

CYLCHGRAWN HANES TEULUOEDD DYFED

Cyfrwl 14 Rhif 8
Ebrill 2023



DYFED FAMILY HISTORY JOURNAL

Volume 14 Number 8
April 2023

Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Dyfed Family History Society

REGISTERED CHARITY No. 513347

President **The Right Reverend Joanna S. Penberthy** M.A., M.th.
Llymydd The Bishop of St Davids.

Chairman **Position vacant (tba)**
Cadeirydd

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cardigan **Mr. Phil Davies** (5741)
Aberteifi

Carmarthen **Mr. Eric Davies*** (3000)
Caerfyrddin

Haverfordwest **Mr. Geraint Davies*** (4553)
Hwlfordd

Llanelli **Mrs. Linda Martin** (5468)

Upper Towy Valley **Mrs. Davina Price*** (2773)
Cwm Tyni Uchaf

London **Mrs. Anna Brueton*** (1806)
Representative

General Secretary **Mr. Colin Potter*** (5576) secretary@dyfedfhs.org.uk
Ysgrifennydd 25 Milton Meadows, Milton, Tenby, Pembrokeshire SA70 8PL

Membership Secretary **David J. Skyrme*** (6232) membership@dyfedfhs.org.uk
Ysgrifennydd Aelodaeth Cherry Gate, Tubbs Lane, Highclere, Newbury RG20 9PR

Treasurer **Mr. Gareth Jones*** (4122) treasurer@dyfedfhs.org.uk
Trysorydd

Editor **Ms Cate Hobbs*** (2872) editor@dyfedfhs.org.uk
Golygydd 25 Milton Meadows, Milton, Tenby, Pembrokeshire SA70 8PL

Webmaster **Mr Gareth Morgan** (53429) webmaster@dyfedfhs.org.uk
Meistr Gwe

Minute Secretary **Mrs. Janice Hughes*** (4750)
Ysgrifennydd Cofnodion

Projects Co-ordinator **Mrs. Janice Hughes*** (4750)
Trefnydd Cymaith

Publications Officer **Mr. Eric Davies*** (3000)
Snyddog Cyhoeddiadau **publications@dyfedfhs.org.uk**

Social Media/
Publicity Officer **Situation Vacant**
Snyddog Cyhoeddusmydd **publicity@dyfedfhs.org.uk**

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Carmarthen County Archivist

Carmarthenshire Archives, c/o Carmarthen Library,
9 St Peter's Street, Carmarthen. SA31 1LN

Ceredigion County Archivist

Ceredigion Archives, Old Town Hall, Queen's Square,
Aberystwyth. SY23 2EB

Pembrokeshire County Archivist

Pembrokeshire Archives, Prendergast, Haverfordwest.
Pembrokeshire, SA61 2PE.

The Representative of the NLW

National Library of Wales, Penglais, Aberystwyth. SY23 3BU

NON-COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Dyfed Probate **Mrs. Beti M Griffiths** (3566)
Index Researcher **bettygriffiths.geryfelin@sky.com**

Journal **Ms Cate Hobbs (2872), Mr John Paterson (216)**
Indexing Project **Rosaleen Boardman (6495)**

Independent **Caroline Wheeler**
External Examiner **Bevan Buckland, Pembroke**

* TRUSTEES

In accordance with the Charity Commission's regulations
all of the elected Officers are the Trustees of the Society.

Please quote your membership number in any correspondence.

Work on the **August Journal** will begin as soon as this one finishes
but the deadline for copy is **15 June 2023**.

Thanks to all the many members who have sent in articles and promised me future ones, this makes me confident that I can fill the next few issues without having sleepless nights worrying about it! If they don't appear in this issue be assured, they will be in a future one.

We have our AGM in March, the first face to face one since the pandemic. We are holding this in Carmarthen Library and hopefully on Zoom (for those too far away to attend in person), see details in the next few pages. Face to face meetings are gradually getting back to "normal" and it is nice to hear from the various branches again that have had speakers and are now planning visits for the summer.

I am still looking for a volunteer to take over as Editor, I have been doing the job since 2018, so coming up to my 5 years.

The warmer weather is on its way, and hopefully a sign that those of us who hibernate in the winter months might venture forth to the local branch meetings, although I know many members live too far away to attend, you can hopefully join with the Online Meeting Group. I would like to congratulate Rosaleen, David and Gareth for the continued success of the Online Meeting Group, it is such a friendly group and plans for future presentations are in place, please check on the events page and Facebook page for details. Sign up for reminders at online@dyfedfhs.org.uk so you never miss a meeting.



Several of us continue the clear out the Carmarthen storage room, I hope to compile a list of books that are available for members. We have sorted many old fiche's and those are to be converted to PDF files and put in the shop for members to purchase.

Finally our thanks to all the founder members who have sent their thanks for the "Founder Member Awards", there were some lovely emails, letters and cards; we are happy that this little token has been so kindly received.

Cate Hobbs (2872)

Editor

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The Society does not accept any responsibility for the views and opinions expressed by individual authors.

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Branch Meetings and Other Events

(The venues for branch events are listed inside the back cover, unless otherwise stated)

Cardigan Branch

- 03 Apr Research Evening
May French Invasion Trip (both 1st & 2nd Mondays are Bank Holidays TBC)
05 Jun Richard Ireland – Crime in Cardiganshire Exploring the Archives
Jul No Meeting
Aug No Meeting

Carmarthen Branch

- 26 Apr TBC
31 May TBC
28 Jun TBC

Haverfordwest Branch

(Pembrokeshire Archives building from 7–9pm unless otherwise stated)

- 12 Apr Pat Barker – Shops in Haverfordwest
10 May Dave Harries – Photos of Haverfordwest Part 2
14 Jun Archives Afternoon 1–4pm
12 July Visit TBC
9 Aug No meeting

Llanelli Branch

- 17 Apr Rev David Jones – The history of Nonconformists in Carmarthenshire
15 May Ms Bella Romain – The Whitford Lighthouse
19 Jun Mr Lyn John – Photos of Old Llanelli

London Branch

- 10 Jun AGM followed by Members' discussion of DNA Developments & discoveries
13–20 Aug Branch visit to the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth

Upper Towy Valley Branch

- 26 Apr Mr Jeremy John - Exploring Dolaucothi and Caio
May Visit to the new Carmarthenshire Archives
Jul Transcription of Monumental Inscriptions

Online Meeting Group (last Monday of the month unless otherwise stated)
7pm (GMT) via Zoom, please contact online@dyfedfhs.org.uk for joining instructions.

- 24 Apr Writing Your Family History
29 May Patricia Hood-Williams – Narberth (Pemb) to Narberth, Pennsylvania
26 Jun The Mystery of DNA (provisional)
31 Jul TBC

Dyfed Family History Society Annual General Meeting – Saturday 22 April 2023

Carmarthen Library, St Peter's Street, Carmarthen
and online via ZOOM (TBC) – Start time 11am

Draft documents are contained within this journal, finalised documents will be issued at the venue or by email to those attending via Zoom, please register your intention to attend by Zoom via secretary@dyfedfhs.org.uk. Any member who cannot attend either can request a copy to be emailed or posted, from the General Secretary.

29 May – 3 June 2023 – Urdd Eisteddfod – Llandovery

16–17 September 2023 – Llandovery Sheep Festival

The Family History Show

Sep 2 10–14 Kempton Park Racecourse

Where to find out about other Genealogical Events:

Family History Federation <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events>

GENEVA (GENealogical Events and Activities – run on behalf of GENUKI and the FHF) <http://www.geneva.weald.org.uk/doku.php>

Draft Agenda for the Annual General Meeting 2023

Saturday, 22nd April at 11.00 am
Carmarthen Library, St Peter's Street, Carmarthen and online
via Zoom (if we have the bandwidth to accommodate this)

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To sign as a proper and accurate record of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 30th April 2022.
3. Matters arising.
4. Resolutions.
 - a. To appoint Moira Evans (39) as an Honorary Life Member
 - b. To appoint Anna Brueton (1806) as an Honorary Life Member
 - c. To update the Constitution (details to follow)
5. To receive the Secretary's report for 2022
6. To receive the Treasurer's report and accounts for 2022
7. To receive the Membership Secretary's report for 2022
8. To elect officers for 2023 (The names of the nominated officers are shown below (not including Branch Chairs who are elected by their Branch members)).

Officers nominated for election by members of the Society at the AGM 2023

Chairman:	Vacant
General Secretary:	Mr Colin Potter
Treasurer:	Mr Gareth Wyn Jones
Membership Secretary:	Mr David Skyrme
Webmaster*:	Mr Gareth Morgan
Editor*:	Ms Cate Hobbs
Minute Secretary*:	Mrs Janice Hughes
Publications Officer*:	Mr Eric Davies
Projects Officer*:	Mrs Janice Hughes
Social Media Officer*:	Vacant

*If the Constitution amendments (4c) are carried the following posts will not require a vote

9. The appointment of Independent External Examiner – Caroline Wheeler* (Bevan Buckland LLP) for the year 2022.

General Secretary's Report

This last year has been one of slowly getting back to normal after the pandemic. All our branches have held face to face meetings, but some of their locations have changed during the last year. We have continued to use Zoom for some of our committee meetings but are trialling hybrid meetings to reduce any long distance travelling. We have started our “online meeting group” and these have been a roaring success, many thanks to Rosaleen, David C and Gareth M for organising them. Members are encouraged to chat and join in with the conversations. We have had quite a few members joining from the USA; we will try to set up one at a time to enable our Antipodean members to participate. We have discovered that a lot of members have specialised knowledge of an area or an interest, we will have to create some type of index to help our members with their research.

Another highlight of the year was our 40th birthday. We posted out a little memento to all 15 of our founder members who are still in the society and produced an 80 page anniversary edition of our journal.

We have updated some of our Monumental Inscriptions on our website; David Skyrme has completed the summary sheet for South Cardiganshire and is working on completing one for Carmarthenshire.

Our publications page (online shop) has proved a success, we only have Carmarthenshire at the moment, but have many microfiches from our storeroom waiting to be sorted and transferred to PDF.

We have recruited a new webmaster, Gareth Morgan, and hope to soon have a volunteer working on social media.

Our Cardigan branch opened a hub in Cardigan Castle, with members available 3 days a week to assist any visitors with family history enquiries.

The Llandovery hub is still going strong and has generated many new members.

Colin Potter (5576)

Please note that this report and the other AGM documents that follow (except the Membership Secretary's Report) are all in Draft, the final documents will be sent by email newsletter before 22nd March and will also be available on the Society Spotlight page on the website from that date.

Treasurer's Report


Members can see that total income was lower than during 2021 but was boosted by the popularity of our online shop. Total expenditure rose but branches did not need additional funding. Price increases were reflected in the cost of our usual expenditure items. Nevertheless, a surplus was recorded albeit less than for the previous year, but the society's total closing balances showed a modest increase.

DYFED FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022 Registered Charity Number 513347

INCOME	2022	2021	EXPENDITURE	2022	2021
Membership			Capital Expenditure	£455.97	£16.57
Subscriptions & donations	£11,634.00	£12,935.00	General Expenditure		
Gift Aid	£1,994.07	£2,214.65	Journals including postage	£8,747.62	£7,235.71
Total	£13,628.07	£15,149.65	Storeroom rent	£1,140.00	£1,080.00
Sundry Income			Total	£9,887.62	£8,315.71
C&C Bank interest	£525.51	£540.46	Administration Costs		
Reserve Account interest	£1.67	£0.19	Travelling expenses	£100.60	
Sales	£23.00	£91.00	Subscriptions to other bodies	£423.30	£420.64
Online sales	£422.00	£71.00	PayPal fees:		
Total	£972.18	£702.65	Subs & donations	£189.18	£222.92
Five Branch Current Accounts			Online shop	£14.56	
Total change	-£1,206.04	-£145.40	Postage	£87.81	£44.95
			Zoom Licences	£287.76	
			Printing and stationery		£27.54
			Refunds to members	£11.00	£30.00
			Unpaid cheque	£12.00	£12.00
			Total	£1,126.21	£758.05
			Founder Member Awards	£293.58	
			Projects		
			Website	£1,324.21	£2,717.32
			Monumental inscriptions	£90.00	
			Total	£1,414.21	£2,717.32
			Total Expenditure	£13,177.59	£11,807.65
			Surplus/Deficit	£216.62	£3,899.25
			Total Income	£13,394.21	£15,706.90
Balances brought forward	01-Jan-22	01-Jan-21	Balances to carry forward	31-Dec-22	31-Dec-21
31 Day Notice Account	£60,052.12	£56,541.53	31 Day Notice Account	£56,577.63	£60,052.12
Reserve Account	£400.03	£1,009.29	Reserve Account	£5,200.70	£400.03
Current Account	£1,426.13	£818.24	Current Account	£2,043.27	£1,426.13
Five Branch Bank Current A/cs	£4,284.93	£4,430.33	Five Branch Current Accounts	£3,078.89	£4,284.93
PayPal	£567.18	£31.75	PayPal	£46.52	£567.18
Total	£66,730.39	£62,831.14			
Surplus/Deficit	£216.62	£3,899.25			
Total of Closing Balances	£66,947.01	£66,730.39	Total of Closing Balances	£66,947.01	£66,730.39

I have examined the Income and Expenditure Accounts of the Dyfed Family History Society for the year ended 31st December 2022 and have verified the balances at NatWest Bank, Cambridge & Counties Bank, PayPal and the five Branch Bank Current Accounts. In my opinion these Income and Expenditure Accounts are in accordance with the books and vouchers of the Society and give a true statement of the affairs of the Society. The Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission. Full details of the composition of all figures in the Accounts are available from the Treasurer, if required.

Signed:
 Caroline Wheeler
 Independent External Examiner Date: 2023

Signed: 
 Gareth Wyn Jones
 Treasurer Date: 8th February 2023

Adroddiad y Trysorydd

Gall aelodau weld bod cyfanswm yr incwm yn is nag yn 2021 ond mae wedi cael hwb gan boblogrwydd ein siop ar-lein. Cododd cyfanswm y gwariant ond nid oedd angen arian ychwanegol ar ganghennau. Adlewyrchwyd codiadau pris yng nghost ein heitemau gwariant arferol. Serch hynny, cofnodwyd gwarged er ei fod yn llai nag ar gyfer y flwyddyn flaenorol, ond dangosodd cyfanswm balansau cau'r Gymdeithas gynnydd cymedrol.

