

Samuel Enys during the British civil wars

Background

Samuel Enys was a merchant, and made his money trading wine in Spain and the Mediterranean. He became very rich through trade and later was able to return and buy the family's estate for himself (as his father and brother were in debt)!

During the civil war (1642-1646) he was out of the country, trading, but the rest of the Enys family were keen supporters of King Charles I and the Royalist cause.

When Parliament won the first civil war in 1646, many of the King's supporters were punished: often financially - through fines or the loss of property (known as sequestration) - but some were imprisoned or even executed. The Enys family had to pay heavy fines for their support of the King. In 1660 though, King Charles II was restored to the throne. Samuel returned to Cornwall and tried to prove he had been a good royalist (even though he had been in Spain). He asked the King to put him in charge of the manufacture and trade of Cornish tin.

Activity

Original and later copy of a letter describing Samuel Enys' activities during the civil war, after 1669 (*Cornwall Record Office reference: EN/1900*)

Document Background - This letter was written by Samuel Enys and describes his actions during the civil war and after, up to 1669. It is written after the restitution of the monarchy and is part of a collection of material Samuel Enys built to establish his Royalist credentials. At this time Samuel Enys was seeking influence and interests in the mining industry of Cornwall.

Core History Skills - Evaluating sources, Empathy, Interpretation, Palaeography

(Palaeography through opportunity to read old handwriting; source evaluation through validating copy of letter through verification with original; interpretation of source through descriptive activity; empathy through considering the motivation behind the writing of the letter.)

Worksheet 1: True or False?

1) Look at these three documents:

- One of these documents is an original hand-written letter. The original document is badly damaged and we can only see one side of the paper.

- One of these documents is a later copy

- One is a typed *transcription* of the copy.

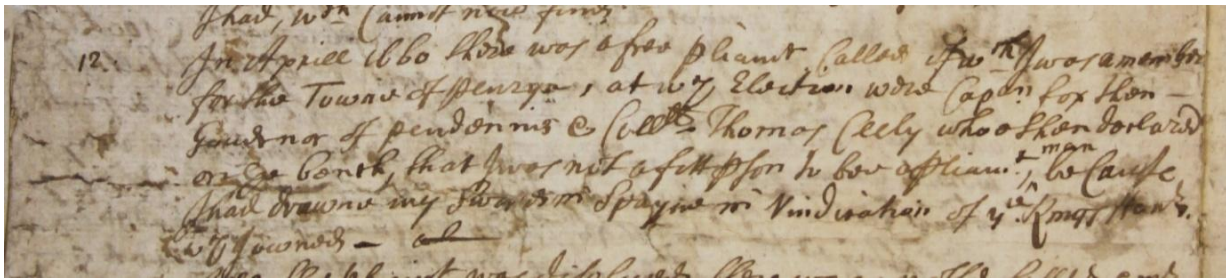
A transcription is a copy of another document.

Can you work out which is which?

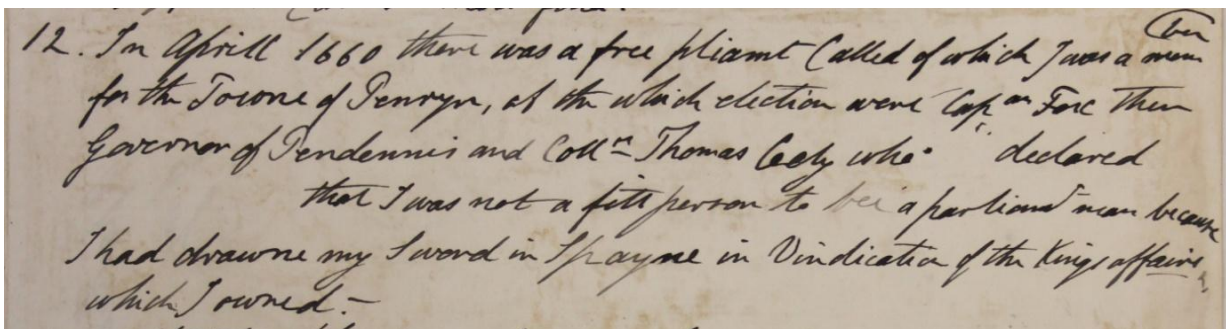
2) Can we believe that the handwritten transcription is the same as the original? Why, why not?

