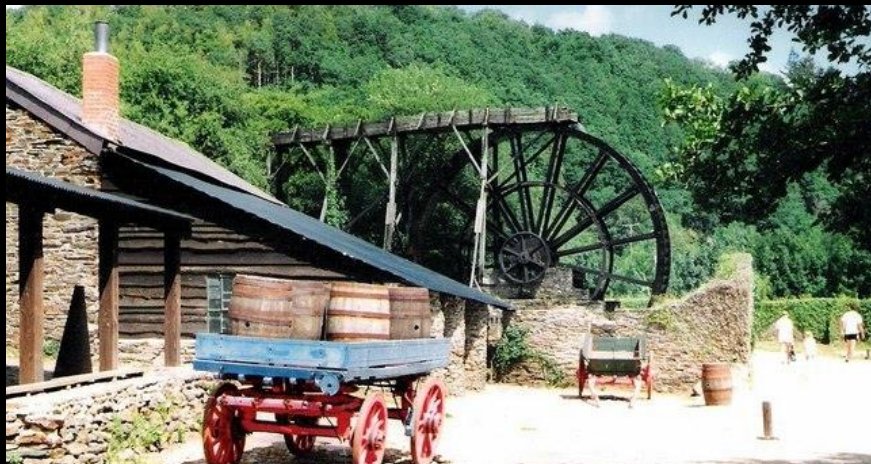




# Morwellham Quay

- in 1861 we know that there were over 240 people living at Morwellham Quay





In the days before roads and railways, rivers were the easiest way to take people and things from one place to another. They were like motorways for boats.



To load goods onto the boats, the land around the river needed to be flat and easy to get to. This flat land was used to create quays, where boats could be brought in close to the land and things loaded onto them. Morwellham has a flat area of land, right next to the river Tamar, so was the perfect place to build a quay. The Victorians loaded goods onto boats here to be taken off to places around the world.

But being close to the river was not the only reason Morwellham was such a useful port. The hills around Morwellham contained ores of valuable metals; like copper, tin, silver and lead.

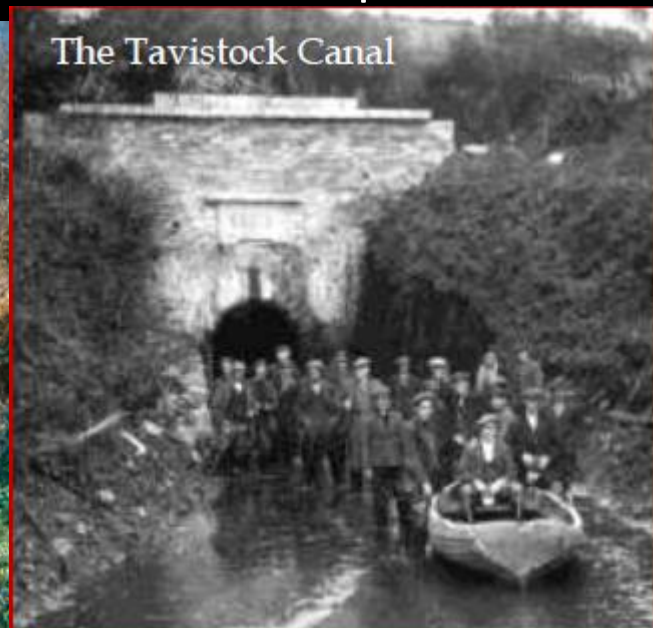
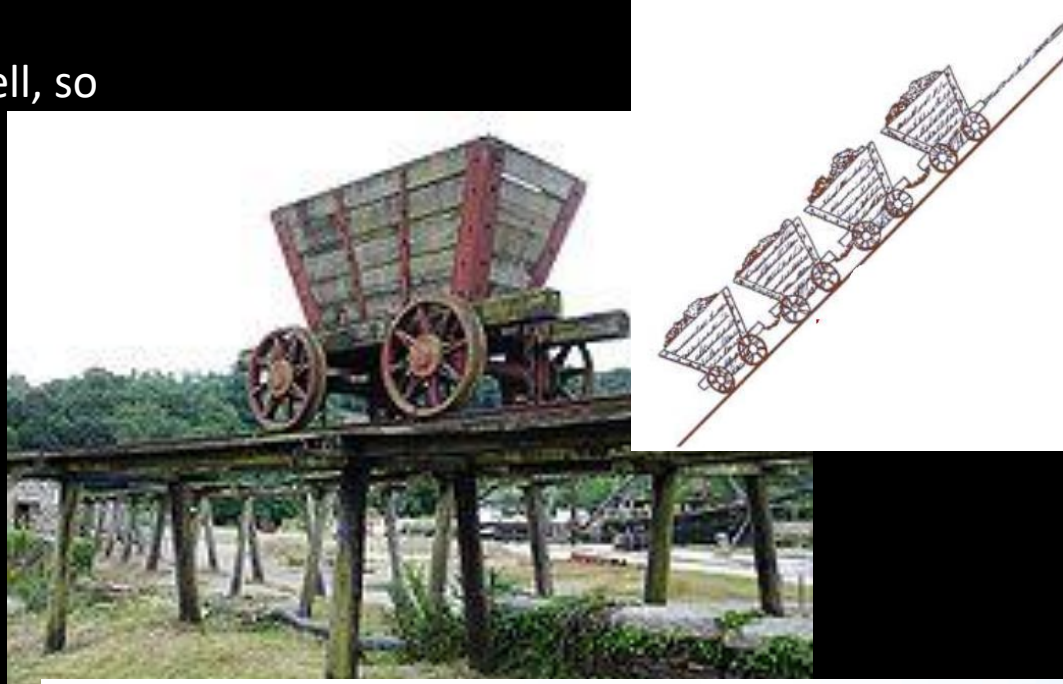