CYFRIFON INCWM A GWARIANT CYMDEITHAS HANES TEULUOEDD DYFED AM Y FLWYDDYN A DDAETH I BEN AR 31ain RHAGFYR 2022 Rhif Elusen Gofrestredig 513347

INCWM	2022	2021	GWARIANT	2022	2021
Aelodaeth			Gwariant Cyfalafol	£455.97	£16.57
Tanysgrifiadau a Rhoddion	£11,634.00	£12,935.00	Gwariant Cyffredinol		
Cymorth Rhodd	£1,994.07	£2,214.65	Cylchgronau a phostio	£8,747.62	£7,235.71
Cyfanswm	£13,628.07	£15,149.65	Rhent storio	£1,140.00	£1,080.00
Incwm Arall			Cyfanswm	£9,887.62	£8,315.71
Llog Banc C&C	£525.51		Costau Gweinyddol		
Llog Cyfrif Wth Gefn	£1.67	£540.46	Costau teithio	£100.60	
Gwerthiannau	£23.00	£0.19	Tanysgrifiadau i gyfrif eraill	£423.30	£420.64
Gwerthiannau ar-lein	£422.00	£91.00	Ffioedd PayPal:		
Cyfanswm	£972.18	£702.65	Tanysgrifiadau a Rhoddion	£189.18	£222.92
Pum Cyfrif Cyfredol Cangen			Siop ar-lein	£14.56	
Cyfanswm y newid	-1206.04	-£145.40	Post	£87.81	£44.95
			Trwyddedau Zoom	£287.76	
			Argraffu a deunydd swyddfa		£27.54
			Ad-daliadau i aelodau	£11.00	£30.00
			Hen sic	£12.00	£12.00
			Cyfanswm	£1,126.21	£758.05
			Gwobrau Aelodau Sylfaenol	£293.58	
			Prosiectau		
			Gwefan	£1,324.21	£2,717.32
			Arysgrifau Coffa	£90.00	
			Cyfanswm	£1,414.21	£2,717.32
			Cyfanswm Gwariant	£13,177.59	£11,807.65
			Gwarged/Diffyg	£216.62	£3,899.25
Cyfanswm Incwm	£13,394.21	£15,706.90		£13,394.21	£15,706.90
Balansau a ddygwyd ymlaen			Balansau a ddygir ymlaen	31 Rha-22	31-Rha-21
Cyfrif Rhybudd 31 Diwrnod	£60,052.12	£56,541.53	Cyfrif Rhybudd 31 Diwrnod	£56,577.63	£60,052.12
Cyfrif wrth cefn	£400.03	£1,009.29	Cyfrif Wrth Gefn	£5,200.70	£400.03
Cyfrif cyfredol	£1,426.13	£818.24	Cyfrif Cyfredol	£2,043.27	£1,426.13
Pum cyfrif cangen banc	£4,284.93	£4,430.33	Pum Cyfrif Cyfredol Cangen	£3,078.89	£4,284.93
PayPal	£567.18	£31.75	PayPal	£46.52	£567.18
Cyfanswm	£66,730.39	£62,831.14			
Gwarged/Diffyg	£216.62	£3,899.25			
Cyfanswm y Balansau Terfynol	£66,947.01	£66,730.39	Cyfanswm y Balansau Terfynol	£66,947.01	£66,730.39

Llofnod: *Gareth Wyn Jones*

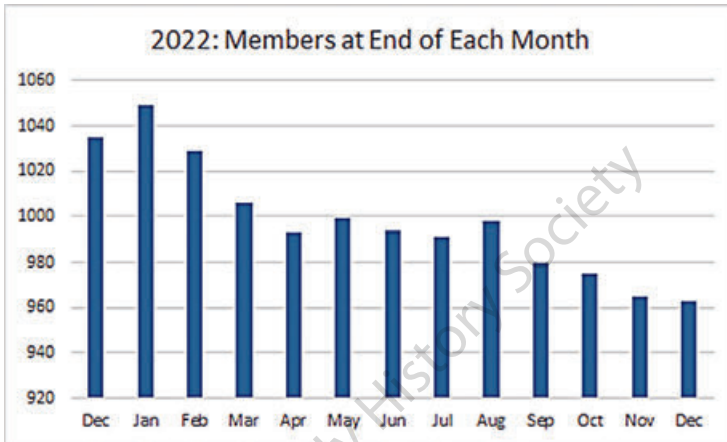
Gareth Wyn Jones

Trysorydd

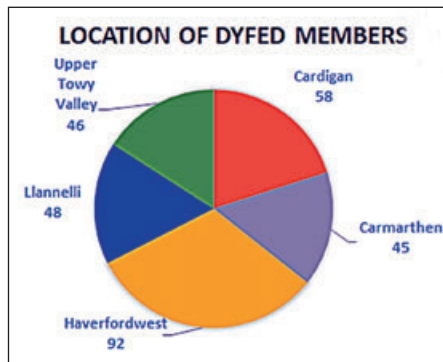
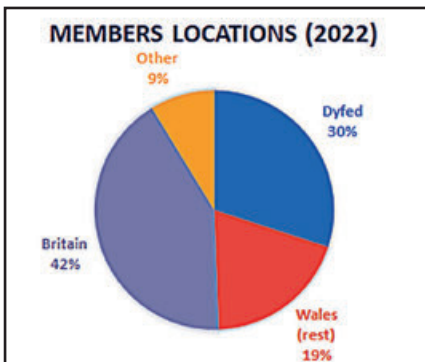
Dyddiad: 8^{fed} Chwefror 2023

Membership Secretary's Report

AFTER A SIGNIFICANT rise in the number of members during the COVID-19 pandemic, our membership declined slightly in 2021 (from 1,047 to 1,035) but has done so more sharply in 2022, with 963 members at the end of the year. More members than usual are resigning, most citing the cost of living and the need to cut back on expenditure.



During the year we welcomed 149 new members, of whom 21 (14%) were from overseas, most from the USA and Australia. The first chart below shows the location of all members at the end of 2022 while the second chart shows the local branch for members who live in Dyfed. While most of our members are individual members, 71 (7%) are family members and 15 (1.5%) organisations (libraries and family history societies).



Administration

We've had a few glitches with our membership system this year. The main one affecting members has been where sometimes renewal emails were not sent out. We've added a new option to allow members to receive the journal as a PDF file via email rather than print. This was requested by a few of our overseas members. Another improvement which should be implemented by the time you read this is to give members the opportunity to join one or more branches outside of where they live. After all some 70% of our membership do not live in Dyfed yet have a family interest in one or more parts of it. This change will allow them to keep in touch with news from the branches that interest them.

David J Skyrme

Letters to the Editor

I AM ENCLOSING a memory stick for you, which holds the contents of my two most recently printed family history books:

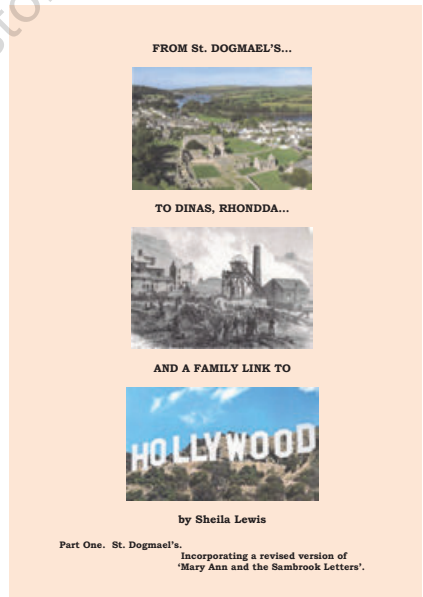
Our Lighthouse Family – Thomas Palmer of Dale and his Descendant

From St Dogmael's to Dinas, Rhondda and a Family Link to Hollywood

(Part 1. St Dogmael's incorporating a revised version of "Mary Ann and the Sambrook Letters") *

A hard copy of the "Palmer" book is housed within the Pembrokeshire Archives, the other one will be deposited soon.

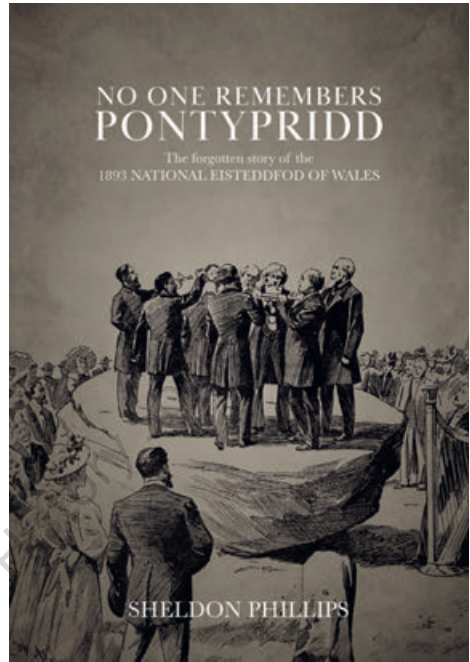
Sheila Lewis (265561)



(*Editors note: Families mentioned are Rees, Williams, Griffiths and Ann Sambrook nee Davies)

No One Remembers Pontypridd: The forgotten story of the 1893 National Eisteddfod

DURING THE coronavirus pandemic in 2020, I started writing up the story of my maternal great grandfather, C. Videon Harding (1847–1893), a talented musician who spent most of his life in Carmarthen and was organist at St Peter's Church for 25 years. I got distracted from writing up his life story when I discovered that my paternal great uncle, David E. Phillips, was General Secretary of the 1893 National Eisteddfod which was secured by Pontypridd against bids from Llanelli, Neath and... Chicago! After 130 years the National Eisteddfod revisits Pontypridd in 2024, albeit as part of the hosting rights of Rhondda Cynon Taf. This is a fascinating tale, so much so that I was encouraged to self-publish a book – *No One Remembers Pontypridd*.



With a foreword by current Archdruid Myrddin ap Dafydd, the book launch took place in March in conjunction with the National Eisteddfod. There are several Dyfed references including the competitors Llanelly Glee Society, the Vale of Towy Choir (Carmarthen), Llanelly Town Band, Capel Als (Llanelly) and others. The official report (transactions) was never produced so I provide a list of all the competitions and prize winners.

No One Remembers Pontypridd: The forgotten story of the 1893 National Eisteddfod (£12.99) is available from Storyville Books, 8 Mill Street, Pontypridd; National Library of Wales (Gift Shop) and other outlets. It is available online from www.carreg-gwalch.cymru.

Sheldon Phillips (41756)

Email: sheldon.phillips@btinternet.com

Tabor Chapel, Dinas (Celebrating the first 12 months of www.hanesabergwaun.org.uk)

CONGRATULATIONS to the Fishguard & District Local History Group.

Maria Owen, the mother of my husband (Eryl Davies) came from Dinas, so I showed him the photo of the group gathered outside Tabor Chapel in 1949 featured in the article. He immediately picked her out along with her sisters and his grandmother! He has now added a comment on the Hanes Abergwaun website alongside the photo to confirm this as there were several suggestions as to who actually was Rita Owen and Amelia Lewis in the group.

Morgan Owen of Iet y Bontpren married Amelia Lewis of Fagwr Meredith, Dinas Mountain in 1921. They had three daughters, Maria, Eluned and Rita.

In the photo, Amelia Owen is standing behind the pillar by the front door. Rita is on her right, then Maria, then Eluned is on her right. All the girls attended Dinas County Primary School. They moved as a family from Fagwr Meredith to Cefnydfa (on the road to Aber Bach) after the Second World War.

Maria went to a teacher training college in Wrexham in the early 1940's and then taught at Little Newcastle School with Waldo Williams. She later moved to the Gwaun Valley to teach at Llanychllwydog, meeting Eryl's father, David Oliver Davies of Penarallt Ddu, Pontfaen. They were married in 1953 and Maria moved to live at the farm. They both attended Jabes Baptist Chapel in Cwm Gwaun and are buried there.

Eluned and Rita worked in the Post Office in Fishguard. Eluned married David Harries and moved to live in Cardigan in the late 1950's. Rita was unmarried and remained at Cefnydfa.

Tabor Chapel was an integral part of their lives. The three sisters attended Sunday School and belonged to the Drama Group and were very active in the community. Eryl cannot see his grandfather in the photo; he was a smallholder and survived the mustard gassing of the troops at Passhendale in 1917. Eluned and Rita are buried at Macpelah, Dinas alongside their parents.

Rosaleen Boardman (6495)

Email: rosaleen_w@hotmail.com

Updated Memorial Inscriptions on the website

Pembrokeshire

Cilgerran	St Llawddog Church (large graveyard) with photographs
Fishguard	St Mary's Church
Nevern	St Mary's Church
Pembroke Dock	List of Headstones (that have been removed) from Park Street Cemetery
Whitchurch near Solva	Felin Ganol Chapel, Middle Mill

Carmarthenshire

Carmarthen	An update of Tabernacle Chapel
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DON'T FORGET to check out the **PERSONAL RESEARCH** section of the website, we get new pieces all the time, so it is worth a look through. As we are getting quite a few now, the next project will be to index them and to make them searchable by keyword, but until the indexing of the journals is finished this is on the back burner!

I would remind members about the rules around publishing Personal Research on the website.

- The primary purpose is to share the research with other members, but it also ensures that work which may have taken a considerable time to complete is not lost and is available to future researchers. Articles published here will exist for as long as this website exists.
- Your article may be about a person, a family, a house, a church, a village, or any other subject, but it must be related to Dyfed.
- The article must be complete and capable of being read as a coherent story. **This is not the place for work in progress, request for help from other members or a collection of notes. There will be no editing by the Society.**
- If possible, the article should be submitted in PDF format but any text format will be accepted and converted by the Society.
- There is no limit to the size of the article.

- Any photographs or diagrams must be embedded in the document.
- Your article **must** be accompanied by a separate summary that describes the content and indicates who may benefit from reading it. This summary should not exceed 200 words.
- The catalogue of summaries is available to the public but only members may access the articles.
- If you would like to publish an article on this website then please use your Member Dashboard and click on Add Personal Research.

GLAMORGAN FHS is re-opening its Aberkenfig Resource Centre after 3 years of closure due to the Covid pandemic. Between now and September, the Resource Centre will be open on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month between 10 am and 2pm. You don't need to be a member of the Society and admission is free; charge for use of our computers and printer, but not for using books and other materials. A team of volunteers will be on hand to assist visitors in finding what they need. If you are new to family history, they will also be happy to offer guidance on beginning your research.

The Resource Centre is in the grounds of Aberkenfig Welfare Hall off Hope Avenue, Aberkenfig CF32 9PR. It is five minutes' drive from M4 Junction 36 and has ample parking space.

* BREAKING NEWS * from the National Archives

WE'RE PLEASED to announce that we've awarded Ancestry UK the contract to digitise the first tranche of MOD service personnel records.

Both parties are looking forward to working to make these important records accessible in digital format. Details of the schedule will be announced soon.

More about the records themselves, including answers to the most frequently asked questions about the transfer, here at <https://nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/mod-service-personnel-records-now-available-update/>

The Bateman Family of Pembrokeshire

Part 2 of 3

(continued from December 2022 journal)

The BATEMAN family lived in a messuage (home) in High Street in Haverfordwest. It is suggested that, like others of the times, they ran their business from the ground floor, which had High Street access, and lived on the second and perhaps third floors.

I believe the BATEMAN home would have been reasonably close to the site of the Quaker Meeting house at 47 High Street, built in 1744 and closed in 1824, and which is now the site of the present Shire Hall. There has been a suggestion that their home was at 18 Market Street on which the West Wales Guardian was built. (49). I have since found out that this was more likely the property gifted to William's son Benjamin 2 as part of a post nuptial agreement in 1691. (6) (Please see #6 child at the end of Part 3). Haverfordwest underwent significant rebuilding and restoration planned by local architect William Owen from about 1835 so some historic buildings were demolished and replaced with new ones and streets were widened.

