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Volume 14 Number 9
August 2023

Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Dyfed Family History Society

REGISTERED CHARITY No. 513347

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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 **December Journal** will begin as soon as this one
finishes but the deadline for copy is **15 October 2023.**

It was wonderful to have present three of our founder members at the AGM this year and we have included a photograph on page 9. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Stupid Tuesday who produced the “Founder Members Awards” which were so well received, they did a lovely job. We had a picture taken at the AGM and it included most of the Committee, so I have included it below for interest.



from left to right Janice Hughes (Projects), Cate Hobbs (Editor), member, Davina Price (Upper Towy Valley Chair), member, Rosaleen Boardman (Online Discussion Group), Gareth Wyn Jones (Treasurer), Gareth Morgan (Webmaster), Colin Potter (General Secretary), Eric Davies (Carmarthen Chair), (partially hidden) Geraint Davies (Haverfordwest Chair), Ken James (Cardigan Secretary), Phil Davies (Cardigan Chair), member, member, and founder members – Moira Evans (39), Chris Davies (79) and Stephen Rees (88)

Thank you to all those who have submitted articles I am pleased to say I have some “spares” ready to go in the next Journal in December, so if you have submitted an article and it has not appeared yet, don’t panic it will get published as soon as I have the space. Please do not let this put you off from submitting articles the more we have the better, I would however really appreciate some shorter articles as we can fit more in. If your article is a finished piece of research, you could just include a short summary in the Journal and have the complete article on the Members Research section of the website.

We will be having some new items in the shop soon, from things found in the Carmarthen stores – some have yet to be digitised from fiche which will take a bit longer, but those we can scan and are already on CD are being prepared for inclusion so worth going and checking regularly.

Finally, I would again remind members that I am looking to “retire” from being Editor so if you would like to find out more, please contact me – some other Family History Societies have Editorial teams, so it could be a job share between 2/3 people.

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

- 4 Sep Discussion on family research with experienced members
- 2 Oct Discussion on family research with experienced members
- 6 Nov Cilgerran Quarries – Emyr Phillips

Carmarthen Branch

- 27 Sep TBC
- 25 Oct TBC
- 29 Nov TBC

Haverfordwest Branch

(No dates or events confirmed, please check with the Facebook page, website or Secretary)

Llanelli Branch

- 18 Sep TBC
- 16 Oct TBC
- 20 Nov TBC

London Branch

- 13-20 Aug Branch visit to the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth
- 16 Sep The role of the Wales Herald of Arms Extraordinary and
(ZOOM) Heraldry in Wales by Thomas Lloyd OBE., DL., F.Sa., Wales
Herald of Arms Extraordinary
- Nov ZOOM Meeting – Date, speaker and topic TBC.

Upper Towy Valley Branch

- Aug Memorial Inscriptions (contact Secretary)
- 27 Sep Speaker to be confirmed.
- 16 Oct Visit to Isle of Wight
- 25 Oct Speaker to be confirmed.
- Nov Christmas Dinner

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

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 31 Jul | Drawing Charts by hand as a research tool including family group sheets with David Cufley |
| 28 Aug | How to use the Cardiganshire Archives with Helen Palmer |
| 25 Sep | How to use your DNA matches to find family members with Marguerite Fletcher |
| 30 Oct | How to use the Pembrokeshire Archives with Claire Orr |

2 September 2023 – The Family History Show, Kempton Park Racecourse
10.00 – 14.00

16-17 September 2023 – Llandovery Sheep Festival, Llandovery

17-18 November (online) - FHF Really Useful Family History Show
(Friday 17th 10am – 10pm and Saturday 18th 10am – 6pm (GMT))
<https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com>

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>

Useful Sites

National Library of Scotland – Map images <https://maps.nls.uk/guide/>

The Godfrey Edition – Reprints of Old Ordnance Survey Maps
Alan Godfrey Maps <https://www.alangodfreymaps.co.uk>

Sign up for Family History Federation monthly newsletter full of interesting information at <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/resources-newsletter>

General Secretary's Report

WE HELD our AGM on 22nd April in the library in Carmarthen. Unfortunately, our regular meeting room was not available, and the alternative room did not have very good internet connection. Despite this, a successful AGM was held via Zoom and several members and committee were in attendance. Our new updated constitution was approved unanimously, and the committee were re-elected. Two new Honorary Life Members, Anna Brueton and Moira Evans were also approved. Remarkably we had three founder members in attendance.

Our online discussion group is proving very successful, it's very friendly and informative, you can read more information later in this journal.

We have added a new section in the “My details” part of the website called Branch Membership. If you'd like to be kept up to date with meetings in your branch, or what's going on in the area your ancestors came from, then tick one or more of the boxes. More information in the “How to” article below.

We have just heard that our President, Dr Joanna Penberthy, is retiring as the Bishop of St Davids due to ill health on 31st July, her replacement will not be announced until October.

Colin Potter (5576)

Website – How to – number 3

How to get email news from a branch.

1. You must be logged on to your membership account.
2. Click on “My Details”
3. Check your details are correct – Name, Address, Email and phone number.
4. Tick one or more of the boxes marked in the Branch Membership section. We have also included the Online Discussion Group here for those who wish to attend meetings but live too far away. These meetings are held via Zoom, if you are unsure how to use it, or have any questions about the discussion group then email online@dyfedfhs.org.uk Any other questions email secretary@dyfedfhs.org.uk
5. Click update details

Colin Potter (5576)

President's retirement

IT IS WITH sadness that we learnt that the Reverend Canon Joanna Penberthy BA, MA, MTh, The Bishop of St David's, will be retiring at end of July 2023 on the grounds of ill health, a new bishop will be installed in October. The Committee and members of the Society send their best wishes to the Bishop and thank her for the 7 years she has been our President.

Members offering their help to others

Bill Griffiths (803)

Email: billgriffiths37@gmail.com

Bill has an extensive collection of Pembrokeshire Family Trees (predominantly South Pems), and he is delighted to help anyone researching in that area, the more unusual the surname the better!

Rowena Davies (48852)

Email: dr.mathew@btinternet.com

Though I would not pretend to have 'specialist knowledge' I should be very happy to be included in a list of members to help with local knowledge for our area of Dyffryn Cothi (the parishes of Cynwyl Gaeo and Llanycrwys) in the very north of Carmarthenshire. I would also be able to help with interpretation of newspaper articles / other documents in Welsh without promising to do a full translation!

Anyone else who would be willing to join this list would be more than welcome –
Editor

Erratum

IN THE ARTICLE about Eynon Phillipps (April 2023 issue page 20) I had incorrectly given Katherine Oxenbridge Fowler as the second wife of Hector Phillipps sr. of Tregibby. Hector's first and only wife was Ann Wogan of Wiston, and the link with Katharine will be clarified in a future article on James Phillipps.

Sophy Thomas (5632)

Visit the Carmarthen Archives

I WOULD BE very grateful if you could alert your members to the fact that we are still conducting tours of the Carmarthenshire Archives. The tours are usually held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings (when we are closed to the public) and last for approx. 1 hour. The maximum number that we can accommodate at any one time is 12 persons (minimum 6/7). To arrange a tour please contact me directly. Mae croeso i chi gysylltu â ni yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg/You are welcome to contact us in Welsh or English.

