



### CANAL UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Is it Bude? The picture above was purchased in 2013 from eBay. The identity of the artist is unknown but is thought to have been painted circa 1840 and may be of Bude, however, on face value it does not appear to be of Bude. The picture is displayed as it adds a flavour of construction from the early 19th century.

Should anyone know the exact location of this scene or anything else about the picture please contact Bude Canal Harbour Society: info@bude-canal.co.uk

### GEORGE CASEBOURNE 1800-1876 CANAL ENGINEER

- 13th June 1800 – he was born at Hemel Hempstead, Herts. His family were well respected engineers.



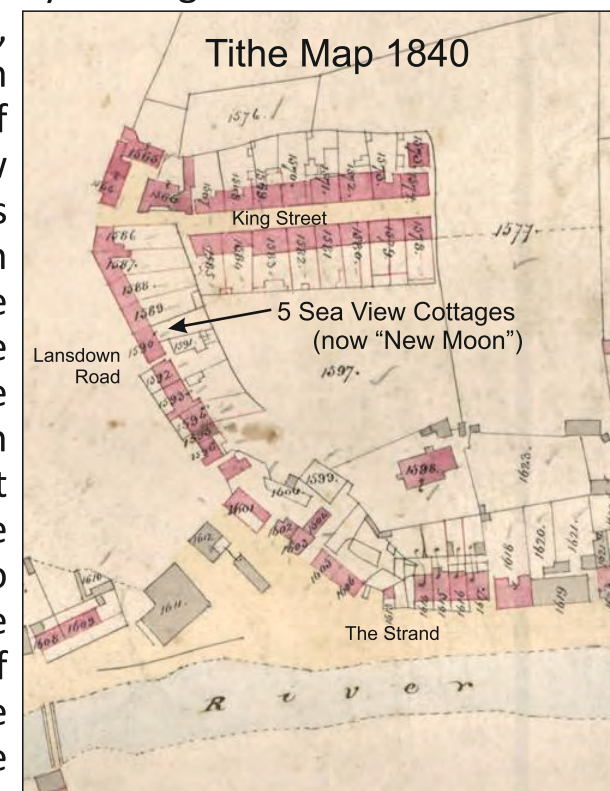
- 1832 – he became resident Engineer for the Bude Harbour and Canal Company succeeding James Green who had designed and built the Canal for BHCC
- 15th August 1837- he married Jametta Hawker who was born on 4th August 1816. She was the youngest daughter of Rev. Jacob Stephen Hawker, Rector of St. Andrews Church, Stratton and sister to Robert Stephen Hawker (born 3rd December 1804) who later became the Vicar of Morwenstow.
- 1838 – 1842 – he supervised the construction of the redesigned Breakwater in Bude Harbour following the destruction of the first Breakwater on 24th and 25th February 1838
- As engineer he was responsible for the maintenance and repair of the canal's structures from the harbour and the sea lock, all of the six inclined planes and the two inland locks plus the 35½ miles of waterway including towpaths, wharfs and other buildings, all barges and tub boats owned by BHCC and the sand railway infrastructure at Bude

- 1841 Census - shown as resident in Stratton and trading as Bude Trading Co. with William Dyer.
- 10th October 1845 – his wife died aged 29 years and was buried in St. Andrews Churchyard, Stratton.



- 1851 Census – he was shown as Civil Engineer living in Stratton, a widower. He and the Rev. Robert Stephen Hawker had contrary views on theological opinion. He adopted the theory of “Supralapsarian” which is a person who believes that God decreed the election or non-election of individuals to salvation even before the Fall. The other theories being “Sublapsarian” and “Infralapsarian” which is a person who believes that only after the Fall did God decree who were pre-destined to salvation and who was not. Both of these theories are chiefly Calvinist in origin and thus non-conformist. In “The Life and Letters of R.S.Hawker” by C.E.Byles 1906. Page 217, part of the letter written on 28th January 1851 by Hawker makes reference to Casebourne’s preference. “My dear Claude... Casebourne continues to lecture at Bude on “Papal Aggression”. 'He marches to the meeting in state at the appointed hour, and a little girl goes before him with what he calls a Poly-got Bible in her arms. I am sorry to say that Casebourne adopts the “Supralapsarian” theory and his little girl is a “Sublapsarian” which brings confusion...'
- June 1860 – he married Hannah Ross in Liverpool
- 1861 Census - shown as a Civil Engineer married and living at Sea View Cottage, Stratton
- 30th June 1862 – Bude Trading Co. dissolved by mutual consent. Casebourne continued trading in his own right until 1875 when he had a new partner, a Mr Burrow

• 1871 Census - shown as a Civil Engineer on Bude Canal, married living at 5 Sea View, Stratton. Sea View cottages are believed to have been what is now the lower part of Lansdown Road on the south side. Examination of the Bude Tithe Map 1840 and the index of properties identify a plot of land (no.1590 being a house and garden covering an area of 8 perches) being owned by the Feoffees of the Parish and occupied by George Casebourne. These premises were, and still are, in the line of houses now known as Lansdown Road. It is the fifth house down from the junction with King Street. At this time there were no buildings on the opposite side of the road so the view to the north-west would have been unobstructed and the sea would have been seen clearly so the houses were aptly named "Sea View Terrace" which later became "Garden Terrace" and is now Lansdown Road. The section of the Tithe Map displayed shows the property (no.1590) highlighted. The house has now been converted to a shop, which in 2018 was known as "TOYHut".



The term "Feoffee" is an ancient title and relates to a Trustee who holds a fief (or fee), that is to say an estate in land for the use of a beneficial owner.

- 24th August 1876 - he died at Stratton and was buried in St. Michael's Churchyard, Bude, it is believed in the area of the top right-hand corner at the rear or south side of the church but there is no visible sign of a gravestone or burial plot.

• When he died in 1876 he and his wife owned a house at Helebridge adjacent to the Canal Basin. Sometime prior to 1876 this house had been built and may have been occupied by the Casebourne's at some stage. He left his wife £300 in his will and she was sole executrix. In the early part of 1877, Mrs Casebourne offered to sell the house to the Canal Company. In May 1877 Mrs Casebourne accepted the company's offer of £170 and the sale was completed by 13th June 1877. At that time the Canal Company issued a 'notice to quit' by Lady Day 1878 to a tenant, Mr Burrow. The premises were later let at a rent of £8.10s per annum by the Canal Company. This house still exists on the towpath side of Helebridge Basin by the 2 mile marker.



The Bude Canal, with its ingenious devices, the water powered inclined planes which allowed the Canal to traverse the hilly terrains of North Cornwall and West Devon but were also a source of expense due to breakdowns

and mishaps. The weather also affected the operation of the system by drought, excessive rain and severe frosts. In 1841 George Casebourne experimented with an iceboat pulled by two horses at a speed of 4 mph which broke up the ice of several inches in depth, thus aiding the movement of tub boats and barges on the waterway.

References: Census returns, 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871

'The Bude Canal' by Helen Harris and Monica Ellis

Bude Harbour and Canal Co. Committee minutes 1877

Photographs: George Casebourne – Museum of English Rural Life at Reading University.

Others: Chris Jewell & Mike Moore