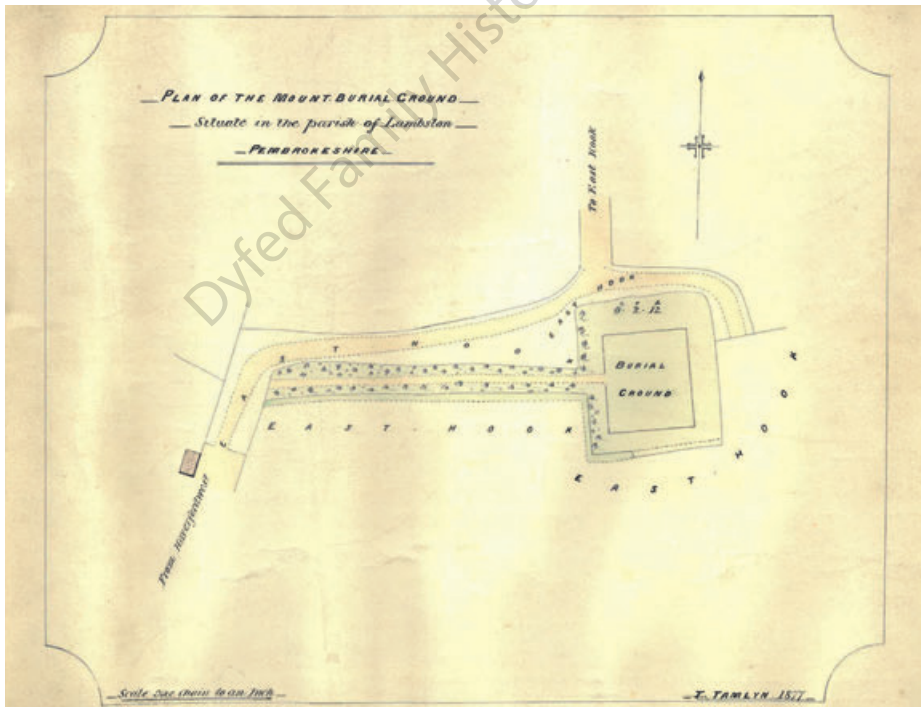
William also leased property in Goat Street from the WOGAN Family when they were gifted the use of the WOGANs messuage at East Hook, a few miles away in the Parish of Lambston for 3 generations, in July 1661. In 1670 William was also paying Hearth Tax, for 1 hearth, in the Parish of Llanstadwell. (7, 44 p47) At this time Hearth Tax (1670) the population of Haverfordwest was 2137. (1)

William and his wife Sarah were active, devout and prominent Quakers both in Haverfordwest and in Pembrokeshire itself. From the mid-17th century



A model of a typical small Merchant's House in Haverfordwest is in St Fagans Museum (19)e

this Christian sect was founded by Englishman George Fox and was formally known as the ‘Religious Society of Friends’, also known as Quakers. Their central belief is the doctrine of the Inner Light. They “seek religious truth in inner experience and place great reliance on conscience as the basis of morality.” (9) They held Yearly Meetings when Quakers would gather throughout Wales where they discussed topical issues including the sufferings, upholding stances against the payment of tithes, preparations of ‘epistles’ to be circulated throughout Wales etc. (14). The numbers of Quakers decreased over time (13 p26), due to the passing of The Toleration Act in 1689 for establishing Religious Freedom “when zeal was no longer fanned by (religious) persecution” (45) and to many emigrating to the New World, Pennsylvania. Seven meeting houses existed in Pembrokeshire in 1682 but persistent persecution led to the existence of only one meeting house in 1792 and that was in Haverfordwest. (13) It appears that Quakerism was also not so attractive to younger people as time passed and it is interesting to note that William and Sarah’s granddaughter, Lettice BATEMAN (c1770–1773) who married Griffith EVANS, was not a



Quaker. Her three marriages took place and her three children were baptised at Haverfordwest St Mary (46). Lettice is also buried there however; her brother Thomas BATEMAN was buried at Lambston in 1768. I am not sure whether he was buried in the Lambston churchyard or in the Quaker Burial Ground outside Lambston.

In 1656, during a visit to Wales preaching the new faith, (14) it was recorded by Thomas Holme, one of George Fox's English disciples, that "We passed to Haverfordwest, the greatest town in Wales, and there, a merchant of the town (almost certainly William Bateman) is convinced (converted). And we got a meeting that night of near two hundred people at his house in that town." (33) William and Sarah also had Friends stay regularly at their home. They attended monthly meetings in the area and also held meetings and weddings in their own home in High Street. (16) One wedding was the marriage of their daughter Sarah BATEMAN to John BURGE in 1673 which was attended by William and Sarah's son Arthur and wife (name still unknown) and grandson Arthur BATEMAN; (15) my line.

As a consequence of continued and unwavering adherence to their beliefs, Quakers often had goods or property seized (4), were publicly whipped for their refusal to pay tithes, or swear oaths of allegiance to the crown, to doff hats or to bow and kneel in deference to others, (13, 24) Many were also imprisoned in very harsh conditions. Following the Protector Cromwell's death and the restoration of Charles II in England in 1661, persecution of Quakers sharply increased. Those in Pembrokeshire were regularly imprisoned in gaol for non-compliance where conditions were equally hard for both genders. (13) The BATEMANs were similarly affected. William and Sarah were tried for attending meetings and in Jan 1659 William was fined for holding a meeting at his home.(16) Twice they were committed to prison for their continued determination to follow and live by their faith and practices. They were recorded by Besse as "The Sufferers" along with their son in law John BURGE. (16, 17).

By 1660, the majority or moneyed controlling minority in Haverfordwest would no longer support the state church which practised extreme Puritanism. On the Restoration of Charles II in 1661, the repressive laws of the Clarendon Code were passed against Nonconformists. (13) In 1660 and 1661 many Quakers were imprisoned in the local gaol, known as The Cockhouse, in intolerable conditions. This was a medieval vaulted six room stone dwelling used as the Gaol in the 17th-18th centuries. It was located behind some houses in

early Market Street in close proximity to St Mary's church wall and was known as a very dark, filthy and primitive place in 'a low and crowded part of the town' (1).

On 21 September 1661 William and his wife Sarah, along with some other Quakers of Haverfordwest, were "taken at a meeting, and refused to give Bail that they would have no more such meetings, were committed to the Gaol, and kept their (sic) till the Assizes a year after." (13) The men each were fined 5l, and the women 5 marks, "except William Bateman whose fine they levied by distress of his Goods" (13). One Quaker preacher, a Richard Davies of Welshpool, was persecuted by soldiers during a visit to Pembrokeshire in 1665 after holding a meeting at Redstone. Richard told them that until they had lawful warrants for his arrest from Bristol "they should hear of me at the house of William Bateman, in Haverfordwest." (2)

In 1671 William and Sarah were again imprisoned (16) for a year in The Cockhouse (21). "The usage they (the prisoners) met with was very cruel, being imprisoned among felons and murderers, who took away their food, pikt their pockets and in many ways abused them." (10) Others were taken at different times at meetings in William and Sarah's house, and others, and committed to the town gaol. Some Quakers, who refused to take the Oath of Allegiance, ended up being imprisoned for many years in the harshest of conditions where, beside the deprivations of food, hygiene and warmth, "their hands and feet much swelled and their bodies looking black". (10)

The Cockhouse was replaced when a new Gaol was built c1779 in the inner ward of Haverfordwest Castle "for the purposes of occupation as a Castle gaol". In his 'Report on Prisons' 1782, printed 1791, John Howard reported, under 'County Gaol at Haverfordwest' that "In 1782 I had the pleasure to find a new gaol built on Castle Hill, instead of the ancient loathsome place of consignment." The Cockhouse was eventually demolished c1850. By 1770 many people "suffered very grievous and exorbitant Distresses" (13) for their religious following and meetings. There were also confiscations of property, crops, household goods etc.

Anne Mackintosh (69818)

Email: amacgvs@gmail.com

(Part 3 to follow in the next issue of the journal)

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Eynon Phillipps of Tregybi and Cardigan Priory

Eynon (or Eion) Phillipps was a son of Owen Phillipps, Lord of Cilsant, 4th¹ son of Sir Thomas Phillipps of Picton, by Owen's first wife Janett (Sioned) v.² Lewis Thomas ap John of Cryngae, Carms. Eynon was born around 1530 and died in or about 1589.

In the Golden Grove record (D856) he is shown as 'Inon Card', and he is usually described as 'Eynon/Eion Phillipp(e)s of Cardigan', an anomaly in this large Pembrokeshire/Carmarthenshire-based family which piqued my curiosity. His father Owen Lord of Cilsant had numerous offspring, nine by his first wife Sioned and ten or more by his second, Catherine v. John Thomas ap Harri of Carmarthen, plus a few more illegits! The spread of this family extended

¹ Or 3rd son according to one source, but 4th is more likely.

² daughter, v. is a standard abbreviation for "verch" in older documents where the patronymic form applies.

through Pembrokeshire and into Carmarthenshire, which gives Eynon the sense of being somewhat separate.

He settled at Tregybi (now Tregibby), a holding just north of Cardigan, formerly part of the lands belonging to Cardigan Priory. The dissolution of the Priory was in 1538, the priory itself was sold, and changed hands several times, but it is uncertain what happened to its extensive lands so Eynon could have been initially a tenant before becoming landowner, a move which may have occurred by the 1580s. In the post-dissolution era, Cardigan Priory was held by Sir William Cavendish, who subsequently relinquished it in exchange for more favourable lands in Derbyshire.³ However it was not until 1616 that a formal Grant of Cardigan Priory, with all its appurtenances was made to Eynon's son George Phillipps. Eynon was also a Burgess of Newport, which burgages he held is not certain, but several were later in the name of his eldest son Lewis Phillipps.⁴

Eynon appears as a slightly shadowy figure in much of the local politics of that time. He was Sherriff of Cardigan in 1588 A ferocious contention arose between Sir John Perrott and George Owen, regarding the status of Cemais and of Owen himself, which involved most of the landed⁵ gentry in the hundred taking sides.⁶ Sir John Perrott was born in Haroldston, and following a violent and litigious career involving two periods of authority in Ireland, he seems a gentleman one would not wish to cross. Eynon Phillipps was one of his supporters, and the fact that he is mentioned in person indicates that he may have been one of the main activists on behalf of Sir John P. against George Owen, no doubt benefitting. A ransacking of George's house, Henllys, in an attempt to find evidence of "counterfeyting of the great seale of armes of William, Erle of Pembroke ... also for forging of certen other deedes etc., ..." failed, but such evidence as they found was taken to Eynon Phillipps' house in Newport for closer assessment. George spent a number of days under lock and key, but no charges were brought against him.

³ The sequence of events regarding The Priory is not straightforward, as was often the case following the Dissolution. See Pritchard (1904).

⁴ B G Charles. *The Records of the Borough of Newport in Pembrokeshire*. NLWJ 1951.

⁵ Mainly tenants in chief of the barony of Cemais, which still retained much of its feudal structure and powers for some time after the Act of Union of 1536. The majority of these could trace lineage back to the old Welsh families, pre-dating the Normans.

⁶ Dillwyn Miles' Introduction to Owen's "Description of Pembrokeshire", Gomer 1994, pp. xxvii–xxviii.

⁷ *Ibid.*

Sir John Perrott died in the Tower of London in 1592.

Eynon Phillipps appears to be not short of finance. In addition to his outlay whether as tenant or by purchase for Tregibby and The Priory, and as a Burgess of Newport, he purchased the reunited Trayans (third parts) of the manor of Llanfyrnach, which passed down to his son Lewys and grandson Thomas. As George Owen writes:

“In our time the late and last John Wogan of Wiston esquior was owner of two of these Trayans vizd. Trayan and John Lloid now of Hendre held Trayan & held Coorte there who sould the same to the said John Wogan who afterwards sold the whole to Eynon Phillipes esquior father to Lewis Phillipes father to Thomas Phillipes who is now the owner thereof.”⁸

and relating to the extensive estates of Blaiddbwll, we find that

“... they and their only child Philip Robert Moris, sold the property to *Eynon Phillipps* of Cardigan, a younger son of Owen Phillipps of Cilsant. Eynon, whose will was proved in 1589, ...”⁹

Eynon married twice – (1) Catherine/Katrin v. William ap Gruffudd (and sister of Sir James Williams), and (2) Elizabeth/Elsbeth v. Robrt Byrtrt esgwier ap James Byrtrt esgwier (Dwnn p.85).

DATES: There is no record so far of his birth (possibly around 1530), but his Will is dated 1589 (TNA/NLW SD/1589/1). We know he was Sheriff of Cardiganshire in 1588 [3], active during George Owen’s efforts to get recognition as Lord of Cemais, and at the time of Sir John Perrott’s accession to Parliament as member for Haverfordwest in 1589.

Elsbeth, Eynon’s widow, had re-married by 1597 according to Dwnn.

Descendants

His eldest son Lewis Phillippes (b. 1553) married Elizabeth/Elsbeth Bowen,¹⁰ daughter of John Bowen of Pentre Ifan, (a great-granddaughter of Sir James Bowen) around 1575 and so came into that property, by then much reduced owing to the practice of gavelkind. He also held several burgages in the borough

⁸ B.G. Charles. “The Second Book of George Owen’s Description of Penbrokeshire” in NLW Journal V, 4 (1948) p.282

⁹ NLWJ. 22, 1 (1981)

¹⁰ Elsbeth v. Thomas ap Mathias ap Sir James Bowen (see Dwnn’s HV p.170)

of Newport. In “The Extent of Cemais 1594” (Pembrokeshire Records Series 3) we find that Lewis Phillipps, gent, pays 2s. for the rent of the *manor* of Llanvirnach on Tafe.¹¹ As a free tenant he paid rents for lands in Dynas, 6d. and Tremoriddig, and (c. 1594) Lewis Phillipps and his wife Elizabeth Bowen had recently sold to George Owen one tenement and a further holding in Bayvill.

Lewis had 11 children, his eldest son Thomas Phillipps, also of Pentre Ifan, m. Ann v. Jenkyn Lloyd.

Eynon’s eldest son George by his *second* wife, Elizabeth Birt, was Sheriff in 1606, and in 1616 acquired Cardigan Priory, which following the Dissolution of 1538 had passed into secular hands, including William and Margaret Cavendish.¹²

George was Sheriff of Cardigan in 1606. He married Ann v. James Lewis of Abernantbychan, five children – Hector, James, David, Elsbeth and Siwan.

Hector Phillipps, son of George, m. firstly Anne, dau of Sir William Wogan of Wiston, (her 3rd husband). They had two sons, James and Hector, a daughter Anne who married Thomas Parry of St. Dogmaels, and another son who died in 1623 aged 7. Hector senior later re-married to Katherine Oxenbridge (Fowler).

These two sons of Hector senior played an active and contentious role at the outset of the interregnum (1649-1660), being zealous and uncompromising in their application of the new order. As it says in [4], “They were both active during the Civil War, and are said to have sequestered estates of Royalists with excessive zeal.” We must remember that these estates would have been those of former neighbours and acquaintances. Later they both seem to have moderated in character, although the marriages show a continued close connection with Parliamentary circles.

From the DWB [3] we have:

“(1) **JAMES PHILIPPS** (1594–1675), who matriculated from Jesus College, Oxford, in 1610, and was sheriff in 1649. Like his brother Hector (below), he was a zealous Parliament man in the Civil Wars, a ‘Commissioner of Sequestration’ in west Wales, a member of the army committee (and a colonel), and a member of the High Court of Justice. He was Member of Parliament for Cardiganshire in the Parliaments

¹¹ Possibly for the right to administer the affairs of the manor within the Lordship of Cemais.

¹² Pritchard (1904).

1653, 1654, 1656 (in which year he gave up the seat to become Member for Pembrokeshire), and 1659, and for Cardigan borough in 1660 and 1661 – losing the seat on petition (Meyrick, op. Cit., 340–1) ...”

James’ Parliamentary career appears in [5], and also with much interesting commentary on his activities during the Commonwealth in [6].

