

SOLOMON BROWNE

The Solomon Browne family were Quakers who lived at Home Park House at the end of the 19th Century. They farmed Barton Farm as well as Talvans Farm.

Solomon Browne raised cattle under contract for the Royal William Victualling Yard supplying beef for the navy.

Right up to the time of their death, this family were very concerned about the welfare of the people in the village of Landrake. Each year money was given to some of the poor families. However, there were certain conditions, viz. they had to keep their own house clean; they were not to be in debt; they had to regularly attend a place of worship each Sunday.

When Mr Solomon Browne died, his two daughters, Lydia and Mary, who lived at Launceston, gave many bequests in memory of their father. Land was given beside the village hall to build the 'Solomon Browne Working Mens' Club' together with £200 towards the actual building and a £100 interest free loan. In 1938, Miss Browne gave public seats to the village. The Parish Church was given a pulpit and a stained glass window. More money was donated to the church in 1954 by his daughters.

Outside of the village more people will recognise the name of the Penlee Lifeboat, named Solomon Browne after this family. This is the lifeboat that went out in atrocious conditions to attempt the rescue of the crew of the coaster Union Star in December 1981. The eight people on board the Union Star together with all eight crew members of the Solomon Browne Lifeboat lost their lives during the rescue attempt.