Below is an excerpt from the two versions.

Original Letter



Hand written transcription



3) The letter mentions two men by name. Can you circle the names in the text and write them below.

Name 1:

Name 2:

4) Can we assume that the whole of the typed transcription represents what is written in the original transcription? Why/ why not?

5) Here is a typed version of the section of the hand-written transcription. Can you find two areas where it is different (circle them)?

12. In April 1660 there was a free parliament Called of which I was a member for the Towne of Penryn. Present at the election were Captain Fox, then Governor of Pendennis, and Colonel Thomas Ceely. They declared that I was not a fit person to be a parliamentarian because I had drawn my sword in Spain in Vindication of the Kings honour.

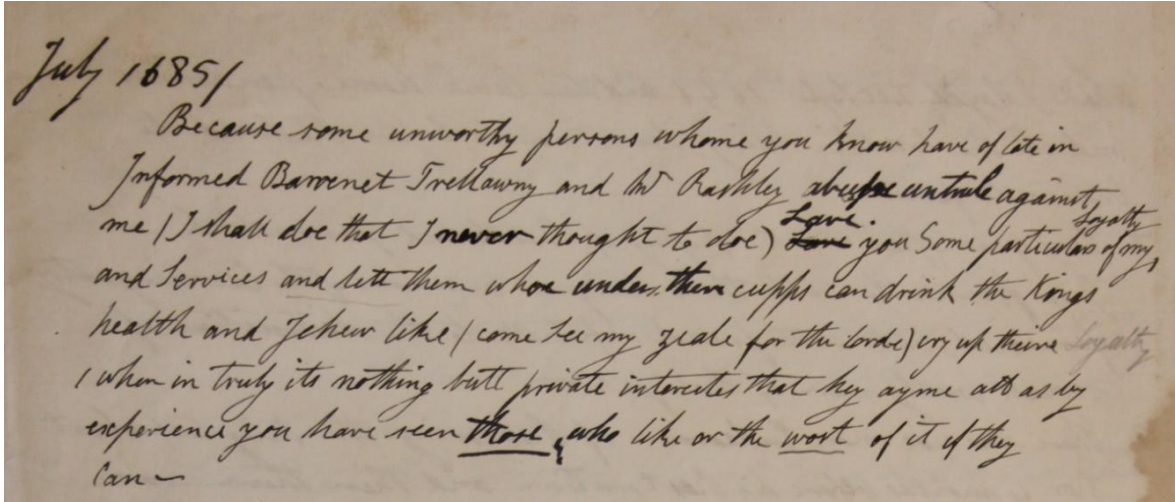
Give two reasons why you think the typed version is different.

Reason 1

Reason 2

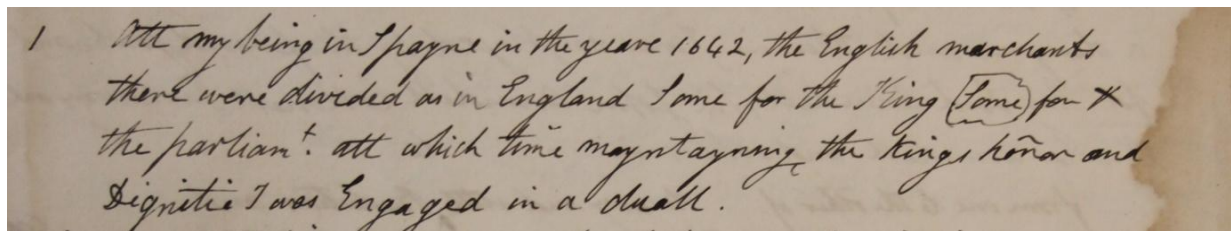
Worksheet 2: Prove your loyalty!

1) Here are some excerpts from the hand written transcription, with a typed transcript. Samuel Enys is saying what he was doing in the civil war.