He married three times: his first wife was Frances Phillipps, daughter of Sir Richard Phillipps of Picton; his second wife was Katherine Fowler, daughter of John Fowler of London – an authoress, poetess, and prolific letter writer, known as “The Matchless Orinda”, who sadly died of smallpox in 1664 aged only 33; his third wife was Anne Rudd, dr. of Sir Richard Rudd of Aberglasney. He had two children with Orinda – a son, Hector, who died young, and a daughter Katherine who m. Lewis Wogan of Boulston. James died on 7th May 1674.

HECTOR (–1693)

Mayor of Cardigan 1657–8, 1666–7 and 1678–9, and sheriff of Cardiganshire in 1688. His Parliamentary career, post restitution, is given in [5]. Again, from the DWB,

“(2) **HECTOR PHILIPPS** (died 1693), who entered the Middle Temple in 1654. His political views were identical with his brother's; he became sheriff in 1688 and was Member of Parliament for Cardigan borough in 1679 (twice), 1685, 1689, and 1690; he died in March 1693. He was twice married; his first wife was a daughter of the Parliamentary commander Skippon (see in *D.N.B.*). He inherited his brother's estates but left only a daughter.”

Hector’s second wife was Margaret, daughter of Richard Owen of Rhiw Saeson, widow of James Stedman of Strata Florida. He had one daughter Anne, see below.

Following the return of the monarchy, both brothers seem to have retained some political standing, reminiscent of the Vicar of Bray.

When James died in 1674 or 5, he left the one daughter, and his brother Hector inherited the estates. In 1669, while both brothers were still alive, the property was demised to one John Hardy for thirty-six years, but although James may have spent time in London, apparently Hector subsequently still used The Priory as his residential address, so who was John Hardy? Possibly a nephew of the brothers, from one of the younger siblings, but this remains

speculation. He did not have a comfortable tenure: one John Stacey “entered into the said manor &c. by force and arms and ejected the said John Hardy therefrom ...”. Hardy seems to have obtained redress in the courts, but the situation remains confused.¹³

Glen Johnson¹⁴ is of the opinion that the lease must soon have been broken; James’s nuncupative Will gives his residence as The Priory. By the time Hector died in 1693, he could well have been over 90 years old.

Following Hector’s death, he also left one daughter, Ann, wife of Martin (or Miles) Button, an influential family of Glamorgan, and the Priory estate passed through various hands, including Thomas Johnes of Hafod.¹⁵ A final point of interest, when the Trustees of the Priory Estate were arranging its sale following the death of the latter, it was described as “Mansion House called Tregibby, alias Gibby”, and extensive holdings in Cardiganshire, so it would appear that the substance of the landholdings of the Phillipps’s remained intact up until that time.

Sophy Thomas (5632)

Email: smtq1239@gmail.com

My thanks go to Bettye Kirkwood [1911], who has shared her thoughts and her resources.

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¹³ Pritchard (1904)

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¹⁵ *Ibid.*

The Harries Family of Boulston & Porthgain, Pembrokeshire

The Harries family of Boulston dates to the 1700's, with the oldest recorded member being John Harries who was born in 1755. The family lived in the street named Treddyog Fach, which was a little street leading to the church of Boulston. The street consisted of 4 houses, with the Harries' living in number 3. It is recorded that John Harries married Martha Rowland of Pembrokeshire on November 14, 1778, in Boulston Church. John was 23 years old at the time, whilst Martha was 22. There is only one recorded child that John and Martha had. That was their son John Harries, who was born in 1778, Boulston. Martha gave birth to John not long after their wedding. It is unknown when John and Martha died, but their son carried the family name on throughout Boulston.

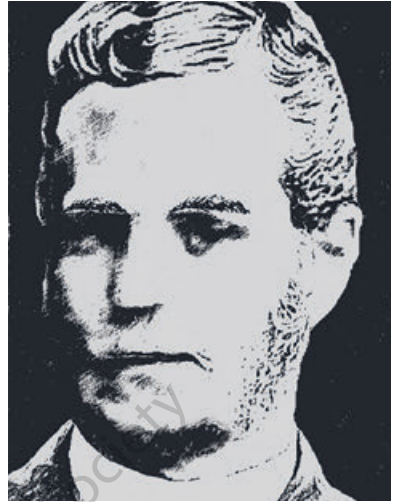
John married a woman named Mary Thomas who was also from the Parish of Boulston. The date is unknown of the wedding day. Later down the line in 1810, John and Mary had their first child on the 28 December. They named



him James Harries; John was 32 years old at the time. John and Mary wouldn't have another child until later in life. It is recorded that later in 1851, John, Mary and their family move home to 8, Millin, Pembrokeshire. John listed his profession as Farmer of 40 Acres at aged 73. John died a few years later December 4, 1857, in Millin. His wife Mary went on to live until 1872. Their son James also went on to live a long life.

James didn't venture far from his home Parish. He got married at the age of 20 to a woman named Martha Nash from Manorbier on April 13, 1831. James and Martha went on to have many children. In 1837, they had their first child. It was a son who they named Joseph. James was aged 26 at the time of Joseph's birth. Their second child was named Mary who was born in 1841. Mary went on to live a long life and married into the Rees family of Haverfordwest. James and Martha's next child was born one year later in 1842. They named him John Harries. John went on to marry an Elizabeth Morris from Slebech and had many children. James' third child was named after himself. They gave birth to him in Letterston after travelling north of the county. They then later had 2 more sons and a daughter. These were named Henry, William, and Martha Ellen. They also all lived long and happy lives. James and Martha later moved to Slebech where they spent the rest of their lives. Martha died on July 7, 1873, whilst James died on January 6, 1894.

James and Martha's son James was given the old house in Boulston for him and his family to live. James met a woman named Sarah Phillips from the Mathry area. They had two sons whilst living in Boulston. Those being named John and William. James and Sarah got married in Haverfordwest in 1881. James was an



Agricultural Labourer whilst Ann had no profession. Their son William moved away from home at the age of 10, to move in with his father's brother, John Harries in Solva. A few years later James and Sarah left Boulston behind and moved to Hayscastle with their son John. After moving, in 1883 they went on to have many more children. James and Sarah lived in 8, Hayscastle in 1891 and later moved down the street to number 21, as it was a bigger house which they needed for their large family. James passed away in 1915, whilst his wife Sarah's death is unknown. James is buried in Rehoboth Cemetery near Square & Compass, Pembrokeshire. The grave was unmarked until 2021, where his Great Grandson Stuart, 2x Great Grandson Graham and his 3x Great Grandson Andrew found the grave and marked it with a plaque.



James' second son William moved away at the age of 10 to live with his uncle John in Solva. They lived in Gwar Y Coed. William, who originally was from Boulston, moved there to get an education. Once he finished school, he moved to Porthgain to work on the quarry. It was in Porthgain where he met Mary Ann Tegan. They got married on December 14, 1902; William was aged 27. Mary had previously had two other children named James Tegan and Thomas Tegan. William took them in as his own and made them a part of the Harries family. Later in 1904, they had their first son together. They named him David (Davie was his given nickname). David went on to have his own family whilst staying in Porthgain to work on the quarry. After David, they gave birth to a daughter named Margaret Hannah (Maggie for short). She was born on April 9, 1906. She also went on to have a family of her own. Their third child together was named after himself. They named him William Henry. He was born on November 27, 1908. Their fourth child together was Francis John (Frank for short). He was born on March 4, 1915. Frank went on to also have a family of his own. They also had another daughter named Edith. Mary Ann sadly passed away on February 23, 1957. Whilst William lived on until June 29, 1962. Their Grave is in Square & Compass Cemetery.

William's third son William went on to marry a woman named Betty Owen. They met each other in the northern area of the county. William and

Betty got married in July 1939 and lived in the street named Parc Y Shwt, Fishguard. William was a carpenter who worked in the same town where he lived, Fishguard. William and Betty went on to have three children. These were named Tony, Stuart, and Dorothy. William was only aged 57 when his beloved wife Betty passed away in July 1966. William went on to live a happy life and continued to live in Parc Y Shwt until he died in June 1983, aged 74.



William's first child Tony got married and had children. Unfortunately, Tony passed away on 3 September 1996, aged 54. The youngest child, Dorothy had a daughter named Laura. Whilst his middle child, Stuart got married to a woman named June Venables from Goodwick. The Harries family name lives on and is still living in the Northern part of Pembrokeshire and will do so for many years to come.

Andrew Harries (77268)

Email: atharries18@gmail.com



James Tegan



Thomas Tegan



Maggie Harries



Edith Harries



William Harries



Frank Harries



David Harries

Dr David Lewis

1784–Jan 1837

A Surgeon: Bengal with the East India Company, Rev. David Lewis was born on 13 Dec 1761 in Dderwengross, Abergwilli just outside Carmarthen and he died aged 88 on 28th July 1850 at Cilwen in Abernant.

He had attended the Presbyterian Academy in Carmarthen before attending Jesus College, Oxford in 1782. Later in 1785 he was ordained and then became a JP for Carmarthen.

In 1794 one of his four sons David Lewis was ten years old when his mother died. The family were living in Abernant where Rev David Lewis was vicar of St. Lucia and also of Cynwyl Elvet.

It is thought that David this son was educated at The Royal Grammar School in Carmarthen. He then had undertaken medical training allowing him to show his diploma when applying for the E.I.C.

In 1805 aged 21 he is recommended for Madras and then appointed as an assistant surgeon to the E.I.C in Bengal in 1806.

On the 5th of March 1808 Dr David Lewis aged 24 left Carmarthen and sailed from Portsmouth onboard the India-man 'Lord Nelson' as a midshipman to become an Assistant Surgeon with the East India Company. He was going to be taking up his duty with the 1st Battalion of Infantry in Bengal, India for the East India Company.

The 'Lord Nelson' was a ship of 819 tons with 26 guns travelling in a convoy of six ships – because we were at war with France. Dr David Lewis arrived in Madras in October 1808.

On its return voyage the 'Lord Nelson disappeared in a gale on the 21st of November and was never heard of again.'

During his time in India, it seems that David had met Isabella Philipps born 1st May 1793 in India; the illegitimate daughter of David Phillips, a seafarer and Isabella Howell. Eight years later in 1816 his son was born in Bengal – Richard Gaul Lewis and three years later in 1819 Dr David Lewis aged 35 returned home to Wales 'on furlough'; recalled by his father to make a respectable marriage.

This duly was arranged and on the 8th of July 1819 Dr David Lewis married Caroline Lewis, a distant cousin and this marriage took place at Hanbury in Worcestershire.

The following year in 1820 he spent a year obtaining his MD diploma from St. Andrews University, in Scotland and this resulted in Dr David Lewis resigning from the East India Company on 4th Jan 1823.

(Six months later on the 21st of June 1823 his father Rev David Lewis is writing to Rev Thomas Thomas Curate of Farndon, Northants describing a visit to Dr and Mrs David Lewis's new home in Worcester.)

I am just returned from a fortnight's visit to Dr Lewis of Worcester. He lives in the greatest respectability among the primordines of the place – in a sumptuous house with a genteel establishment. His wife is one of the most accomplished little personages I ever saw; and her great accomplishments, when compared to her goodness and piety, do certainly retire out of view. We were favoured every evening at tea with evident proofs of very liberal munificence to the family from Farndon, and which was very properly and tenderly appreciated.

(A letter written in Sept 1825 by his father Rev. David Lewis to another brother Richard Lewis in Tasmania it says).

David returning home from India marrying Carol Lewis whom you knew – his taking a diploma in Edinburgh and practising as a Physician at Worcester with great success and profit are well stated to you, I suppose, by himself: so that I have only to add – That he lives very genteely, much respected and beloved by the leaders in the place, very comfortably in an excellent house, with all conveniences – a suit of attentive but expensive servants – with two horses and a chaise.

Later in 1829 Dr David Lewis has moved his practice to Ludlow in Shropshire where he became very seriously ill but happily recovered. 'He saves money fast.' 'David is steady and close,' says his father in another family letter.

Interestingly in 1830 we see that his son Richard Gaul Lewis referred to as 'the Indian boy' is now in Carmarthen aged 14 and boarding at the Royal Grammar School, close to where his grandfather the Vicar of Abernant is living at Cilwen. We learn no more about this grandson Richard Gaul Lewis, however at some point he returned to India and died in Calcutta aged 24 in 1840.

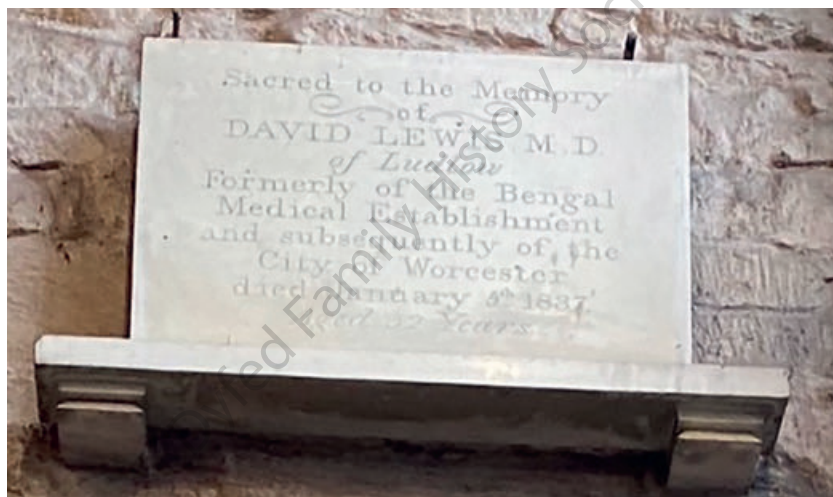
In the July of 1833 Dr David Lewis visited his father at Cilwen in Abernant taking with him David and John his two sons; they holidayed at Cilwen for nine days.

Their grandfather remarked 'two fine boys, lively and playful, good scholars'.

The following year in 1834 not long after the visit to Wales, back home in Ludlow, Dr David Lewis complains of rheumatic pain in his shoulder. It's not known what ailment this may have been.

He would also seem to have been suffering from mouth cancer as Dr David Lewis died on the 5th January aged 52 at his home in Ludlow.

We know from a letter that his father Rev. David Lewis wrote that he visited from Carmarthenshire and saw his son's grave in February 1837 at Ludlow.



There is a plaque to honour his life in St Lawrences Church in Ludlow.

Jeni Molyneux (75127)

Email: lower.house@btinternet.com

Useful resources for those with Welsh mariners in their family history:

<http://www.swanseamariners.org.uk> and under Resources on our website is

<http://www.welshmariners.org.uk>

Mary Phillips / Skyrme / Williams – A bigamist not just once, but twice!

This is the story of the wife of Robert Randell Skyrme. I mentioned this briefly in ‘The Skyrmes of Llangwm’ (*Dyfed FHS Journal*, Vol 12. No. 5). Robert was the eldest son of John Skyrme (1805–1858) and Mary née Brown (1808–1847), a respectable hard-working family living in Llangwm, by the River Cleddau. John like many in the area at the time was a shipwright. As well as Robert, John and Mary had three other children, all boys – Thomas James, Henry Walter and John Brown. Other than Henry who ran a grocer’s shop in Haverfordwest, the others started out as shipwrights. John Brown Skyrme also farmed and was a census enumerator in the 1891 census and a part time minister at Llangwm Wesleyan Methodist Church. In fact his son Anthony became a well known Methodist minister and for a time was a missionary in Jamaica.