Hayden Burns

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Cate,

I HOPE you are keeping well. I have received the April Journal, which is beautifully presented, as always. I was especially thrilled to see the cover of my recent book – Part One – on Page 11, accompanied by the text and Editor's note.

In January, I donated a copy of the book to the Pembrokeshire Archives, along with the original (180-year-old) letters between John Rees and his wife Mary, nee Williams. I also donated the 200-year-old Bible which contains the hand-written details of Mary's (second) marriage to David Griffiths, and the birth of their daughter, Mary Ann, my Great Grandmother.

Mary Ann followed in her mother's footsteps by recording, within that same Bible, the dates of her own marriage to David Edwards, in Pontypridd, Glamorgan, and the birth dates of her children.

I hope the information may be of interest, or help, to others. Thank you very much for including my book in the Journal.

With thanks and best wishes,

Sheila Lewis (265561)



Founder Members: Moira Evans (39), Chris Davies (79) & Stephen Rees (88) at the AGM held on 22 April 2023 at Carmarthen Library

JUST A FEW words to say thank you once again for granting me honorary life membership of the Dyfed Family History Society. I regard it as a great honour and have thoroughly enjoyed my work with the society, though I can hardly believe it has been forty years! My sincere thanks to you and the committee.

Thank you, too, for your warm welcome yesterday (at the AGM). You are a very hard-working and dedicated group of people. I had a lovely morning, and it was especially good to meet up again and chat with “old” friends!

With my best wishes,

Moira (Evans) (39)

I WOULD like to express my thanks to the Society for making me an Honorary Member. I am accepting it, not just for myself, but also of behalf of the London Branch, in recognition of the contribution it has made to supporting Welsh family historians based in London and the South-east of England. I have had such a great deal of pleasure from being a member of Dyfed FHS and I would like to thank all the members who have helped me in the journey through my family history over the years.

Anna Bruton (1806)

The Bateman Family of Pembrokeshire

Part 3 of 3

(continued from April 2023 journal)

Towards the end of the rein of Charles II, ‘The Sufferers’ heard of the “pleasant land” across the sea where they could enjoy “freedom of worship, friendship and fertile farms could be had for almost for the asking.” (22) This was Pennsylvania owned and ruled by the English Quaker of the highest social standing; William Penn. As many as forty families emigrated from Haverfordwest over subsequent years, among them William and Sarah’s daughter Sarah BURGE, along with husband John, seeking a new life of freedom, peace and harmony. (Sarah was widowed and later married ECKLEY, the Governor of Pennsylvania in 1685). (23)

The BATEMAN Family had early associations with other prominent county families which continued over the centuries. Dame Margaret WOGAN, her daughter Frances and son-in-law John PRICE, entered into an agreement with William in 1661 for East Hook Farm in the Parish of Lambston, near Haverfordwest, where they gifted the use of this messuage, a dwelling house but not the Manor House, and a corn mill for the use of William and his wife Sarah and his family for three ‘lives’ or generations. (6, 8) They also had a tenancy agreement for the Goat Street property mentioned earlier. Part of the attractiveness of the agreement was that William sympathised with the Quaker cause in Haverfordwest. East Hook, near Honey Hook, was owned from 1602/03 by James BATEMAN, a member of the wider family, for 100 years plus. It was thanks to this gift that East Hook had a secured watercourse for the BATEMAN’s corn mill. The seal of Benjamin BATEMAN, son of William and Sarah, “late of Haverfordwest now of Honey Hook” was attached to a 1733 deed at Picton Castle. (17, 25) There were also other agreements securing the water supply to the leat of a corn grist mill in the BATEMAN messuage. These are with further BATEMAN relations, some of whom owned Honey Hook up stream from East Hook. The 1661 agreement on East Hooke was reversed back from the BATEMAN Family to John LORT in 1730. (3) John had been involved in the marriage settlement in 1718 between William BATEMAN, son of William the Younger, and his bride Elizabeth PEMBER.

Thanks to the WOGAN’s generous gift of East Hook, William was able to divide off a small pocket where he established a burial ground in 1661. (13) This

was beyond the 1000-acre common grazing land of Portfield Common (3) which was located between Haverfordwest and East Hook. Named the Mount Quaker Burial Ground, it was also linked with the old Society of Friends Meeting House which was on the site of 47 High Street in Haverfordwest, in the Parish of St Mary, now the current position of Shire Hall.



Most burials at Mount Quaker were residents of Haverfordwest. Quakers were usually buried in unnamed graves and headstones were very unusual.

In 1740 there was a deed of transfer, possibly within trustees, which covered several properties belonging to the Society of Friends including the Haverfordwest Meeting House and the Mount Burial Ground. (26, 35) It describes:

‘land with appurtenances commonly called The Mount or Quaker Burial Place and the walk or way leading thereto being about 20 foot broad and as many foot around about the said burial place from the outside of the wall thereof with the full benefit and advantage of all the hedges, trees and fences which are now standing, growing on being therein ... being hitherto part of a certain tenement called Neesthook formerly the lands of William Bateman deceased lying and being in the Parish of Lambston.’ (26, 35)



William's gravestone

There are stones for three burials at Quaker Mount; two in the 19th Century and one in the 17th century

evidenced by a stone in the North Wall. This may have been William's. It has a skull and bones, a common symbol at that time to remind us of our mortality, and inscription ...

'Here ly... of Willi... clothier ... ye 8th day of Fe... 1662 Ye... day 1680' (Very difficult to decipher). (35)

It is possible that the dates may have been misinterpreted. William BATEMAN died after October 1690/1691, he was a Mercer or dealer in cloth. Could this be his grave? It could be the grave of his father William BATEMAN but he died in 1664. He was also a mercer and burgess of long standing. (3)

The layout of the burial ground is very unusual in that most Quaker burial grounds are simple. The deed of 1740 makes it clear that the present layout is very old. On the 1762 Picton Estate Map, Mount Lane which leads to the Friends' Burial Ground was renamed 'Quakers' Way' (17) (35) (see plan in Part 2).

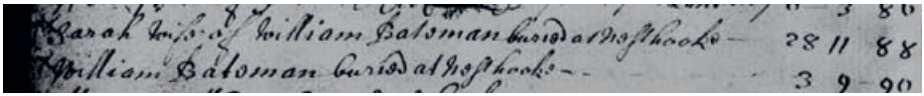
An excerpt of an article of the burial ground written in 1907 (36):

"Some two miles from Haverfordwest station lies the Mount burial-ground which must be the quietest loveliest graveyard in the kingdom. For 106 paces we walked on a living, carpeted aisle, between foliated living columns from which sprang living Gothic arches. On either side and beyond the symmetrical rows of trees were walls of foliage and blossom. Overhead the almost cloudless sky of blue filled the interstices in the vaulted arches. In front of us was the door into the graveyard proper, a walled enclosure some 80 ft. square. Into this the avenue continued making the burial ground a kind of inner sanctuary. The stone wall, some 7 ft. high surrounding the graveyard, was almost invisible, so thickly was it covered with ivy and other creepers. The few mounds and stones spoke of the silent dead, but everything round us reminded us not of death but of resurrection. As we reluctantly turned away, we understood as never before, why they buried Him who was the resurrection and the life in a garden. And so with thoughts of hope and immortality, we left the Mount."