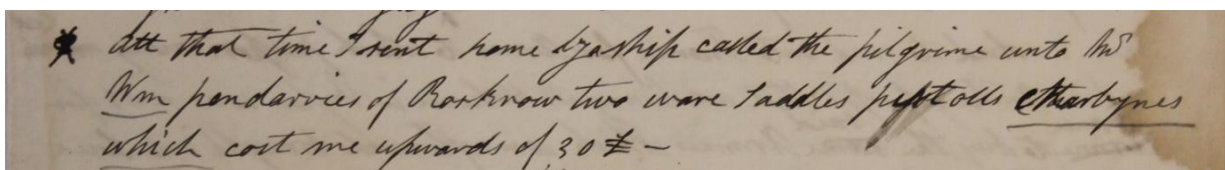


July 1685

Because some unworthy persons whome you know have of late Informed Baronet Trelawny and Mr Rashley abusive untruth against me, I shall doe that I never thought to doe) have you some particulars of my loyalty and services and lett them, whoe under their cupps can drink the king's health and interstes, come see my zeale for the lorde cry up their loyalty when in truly its nothing butt private intertes that they ayme att and as by experience you have seen those who like or the wort of it if they can.



1. Att my being in Spayne in the year 1642, the English merchants there were divided as in England some for the King, some for the Parliament att which time mayntayning the Kings houōr and dignitie I was engaged in a duall.



2. att that time I sent home by a ship called the Pilgrime unto Mr Wm Pendarvies of Roskrow two mare saddles pistolls, carbynes which cost me upwards of £30

4 About July 1682 I came out of Spayne for London and then the King was att Oxford with an Army, I then furnished Thomas Coffin a kinsman of myne with horse pistolls and money which coste me upwards of 22 £ and sent him to the Kings Army at Oxford

4. about July 1682 I came out of Spayne for London and then the King was att Oxford with an Army, I then furnished Thomas Coffin a kinsman of myne with horse, pistolls and money which coste me upwards of £22 and sent him to the Kings Army at Oxford.

5 About the end of 1642. the King had an Army which lay at plymton neare plymth: att which time I came from London into Cornwall by way of plymth: where I had some ... with a passe from the Lord Mayor of London in Comp^{ny}: with one Mr James Sutton a marchant then bound for Malaga and came unto the Kings Army at plymton ^{and} gave there just Intelligence as was brought from London, and the next day went into plymth: where I was Examined by a Cornish Comitty of which Mr John Trefussis of Trefusis was Chayrman & by him comitted to prysson 4 days for that I and all our famylie were Chavaliers and that I was in ... within Sir Slanning of plymton; after 4 days by means of Mr John Seyntaubin of Clowance and 100 £ lent him I was sett at libertie and came into Cornwall by way of Saltash where my Lord Mohun and severall of the Cornish Cavalier gentry were to whome I gave acc^t: of all I knew att London and on my way.

5. about the end of 1642 the king had an army which lay at Plymton near Plymouth att which time I came from London into Cornwall by way of Plymouth where I had some ... with a passe from the Lord Mayor of London in company with one Mr James Sutton, a marchant then bound for Malaga, and came unto the Kingss Army at Plymton and gave there just intelligence as was brought from London, and the next day went into Plymouth where I was examined by a Cornish comitty of which Mr John Trefussis of Trefusis was chayrman and by him comitted to prysson 4 days for that I and all our famylie were Chavaliers and that I was in with Sir Nicholas Slanning of Plymton, after 4 days by means of Mr John Seyntaubin of Clowance and £100 lent him I was sett at libertie and came into Cornwall by way of Saltash where my lord Mohun and severall of the Cornish Cavalier gentry were to whome I gave an account of all I knew att London and on my way.

- Write down three ways Samuel Enys tries to prove he was loyal to King Charles I:

.....

.....

.....

2) Below are 4 picture frames. Draw 4 cartoon images which represent the events described in the letter. Think about:

- the 4 most important things you want to illustrate

-the order you want to put things in

- the best way to tell a story.

You can use simple stick figures or complicated coloured drawings; you can add speech bubbles or action noises or descriptions around the text. Try to think about the clothes, objects and vehicles of the time.

Worksheet 3: Building History

1) Samuel Enys wrote the letter in 1685.

Do you think that the events in this letter actually happened?

2) Why do you think Samuel Enys wrote this letter? Think about when this letter was written, what was happening in Cornwall and in England at the time.

Reason1:

Reason 2:

Reason 3:

3) Why do you think Samuel Enys might lie in this letter?

.....
.....

4) How could we check whether the events in this letter happened or not?

.....
.....

5) Do you think the events really happened? Why/why not?

.....
.....