Robert’s middle name was the maiden name of his grandmother Elizabeth who was widowed when only 29 and then became an innkeeper in Llangwm until she died in 1852 aged 75. He followed in his father’s footsteps as a shipwright, this first being evident from the 1841 census which shows him along with his younger brother Thomas as a “shipbuilder’s apprentices” lodging with three other young men at the house of Thomas Phillips and family at 6 Butts, in Bristol. Thomas Phillips was a mariner born in Oak Hill, on the Creswell River, just 10 miles east as the crow flies from Llangwm. No doubt the Skyrmes moved there from Llangwm through some shared connections. Indeed, Robert married a Mary Phillips .

Mary was supposedly a widow at the time of her marriage to Robert in Haverfordwest in September 1870, having married Daniel PHILLIPS, a tailor in Pembroke in 1858. As I delved into her background I found that she was born Mary RANDELL in 1840 in nearby Burton. It is possible she shared great grandparents with Robert, and was therefore a distant cousin, although a preliminary search of baptism records has not been able to confirm this. Her father Michael was at various times a shopkeeper, farmer and a shipwright while her grandfather Michael was in the Royal Navy.

Husband Robert Randell Skyrme died in 1875 in Cardiff and some 19 months later Mary married Thomas Williams. It was this start of an article in the *Western Mail* of 30th December 1893 that caught my attention.

It turns out that “two” was an understatement!

In this case Mary (now Mary WILLIAMS) brought a case for maintenance against her husband Thomas WILLIAMS, a railway engine driver,

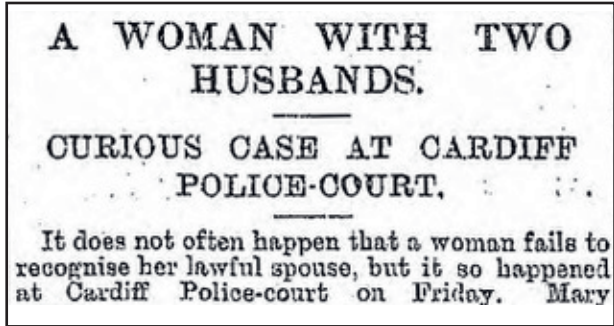
who had left her and now lived in Cowbridge. The defence alleged that her first husband was still alive and that therefore her marriage to Thomas was bigamous. In her defence it was claimed that her first husband had deserted her and that nine years later she had heard that he was dead.

In court Mary is described as “a woman of substantial proportions”. She was called to give evidence but the magistrate accused her of drinking: “This woman comes here in a disgraceful condition, is unfit to give evidence, and, on account of her misconduct, she is unable to present her case to the court”. Her excuse was that she was suffering from flu and bronchitis. But the magistrate adjourned the case and ordered her to pay costs.

The headline above is the newspaper report of the follow up hearing a week later which says: “Mary Williams seems to have been a much-married woman, and neither of her two ventures appears to have turned out successful”. This time she asserted that Thomas had deserted her 7 years previously. On cross examination she acknowledged that in the past she had been convicted “for keeping a house which could scarcely be called respectable”. Her first husband Daniel, whom she had married in Burton when only 17, was brought before the court. She claimed that she did not recognise him. But he was clearly alive, and as a result of the bigamous marriages her case for maintenance against Thomas was dismissed and costs awarded to his lawyer.

Did she genuinely believe that she was a widow when she married Robert? Was Robert aware of Mary’s situation, and that therefore his marriage was null and void, or did he die in ignorance?

Because of the difficulty of obtaining a divorce at the time, bigamy was more common than we might expect. There were only about 100 cases a year that came to court in England and Wales, but this is only a small fraction of the



total. Although this case revealed Mary's bigamy, I have yet to find evidence that she was later brought to trial for this offence.

I have found other examples in my family research. For example, an ancestor who left his wife and absconded from Northamptonshire to Derbyshire and married again while his first wife was still living.

So don't be surprised if you find a bigamist (either knowingly or unwittingly) amongst your ancestors!

David J Skyrme (3924)

Email: davidskyrme@yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.skyrme.info

Pantybarcud, Penboyr & Census Data

Since the Middle Ages the woollen industry was one of the most important of Welsh industries. For a short period, from about 1870 to 1920, the industry was centred on the middle Teifi valley – in particular the merged villages of Drefach Felindre. This article is based on online searches for the relevant national censuses for one property and family involved in the woollen industry in Drefach Felindre, to reflect the short-lived prosperity in the locality resulting from the rise and subsequent decline of the industry.

Ben Jones (born circa 1832) was my 2x great grandfather. He married Elizabeth Lewis (born circa 1834) and they spent their married life at Pantybarcud farm in the parish of Penboyr. In the 1860s Ben Jones built a woollen mill at Pantybarcud. Despite being a comprehensive mill, where all the processes of woollen production were carried out under one roof, Pantybarcud mill could still be regarded as a small rural mill, dependent on water driven machinery [1], compared to some of the larger mills which appeared in the locality during the latter years of the nineteenth century.

The census of 1871 showed Ben Jones, aged 35, as head of the household at Pantybarcud farm. Occupation was farmer [of 16 acres] and wool manufacturer. The census form states that he was the employer of four weavers and some girls – the exact number being unclear on the census form. On census night itself the household consisted of Ben Jones, his wife, five children and six servants.

Four of the servants were domestic or agricultural servants, and the other two were employed in the woollen trade.

A decade later, in the 1881 census, Ben Jones was still at Pantybarcud farm as head of family, aged 47 and working as a farmer [of 18½ acres] and woollen manufacturer. The census entry confirmed that he was now employing twenty men and three boys. On census night, in addition to Ben Jones, his wife and five children, there were eight servants also staying at Pantybarcud – four domestic / agricultural and four employed in the woollen trade.

At the time of the 1891 census the family continued to reside at Pantybarcud farm with Ben Jones as head, aged 59. By this time, his occupations had been reversed – now being recorded as woollen manufacturer and farmer. Farming seems to have become of secondary importance to the wool trade. Unlike the previous two censuses, the 1891 version did not include details of how many people Ben Jones employed. However, on census night he shared Pantybarcud with his wife, seven children and eight servants – three being domestic / agricultural and five woollen workers.

The 1901 census entry for Pantybarcud farm was noticeably different. It was listed as property 1 in the register, with the previous page being the “Description of Enumeration District”. The first name in the entry was that of Elizabeth Jones, aged 67, recorded as wife of the head of household, with her occupation being woollen manufacturer. There was no entry for Ben Jones, neither was there an entry for head of household – the inference being that Ben Jones as head of household had inadvertently been omitted from the census entry. In addition, there were no children staying at Pantybarcud (although the youngest child from the 1891 census would have been 22 by 1901). There were, however, nine servants – two being domestic / agricultural and seven employed in the woollen industry.

The details included on these census forms from 1871 to 1901 suggest a period of prosperity for Ben Jones and his family, mirroring the affluence of the locality resulting from the booming woollen industry, as outlined by DE Jones at the turn of the century [2]. The inconsistent ages for Ben Jones of 35, 47 and 59 in 1871, 1881 and 1891, together with the absence of a head of household from the 1901 form emphasise the unreliable accuracy of census entries.

By the time of the 1911 census, the family dynamics had significantly changed, as both Ben and Elizabeth Jones had died, in 1903 and 1907 respectively. Possession of Pantybarcud mill had passed into the hands of the

Lewis family during the early years of the 20th century [1]. The head of house at Pantybarcud farm was now Tom Jones [1875–1935], the youngest son of Ben and Elizabeth, with his occupation recorded as farmer. The fortunes of Pantybarcud farm seem to have changed as the place was occupied by Tom, his wife Mary, no children and only one farm labourer. There was no reference to wool manufacturing as an occupation on the census form.

The latest census currently publicly available – for 1921 – showed Tom Jones, aged 46, as head of household in Pantybarcud farm, living with Mary and their 8 year old son. He was still working as a farmer. There were no live in servants recorded – either domestic / agricultural or woollen. Although live in domestic and agricultural servants were becoming less common in the early years of the twentieth century, the comparison with the prosperity suggested by the censuses of 1871–1901 hints at a significant downturn in the family fortunes.

The economic and social upheaval of the 1920's saw a rapid decline in the West Wales woollen industry. In Drefach Felindre out of 50 mills in 1900 at least 20 ceased to function in the immediate post war period. Pantybarcud mill, no longer owned by the descendants of Ben Jones, did not finally close until 1957.

Arwell Davies (63225)

Email: arweldavies0@gmail.com

References

- [1] Jenkins, J Geraint. (2005). Drefach Felindre and the Woollen Industry. Llanrwst: Gwasg Carreg Gwalch.
 - [2] Jones, Daniel E. (1899). Hanes Plwyfi Llangeler a Phenboyr. Llandyssul: Gomerian Press.
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Some useful sites for a list of historic place names:

<https://rcahmw.gov.uk/discover/list-of-historic-place-names/>

<https://getoutside.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/guides/the-welsh-origins-of-place-names-in-britain/>

<https://acen.co.uk/welsh-place-names-2/>

<https://www.welshlanguagecommissioner.wales/media/wx2gkgct/20160222-dg-s-guidelines-for-standardising-place-names-in-wales.pdf>

Help Needed

In Search of Griffith Williams

MY THIRD great grandfather and grandmother were John Williams and Catherine Bassett. They were married in Llanelly Parish on April 21, 1829. In the 1841 census they were living in Loughor, Llanelly, Carmarthenshire with four daughters: Anne, Margaret, Catherine, and Esther and John's mother, Anne Williams, widow. They all indicate that they were born in Carmarthenshire. In the 1851 census Catherine was living at the Old Lead Works in Loughor, Llanelly. They had two more children; Elizabeth, and Amos (later Ambrose). John Williams died on December 27, 1850, in Loughor of acute inflammation of the lungs. He was a coal miner. His age at death was given as 47 indicating he was born in 1803.

Anne Williams, mother, was now living with her daughter, Mary Williams Marker on St. David Row, Seaside, Llanelly. She gives her age as 78, indicating that she was born in 1773. Anne would die on May 10, 1851, in Seaside, Llanelly. The death record states that she was the widow of Griffith Williams, a laborer, and was 76 years old at the time of her death indicating that she was born in 1775.

Mary Williams Marker would die on May 12, 1888, on St. David's Street, Seaside, Llanelly at age 81 indicating that she was born in 1807. Mary was the widow of John Marker a workman in the Lead Works. In the 1881 census Mary states that she was born in Pontyberem, Carmarthenshire.

The above information is all documented and can be confirmed in the family bible. I was only able to find one marriage in the region that fit the facts of the family as given. That was a marriage between Griffith Williams, bachelor, and Anne Thomas, spinster, on October 13, 1801, in Llandybie Parish, Carmarthenshire. Both signed by mark. On March 9, 1802, a baptism was recorded for a David Williams, son of Griffith and Anne Williams in Llandybie Parish.

We know that Griffith Williams had died prior to the 1841 census. It is also likely that he died somewhere in Carmarthenshire. It is also plausible that Anne Williams, wife of Griffith, had given birth to more than three children: David, John, and Mary. I found the death of a Griffith Williams on June 16, 1832, in Llannon Parish. His age at death is given as 55 indicating he was born in 1777.

Griffith Williams	Ffrainge	Jan 16	1/2 years 55	Lewis Powell Curate Llannon
No. 242.				

GRO extract of burial 1832

The ceremony was performed by Lewis Powell, Curate of Llannon. It appears that his abode was Ffrainge. I have been unable to locate any abode called Ffrainge in Carmarthenshire. I would appreciate any assistance in locating the Ffrainge abode. I have also been able to find the death records of an Anne (1809), Eliza and Griffith (1812) Williams in Llannon Parish, but no ages were given. I thought that they might be the children of Griffith and Anne, but I have no way to confirm my conjecture. Any information on Griffith and Anne Williams, the other children, or the abode would be greatly appreciated.

Paul R Williams PhD, CFA (4902)
email: prwilliamsphd@outlook.com

Anthony Griffiths 1848–1917

I HAVE RECENTLY been researching my late husband's Great Grandfather, Anthony Griffiths 1848–1917. I have his marriage certificate which shows he married Sarah Sherrah on 25th August 1873 at Llangeinor Parish Church, Glamorgan. It gives his age as 25 and his father was John Griffiths, a labourer. I have also had access to a family bible, in which is listed birth dates of Anthony and Sarah and their 10 children. This gives Anthony born 10th June 1848 in Langan, Carmarthenshire. Sadly, five of the children died before the age of 2 years. Only two of the remaining five married and it was just my husband's grandmother who had children.

His obituary in *The Glamorgan Gazette*, dated 23rd November 1917, says he was "a native of Carmarthenshire and suggests he moved to Ogmores Vale, Bridgend, about 1870, where he eventually became an agent for Prudential Assurance Company. Attendees at the funeral are listed including two nephews Gomer and J Griffiths, also Rev J Griffiths Rees, Whitland, another nephew. This suggests that he may have had at least one brother. I have failed to find a birth or baptism record for Anthony.

Also found in the bible was a card and letter concerning the death of Theophilus Griffiths. He was born in Scappin, nr Narberth on 12th July 1816

and died in Sydney, Australia on 15th October 1874. The letter was sent from YMCA in Sydney to his brother William, who was a draper in Dover, Kent. My thoughts were that Theophilus and Anthony were possibly related. Theophilus had two other brothers and a sister. Their parents were John (died 1855 in Narberth) and Martha (died 1863 in Sheep Street Narberth). I have so far, failed to find a family connection between him and Anthony.

I would appreciate any help or suggestions that anyone may have re Anthony or Theophilus Griffiths.

Margaret Cross (66242)

Email: margaretcross463@btinternet.com

Stonemasons in Broad Oak

BROAD OAK is a small village beside the A40. The Tithe Survey lists just three people there: John Jones, a stonemason, William Morgan, a tailor, Timothy Griffiths, the local blacksmith who occupied the smithy and a farm with several fields to the north of the village and Richard Steele who occupied the local inn and a farm with some cottages near the inn and quite a lot of farmlands round the centre of the village

However, it seems Broad Oak had at least one family of stone masons among its inhabitants throughout the nineteenth century. Before John Jones, John Davies, father of my great great grandmother, lived in Broad Oak. Two of her siblings were born there: Rees in May 1808 and Caroline in December 1810. Some families produced more notable members of the building trade. Thomas Pugh Jones, born in Broad Oak in 1862 went on to run a building firm in Llanelli that employed over 200 men. He was responsible for the construction of Llanelli Town Hall. As well as being a champion cyclist he was at the cutting edge of his trade, introducing Terne roofing to Llanelli with the aid of workers from the USA and patenting a new design of water closet which he hoped would revolutionise the plumbing trade. David Pugh Jones, born in Broad Oak in 1865 trained as an architect and was Glamorgan County architect for two decades. His buildings included the grade II listed St Llan school (formerly Gwyndy Senior Girls School).

I wonder if any other members have discovered stonemasons from Broad Oak in their family?

Delwen Eirlys Wilkinson (12327)

Email: snowdrop.2001@ntlworld.com

Griffith James bc 1754–d.1819 – A patronymic name?

MY RESEARCH for JAMES family has me back to about 1754. This is about the year my 4x Great Grandfather, Griffith JAMES, was born. The birthplace is not known. The general area is southwest Wales. His burial is registered in Parish Register of Llanfair Nant y Goff, south of Fishguard, and his abode was the Trecoon Mill Farm, age sixty-five. I know some of the children born to Martha (could be DAVID?) and Griffith from his Will; Daughters Martha, Lettice (both never married), daughter Mary is mentioned as Mary LEWIS; sons, Thomas (bc 1796) and Griffith (bc 1779). Thomas never married and lived with his unmarried sisters from 1841–1871 census. Griffith, whose occupation is recorded as Mason, married Elizabeth JOHN in 1801. I know of these children: John, Sarah, Martha, William, Elizabeth and Dinah. Elizabeth JOHN died in 1819 and by 1825 Griffith married Charlotte HOWELL. I know of following children, Martha, Lewis, Eliza, James, Ruth, James, Sarah, Ann and Harriet. Lewis JAMES (1828–1865) is my 2x Great Grandfather. It was his son William who came to Scranton, Pennsylvania about 1870. Two of the JAMES women married men named BAXTER, DAVIES. They would be Dinah (JAMES) BAXTER (bc 1819), and Eliza (JAMES) DAVIES (bc 1848). Another important lady would be the mother of William (my Great Grandfather, born in Wales, 1853) Hannah (GRIFFITHS) JAMES (bc 1823). Is there anyone who knows and can show who were the parents of Griffith (bc1754) or can point me to how to search patronymic sources. I hope I have given a clear enough account of people and dates and can find a well-informed cousin, who could help me with further research.

Janice (JAMES) Bartus (5862)

Email: jbveggie@comcast.net

Use of an Alias

IN MY RESEARCH of the Scurlock family who were farmers in the Abergwili region of Carmarthenshire, I have come across a legal bond of 1803 available from the St Davids Probate Records deposited at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth. The bond concerns a widow, whose name is given as “Jane Davies otherwise Scurlock”. Her late husband, who farmed in the Newchurch parish, died intestate, and he likewise was named as “David Davies otherwise Scurlock”. What puzzles me is the meaning of “otherwise”. Elsewhere on the document reference is made to “David Davies alias Scurlock”. So, it appears

that he was known by the surname Scurlock – but why? One possibility might be that David Davies was the illegitimate son of a Scurlock, and unofficially adopted that surname in recognition of his paternity, but was this the practice at the time? I would be pleased to hear from any readers of the DFH Journal who can enlighten me on the reason for this usage.

Philip John (4936)

Email: p.john@reading.ac.uk

A house in St Mary's Lane

Looking through the Dyfed FHS member's web pages, and in particular MIs for Cardigan Town, I chanced upon those for "a house in St Mary's Lane" which I will admit I thought might be related to Capel Mair. The website says that they were discovered as floor slabs when the house was renovated but gives no further information.

Then to my surprise I found an MI for my 4G-grandfather, Griffith Morgan and his wife Mary.

3. (GRIFFITH MORGAN) Master Mariner who died the 6th of February ... aged 69 years. Also DAVID son of the above said GRIFFITH MORGAN by MARY his wife who died the 18th of Sept 1804 aged 7 years. Also of MARY MORGAN wife of the above said G MORGAN who died June 11th 1838 aged 66 years.

The family were originally buried in St Mary's churchyard. The date of Griffith Morgan's death being 1837. The MI mentions a son (David Morgan) I was not otherwise aware of. Whilst the St Mary PRs show burials for both Griffith and Mary Morgan, the entry for David's burial appears to be missing. But given the somewhat slap-dash state of the PRs at this time (1804), it's possible that quite a bit else may be missing.

Is anyone aware of how these stones came to be used as floor flags and what has happened to them since? And are there more lurking under foot in other houses?

It would be nice to know whether they were reinstated in St Mary's graveyard.

Simon Carter (2251)

Email: s.n.carter@btinternet.com

William James (1824/26–1872)

MY GREAT, GREAT grandfather was William JAMES (1824/26–1872), my great, great grandmother Mary JAMES (1828/1831–?), my great grandfather William George JAMES (1857–1940) and my grandmother Mary Elizabeth Ada JAMES (1884–1951). William and William George were born in Wales. William George immigrated to New Zealand (date unknown but between 1871 and 1881). His daughter, my grandmother was born in New Zealand. I would like to find out more about my Welsh JAMES family.

I have all the information about William James and his family that the 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1871 census documents provide. I then followed the family through the 1881, 1891 and 1901 censuses when Mary is listed as head of the family.

Although census and baptism records agree that William's wife was Mary I know very little about her early life and there is some confusion about her family name. One record points to her being born in about 1828 at Devonport, Plymouth, Devonshire. The 1871 census records her birth year as 1831 and birthplace as Plymouth, Devonshire. In some records her family name is Harrison, in others it is Harris and others Harries.

I am planning to visit Wales later this year and hope that as well as visiting places associated with my family I might, through local records and knowledge find answer to remaining questions, particularly:

- When and where did William JAMES and Mary HARRISON/HARRIES/HARRIS marry?
- Did the fact that William JAMES was living at Popton Point mean he worked on construction of the fort? What else can I know about his work?
- When did my great, great grandmother Mary JAMES die? Probably between 1901 and 1911. I have a record of the death of a Mary Ann James in 1910 in Pembroke but cannot be sure that is her. Could I find out?
- Can I find out whether Mary's family name as Harrison, Harris or Harries? How might I find out who her parents were and why and when she moved from Devonport to Wales?
- What was life like for families living in the Pembroke Dock area?

If anyone can help me I'm happy to correspond and provide further details.

Mary Simpson (59674)

Email: marysimpson@inspire.net.nz

Members Interests

(This list contains the details of new members interests added since the April journal was printed)

Member	Surname	Forenames	Occupation	Place	County	Country	Event	From	To
4511	Morgan	John	Farmer	Newchurch	Carms	Wales		1799	1883
79	John	Thomas Griffith		Llanfhangel Aberbythych	Carms	Wales	Bap	1677	
2451	Lloyd	Mary		Nevern	Pembs	Wales	Baptism	1802	
98684	Davies	Thomas	Ag Lab	Llanedi; Ponyberem; Llanddarog	Carms		B c1791	1791	1881
4968	Rees	Margaret		Llanddeusant	Carms	Wales		1817	1830
53484	Prickett	Joseph	Labourer	Letterston	Pembs	Wales	Birth	1795	1805
53484	Prickett	Joseph	Farmer	St Lawrence	Pembs	Wales	Birth	1820	1830
53484	Prickett	Joseph		Llawhaden	Pembs	Walse	Birth	1804	1805
6456627710	Anthony			Llansteffan / St Ishmael / Ferryside	Carms				
3273	Mathias				Cardi				
3273	Thomas			Llangrannog	Cardi				
3445	Griffiths	Thomas	Farmer	Bryn Ifor farm Chapel Isaac	Carms				
3445	Griffiths (nee Jenkin(s))	Margaret		born Llanfynnydd	Carms				
3445	Evans	Mary		Llandeilo Fawr (Ffairfach)	Carms		Death	1852	1862
3445	Evans	John	butcher	Ffairfach	Carms		Any		

3445	Moss	John				Pembs	Wales	Any		
3445	Powell	John	Haverfordwest			Pembs	Wales	Any		
83651	Price	Morgan	Llandeilo and Abergwili			Carms	Wales		1796	
83651	Evans	David	Llandeilo			Carms	Wales		1819	
83651	Evans	David	Llansadwrn and Abergwili			Carms	Wales		1793	
83651	Evans	Theophilus	Glangwili			Carms	Unite		1755	
55486			Master Mariners			Cardi			1800	1970
55486	Elizabeth	Thomas	Llandyfriog			Cardi			1820	1855
55486	Thomas	David	Llandyfriog	Ag Lab		Cardi			1777	1855
55486			Mariners			Cardi			1700	1970
55486			Nursing			Carms			1908	1940
4011	Herbert	William	Carpenter			Pembs	Wales	Burial	1864	1894
4011	Herbert	Mary	Hannah			Pembs	Wales	Burial	1891	1917
18716	Evans	James Parry	Mariner			Cardi	Wales		1876	1957
18716	Williams	John	Railway			Carms	Wales		1843	1891
18716	John	Jones	Farmer/Butcher			Cards	Wales		1824	1891
18716	Evans	Thomas	Mariner			Cardi	Wales		1891	1911
4237	Miles	Benjamin William	Publican mainly Stone Mason			Glam	Wales	Working	1871	1917
4595	Reynolds	Jane	Eglwys Cymyn			Cardi			1826	1901
4680	O'Brien	Ellen	Grangetown	Unknown		Glam	Wales		1870	
4680	Thomas	Essex	All	Unknown		Glam	Wales		1811	1882

4680	Thomas	Thomas	Thomas	Unknown	Steynton	Pembs	Wales	19C	
4680	Thomas	Sarah	Unknown	Unknown	All	Pembs	Wales	1839	1930
43176	Lloyd	Thomas	Railway Worker	Tenby/Pemb		Dyfed	Wales	1859	1871
43176	Francis	William	Labourer	St Dogmaels		Dyfed	Wales	1795	1851
14633	Bowen	Lewis	Estate manager	Trelech		Carms	Wales	1891	1912
1543	Picton	Any	Any	Woolwich		Kent	Engla	1850	2000
1543	Any	Any	Brickmaker	Any		Any	Unite	1300	1918
1543	Any	Any	Calico Printer	Any		Any	England	1700	1850
66242	Griffiths	Theophilus	Draper	Narberth & Aus				1816	1874
66242	Griffiths	Anthony		Llangan		Carms		1848	
68663	Spear	John	Retired	Exeter		Devon	UK	1800	1898
55817	Howell(s)	John	Farmer	Llawhaden		Pembs		1730	1750
55817	Howell(s)	John	Farmer	Llawhaden		Pembs		1770	1773
55817	Howell(s)	John	Mason	Haverfordwest		Pembs		1881	1891
55817	Thomas	James	Ag lab/miller	Camrose		Pembs		1800	1845
27855	Frost			Saundersfoot		Pembs			
27855	Griffiths					Pembs			
64724	Ajax	Morgan	Farmer	Llanddewi-brefi					
3264094997	Morris	William	Jeweller & Fruiterer	Llanelly		Carms	Wales	1895	1910
42903422	Davies	Arabella Rebekah		Pembroke		Pembs	Wales	1831	1840

42903422	Davies	William	Mariner/ Shopkeeper	Roch/Camrose	Pembs	Wales	Birth	1778	1784
42903422	Crofts	Edmund Willis		Rhoscrowther/Angle	Pembs	Wales	Death	1785	1840
42903422	Poyner	Arabella Rebecca		Haverfordwest Pembroke	Pembs	Wales	Birth	1851	1858
42903422	Davies	Rowland	Miller/farmer	Roch/Camrose	Pembs	Wales	Marriage	1760	1780
99547	Roberts	Margaret		Llandilofawr	Carms	Wales	Birth	1870	1870
72826	Watts/Wats	Catherine		Bridge, Trefgarn	Pembs	Wales	All	1800	1900
72826	Wwats	James		Bridge, Trefgarn	Pembs	Wales	All	1800	1810
72826	James	Mary		Rudbaxton	Pembs	Wales	All	1800	1840
34892	Mitchell	Henry	Farrier/Publican	Laugharne/St Clears	Carms		Whitchurch, Pembs	1810	1881
12327	Jones		Stonemasons	Llangathen	Carms			1750	1870
12327	Davies	John		Llangathen	Carms			1781	1830
12327	Jones		Mason	Ffairfach	Carms			1815	1890
54796	Evans	Evan		Llanarthney	Carms	Wales	Death	1887	1887
54796	Humphreys- Evans	Sophia		Llanarthney	Carms	Wales	Death	1887	1887
43315	John	Griffith		Dinas	Pembs	Wales			1800
32489	Lewis	Henry	Miner	Llanddarog	Carms	Wales	Birth	1796	1857
32489	Skym	Anne		Llanddarog	Carms	Wales	Death	1800	1832- 40
43764	John	William	Ag.Lab.	Wiston, Rudbaxton, Goitan /Ambleston, Steynton	Pembr	Wales	Any	c.1800	c.1880



Around the Branches

Some branches are beginning to meet again,
and some continuing on Zoom.
Please check with your local branches, DFHS
Facebook page or DFHS website for updates.



Haverfordwest

Witchcraft in 17th Century Pembrokeshire 15th November 2022

Dr Simon Hancock gave us an intriguing, illustrated talk on Witchcraft in 17th Century Pembrokeshire. As a background to the talk, he began by saying that there was a belief in the power of individuals to harm others going back to early times. In Greek mythology, he mentioned the sorceress, Circe who transformed men into swine; and Medea who helped Jason get the Golden Fleece. They believed that Hecate was the god of witchcraft and the undead. In the Bible, he spoke of King Saul visiting the witch of Endor who raised up the spirit of Samuel. In literature he referred to Morgan le Fay and to the witches in Macbeth.

The Malleus Maleficarum – ‘The Hammer of the Witches’ – is one of the most famous medieval treatises on witches. It was written by Heinrich Kramer and Jacob Sprenger and was first published in Germany in 1487. Its main purpose was to challenge all arguments against the existence of witchcraft and to instruct magistrates on how to identify, interrogate and convict witches. Demons were supposed to tempt humans into sorcery and witches were usually female.

Witchcraft accusations – The growth of witchcraft accusations may have resulted from the growth of Puritanism, the spread of the printed word and social change. From 1570 to 1630 there were between 40,000 and 50,000 executions and 75% of these were women. There was more persecution on the continent of Europe, where execution was by burning as in Scotland but in England they were usually hanged. It was a different world in mentality. Assertions regarding Anne Bodenham of Fisherton Anger, Wiltshire include she appears in the shape of a great black cat; she casts a circle and calls upon the devil, who appears in the form of a little boy, then a snake, and finally a shaggy dog; she calls upon a devil to torment a maid from Salisbury. In 1653, Anne Bodenham was hanged for allegedly being a witch in Salisbury.

Witch Stereotype – Dr Hancock stated that the witch stereotype was popular as shown in woodcut prints: an old woman with hooked nose and crooked back. They were accused of causing harm: aches and pains, diseases and sudden death; setting fire to a house or building; bringing rain, frost or storm to ruin crops. They were scapegoats, as there was little knowledge of the true causes of these events. Witch hunts were a form of social control, where women were seen as being weak, vicious and lustful. They were alleged to cause harm by cursing and using spells and were accompanied by familiars: animals or imps. The ducking stool was used to detect witches, as it was believed that a witch could not drown.



Witchcraft Acts – In 1542, under Henry VIII, witchcraft was defined as a felony, a crime punishable by death and the forfeiture of the convicted felon's goods and chattels. In 1563, in Elizabeth I's reign, an act Against Conjurations, Enchantments and Witchcrafts was passed. It was in some respects more merciful towards those found guilty of witchcraft than its predecessor, demanding the death penalty only where harm had been caused; lesser offences were punishable by a term of imprisonment. Under the Scottish Witchcraft Act 1563 both the practice of witchcraft and consulting with witches were capital offences. In 1604, the year following James' accession to the English throne, the Elizabethan Act was broadened to bring the penalty of death without benefit of clergy to anyone who invoked evil spirits or communed with familiar spirits. It was this statute that was enforced by Matthew Hopkins, the self-styled Witch-Finder General. He may have been responsible for the deaths of 300 women between the years 1644 and 1646. The Witchcraft Act of 1735 marked a complete reversal in attitudes. Penalties for the practice of witchcraft were replaced by penalties for the pretence of witchcraft. A 'witch' was to be punished as a vagrant and a con artist, subject to fines and imprisonment. The Act applied to the whole of Great Britain, repealing both the 1563 Scottish Act and the 1604 English Act.

