

## Chapter 1

### Tawstock Parish.

The parish of Tawstock is situated South of Barnstaple and the river Taw. It was quite a big parish some 6,582 acres, I have seen a map of the parish in the Record Office in Barnstaple, it was surveyed by George Harkness in 1842. The original scale of the map was 1 inch to 3 chains and the parish was recorded as 6,582 acres 1 perch 4 poles.

To define the old parish boundary we will start to travel in our mind at the Barnstaple Long Bridge over the river Taw. Now travel up stream past New Bridge to Chapelton, on to a point opposite Fishleigh Barton. Following a small stream at Fishleigh Rock Bridge up the back of Fishleigh Barton, through a point between Barbrook Farms and Langleigh Barton up the valley to Hollick Farm, taking in Bustleigh Bridge and Somers Hiscott. Over Hiscott Downs at the back of Rodge farm to the back of Hiscott. From Hiscott across to Pristacott Farms over the ridge taking in Linscott, Charlacott and Tennacott Farms up the Torrington to Barnstaple road to Rooty Cross. Then down to Rushcott Farm across to Natson Farms and coming out onto the Torrington to Barnstaple road again at Rowden Barton, down over Roundswell Hill to Roundswell Roundabout on the link road. Taking in Roundswell Industrial site, Sainsburys and the Roundswell housing estate on the same side as Sainsburys. From this position through to a point on the Barnstaple to Bideford road by Deptford Villas, which is on a curve in the road just the Barnstaple side of the Woodville Estate entrance. At this point follow a small stream down pass Deptford Villas we made our way down to Anchor Wood and Cleave, then follow the river Taw up stream to Barnstaple long bridge where we started. So you can see it was a large parish.

P1 To travel around the parish on the nearest road to the parish boundary you will find it is about 17 1/2 miles. If you walked the boundary following it on a map I think it would be more like 20 miles.

The land in the parish rises from sea level to about 427 feet above sea level. Ridge Road is the highest road in the parish, starting at Fire Beacon Cross at 400 feet rising to 427 feet at Prospect Cross on the old Barnstaple to Torrington road. This road is a link up road between the A377 Barnstaple to Exeter road and the B3232 Barnstaple to Torrington road. If you turn off at Newbridge up through Harepie you will come to Fire Beacon Cross, carry on through this road and you will reach the B3232 at Prospect Cross, on the Torrington to Barnstaple road.

The old Tawstock beacon field is quite near Fire Beacon Cross as you can imagine. Some lovely views of the country side can be seen along Ridge Road. At one point you can see six church towers, Newton Tracey, Alverdiscott, Yarnscombe, Atherington, High Bickington and Chittlehampton. I have seen an old map dated about 1807 and one section of this road is not shown, probably it had not been made.