Quaker death and burial information including date, was recorded in Monthly Meetings of the Society of Friends'. They did not use day or month names which were considered Heathen e.g 'who died the 6th of the 3rd mo (month) 1689'.(15)

According to the East Hook Farm website (3) William BATEMAN lived to a good age. Maybe in the 17th century the age of 50–52 was considered a good age. William was interred at the Quaker Burial Ground Easthooke on 3 Sep 1690

(NB discrepancy between his date of will signed by himself 20 Oct 1691 and burial records) and Sarah Elizabeth was buried on 28 Nov 1688. (25)



Death entries for Sarah and William

In his Last Will and Testament written in 1691 (21) William BATEMAN ‘the Elder’, Easthooke, Lambston, Pembroke declared:

“I hereby nominate constitute and appoint my eldest son William Bateman to be executor of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twentieth day of October 1691”

Signed by William Bateman the Elder (his mark)

Witnesses: Mathew Bowen , (either) J or W Bateman (son), Richard Ashton (8)

The inventory of William’s belongings in 1692 totalled less than £67, referring to goods in rooms of a moderate size property. (31)

William and Sarah married c1654 Haverfordwest had a family of 9 children, discovered thus far:

1 **Sarah BATEMAN** (b.c. 1655 d, 24 Aug 1692 Philadelphia) married 1 27 Feb 1673 John BURGE a clothier of Haverfordwest (1645 Pembrokeshire 4 Mar 1683 North Hempstead, Long Island, New York) at a monthly meeting in Haverfordwest.

“John Burge of Haverfordwes did in ye fear of God and ... of Holy ... take Sarah daughter of William Bateman of Heverfordwest to wife, ... and was done by ye consent of ... and Christian friends.” (25) Those recorded as present included Sarah Bateman (her mother), Arthur Bateman (her brother) and wife and their son Arthur Junior along with members of other Quaker Families. (25)

Sarah and John BURGE emigrated to America, The New World, to William Penn’s settlement in Pennsylvania where many Quakers had gone before them to escape persecution. Sarah and John had 2 children: William BURGE (28 Jan 1674 Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire – 10 May 1745 Philadelphia) and Mary BURGE (1675 Pembrokeshire – 1708 Philadelphia). John BURGE died in 1683 and as a widow Sarah married for a second time in 1685 in Philadelphia to Governor John ECKLEY (Bap 24 Nov 1652

Kimbolton, Hertfordshire, England – 14 Feb 1690 Philadelphia). It was also the second marriage for John. He was the son of Sir John ECKLEY (c 1600 Niton, Isle, England – 9 Feb 1652 Lea, Kimbolton, Herefordshire, England) and Sibbell (c1600 Isle of Wight England – 1678 England). Sarah and John ECKLEY had a daughter Sarah ECKLEY (1686–1725).

Following John's death from small pox at the age of 38 years, a testimony was presented which included "As a man, he was pleasant, courteous, discrete and grave ... the word of wisdom was in his mouth ..." (7) His widow Sarah was John's sole executrix and he left lands in in England, Wales and Pennsylvania. In her will dated 1692 and proved 1698, Sarah left these lands and estates to her three children: William and Mary BURGE and Sarah ECKLEY.

2. **William BATEMAN** 'The Younger', eldest son, gentleman, (b.c. 1658 Haverfordwest – int 1698 East Hook, Lambston) m Frances SYMINS (bc 1660 – int 25 May 1743 Lambston, Pembrokeshire) dau of Hugh SYMINS Carmenthen (1 hearth 6 Oct 1685 Porcheston). Following William's death, in 1701 there was an agreement between William and his mother Frances around East Hook. William and Frances had 6 children – William m 1718 Elizabeth PEMBER, Thomas, John, Sarah, Mary and Frances. In his will of 1698 William left bequests to all his children, his cousin William BOWEN, and his wife Frances and eldest son William were joint executors.
3. **Thomas BATEMAN** (bc 1660–)
4. **Elizabeth BATEMAN** (bc 1668–1725) m 1668 John ROCH of Trevermer. Child – Mary (Bap 9 Feb 1772 – int 1777 Lambston)
5. **Benjamin BATEMAN 1** (b. 8 Jul 1668 Haverfordwest – int 3 Aug 1670 East Hook Lambston Pembrokeshire).
6. **Benjamin BATEMAN 2** (Bap 4 Jan 1671 Haverfordwest) a Mercer from Honey Hooke m 1691 Mary JONES (bc 1671–26 Sep 1731 or 1713) dau of Reverend Robert JONES (b.c. 1645 Glamorgan – d 1824) St Lytham, Glamorganshire. The couple had 9 children. Benjamin was also a Mercer in Haverfordwest. In 1691 there was a "Post Nuptial Settlement of Honnyhooke in the Parish of Lambston, a house and appurtenances in Market Street, Haverfordwest, a messuage and lands in Ship Street Haverfordwest; with the Little Celler and room over it, near to the great chamber on the Key or wharf in the parish of St Thomas, Haverfordwest ..." (6) Agreement formed by his father William

BATEMAN the elder of Haverfordwest, mercer; Robert Jones his father-in-law, Benjamin and wife, John David a Clerk and William BATEMAN the Younger of the Parish of Lambston gent, eldest son of William the Elder and Benjamin's elder brother.

7. **Mary BATEMAN**

8. **Frances BATEMAN** unmarried, will 1753

9. **Arthur BATEMAN** (Bap 8 Jul 1682 Haverfordwest – int 9 Jul 1749 Haverfordwest St Mary, will dated 16 Aug 1745 Haverfordwest) m Anne (maiden name unknown and d before 1745 as not mentioned in Arthur's will) m previously to unknown GRIFFITH. William's stepdaughter was Mary GRIFFITH (int 1772 Ambleston). Arthur was also a mercer and was Mayor of Haverfordwest in 1738.

Arthur and Anne had 3 children:

1. Arthur (b Haverfordwest – d 1762, will dated 27 Mar 1753) m 9 Oct 1747 in Steynton Pembrokeshire Rachel PRICE (no issue). Rachel's Will 13 Aug 1764 as a widow. She lived Haverfordwest St Martin, and her executor was Anne EVANS, Lettice and Griffith EVANS' daughter.
2. Thomas – (b unknown – Int 8 Feb 1768) Lambston
3. Lettice (bc 1700 – d 25 May 1773) m1 Griffith EVANS m2 James LONG m3 Lewis PHILLIPS. Children – Arthur, Anne, and Lettice EVANS. Lewis PHILLIPS was inn holder of The Angel in Haverfordwest 1762. Lettice was Arthur's sister and outlived her three husbands. My line descends from Lettice BATEMAN and Griffith EVANS through their son Arthur EVANS.