Pembrokeshire Witches – Katherine Bowen of Gumfreston, having refused to give alms, was accused of bewitching pigs, which sickened and died at Browning

Farm. In 1612, Ieuan John ap Howell was hanged. He had met a man with horns who induced him to steal a cow at Narberth fair. In 1618, Agnes Griffith of Manordeifi was accused of bewitching farm animals which died within three weeks. She was seen with five candles around her bed, and she was sticking needles into something in her hand. In 1688, Hugh Lloyd of Haverfordwest was accused of being distracted, claiming that Quakers had done it. Several Quakers were arrested and taken to Haverfordwest Castle. In 1693, Olly (Olivia) Powell of Loveston supposedly destroyed a rick of hay, caused sows to sicken and poultry to die. When one man refused to give her 'coals', he soon developed unexplainable pain in his legs. At Haverfordwest in 1699, Dorcas Heddin, a native of Cambridgeshire, was accused of bewitching sailors on a ship bound for Virginia. The Devil appeared to her in the form of a black man and demanded three drops of her blood. He offered to founder the vessel, but Dorcas only wanted the two men who had short rationed her to be struck down with sickness. She was tried at Haverfordwest Castle, the last trial for witchcraft in Wales.

Wise Women – In conclusion, Dr Hancock spoke of the wise women, healers and doctresses that were no longer persecuted in the coming age of reason and enlightenment.

Metal Detection – My Thimble Collection

17th January 2023

Mr John Thompson gave us a wonderful presentation of what could be gleaned from his collection of thimbles, many of which he brought to show us. The thimbles ranged from the earliest period of history through to Roman, medieval, and modern times. They were fashioned out of various metals, including tin, copper, bronze, iron, silver and gold and a few examples of enamelled thimbles. The wealth and status of the owners or users could be seen from the quality of craftsmanship and the materials used. Some of the thimbles had a personal or family significance attached to them.

He also pointed out how the thimbles demonstrated the development of the economies of the world, and how something so precious and valuable in the beginning is now, in the main, a common item of little value. Besides thimbles, Mr Thompson has a large collection of other finds including coins and medals.

Following the talk, we had a question and answer session, and he very kindly presented us with thimbles.

Geraint Davies (4553)

For our February meeting we were again treated to a talk by our fellow member David Harries. A lifelong resident of Haverfordwest, David has a large and ever-growing collection of historical photographs and other images of the county town. By carefully identifying features in the pictures that still exist today he is able to work out where the photographer was standing and to take a picture of the modern view from as close to the same spot as possible. He then combines the images, and the result is a fascinating story which tells not only what the town used to be like but also how it has changed and how quickly we become used to the 'new look'.

David's talk was extremely well received and those in his audience with equally long memories of Haverfordwest were able to identify several of the old buildings and to add to the stories. For those of us who are newer to the area it was equally interesting to see the quays with masted ships and barges tied up alongside and to hear how the railway bridge would open to let them through. We saw shops and houses that are no more, parks with fashionable promenades that have been buried under car parks and streams that now flow in concrete pipes beneath the roads. Nevertheless, thanks to David's collection and his clever superposition of the modern view we are better able to see the old Haverfordwest and to gain a sense of our forebears who lived and worked here. Nor are we finished yet. David has kindly agreed to show us more at our meeting in May.

Vaughan Everett (6384)

CARMARTHEN

OUR OCTOBER meeting on Wednesday 25th was a change from our usual format as Mr Richard Goodridge had kindly offered to take a group around the cemetery of St. David's Church, Carmarthen, to visit and learn about the war graves there.

Richard gave us information on six of the war graves as he had searched the military records to find the history of these six soldiers. We were all very humbled when hearing of the sacrifices of these six local people during World War 1. *We will remember them.*

We were also made aware of the charity set up by Richard in 2015, the "Thomas and Elizabeth Mayhook Charity" in memory of Richard's grandparents.

A total of £33,000 has been raised to date and is used to restore, repair, and clean the gravestones – the before and after photos were amazing! Now it is a plan of Preservation, upkeep, and maintenance. There is information about this on the stdavidscemeterywales.org website. This was a very timely visit, being close to Armistice Day. We were very grateful to Richard for his help, and raising awareness of the works carried out, and to the ongoing efforts of volunteers.

The monthly meeting held on 30th November at the Spilman St. Hotel was very well attended. The speaker was Mr John Green, who spoke of his “Impressions of Carmarthen”.

John came to live in Carmarthen in 1982, the same year that our branch of DFHS was formed. John was, before retirement, assistant head at QE Maridunum School, his subjects being French and German. Many will remember him being there!

John began by reading from Voltaire (1694–1778), a philosophical work, but quite relevant in today’s world.

John arrived in Carmarthen during heavy snow, and it soon became obvious to him that he was in a beautiful area. Castles, beaches, a historical market town. The remains of the castle built in the 1100’s. (There is still some confusion with tourists from time to time as to where Charles was proclaimed Prince of Wales!)

In 1982, the town had many small shops, quaint streets, old housing, a wonderful indoor and outdoor market, as well as the cattle market in town, which made the town very busy especially on Wednesdays, mart day.

As has happened in most towns, “progress” had to be made. The workhouse closed (fire has since ruined the building), now the Post Office in King St stands empty, the mart has moved out of town. The Capitol cinema closed, but the building can still be recognised, and has been put to different use. The police station is now a Lidl, built on the site of the Bulwarks, defensive earthworks put up in the seventeenth century to protect the town.

Pentrepoeth school is now a car park. Carmarthen gaol was demolished in 1936, it is now our County Hall. The old Boys Grammar school closed, fortunately the building remains in its wonderful setting, a fine imposing building. We have lost a lot of the old housing. We do have new buildings, not all easy to look at, such as the corner of Red St.

Some churches have closed but, churches are now beginning to work together to make it a “Community”. There are food banks, some nightlife, and many people doing good voluntary work. There are sports clubs, a leisure centre, drama and musical groups, as well as support for young or vulnerable people.

John’s impression is overall a positive one. He was made very welcome to the town and would not wish to live anywhere else. In some areas neighbours are still the same ones after forty years. There followed a discussion on some aspects, but all agreed with John that on balance, Carmarthen is a “pretty good” place to be.

Eric Davies (3000)

CARDIGAN

2nd January 2023 – Old Maps and Roads in Cardiganshire

We were fortunate to have Helen Palmer from Ceredigion Archives as our speaker this evening. Helen can be found in the Archive Department in the Old Town Hall above the Library where you can view old maps and many other treasures.

We are all familiar with the modern Ordnance Survey map which gives a detailed view of routes and roads. It is not necessarily a thing of beauty, but its basic purpose is to help travellers to find their way from A to B and perhaps stop off at a place of interest somewhere on the way. In contrast earlier maps, produced before people regularly travelled any great distances, may have had several functions including art, science and geography. What they did not have until later were details of the road network!

Early maps varied in size from extremely large to pocket versions. Many maps were beautifully illustrated works of art, drawn by the cartographer and then coloured by hand by women and children. Some were commissioned by landowners to show a picture of the land they owned, and some even showed the names of local gentry and their properties on them. Elizabeth I was very interested in maps and supported Christopher Saxton to produce county maps of England and Wales between 1574 and 1579. He drew the maps by going to a high point such as a church tower and then took bearings but although parishes and rivers were shown roads were not.

The earliest map makers were from various backgrounds: map making, or cartography was not a designated trade as such to begin with. John Speed

originally followed his father's profession as a tailor. In 1610 he produced a map of Cardiganshire illustrated with sea monsters and buildings. His map of the town of Cardigan shows sailing ships on the river Teifi with the High Street and the Priory clearly marked. In the 17th Century John Ogilby, originally a dance master, produced a strip map designed to make the first road map of England and Wales which could be easily used to follow roads from place to place.

People rarely travelled far or for leisure purposes in Britain until the Napoleonic wars brought disruption to the European tours of the wealthy. Unable to travel safely on the continent the middle and upper classes began to explore closer to home and this in turn created a need and desire for tourist maps of Scotland, England and Wales.

Tithe maps had a purely practical purpose and were not illustrated or coloured in. They were produced to ensure that landowners and tenants paid the correct amount of money instead of using the old system of paying with produce. Another example of a practical purpose for a map is the Priory Estate Cardigan Survey book of 1884 which includes lists of fields and their acreage.

By looking at maps from the earliest time to the present day we can also see how settlements developed and populations grew. We can also see how the network of roads developed from pilgrim's and drover's routes in response to the changing needs of the population and how local industries such as agriculture and fishing have progressed or diminished.

If you would like to know more about Cardiganshire maps and the history of Cardiganshire, you can go online at [www. archifyd-ceredigion.org.uk](http://www.archifyd-ceredigion.org.uk) or visit the archives in Aberystwyth in person.

6th February – Why were local children absent from school in Victorian times? Speaker: Heather Tomos

The most obvious answer to this question might be because children were needed for the harvest in the summer and other agricultural work throughout the year but Heather showed us that the reasons for children being absent from school were far more varied and complex. Disease, poverty, and poor conditions in the school played as big a part in absenteeism as the need for children to work at times during the year to supplement the family income. Using Cilgerran School as an example Heather focussed on local children and families but their stories were typical of many schools and communities throughout Britain in Victorian times.

The very poorest children had free education others had to pay between three shillings and five shillings a week but the average wage of a farm labourer in 1850 was only nine shillings three and a half pennies so the cost for many families was prohibitive. Even if the children were able to go to school conditions were poor with smoking chimneys, broken doors and desks and nowhere to dry clothes in wet weather although children often had to walk miles to school. A shortage of teachers meant that it was difficult to maintain discipline and for the children to learn. Attendance also varied according to the time of year and the weather as children were needed at home to plant vegetables, potato picking and hay making, while girls were needed to look after younger children so their parents and brothers could work.

Some children did not go to school because of religious reasons as church catechism was part of school work and many families including non-conformists did not agree with it. Illnesses were also a reason why children did not attend school. Measles, mumps, whooping cough, scarlet fever and cholera were life threatening illnesses with little treatment available. Medicines often contained hazardous substances such as laudanum, opium and mercury and could cause the death of a child on their own. Poverty also meant that children could not go to school. Heather cited the case of three orphans in Cilgerran who were fed by friends and neighbours but otherwise had to fend for themselves yet were refused assistance by the authorities.

In 1880 the Mandela Education Act made schooling compulsory for all children from five years old up to the age of ten. The Elementary Education Act followed in 1891 and education was provided free. Staffing levels at Cilgerran School improved during the 1890s, the school curriculum was made more varied and attendance began to improve. In the 1880s there had been reports of child abuse at Cilgerran school with children being swung round by their ears or beaten but now teachers took a more positive approach and good attendance was rewarded by presenting medals to pupils.

Heather used many interesting slides to illustrate her talk including photographs of Cilgerran school and the teachers and pupils there which really brought the subject to life. The talk also brought to mind the contrast between life at school in Victorian Cilgerran with its cold, smokey classrooms and the present-day school classroom with the latest technology, comfortable rooms and varied curriculum.

Fiona Thomas (34437)

UPPER TOWY VALLEY

WE ENDED our activities for 2022 in December when we met at the Heritage Centre in Llandovery to change our Remembrance window display for a Christmas display depicting a child's bedroom complete with Santa arriving with a sack of presents.



In January we held our first evening meeting since February, 2020. It was good to meet up again at Our Lady Catholic Church Hall in College View, Llandovery, where we met in the early days of the Upper Towy Valley branch in the 1990s. Our thanks to Nia for arranging this.

The meeting took the form of a research evening over tea and biscuits with members contributing. Helen had brought along a large poster advertising a sale of farms in the parish of Cynwyl Gaiio in 1926. It gave a wealth of information about the farms of the area and those who occupied them, their rooms, outhouses, fields and stock, including details of Helen's family's farms.

Lyn showed us old and new photographs of Llandovery – the castle, Neuadd, the home of Vicar Rhys Pritchard, and the churchyard at Llanfair ar y Bryn, where unfortunately the wall is in a state of disrepair. One photograph was of the ornate plaster ceiling at Neuadd – when the mansion was eventually demolished the ceiling was taken down and transferred to Llwyn y Brain. Some of the panelling from Neuadd was also saved in this way. Also shown was a book containing the advertisements for businesses, shops, hotels and restaurants which were later shown in “Llandovery and its Environs”, a tribute to the works written by the late Mr. A. T. Arber-Cooke – “Pages from the History of Llandovery”.

Sylvia showed us the research she had done on her family history, recently completed on Ancestry with a beautifully bound and presented book telling the story of a branch of her family, illustrated with records and photographs of family members. Something for us all to aspire to!

I (Moira Evans) gave an account of how complicated family relationships can be. Cousin Marie was found to be related through both my grandmother and grandfather, and through Marie's father and mother.

Tracing a friend's family tree, I found that in the Norfolk side of his family, because of a second marriage and a later marriage between Alderton cousins, Eric's fourth great-grandfather is also his fifth great-grandfather!

My father remembered his grandfather telling him that brothers of his father had died in a colliery accident. Tracing each of the children I found that Lewis Williams had died in 1865 at the age of thirteen, killed by a fall of stone at the Weig Colliery, Fforestfach. Later I discovered that David, Isaac and William had all been killed after an explosion at the Weig Fach Colliery in 1877, suffocated by methane gas. It had been a dreadful accident, reported on in all the newspapers of the day. At the inquest the coroner found that the foreman had left a lamp alight in an area where it was known that methane and other explosive gases were present. The foreman died in the resulting explosion but so did eighteen others, in some cases, such as the Williamses, with more than one miner in a family losing their lives.

Mr Strick, the Coroner, said that as over two hundred miners worked at the colliery, the number of those killed would have been far higher, were it not for the fact that many were absent from the overnight shift, attending the fair at Llangyfelach.

The numbers gathered for the funerals were such as had never been seen in the area before. Some miners were buried in Llanelli, but most services took place in Swansea, where some said that 30,000 people attended; it is known that there were at least 20,000 who gathered together for the services. The Williams brothers were among those buried at Cadle Chapel, Fforestfach, where their brother John, my great-great-grandfather, was a deacon.

William, aged twenty, was single; David, aged 33, was married with four children; and Isaac, aged 30, was married with five children, the eldest of whom, Mary Ann, was just seven years of age. Isaac's wife, Elizabeth, was the daughter of Thomas Hopkin, younger brother of Evan Hopkin, who was the father of Martha, my great-great-grandmother, married to Isaac's brother John, so Mary Ann was related to me through my great-great-grandmother and great-great-grandfather on my father's side of the family.

It doesn't end there! Some months ago, researching my mother's family, I traced the branch of my great-grandfather Ebenezer Morgan's half-brother, William Henry Lloyd. As I continued, I came across some familiar names that were already in my tree. William Henry Lloyd had married Isaac's daughter, Mary Ann Williams! Their son, Thomas Hopkin Lloyd, was, therefore, my third

cousin twice removed, my second cousin, twice removed, and also, my first cousin, twice removed! Isn't family history complicated? As Marie said, "Byd bach"! ("a small world").

Beryl suggested a visit to the new Archives in Carmarthen, and we hope to arrange this for the Spring. The Heritage Centre will be opening once more at Easter, when we shall be able to resume our family history research sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays, and we plan to organise new window displays for the King's Coronation and the Urdd Eisteddfod.