Men began to mine the metal ores. At Morwellham there was a copper mine. Men and boys would go into the mine every day to dig out the copper ore, so that it could be sold around the world. Copper was used to make things such as ...



Ore from other mines on Dartmoor was brought to Morwellham Quay as well, so that it could be transported around the world. Horses and carts were used to take the metal ore to the boats on the quay, but they were slow and expensive.

- So, in 1803 Tavistock Canal was built. Canals are man-made 'rivers'. They are built on level land to transport goods easily in boats. Where the land is not level, engineers build a special bridge called an aqueduct to carry the canal over a valley. Tunnels carry the canal right through big hills.
- Tavistock Canal is just above the village. To get goods down into Morwellham, a railway was built - called an Incline Plane Railway - and was powered by a waterwheel at the canal. The rails came down the hill and into the port.



# Morwellham's Most Famous Visitors

- Queen Victoria



Queen Victoria visited Morwellham in 1856, on her way to visit The Duke of Bedford. She came up the river by paddle steamer.



## Isambard Kingdom Brunel



Brunel came here whilst working on the Albert Bridge in Saltash. He made drawings of the mill and the water wheel. His drawing can be found on the plaque in front of the waterwheel.

## William Morris



William Morris owned some of the mines and visited the area.

# The Miners of Morwellham

Men and boys from the age of around 10, worked in the mine. They would spend 8 hours a day underground, hammering and moving rocks to get out the copper ore. It was very dark and they only had candles for light. This was a dirty and dangerous job. Many miners were killed or injured in mining accidents, or made unwell by spending so long underground in damp and dusty conditions.







Some miners lived in Morwellham, but others came from nearby villages and towns. Some of the miners had to walk up to fifteen miles to get to work in the morning (or evening, depending on their shift).

Those who lived a long way from Morwellham would often sleep in the woods on the hill instead of walking home. Others shared one or two rooms in a house. It was cramped and living conditions were very poor.



# Children at work

- Younger boys and girls of all ages would go to work breaking up rocks from the mine, to get out the pieces of copper ore. This was called breaking and dressing. Girls and women were called Bal maidens. They wore special hats to protect their faces from pieces of rock whilst they were hammering.



# The village school

- Children did not have to go to school. If their parents wanted to send them then they had to pay a penny per week for each child. Often they couldn't afford to send them.
- Some children went to school for part of the day and to work for the rest of the day.
- The first School Teacher, who set up the school was called Elizabeth Rundle.

