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CORNWALL
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Tony Misson, Esq.,
Liskeard Town Council

Old Courtroom Table currently in Council Chamber

You asked if I had any information about this table. I hope the following is of some help. It is based on personal knowledge and information I have been able to gather together since our earlier conversation. Unfortunately some of the information is pure speculation. You may, hopefully, receive confirmation or otherwise from other sources.

The building known as the Guildhall in Fore Street was built in 1858/9. Henry Rice the Liskeard Architect worked with Charles Reeves (appointed by the Home Office) on the design. The new building replaced the old Town Hall for use for civic functions and as a County Court. The cost was shared between the Council and the Government. Such an arrangement suggests that the built in and other court furniture was provided as part of the joint scheme.

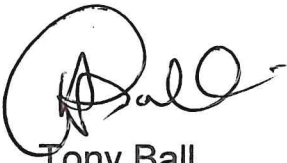
The clock tower was paid for by John Clark Isaac, Mayor in 1868.

A full report on the opening of the new building appeared in the Cornish Times on 1st October, 1859. You have a copy provide by Mrs Eileen Crouch. The local builders would have procured materials locally and this would have included the furnishings.

The scheme provided two court rooms and the table was in the largest of the rooms. It provided an integral part of the court furniture. There is no reason the doubt that it is 160 years old. Given its age it would have been made locally and it has been suggested to me that the likely firm would have been William Pooley of Castle Street. He is one of three Cabinet Makers whose names appear in the local trade directory at that time. The others are James Godfrey, Bay Tree Hill, and Richard Solomon, Dean Street.

Being locally made meant using materials available in the vicinity. This is evident from a visual inspection. It is basically a functional piece of furniture the only adornments being the carvings on the legs. You have been advised already that it does not have any great monetary value. It is of course part of the Town's heritage.

Further information may be available from Henry Rice's files which I understand are with the Cornwall Records Department. The files were acquired by Mr George Vaughan Ellis and following his death were included with his own papers and are now in Truro. I understand that the County Records Department is currently closed and is being transferred to new premises. I am unlikely to gain access although you may be able to do so. The Rice files will, hopefully, confirm my comments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Ball', with a large circular flourish at the beginning.

Tony Ball

29th December, 2018