Sadly, we must report that one of our faithful members, Mavis Davies, has recently passed away. Mavis always enjoyed all our talks and visits, and we will miss her.

In February our speaker was Terry Norman of the Ammanford and District Archaeology and Historical Society, entertaining us with the stories of how so many street names of the area have derived from members of the Dinefwr family of Llandeilo. We are now looking forward to many more meetings of interest over the coming months.

Moiria C. L. Evans (39)

ONLINE DISCUSSION GROUP

AFTER A BREAK in December, the group reconvened via Zoom on Monday 30th January for a presentation by our Secretary, Colin Potter, who took us through what we can find on the DFHS website. He highlighted the wealth of resources available free to members including articles in past journals, Monumental Inscriptions, schools, and parish information. He impressed on us the importance of member involvement in contributing to the site's resources by, for example, adding "Dyfed Strays" (people that you may come across in your research who have moved from Dyfed but may be of interest to other members). Also, by updating your family research interests/connections other members can offer information and local knowledge. During the discussion afterwards, local members were able to offer help to one of our US participants who is researching family from the Trelech area. This also led to talk about how and why families migrated. As a result, David Cufley will explore this subject in more detail at our February 27th meeting.

Understanding DNA and writing your family tree are some of the subjects

lined up for future meetings to be held via Zoom on March 27th, April 24th, May 29th, June 26th & July 31st. We have had very positive feedback from members and hope this will encourage more to register and offer topics for discussion via our dedicated email address online@dyfedfhs.org.uk.

Rosaleen Boardman (6495)

LONDON

ON 26 NOVEMBER 2022 Dr Hannah Thomas, Special Collections Manager and Research Fellow at the Bar Convent, York, spoke to the London Branch about her research into the activities of Catholics in Early Modern Wales, particularly based on the collection of recusant books formerly in the library of the Welsh Jesuit mission at Cwm, an estate on the border between Monmouthshire and Herefordshire. Following several centuries of obscurity in the library of Hereford Cathedral, the Cwm collection of some 340 books has emerged as the largest known surviving post-Reformation Jesuit missionary library in Britain.

The Protestant Reformation was slow to take root in Wales; in the 1570s Morys Clynnog, a Welsh Catholic exile, claimed that “scarcely a single man in a thousand will be found to be a heretic (i.e., a Protestant)”. Several gentry families with seats near the Welsh-English border were secret Catholics, such as the Herberts of Powis Castle. The Somerset family, Earls of Worcester, who had a seat at Raglan Castle, were Protestant in public life, but privately devout Catholics. The fourth Earl of Worcester, Edward Somerset, was a loyal servant to both Elizabeth I and James I, while privately maintaining his faith and giving protection to the hidden Catholic community in Wales and its borders. When at the end of the sixteenth century the Society of Jesus sent missionaries to England and Wales, it was natural that their Welsh base would be situated where they could rely on the protection of the local gentry. From the early 1600s, there was a sizeable Jesuit presence in Wales, based at Cwm, and when in 1623 an English province of the Society of Jesus was created, one of its three regions, known as the College of St Francis Xavier, covering Wales and several border counties, had its headquarters at Cwm.

The leader of the Welsh mission was Robert Jones, a Welsh speaker. Among his duties was the development of the library. The books in the collection were

mainly theological; they included Biblical commentaries, polemical works on contemporary religious debates and guides to religious practice. Most were small volumes that could easily be hidden. They contained a number of clues to their ownership and use. There were inscriptions of various types: names, often just initials or aliases (Robert Jones had at least 10); Welsh religious mottoes, such as “Duw A Digon” (God is Plenty); and examples of classification marks. The evidence suggests that the volumes had been through several hands, acting as a means of religious instruction and contemplation, in the absence of regular church services and contact with priests.

The books in the library had been printed in places across Western Europe, at dates between 1595 and 1674, and would have been secretly imported into the country, since possession of Catholic books was a crime. The authorities were alert to the importation of Catholic material through major ports such as London or Dover, but the port at Chepstow was free from such supervision, since the Earl of Somerset controlled the Severn ports and owned Chepstow Castle. It therefore seems likely that many of the books came via this route.

The mission at Cwm continued through much of the seventeenth century, relatively free from the attentions of the authorities. An average of 14 priests at any one time ministered to the Catholic community, nurtured potential recruits to the Jesuit order, and sent students to the Jesuit English colleges in Europe. However, in 1678, during the panic raised by the alleged Popish plot of Titus Oates and others, Bishop Herbert Croft of Hereford was ordered to investigate Cwm. Captain John Scudamore was sent to raid the estate, and the library was discovered, though none of the Jesuits based there were apprehended. The books were not destroyed, as might have been expected, but transferred to Hereford Cathedral library, where they remained relatively undisturbed for well over three centuries. Possibly Bishop Croft, who was formerly a Catholic, and Scudamore, a Protestant member of a local Catholic family, were sufficiently sympathetic not to press for the books’ destruction.

Dr. Thomas’s research has reassessed the importance of the Jesuit mission within a largely unknown Catholic community in the Welsh borderlands, which thrived some eighty years from the end of the sixteenth century, demonstrating that its achievements were an important part of the success of the Jesuit mission into England and Wales.

Anna Brueton (1806)

LLANELLI

OUR SPEAKER for January was Bruce Wallace who gave a very interesting pictorial talk on the three lives of Coombe Mansion which is west of Carmarthen town. It started life as a private house. It was owned by Owen Cosby Phillips who married Nesta Dunne. Owen was eventually sent to prison for robbing Peter to pay Paul. He was also charged with producing a false prospectus.

From 1940 to 1955 the mansion became a National Children's Home for boys – many of the boys were evacuees from the big cities. After 1955 it was bought by Leonard Cheshire who turned it into a Care Home for disabled people. Leonard Cheshire had many influential contacts many of whom came to visit the Coombe Cheshire Home. Among these were Douglas Bader and Spike Milligan.

Our speaker for February was Debbie John and her topic was “An Edwardian Maid”. Debbie was dressed in a long black dress with a white apron and cap. Her name was Phylis and she worked at an unnamed mansion. She spoke to us as if we, her audience, were applying for positions at the Big House where she was employed and paid £20 a year. She proceeded to tell us what to expect if we were lucky enough to pass the interview – “As maids we would have to pay to have our own uniforms made, whereas the footmen got their outfits for free. This was very unfair especially as the footmen earned more money than the maids. The reason they got their outfits for nothing is that the uniforms were covered in braid, the more the better so the family were prepared to buy the uniforms to show off to their friends and neighbours.”

She said that, the day, for the staff, started at 5 am (although the scullery maid started before that). All the fire lighting and cleaning had to be done before the family were out of bed for their breakfast. Staff were not to be seen by the family, if perhaps they were seen they would have to turn to the wall. Some masters dismissed any staff they saw, even if they were working to mop up spills etc.

We were now in the 20th century and electricity and motor cars were the new must-haves for richer households. The lamp boy would no longer be needed to see to all the lamps in the house – electricity worked with flick of a switch. She ended the talk by telling us not to argue with the laundry maid as she had spent many years yielding a flat iron and in a fight she would always win. Debbie impressed us so much that we have invited her back in November to do her talk on the First World War.

Chris Davies (79)

New Members

This list contains the details of new members who joined since the April journal was printed.

Member Number	Member Name	Address	Email Address
25458	Mr Benjamin Allen	St Florence Pembrokeshire Wales	johnny_lawless@hotmail.com
52578	Mrs Beverley Davies	63 Victoria Street Cwmbran	beverleyannedavies@hotmail.co.uk
38994	Jocelyn Ubaldino	Toronto Ontario Canada	jocelynubaldino@gmail.com
83651	Mrs Mary McIlroy Hipwell	Longframlington Northumberland UK	hipwellalbertdour@yahoo.co.uk
36173	Roxanne Infante	Colorado USA	r.infante@comcast.net
79352	Mrs Patricia Gregory	Hillingdon Middlesex UK	PatriciaGregorytricia1943@outlook.com
33531	Mrs Sally Sadler	Barnardiston Suffolk UK	sallysadler@brinternet.com
63742	Mrs Lucy Betteridge	Milford Haven Pembrokeshire Wales	
49197	Mr Colin Smith	Bristol UK	
29197	Mr Iffor Glyn Hughes	Bromsgrove Worcester UK	i_hughes9@yahoo.com
25137	Ms Sue Rogers	Carmarthenshire UK	suerogers533@gmail.com
78153	Ms Sian Thomas	Tunbridge Wells UK	sian@dennant.co.uk
93448	Daniel Rees	Riverside Connecticut USA	dan@danrees.me
27855	Mr Michael Gordon Steward	Pencoed Bridgend Wales	spikesteward@aol.com
36392	Ms Sarah Clement	Llansamlet Swansea Wales	saze2311@hotmail.co.uk
43883	Ms Amanda Morgan	Rhydlewis Llandysul Ceredigion UK	amanda.morgan18@aol.co.uk
59267	Mrs Helen Wynn Nicholls	Teddington Middlesex UK	helenwynn3@gmail.com
18716	Mrs Josephine Pearson	Huddersfield West Yorkshire UK	josephinepearson39@hotmail.com
41863	Mr Michael Willis	Bridgend Mid Glam Wales	
68482	Mr Paul Rees	Swansea United Kingdom UK	kungfootoo@yahoo.co.uk

68663	Mr John Jeremy Spear	Exeter Devon UK	jakespearno8@gmail.com
47118	Mr Tony Ensom	East Williamston Pembrokeshire UK	ensom@tonyensom.plus.com
84523	Sarah Millington	Teignmouth UK	
52735	Mr Gareth Jones	Crawley West Sussex UK	gjones6239@aol.com
64717	Tova Prior	London UK	
47887	Mrs Gwenan Powell	Rhydlewis Ceredigion UK	micagwenan@btinternet.com
51965	Professor Michael Williams	Langland Swansea	
43594	Hazel Mary Marrell	Sutton-in-Craven Keighley West Yorkshire UK	hazelmarrell@yahoo.co.uk
61584	Mr Paul Richards	Porthcawl Mid Glamorgan UK	p.richards213@btinternet.com
82652	Mr David Griffiths	Cardigan Ceredigion Wales	cardiganwarmemorial@gmail.com
12587	Mrs Margaret Yronwy-Davies	Abersychan Torfaen Wales	
57387	Mrs Joanna Masters	Penarth Glamorgan UK	joannamasters@outlook.com
38751	Mrs Pamela Smith	Blacktown NSW Australia	psmith877@ymail.com
12845	Mr Tudur Rees	Llandeilo Wales	
64724	Mr Paul Wilmot Parry	Hatfield Doncaster UK	Paulchriswill@a@gmail.com
47633	Mr David Philip Davies	Tal-y-bont Ceredigion Wales	gwynionydd@btinternet.com
47277	Mrs Jutta Beer	Llangadog Carmarthenshire Wales	jutta@btinternet.com
43764	Mr Wayne David Knoll	Mortlake State of Victoria Australia	waygoer@gmail.com
29313	Mr Justin Davies	Mitcham Surrey UK	Justin.davies@gettyimages.com
75617	Mrs Nicola Rees-Harries	Carmarthen Carmarthenshire Wales	njreesharries@gmail.com
91266	Mr David Goronwy Owen Thomas	Penparc Cardigan Ceredigion Wales	delyt@aol.com
72826	Mr Philip Jones	Bicester Oxfordshire United Kingdom	philip.jones24@btopenworld.com
66242	Mrs Margaret Cross	Gowerton Swansea UK	margaretcross463@btinternet.com
36847	Rev Susan Rees	Llanishen Cardiff UK	susanmrees@hotmail.com

AT THE LAST MEETING of the Online Meeting Group it was suggested that we try to create a list of members who have some “specialist” knowledge or were happy to provide local help in the area they live and who would be willing to help other members with their research.

We have one example in Bill Griffiths (803) who has hundreds of family trees in the South Pembrokeshire area, and is always happy to try to help other members. Perhaps you live in a place that you have access to its history or know the churchyard well and could offer that knowledge to others, or agree to take a photo of a house where someones ancestor lived. This would be especially useful to our overseas members or those that live outside of Wales and have little hope of visiting the area. We always refer requests like this to the local branches to see if the members there can help but that is not always possible. Can you offer your services at all?

Please let me know if you are interested editor@dyfedfhs.org.uk

USEFUL RESOURCE for those looking at Emigration of their Welsh family to the USA:

The Welsh Saints Project seeks to find and share information about Welsh converts to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who immigrated to the United States in the 19th century. Family history students at Brigham Young University are working to document each immigrant through the available records of the time, as well as linking journals, biographies, and photos to each immigrant.

Donations of photographs, biographies, journals, or other information are also welcome. Please contact <http://www.welshsaints.byu.edu>

Obituary

<i>Membership No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Joined</i>
807	Mrs Eunice M Armstrong	1987
Former member still active in the Upper Towy Valley branch		
5067 (2012–2017)	Ms Mavis Davies, Llangadog	

Branch Meetings

Branches organise regular meetings to which all members and the public are invited. Meetings usually take place at the times and venues below, but check with the named contact.

Cardigan Aberteifi

The first Monday in each month at 7.30pm
Tower Room, Cardigan Castle.

Contact Mr Ken James - Tel: 01239 710829. Email: cardigansecretary@dyfedfhs.org.uk

Carmarthen CAERFYRDDIN

The last Wednesday in each month at 7.30pm
Spilman Hotel, Spilman Street, Carmarthen.

Contact Mr. Eric Davies - Tel. 01554 891241. Email: carmarthen@dyfedfhs.org.uk

Haverfordwest Hwlfordd

The second Wednesday in each month at 7.00pm
Pembrokeshire Archives, Back Lane, Prendergast, Haverfordwest SA61 2PE.

Contact Mr Vaughan Everett - Tel. 07837 039150.

Email: haverfordwest@dyfedfhs.org.uk

Llanelli

The third Monday in each month from 2pm
Plas Llanelly House, Bridge Street, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire/Sir Gâr SA15 3UF
Contact Mrs. Linda Martin - Tel. 01267 267039. Email: llanelli@dyfedfhs.org.uk

London Llundain

On four Saturdays each year at 2 pm
The Kwanglim Room, Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 4AU.
Contact Mrs. Anna Brueton - Tel. 0207 9230302. Email: london@dyfedfhs.org.uk

Upper Towy Valley Cwm Tywi Uchaf

The fourth Wednesday in each month at 7.15pm
Our Lady Catholic Church Hall, College View, Llandovery
Contact Miss Moira Evans - Tel. 01269 592278.

Email: uppertowyvalley@dyfedfhs.org.uk

Contacts

www.dyfedfhs.org.uk

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Matters relating to the Management Committee and the AGM

General Secretary: Mr. Colin Potter.
25 Milton Meadows, Milton, Tenby, Pembrokeshire, SA70 8PL
secretary@dyfedfhs.org.uk

Matters relating to membership

Membership Secretary: David J. Skyrme.
Cherry Gate, Tubbs Lane, Highclere, Newbury RG20 9PR
membership@dyfedfhs.org.uk
Contact the Membership Secretary for contact detail of other members.

Matters relating to the journal (articles, photographs, letters, help needed, advertising)

Editor: Ms Cate Hobbs.
25 Milton Meadows, Milton, Tenby, Pems, SA70 8PL
editor@dyfedfhs.org.uk

Matters relating to the website

Webmaster: Gareth Morgan.
webmaster@dyfedfhs.org.uk

Matters relating to Memorial Inscriptions

MI@dyfedfhs.org.uk