

Extract from 'And Shall Trelawny Die'  
A talk by Carole Vivian

65. We may never know when the actual song was first written, or indeed who it was actually written about. We may never know what tune was first used or how frequently it was sung either in Cornwall or further abroad. But what we do know, thanks to a doodle within the pages of this parish register, is that, part at least of the refrain, was in circulation before 1727.

66. Christine North of the Cornwall Record Office first told me about this *doodle* several years ago. It is interesting in that the then vicar of St Tudy Edward Trelawny, a relation of Bishop Trelawny, was obviously trying to make up his mind whether his signature looked better spelt with an 'ey' at the end or simply a 'y'. Edward Trelawny was the parson at St Tudy from 1677 until 1727 so the doodles on this page must have done been between those dates. If you look in the top right hand corner of the page you can see a couple of lines of rhyme.

67. These words seem to prove that part at least of our Cornish Anthem was in circulation before 1727. What we can't be so sure about is exactly when they were written. As you work your way through this burial register the last entry before these two pages is dated 1678, so the words can't have been written before that date. I suspect the two blank pages occurred by mistake, possibly they were stuck together, and by the time this was noted a new page had been started. Could it be that Edward Trelawny filled the two blank pages with doodle so no one would use them as official pages at a later date. I can't believe that a newly appointed rector would practice his signature within the pages of an official book, unless he wished those pages to be ignored. If this was the case the error may have been discovered by Edward at a somewhat later date, in which case these words may well have been jotted down by him shortly after his relation, the Bishop of Bristol, was released from the Tower of London in 1688. Or maybe the following year, when Jonathan was made Bishop of Exeter, and so became Edward's boss. On the other hand if these words were written shortly after the last entry on the preceding page, they would almost certainly refer to the 1<sup>st</sup> Baronet John Trelawny.