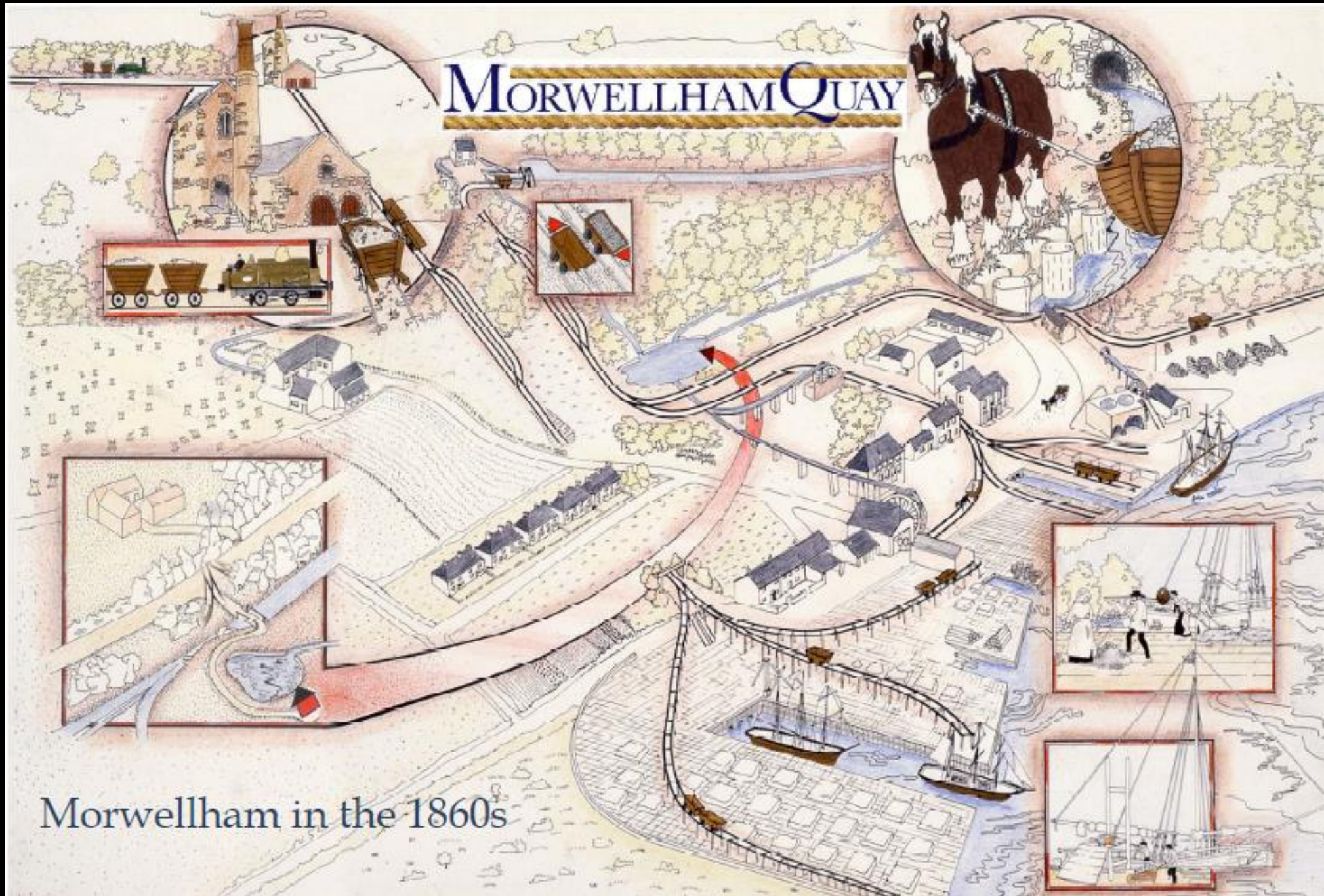


# The village Chandler shop



Miss Jane Martin was the shop keeper in Morwellham. Chandler's shops sold candles, ropes, and all the things that were needed on board a ship. Jane Martin also sold flour and tea.

# MORWELLHAM QUAY



Morwellham in the 1860s