The BATEMAN Family as a whole had many connections over the centuries to other influential families of Pembrokeshire including WOGAN, CRABHOLE, CLEMENT, LAUGHARNE and MENDUS. The family also made alliances with BOWEN of Trefloyne, MORTIMERS of Coedmore and WILKINS. (42)

From all accounts a well-respected family.

Anne Mackintosh (69818)

Email: amacgvs@gmail.com

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(bc = about/circa)

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Two Carmarthenshire Stonemasons

In 1898 Aaron Jones told a reporter from the Evening Express that he had come to Cefn Coed y Cymmer in the hope of finding work on the Cefn Coed viaduct. We may guess that this not his first visit to the area as he also said, "My uncle and aunt kept the George Inn, and subsequently my father-in-law and mother-in-law took it." We know that Aaron's parents-in-law were Thomas and Eliza Williams, but the newspaper article gives us no clue as to the name of Aaron's uncle. Thomas Williams had been running a grocery in Cefn High Street for several years before he expanded his business interests by taking over the George Inn next door in 1853. We do not know if Aaron's unnamed uncle was the William Davies listed at the George Inn in the 1851 census or the William Thomas who was occupying the George when it was put up for sale in 1848.

However, we do know who Aaron's parents were. His father was John Jones,

a stonemason born in Llangathen around 1815. In 1834 John married Mary Thomas, the daughter of James and Mary Thomas of Pentrecwm. Both the witnesses to this wedding came from the village of Broad Oak. There is no evidence to show that John lived ever in Broad Oak before his marriage, but after his marriage he can be found residing in various properties at Ffairfach. This was an estate south of Llandeilo Fawr. Like the rather better known Gelli Aur this estate belonged to the Earl of Cawdor. By 1851 John was a master mason, running a business that employed 10 men. He and Mary had four sons who would all go into their father's trade. The works on the Llandeilo bridge which continued over five years from 1843–1848 had probably helped John Jones to build up his business. The Ffairfach estate had one of the few quarries judged capable of providing stone of sufficient quality for this project, so there was local work for stonemasons. This was not usually the case. On the day of the 1841 census the heavily pregnant Mary had been alone with three young children in a complex of buildings on Pontladis farm and at the time of the 1861 census John is recorded in Burton Pembrokeshire, lodging with two of his sons in a row of buildings which were used to house several masons. After Mary's death John lived at Ffairfach with his unmarried daughter Ann. By 1881 they were occupying property closer to the railway station and Ann was working as a shopkeeper. Perhaps this indicates that there was less work available for John.

Aaron had been born in 1847 at a cottage called Caemaen located on what is now the A483 at the other end of Ffairfach, just south of the junction of the A483 and Heol Pen Storum. Aaron told journalists that he had learnt his trade in Pembrokeshire and had gone on to work in Pontypridd, then in Pontypool, and afterwards in London. He married Caroline, the daughter of Thomas and Eliza Williams, at the end of 1865. They had six children, but Aaron was not often at home with his wife and children. The 1881 census found him lodging in a house in Merionethshire. Sadly, it was not just work that took Aaron away from the family home. It seems the travelling of his early career had left him with an incurable wanderlust. He told one journalist, "I used to go off on a tramp. I would go off for a fortnight or three weeks." Aaron's absences from home grew longer. The birth certificates of his children indicate that, unlike his father, Aaron never rose higher in his trade than the level of journeyman, although he was said to be a competent mason who could get work when he wanted it, he preferred the life of a pedlar, sleeping rough and scraping a living selling shoelaces.

Aaron claimed to have travelled throughout England and Wales. His travelling lifestyle was supported by the sale of shoelaces and handouts from

other masons who remembered this ‘inoffensive old chap’ from better days and were sorry to see his dexterity limited by arthritis. Then in 1897 there occurred an incident which would send reporters scurrying to Pontlottyn with the aim of interviewing him. On Tuesday morning, December 14th, 1897, a man was found collapsed on the road near the Vicarage in Pontlottyn. A women named Margaret Lewis and some nearby joiners rushed to his aid, but despite their efforts, the man died. His body was carried to the fire brigade station at the back of the police station. Some locals said the man looked like Aaron Jones, so the police sent for his wife Caroline in the hope of positive identification. However, she had hardly seen Aaron in the last 15 years and was not at all sure that the dead man was him. Aaron’s older brother Thomas, who had lived in Treherbert with his wife Jane for several decades, arrived in Pontlottyn and other former workmates came to view the body. Caroline allowed herself to be convinced. An inquest was held. James Lloyd, a mason who had known Aaron for 30 years, and another former workmate, a carpenter named Davies, identified the body. Caroline sent a coffin and hearse to Pontlottyn and paid for the burial which took place in Cefn the next day.

Then, to her acute embarrassment, one day in mid January Aaron Jones reappeared in Pontlottyn, looking, as one reporter put it, “hale and hearty and dressed considerably above the style of the professional tramp”. He claimed to have known what was happening in Pontlottyn from the day after the discovery of the body. Some reports claimed that Caroline had received considerable sums from life insurance, these reports were vigorously denied by her eldest son, Thomas. Aaron seems to have enjoyed the attention he was receiving from the visiting journalists. He wrote a letter to Caroline:

Dear Wife and Children, – I am taking the liberty to write these few lines in hope that they will find you all well. I was very sorry to learn that you went to the trouble and expense about the late dead man. I am sorry that Tom's word would not have been taken. I hope you will forgive me, for I didn't know anything about it till last night. I will call in a day or two. Communicate with me here. So, from your affectionate father. A. JONES. '

Mr. Morgans, Picton Hotel.

Although Aaron claimed. “Me and the missus never had a cross word in our lives,” he didn’t seem to be in hurry to go and see Caroline. He would spend another couple of years wandering the countryside before his death.

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Dipping into the Archives in Carmarthen

Part I

The new Carmarthenshire Archives has now opened as part of the library building in King Street, near St Peter's Church.

Having had a guided tour of the archives in the summer, I spied the LLANDEILO-FAWR WORKHOUSE ledgers. There are some records I need to look at, I thought, as I may find some of my ancestors in “the workhouse”. As we know it was a slur on families to have to enter the workhouse, but what can we do about it now? Nothing, it's too late, and, to my mind it's nothing of which one should be ashamed.

The Poor Law Amendment Act 1834: the Act of Parliament behind the creation of Union Workhouses was based on two principles – less eligibility and the workhouse test. Less eligibility meant that any able-bodied person entering the workhouse would be offered less pleasant circumstances than the poorest labourer outside the workhouse. However, this was not to involve active cruelty, or it wasn't meant to, but it offered a very regimented lifestyle, with tedious and hard work, and with no luxuries at all e.g. tobacco and alcohol. The workhouse test



Llandeilo-Fawr parish c. 1870

meant that poor relief/help would only be given to people who agreed to enter the workhouse. Most people did not make this decision lightly as it meant that families were split up within the workhouse.

But, in practice this part of the law was never fully enacted, although it was the intention that it should be. In theory, the poorest would get help, but only in return for agreeing to be institutionalised. They would be set menial and unpleasant tasks and possibly, when they died, having their bodies taken away for scientific research, under the provisions of the 1832 Anatomy Act. Deciding to go into the workhouse, at least in the early years, was not something to be done lightly. You had to be desperate and destitute.

Workhouses were often built on the edge of a town, village or city, as was the Llandeilo Workhouse at Ffairfach. But the first set of records at which I looked was not about the inmates. Some of the records refer to the election of the Board of Guardians (which is where the information for this article was obtained), finance and other business matters. Other records list women, men and children who stayed (or who are supposed to have stayed) temporarily.

The staff at many workhouses included a governor and matron, usually a husband and wife (as was the case in Swansea when one of my ancestors, William Cox, was the governor and his wife was the matron. He later became the first governor of Swansea Gaol). There would also be a chaplain, medical officer, teacher (visiting role), nurse (visiting role) and clerk to the Board of Guardians. The Board oversaw the running of the workhouse and the clerk reported to them regularly.

The Board of Guardians for the workhouse for Llandeilo Fawr was formed on 16th December 1836, at the Cawdor Hotel. The workhouse was built between 1837–1838, so the Board of Guardians was in place to oversee the work and make preparation to appoint staff. Let's dip into these records. The reason I chose



Photos of workhouse taken in the 1960s by Terry Norman

these years is because they were just before my great (x3) grandparents died. The Board of Guardians were elected from the parishes which were included in the Union i.e. Llandeilo, Manordeilo, Llangathen, Llanfynydd etc.

Between 1863 and 1866, Mr HENRY DAVIES of Morrision, Swansea, was the Medical Officer for five years. He resigned to go to the Swansea Union Workhouse. Mr PARRY was Inspector of Nuisances! Inspectors of Nuisances became known as sanitary inspectors, who, in turn became public health inspectors. An Inspector of Nuisances was employed by the parish to inspect if there were offensive conditions (known as nuisances), that were in breach of the law i.e. bad sanitary conditions, smells, privies, gutters, refuse heaps etc. They also distributed disinfectant to ensure houses with smallpox were disinfected.

The parishes also had to pay county, cattle plague, and police rates, what today we would call council tax. In 1867, paying at $\frac{3}{4}$ d in the pound, the County Rates for Llandeilofawr, Llanfynydd and Llangathen were:

<i>Parish</i>	<i>County Rate</i>	<i>Cattle Plague Rate $\frac{1}{4}$d in the £</i>
Llandeilofawr	£64/13/19	£21/11/3
Llanfynydd	£17/3/9	£5/14/7
Llangathen	£16/5/-	£5/8/4

Sheep had been imported from Spain – “Plague had lately made and exposed for sale considerable ravages”. Hence the need for cattle plague rates. In 1867 the County and Police Rates were

<i>Parish</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Police</i>
Llandeilofawr	£107/16/3	£43/2/6
Llangathen	£27/1/8	£10/16/8
Llanfynydd	£28/12/11	£11/9/2

I am interested in these particular parishes because my ancestors lived in them. In 1867–8 the following businesspeople provided, for the workhouse: Prosser Davies – shoes/boots; Anne Francis – ironmongery items; Joseph Lockyer – printed materials; D W Jones – stationery; Margaret Griffiths – best

Pantyyffynnon Colliery hand-picked coal at 11/- per ton. Double screened nut coal at 10/6d; Margaret Pash – groceries.

On 30th January 1869, Jane Harries, the schoolmistress resigned. The guardians advertised for a new teacher at £25 per annum to “instruct the boys and girls under her care and to superintend and assist in sewing, knitting, making and repairing clothes and in regulating the discipline of the House”.

It was unanimously resolved on 27th March, 1869, that “Miss Margaret Walters of Cymmer, near Pontypridd be appointed to the Office of Schoolmistress in the room of Miss Jane Harries (resigned) at the salary of £25 per annum”.

In 1871, Jane Harries (aged 41) lived with her mother, Susannah (73, widow, retired schoolmistress) in Bankyfelin (sic) Cottages, Llandebie (sic).

In 1881 and 1891, Janes Harries was a schoolmistress at Glynhir School, Llandebie (sic).

In April 1871, the guardians standing for office were:

LLANDEILOFAWR: William Nicholas, Brynteilo – farmer; John Lewis, Llwynfedwen – farmer; William Williams, Love Lodge – farmer; Rees Davies, Maesyffynnon – land agent; David Prosser, Rhosmaen – farmer; Isaac Thomas, Bank/Banc – farmer; Jenkin Morgan, Cwm Ffrwd – farmer (freeholder); John Davies, Penwaun – farmer; Isaac Edwards, Cwmyrhelen – farme.

LLANGATHEN: William Evans, Milton Court – gentleman; John Lewis, Grongar – farmer.

Those elected were: William Nicholas (547 votes); John Lewis (640); William Williams (591); Rees Davies (579); David Prosser (593); Isaac Thomas (431).

There were also guardians elected from other parishes e.g. Llanfynydd, Llanddarog, Llanarthney.

Taking WILLIAM NICHOLAS (aged 62) as an example, on the 1871 census he is described as a landowner. He lived at Brynteilo (LlandeILOfawr), with his wife, Kate (42), a boarder, Rev THOMAS MORGAN (72, clergyman without charge) and four servants. The 1881 census returns for this area have been lost.

In 1891, WILLIAM NICHOLAS, was a widower, living on his own means at Brynteilo, with his sister, JEMIMA ROBERTS (79, widow), ELIZABETH

NICHOLAS (84) and three servants. WILLIAM was baptised in August 1808 and died in 1893.

In 1871, a butcher H S LEES, provided beef at 7d per pound; veal at 6d; mutton at 9d and pork at 7d. Mr Lees was paid £1/15/7d. HENERY (sic) SAMUELL (sic) LEES was born in 1821. In 1871 he lived in New Road, Llandeilofawr, with his wife ELIZABETH (46), son VALENTINE (16) and daughter ELIZABETH (18). They were all born in Herefordshire. Father and son were both butchers. MR LEES (senior) provided meat for the workhouse for many years. When he didn't supply meat, it was supplied by BENJAMIN PARRY. In 1871, BENJAMIN'S butchery was in Bank Buildings, Llandeilo. BENJAMIN was born in Newcastle Emlyn in 1811.

The clerk of the Workhouse received a salary of £20 and the doctor received £1/13/0 for vaccinations.

On 12th July 1873, the schoolteacher in the Workhouse, Miss RACHEL GABE, gave one month's notice of her resignation.

In 1877, a Rachel Gabe (born Llangathen 1852), (presuming it is the same person), married JACOB THOMAS at Llangathen Parish Church. Her marriage is a possibility for her resignation. However, fourteen years elapses between her resignation and her marriage, which seems unusual. Her father was an innkeeper, so perhaps she had to help at home, for some reason, which we shall never know.



Llangathen Parish Church

As you have read this perhaps you have seen some ancestors' names which you recognise, although with common surnames such as Lewis, Williams or Thomas you could be led down the wrong path. I hope this article may encourage you to look at different sets of records ... even though you hope your ancestors did not have to enter the Workhouse!

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(Part 2 will appear in the next issue of the journal)

Morse of Fishguard

This article is intended to provide some limited background on the author's Morse family connections in north Pembrokeshire.

I have a letter written by a distant relative in the 1930s which outlines some of my Wade ancestors from Fishguard. It is a bit of a hotch-potch of fact and fantasy but mentions my 4G-grandmother, Grace Morse, who married William Wade in c1782 (probably in Fishguard). Grace was the daughter of John Morse of Fishguard who died in 1789 (administration dated 19 Sept 1789 – NLW SD/1789/46). Grace later married William James, a master mariner, and died in 1822: both she and William James were buried at St Mary's, Fishguard. This is all good stuff and backed up by documentation.

The letter says of Grace Morse: "Apparently her family lived in the southern part of the county, for she had a brother, a lawyer at Narberth", but does not elaborate further. Such a lawyer proved elusive, but looking again in more detail, the only candidate in Narberth is the Rev. Stephen Morse who died in 1824 and was buried in Narberth parish churchyard.

Looking at his entries in the CofE Clergy Database (<https://theclergydatabase.org.uk/>), they outline a reasonably detailed but slightly incomplete career history. He was ordained in 1774 (at Abergwilly Palace, Carmarthen) when his address was given as "Fishguard". So far so good.

When he died in 1824, *The Cambrian* ran an announcement:

"On Tuesday se'nnight, at Narberth, the Rev. Stephen Morse, Rector of Kilrhedyn and Maenochleg-ddu (sic), and one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the county of Pembroke."

A JP may well have been loosely described as a lawyer. Even better.

Stephen Morse left a will (NLW SD/1824/24) which name most of his children and grandchildren, but not his wife (she had died at Narberth in 1821 aged 75).

His wife was Elizabeth Evans, whom he married by licence in 1780 at St Peter's, Carmarthen. The licence (and the parish register) gives Stephen's home parish as Bloxholm, Lincolnshire (Elizabeth herself was then of the parish of St Peter's Carmarthen). Bloxholm is a fairly remote country parish and is where their first two children were born: John in 1781 (of whom more later) and Stephen in 1783 (who died in infancy and was buried at Bloxholm).

The Clergy database does not mention Bloxholm although Stephen was described in the parish registers as “The Rev Mr Morse, Curate”. The next Clergy entry is for West Bromwich (as the assistant curate) where three more children were born, or at least baptised. Then to Mynachlog-ddu (as Perpetual Curate) and lastly Cilrhedin (as Rector).

It is unclear whether he lived in any of these latter named parishes. He was certainly at Narberth in May 1811 when *The Cambrian* announced that “At the last Quarter Sessions for the County of Pembroke, the Rev Mr Morse of Narberth ... was sworn in as acting magistrate for the said county”.

He was living in Narberth when he made his will in 1821 (just after the death of his wife, Elizabeth). Although proved at Carmarthen in May 1824, the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) were up in arms and wrote a stiff letter to the St David’s Diocesan office pointing out that as there was property in another Diocese, Carmarthen had no business granting probate and that they were to forward a copy of the will to London as soon as possible. The will was subsequently proved by the PCC later in September 1824 (transcribed in TNA PROB11/1690 but almost unreadable). I’ve not come across another example of this!

The property mentioned is referred to as the “Barnsley Lease”. There is no indication of where it is. I had originally thought it might refer to Barnsley Farm in Camrose parish, but the PCC clearly thought not and I am none the wiser.

More of interest is that the will also names three Trustees: Brother-in-law Thomas Evans of Carmarthen (Gent); Cousin Thomas Morgan of Trenewydd, Pembs; and (presumed cousin) David Evans of Rynaston, Pembs (Esq). David Evans of Rynaston is the most interesting of these trustees. Rynaston (or Rinaston) is in Ambleston parish and was occupied until at least 1785 by the Morse family. Is there a link? Perhaps so.

Latterly Rinaston was held by David Morse (d. 1785) who with his wife Martha is buried in Rinaston Chapel (a chapel-of-ease to Ambleston, but abandoned in the late 18th century). The chapel, almost part of Rinaston farmyard, is now a total ruin, but their grave/tomb is/was in the chapel’s nave. Major Francis Jones in his “Historic Pembrokeshire Homes” has a few column inches on Rinaston, which has provided some details. David Evans is the son of John Evans and his wife Phebe Morse, the daughter of the above David & Martha Morse. Phebe married John Evans of Trevayog at Ambleston in December 1776, but the couple later occupied Rinaston. John Evans died in

1816 (MI at St Nicholas; will SD/1835/10) leaving Rinaston to his son David who I believe was the David Evans mentioned in Stephen Morse's will, above. For unclear reasons, although the will was written in 1815 and John Evans died the following year, whilst the will appears to have been proved in August 1816, probate was not issued until September 1835. Some challenges were made in 1822, but perhaps the legal wheels were very slow to turn.

I cannot find a will for the above David Morse, but there is one for his father, David Morse Snr. also of Rinaston (NLW SD/1746/5) who leaves the residue of his estate (including Rinaston) to his son David. He also left 5 shillings to his younger sons, one of whom is named John and could well be the father of my Grace and the Rev Stephen. There are very few other John Morses about at this period in the right places. David Morse Snr. Mentions "my loving wife", but annoyingly does not name her. These connections may of course all be wishful thinking, but the evidence does seem to hang together.

Stephen Morse's will also mentioned "John Morse, my late son". John had followed his father into the church, gaining a BA at Hertford College, Oxford and serving as curate at Cilrhedin under his father as Rector. John's entry in the Alumni Oxonienses reads:

Morse, John, s. Stephen, of Bloxam, co. Lincoln, cler. Lincoln Coll., matric. 20 Nov., 1799, aged 18; B.A. 1804 (?died curate of Tewkesbury in 1812).

In 1806 John married Martha Howell of Penralltych (Clydey parish) where he opened a school to teach "the Latin and Greek languages, Geography, Writing and Arithmetic with every other branch of useful literature". Fees were 18 guineas per annum – about £1300 in today's money. The enterprise only lasted a few years and John left to take up the post of Curate at Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire in May 1812, but died suddenly in November 1812 and was buried in Tewkesbury Abbey. A final possible piece in this jigsaw is the administration for Henry Morse (SD/1759/3) dated 20 Nov 1759:

"Henry Morse late of the Parish of Ambleston in the County of Pembroke Mariner on board his Majesties Ship St Albans but last on board the Falmouth, deceased Intestate, be committed to Frances Morse his Mother and next of kin."

Given that David Morse Snr of Rinaston, Ambleston mentions a son, Henry, in his will of 1744, is this the same man? If so, then David Morse's otherwise un-named wife is Frances Morse. The "Falmouth" was an East Indiaman sailing as a Privateer under Letters of Marque.

The origins of David Morse Snr (late of Rinaston) have proved impossible (so far) to unravel. Mention is made in the will of Thomas Morse of Treddiog in the parish of St Edrins (will dated Sept 1733 – SD/1733/256) of his brother, David Morse (and several other siblings), but it is unclear whether this is our man. In the will David and his siblings are bequeathed “... the Mortgage of Thomas Evans on Kerbitt in the pish of Llanhowell”. This is the modern Cerbyd (OS ref. SM823275), but no further mention of the property appears to have been made. Major Jones does include the house in his aforesaid book with a mention of Thomas Evans, but I am unable to draw any conclusions. There are a number of Morse families in this part of north Pembrokeshire, particularly in St Lawrence (Terhos), St Edrens (Treddiog & Parcelle) and Hayscastle (Brimaston), but whether or how these families are connected is not known at present. Research is hampered by the unavailability of some early parish registers. Any comments or observations would be gratefully received.

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Francis Rossant – lunatic, eccentric or just a hoarder?

One day in late July 1712, shortly after the death and funeral of Mr Francis Rossant, two men went to his house in Steynton to take an inventory of his property as part of the process of proving his will.¹ All this was entirely normal and would be unremarkable but for one thing. Intriguingly, amongst the common things to be found on an inventory of this time: a few animals, some corn, items of household furniture and so on, the appraisers recorded that the deceased had owned “some old Rusty Armour, not fit for use” which they valued at a little over £1.

Reconstructing the Rossant family tree before the mid eighteenth century is not easy as the relevant parish registers are not extant. However, the name is not a common one and there are several wills besides Francis’s which give clues.

¹ National Library of Wales (NLW), SD/1712/212, available online at discover.library.wales. The will and associated documents are also available via Ancestry.co.uk but has been incorrectly indexed as Francis Robert.

It is likely that he was the son of John Rossant of Cosheston whose will had been proved in 1660.² In 1670, another John Rossant was assessed as owing tax on one hearth while Francis had two in Cosheston.³ Sometime later Francis moved with his wife Elizabeth to Steynton where they both died and were buried.⁴

In the 1720s, it was found that John Rossant, gentleman of Cosheston was not in a fit state of mind to manage his property. Nowadays we would say that he had a mental illness, but in the language of the time he was declared a lunatic.⁵ Given the family connection, is it possible that Francis suffered similarly? We have a hint that his brother David may have thought so. A further unusual feature of this case is that accompanying Francis's registered will is the record of a hearing in St Mary's church in Haverfordwest before the Bishop's commissioner. Francis's executors had complained that David Rossant was interfering with their administration of the estate and making allegations about the will. We do not have the questions that were put to the witnesses but we do have the responses and we can guess what was being asked. In answer to the first question it was confirmed that Francis was *compos mentis* and in good memory when he delivered his testament in the presence of several reputable witnesses. The court found no evidence to the contrary and David's allegation was accordingly dismissed.

So, was Francis just eccentric? Certainly there don't seem to have been many people in Steynton who kept a rusty suit of armour in their house. Perhaps it had something to do with Cromwell's siege of Pembroke Town six decades previously. Francis had cousins who had lived and traded there for many years.⁶ We'll never know for sure, but it is fun to speculate on these things and that is why I love looking at these old wills and inventories.

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² National Archives (NA), PROB11/300 f.250 (Johnannis Rossant).

³ *Pembrokeshire Hearth Tax* 1670, ed. B. H. J. Hughes (1999), p.48.

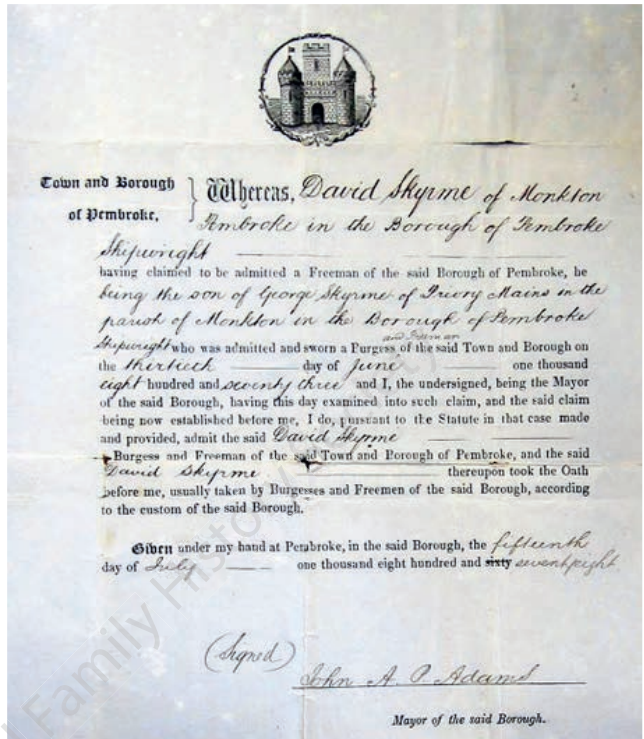
⁴ Mrs Rossant was buried 15th July 1708 and Mr Francis Rossant 22nd July 1712.

⁵ NA C211/22/R23 (1722) is the commission and inquisition of lunacy, into his state of mind and his property. See also E134/12Geo2/Hil14 and 17.

⁶ Francis made a monetary bequest to his cousin William Rossant, a tailor of the town of Pembroke. The Rossant's earlier presence in the town is shown by, inter alia, the will of Richard Rossant of St Mary's Pembroke, husbandman, proved in 1625. (NLW SD/1625/151).

Pembroke Freemen assert their rights

I have in my possession a document confirming one of my great great uncles, David Skyrme, as a freeman and burgess of the Borough of Pembroke. Freemen were typically appointed after completing an apprenticeship, as a shipwright in David's case. The freemen of Pembroke had certain rights such as grazing pigs or geese in Narberth woods, or more usefully for many shipwrights – free rides on local ferries.



This got me looking into the freemen registers held at Pembrokeshire Archives looking for all those with my surname Skyrme. On delving into the life of one of these freemen, Peter Skyrme (a shipwright descendant of the Skyrmes of Llangwm) I came across this story of freemen asserting their rights.

Peter was one of several freemen of Pembroke who in 1876 protested about a proposal by the town council to sell some land called The Commons. This was approximately 72 acres south of the town going from near Monkton Priory in the west and towards the village of Lamphey in the east. The freemen claimed that this land and other property was vested in the freemen by the Town Charter granted by Henry II in 1145. At a meeting convened in early February Peter seconded the motion of protest. The freemen were urged, as their colleagues in Haverfordwest had done, to find some tangible proof that “the property was vested in the freemen and was not to be filched and sold at the whim and caprice of any member of the town council”. He was nominated to

be on a committee to investigate this matter further and if appropriate to submit a memorial to the Secretary of State forbidding the town council to selling the property. The meeting was described as “somewhat noisy but demonstrably enthusiastic and unanimous”.

An outcome of the first meeting was that the freemen would inspect their land on 1st March (appropriately St. David’s Day). On that Wednesday afternoon, it was reported that upwards of 190 freemen met at the Town Hall and were then “marshalled in procession” by Peter Skyrme. With flags and banners and accompanied by a band of fife and drums, the men walked around the boundary of their land (about 72 acres in total) where at various points were boards stating “Notice – these lands are the property of the freemen of the borough of Pembroke”. I’ve found nothing about the ultimate result, though subsequent newspaper article indicated that questions of ownership and rights rumbled on.

In 1881 the council proposed banking and draining the Commons marsh described as “the property of the freemen, who are extremely jealous of their right to it, and certain other property of which they say they have been ‘robbed’.” In 1887 the freemen examined other charters (e.g. Edward IV dated 1361 and James I dated 1602) to investigate their rights. In 1888 the council proposed that the commons be drained and let out into plots, with a conciliatory tone “if the freemen agree to it”. A 1909 proposal to turn the commons into a recreation ground suggested that the council owned the freehold but that the freemen had certain rights. Perhaps one of our readers knows how these tensions between council and the freemen were finally resolved.

As an interesting footnote, there is active today a Gild of Freemen of Pembroke that was reconstituted in the mid-1980s. And evidence that harmony now exists was exemplified in May 2022 when The Master of the Gild, Councillor Dennis Evans, was elected Mayor of Pembroke.

Sources: ‘Meeting of Freemen’, Pembrokeshire Herald and General Advertiser, 11 Feb 1876; and later articles. Also <https://www.facebook.com/FreemenOfEnglandWales/>.

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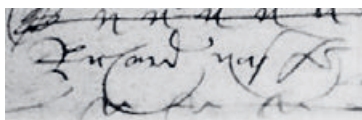
My Nash and Bowen ancestry in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthen

Part I

I learned of my NASH ancestry when I found that my ancestor Ralph LEIGH married an Elizabeth NASH. Ralph had paid Lay Subsidy tax on land in King Street ward in Carmarthen in 1597/8 (1), and had provided his pedigree to Lewys Dwnn in 1597, in which he described himself as a mercer, and his wife Elizabeth as the daughter and heiress of Richard NASH. They had probably recently married, as no children were recorded, but when Dwnn returned in 1608 he recorded that Ralph and Elizabeth had four children. This was confirmed in a longer version which appears in the Golden Grove Book, and which was copied from a pedigree recorded in 1686 by David Edwardes of Carmarthen, the Deputy Herald for South Wales (2).

Elizabeth's father Richard NASH was a merchant in Carmarthen. The Welsh Port Books recorded that he imported salt from France in 1567 and exported wheat to France in 1572 (3), and another source recorded that he sold thirty-six barrels of Bastogne wine and 200 barrels of salt (4). In 1586, when there was a famine in Carmarthenshire, he was allowed to purchase malt and corn from Bristol and other places for the shire, despite a law against transporting cereals from one county to another to prevent the artificial distortion of food prices (5). He was also one of several Carmarthen merchants who were compensated by the government in 1578 for goods that had been seized in Portugal (6). Activity in Portugal of a different kind was inferred by Richard in providing his pedigree to Lewys Dwnn in 1597, as he was described as "*Richard NASHESQUIRE, Captain in the Portugal voyage*". He had taken part in an attempted invasion of Portugal in 1589 under Drake and the Earl of Essex, in response to a request by Queen Elizabeth for reprisals against the Spanish after the Armada, and in an attempt to reinstate Don Antonio as King of Portugal, who had been ejected by Philip II of Spain (7). After initial success the invasion failed, which is why it is not included in the history books.

Richard was also involved in town affairs. The Order Book, in which the council recorded its business, reported that he was granted the lease of the quay in 1578/9, "*and the sayd Richard NASH doth covenant to keepe the key in reparacions both with lyme and stone and beames of tyMBER bound aboute in the number of 30*" (8). He was bailiff in 1572 and 1573, when he was a councillor, and he signed the Order



Book in 1581, 1582, and 1585, but he was not elected mayor.

In the published version of the pedigree that Richard had provided to Lewys Dwnn (9), Richard's wife is identified as "*Elizabeth the daughter of Harry Bowen ap David ap Owen of Llwhchmeilir*". This is incorrect, as we will see later that the descendants of Harry BOWEN the son of David BOWEN continued at Llwhchmeilir in Pembrokeshire. It is known that the editors of the published pedigree had difficulty in interpreting Dwnn's poor script and idiosyncratic layout. Evidence that Elizabeth belonged to another branch of the family comes from a dispute that Richard took to the Court of Chancery in London (10), taking advantage of the availability of the English courts following the Act of Union, as did other Welsh gentlemen of the time. He went to Thaives Inn in Holborn, one of the Inns of Court, where he got a lawyer to draw up a formal written statement for submission to the Court. This stated that Richard "*have used to live & maintain a family & household in a certain house of his within the town of Carmarthen in the county of Carmarthen in Wales And for the better giving and directing whereof your orator hath always used in his Absence to commit & leave [his furniture, money and about 60 sheep] to the review & custody of Elizabeth Nash now his wife*". He presented his case as follows. "*One Thomas ap bowen of Haverfordwest in the county Pembroke, natural brother unto the said Elizabeth your said orator's wife ... hoping to find a prey for his purpose in preferring the long absence of your said orator from his wife & family hath by sinister & crafty means practised with your said orator's wife to get & obtain into his unlawful possession all [his goods]*".

This is consistent with Elizabeth being the daughter of Henry BOWEN of Haverfordwest, in a line that can be traced back to a younger son of David BOWEN of Llwhchmeilir. Henry had a son Thomas, who would be the 'Thomas ap bowen' against whom the complaints were directed. 'Henry ap Owen, gent', was a member of the Haverfordwest council throughout the period 1539–46 when they were recorded, and on 24 January 1539/40 he was described as "*mayor and justice of the peace of the county town of Haverfordwest*". He signed "Harry Aboyn" in November 1540 (11). His son 'Thomas Abowen' was bailiff in Haverfordwest in 1563, and he was still there at the time of the case, but later he moved to Carmarthen, where he became an apothecary (12).

The BOWENs bore the arms '*Gules, two annulets interlaced Argent*', i.e. two interlaced silver rings on a red shield (13). The most reliable version of the BOWEN pedigree down to 1500 was published by Dr P.C. Bartrum in his *Welsh Genealogies* in 1974 and 1983 (14), but like all pedigrees, where documentary evidence is not available

it cannot be taken as complete proof. Llwhmeilir (Meilir's pool), the ancestral home of the BOWENs in Llandeloy parish (15), now exists as Lochmeyler Farm (shown here). It is said to have been named after MEILIR, who would have lived there in the 14th century. The pedigrees then name his son as OWEN and his grandson as John AP OWEN, from whom the family derived their surname. John is said to have married Jane the daughter of William or Alexander ROBLIN, presumably of the ROBELYN family that lived at Roblinston in Camrose parish (16).



John's son Morris BOWEN is said to have married Jonet the daughter of Richard WYRRIOT of Orielton, southwest of Pembroke, who is known to have lived there in 1384 (17). Morris had three sons: my ancestor David, William, and Roger who took over Roblinston, where his descendants lived until 1768. