exhaustive, but might provide leads for others to follow up.

Isaac and Ann Byers of Bideford, Devon

A copy is available on the internet of the will made by Ann Byers of Bideford, Devon, widow of Isaac Byers of Bideford, Co. Devon. She made her will in 1823 and it was "Proved 23 June 1829 by the oath of Reverend James Broff Byers, Clerk power reserved to Reverend James Sparks Byers, Clerk."

Ann Byers was described as formerly of Bideford, in the County of Devon but late of Lamphey, in the county of Pembrokeshire. PCC Prob11/1756

See a transcript of the will at:

http://www.willtranscriptions.co.uk/surnames/a-b-c/byers__ann_b149.htm

There's also Isaac Byers's will, drawn up in 1797, probate date 1801. His home was Bideford, Devon.

See a transcript of this will at:

http://www.willtranscriptions.co.uk/surnames/a-b-c/byers__isaac_b152.htm

IGI has the following children born to Isaac Byers and his wife Ann:

James Broff Byers, on 21 November 1785, christened on 29 September 1790,
at Bideford, Devon

John Sparks Byers, on 23 February 1787, christened on 29 September 1790,
at Bideford, Devon

Mary Ann Byers, born 22 October 1788, christened on 29 September 1790,
at Bideford, Devon

Richard Hoare Byers, christened on 21 September 1791, at Bideford, Devon

Isaac William Byers, christened on 11 November 1792, at Northam, Devon.

Robert Walter Byers, christened on 27 February 1795, at Bideford, Devon

William and Elizabeth Byers of Stoke Damerel, Devon

Who were the parents of Elizabeth Gilborn who married William Byers, 28 January 1787, at Antony, Cornwall? Their son, William Gilborn Byers went on to become a newspaper proprietor in Devonport, Devon.

This question was posed at <http://home.clara.net/daibevan/ons/tree0.htm>

There's a will for William Gilborn Byers of Devenport (Stoke Damerel), a printer. Date of probate 1854.

The children of William and Elizabeth mentioned on this website were Elizabeth, William Gilborn, Thomas and Malcolm.

IGI has the following born to William Byers and his wife Elizabeth [née Gilborn]:

Elizabeth Byers, christened on 27 May 1787, at Stoke Damerel, Devon

William [Gilborn] Byers, on 26 December 1791, christened on 04.11.1793,
at Morrice [sic] St. Wesleyan, Devonport, Devon
Thomas Byers on 12 September 1793. The christening was 04.11.1793
at Morrice St. Wesleyan, Devonport, Devon.
Malcolm Byers on 07 October 1795 at Stoke Damerel, Devon.

William Gilborn Byers (1791-c.1854), a printer, married Eliza Coppin (c.1797-?)

Morice Street Wesleyan has christenings from 1774-1837 and they have been entered into the IGI, apart from that for William Coppin Byers:

Fiche number:	MF12
Page:	226 - the page number printed on the original register
Baptism Date:	3 May 1814
Surname:	Byers
Forename(s):	William Coppin
Relationship:	Son
Father:	William
Mother:	Eliza
Abode:	Dock
Occupation:	Printer

So these are the known children of William Byers and his wife Eliza, née Coppin:

William Coppin Byers, a son, christened 03.05.1814, Stoke Damerel, Devon
(died c. May 1860, Kensington, London).

Eliza Coppin Byers, born c. 1818, married c. May 1838, Plymouth to James Penny,
b. c.1802,
Salisbury, Wiltshire, a brewer. William Byers Penny, a son, was born
c. August 1839 at Abergavenny, Monmouthshire (died c. February 1907,
E. Preston, Sussex); he married Frances Margaret white (b.c. 1840,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire)

Jeremiah Coppin Byers, christened 14.02.1819, Stoke Damerel, Devon;
died c. 1841, Stoke Damerel

Frederick Coppin Byers, b. 11.03.1823, Stoke Damerel, Devon. Married Mary Jane Hart,
09.03.1847, St Michael, Coventry, Warwickshire. She was a minor (i.e.
under 21). Her father was Francis Hart, gentleman (of Stanwick Road); the
witnesses were W.E. Byers, Eliza Penny, Richard Coppin Johnson, W.G.
Byers, Francis Hart. Frederick was of full age, a bachelor and a bookseller.
His father, also a bookseller, was given as William Gibson Byers (Frederick
died February 1854, London). See below.

James Coombs Byers, b. 11 .03.1823 (a twin presumably!), Stoke Damerel, Devon
(died 03.05.1823. Stoke Damerel)

Emily Pearce Byers, b. 03.10.1826, Stoke Damerel, Devon
(died 08.05.1828, Stoke Damerel)

Alfred Coppin Byers, b. 03.10.1826 (more twins!), Stoke Damerel, Devon

Henry Clarence Byers, christened 25.12.1828, Stoke Damerel, Devon
(died c. February 1851, Stoke Damerel)

Howard Jacobson Byers, christened 25.12.1830, Stoke Damerel, Devon

Emilie Byers (aka Emily Pierce[?]), christened 09.04.1833, Stoke Damerel, Devon
(buried 05.12.1836 Stoke Damerel)

Robert Peter Byers (or Robert Peller?), christened 07.12.1836, Stoke Damerel, Devon

(buried 12.12.1836, Stoke Damerel)

Edward Byers

Thomas Burt Byers, b. ???? (died c. August 1842, Stoke Damerel, Devon

Is Henry Clarence Byers the H.G. Byers of 2 Sidney Square, Mile End Road, London, in the Diary detailed below?

Pigot's Directory, 1822-23, from the Dock (Devenport) section, lists William Byers at 109 Fore Street, once as a bookbinder and again as a printer (Letter Press).

Plymouth Dock, became Devonport from 1824 onwards and it's in the Parish of Stoke Damerel.

Pigot's Directory for Plymouth, 1844, gives William Byers, of 32 Fore Street, Devonport, as "proprietor of the *Devonport Independent and Plymouth and Stonehouse Gazette*". There is also a business listing for "Byers and Son" at 32 Fore Street, Devonport, "booksellers, stationers and printers to his late Majesty and publishers of the *Plymouth and Devonport Guide*".

The marriage of a son, Frederick Coppin Byers, to Mary Jane Hart, at St Michaels, Coventry, is recorded in March 1847, listing the groom's father as William Gisborn (sic) Byers, and the bride's father as Francis Hart. This was later confirmed by the brief report of the marriage found in *Jackson's Oxford Journal* of Saturday, 20 March 1847 which states "At Coventry, Mr Frederick Byers of Devonport, to Mary, only dau. of Frans. Hart Esq. of Stivichall Villa, Warwickshire".

The 1851 Census for Warwickshire has Frederick C. Byers, his wife Mary, and two children, Francis and Mary, at Hertford Terrace, Coventry. Frederick's occupation was 'accountant in the ribbon trade', and his age was 27 at the time.

The 1851 Census CD for Devon, Warwickshire and Suffolk has William Gilborn Byers living at 116 Fore Street. His occupation was "newspaper proprietor and town councillor". He was 58 years of age. His wife was Eliza Coppin Byers.

Frederick Coppin Byers: his death was registered in the Westminster Registration District, confirmed by a death announcement in the *Morning Chronicle* of Friday 24 February 1854 which states "On 19th inst., at Brompton, Mr Frederick C. Byers of Coventry and formerly of Devonport, aged 32."

For the Coventry link, etc., to this Byers family,

see <http://www.donne.free-online.co.uk/byers/byers.htm>

This next is from <http://www.plymouthdata.info/Newspapers-DI.htm>

On Saturday February 9th 1833, the *Devonport Independent and Plymouth and Stonehouse Gazette* was first published. It cost seven pence, of which 4d was the newspaper stamp duty.

Owned for many years by Mr William Gilborn Byers, it supported the Liberal Party viewpoint.

The newspaper quickly upset the Plymouth and Dock/Devonport Weekly Journal by purchasing a copy of their paper and then copying the news from it, which it would often sell as a special edition.

Following the death of Mr Byers on January 23rd 1854 at the age of 62 years, the copyright and plant was first offered for sale but later sold at auction on Tuesday April 25th 1854. ...



Plymouth Central Library has a complete run of the *Devonport Independent and Plymouth and Stonehouse Gazette* from number 1 in 1833 until 29 August 1854.

See also <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/records.aspx?cat=028-89&cid=8#8>

This next information is from <http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/20975/pages/1490/page.pdf>

London Gazette, 02.05.1849

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership lately existing between the undersigned, William Gilborn Byers and Frederick Coppin Byers, carrying on business as Booksellers, Stationers, Printers, Book-binders, Patent Medicine Vendors, &c. under the firm of Byers and Son, at No. 33, Fore-street, Devonport, in the county of Devon, was dissolved by mutual consent this 20th day of April, in the year of our Lord 1849.

William Gilborn Byers.

Frederick Coppin Byers.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership lately existing between the undersigned, William Gilborn Byers and Frederick Coppin Byers, carrying on business as Booksellers, Stationers, Printers, Book-binders, Patent Medicine Vendors, &c. under the firm of Byers and Son, at No. 33, Fore-street, Devonport, in the county of Devon, was dissolved by mutual consent this 20th day of April, in the year of our Lord 1849.

William Gilborn Byers.
Frederick Coppin Byers.

John and Mary Byers of Stoke Damerel, Devon

IGI has details of a family born to John Byers and his wife Mary

Betty Byers, on 06 October 1765, Stoke Damerel, Devon
Ann Byers, christened on 11 December 1772, Stoke Damerel, Devon
Mary Byers, christened on 31 July 1775, Stoke Damerel, Devon
Mary Ann Byers, christened on 28 May 1778, Stoke Damerel, Devon
John Byers, christened on 06 November 1780, Stoke Damerel, Devon. Presumably died.
John Byers, christened on 15 July 1786, Stoke Damerel, Devon. Died 30 December 1786

James Byers and Catherine Byers née Meagor of Bodmin, Cornwall

IGI has the family of James Byers (born 1811, Plymouth, Devon, a labourer) and his wife Catherine (James married Catherine Meagor on 26 October 1832 at Cardenham, Cornwall. Catherine was born in 1809 at Cardinham [sic], witnesses were William Denny and Thomas Sleeman):

Elizabeth Ann Byers, born 06 January 1835, christened/baptised 22 January 1835,
at Bodmin, Cornwall; family living at Calliwith Turnpike Gate
Richard Meager Byers, born 25 April 1838, christened/baptised 10 June 1838,
at Bodmin, Cornwall; family now living at Head Castle Street
James Thomas Byers, born 05 August 1841, christened 22 August 1841,
at Bodmin, Cornwall; family now living at Prior's Barn Turnpike Gate
Mary Caroline Byers, listed in 1861 Census, aged 9, at 3 Bodmin, Cornwall
(and in 1871 Census); born 10 January 1852; baptised 08.02.1852

Elizabeth Ann Byers (date of birth listed as 1836) married Charles Dymond on 10 January 1861, at Bodmin, Cornwall. The 1881 census gives the address as Barley Sheaf Lower, Bore Street, Bodmin Municipal Borough, Cornwall.

Richard Magor [sic] Byers and his wife Elizabeth (born 1840 at Cardinham, Cornwall) had a daughter, Hermian Elizabeth Byers on 15 October 1875, christened on 10 November 1875, at Bodmin, Cornwall.

“Richd. M. Byers” and his wife Elizabeth, had a daughter Catherine M. Byers in 1878, at Liskeard, Cornwall. Family's address listed as Dobwalls, Liskeard, Cornwall in the 1881 Census. It lists Herman E Byers, as born 1876; in the 1901 Census she is at Tormoham, Devonshire

The 1861 Census lists James Thomas Byers, aged 21, as a Boarder in Gulval, Cornwall. IGI provides details of the family of James Thomas Byers and his wife Caroline:

James Thomas Byers, born 05 August 1841, christened on 22 August 1841,
at Bodmin, Cornwall
Mary Caroline Byers, born 10 January 1852, christened on 08 February 1852,
at Bodmin, Cornwall

Mary Catherine [Caroline] Byers, born 1851, daughter of James Byers, married William Henry Beare (aged 26, son of John Beare) on 20 June 1871, at Bodmin, Cornwall

James Byers and his wife Honor (probably née Stevens)

And the family of James Byers and his wife Honor (in 1871, re Census, Honor Byers, aged 34, born at Hayle, Cornwall, was staying with her sister at Clifton Terrace, Phillack (Redruth), Cornwall. IGI has the death of Honor Byars [sic] on 26 June 1871 at Phillack, Cornwall. She was 35 and born in 1836. Most likely she was the Honor Stevens who was born on 18 September 1836 at Trevassack, Phillack, to Edward Stevens, a mariner, and his wife Mary Ann):

Mary Catherine Byers, born 21 June 1867, christened on 18 August 1867,
at Bodmin, Cornwall

Many Others

IGI has a Jane Byers, christened on 04 April 1768, St Nicholas, Devon
[possibly St Nicholas Parish, also known as St Nicholas Shaldon, near Teignmouth]

Samuel Byers married Jane Ann Bray on 15 March 1857 at St Martin (near Liskeard), Cornwall

William Byers married Ann Thompson on 28 February 1836, Scilly Islands, Cornwall

Maria Lindsay Byers, daughter of William Byers, married William Johnston [or Valentine] Felton (son of William Felton) on 17 August 1861 at Lanlivery Rural, Cornwall. In the 1861 Census her birth was given as 1840 at Bloomsbury, Middlesex. In 1861 she was at 1 Lanlivery, Cornwall (registration district Bodmin).

John Byers, died in the Port of Falmouth age 17,
buried 28.12.1833 in parish of Falmouth King Charles

Nicholas Byers married Elizabeth Polelake on 31 October 1881 at Perranuthnoe, Cornwall

The 1841 Census lists the following, all born in Cornwall:

Mary Ann Byers, born 1805, of Fowey, Cornwall
Frederic Byers, born 13 March 1831, at Roche, Cornwall; mother Mary Ann Byers, living at Belowda, from Fowey. Illegitimate.

Source: <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/more-info/?t=baptisms&id=2245193>

Frederic Byers, buried 25 July 1832, of Roche, Cornwall

Mary Byers, born 1837, of Fowey, Cornwall (In the 1871 Census Mary A Byears [sic], aged 27, a daughter of the household, is at Fowey, Penzance, Cornwall.)

Caroline Byers, born 1811, of Bodmin, Cornwall

Elizabeth Byers, born 1835, of Bodmin, Cornwall

Richard Byers, born 1838, of Bodmin, Cornwall

James Thomas Byers, buried 07 May 1869, of Bodmin, Cornwall

Catherine Byers, buried 14 November 1880, of Bodmin, Cornwall

Richard Major [sic] Byers, buried 17 July 1886, of Bodmin, Cornwall

James Byers, buried 11 March 1887, of Bodmin, Cornwall

Hermian Elizabeth Byers, born 15 October 1875, christened 10 November 1875, at Bodmin, Cornwall. Parents Richard Magor Byers and Elizabeth

The 1841 Census also has Howard Byers, born 1831, living at Stoke Damerel, St Aubyn, Devon

Henry Byers is listed in the 1841 Census as a 13 year old at Saltash, Cornwall (b. 1828)

John Byers is listed in the 1841 Census as 20 years of age, born Scotland, living at Redruth, Cornwall

Fredk Byers is listed in the 1901 Census as age 37, born at Scorrier, Cornwall and now living in Whitechapel, London

Maud Byers is listed in the 1901 Census as born 1880, Liskeard, Cornwall, now of Falmouth Parish, Cornwall

Jane Byers of Cargreen, aged 79, was buried on 06.05.1836 in the Parish of Llandulph

See also:

https://www.familysearch.org/search/records/index#count=20&query=%2Bsurname%3AByers~%20%2Bany_place%3ACornwall~%20%2Bany_year%3A1600-1890~&offset=40