

Henderson's Black-more revisited: disinterring a lost landscape

by Kenneth MacKinnon

Charles Henderson's original article of 1927 presents place-name and topographical evidence of tin-bounds on Black-more in the 17th Century taken from estate records, court rolls and a contemporary map. These list the features of the area and the tin-bounds in Cornish and English. These evidence rapid linguistic change and provide written memory of an upland now obliterated by china-clay extraction and wastes. The revisiting of Henderson's original essay applies a 'layered landscape' perspective, and examines place-name evidence further in the light of subsequent research and development of this field. The topographical features and toponymy are further examined in subsequent mapping of the early 19th – late 20th Centuries, together with an aerial traverse of the bounds in the early 21st Century by Google Earth, presenting a present-day view of the area. Henderson's original data can be used to illustrate and interpret changing land-use, social change, and also changing community language at a time of crucial language-shift. It is suggested that the corpus of Henderson's personal archive of old legal documents could yield further evidence of changes in these three fields, and in particular enable a clearer picture of linguistic change in other areas of Cornwall.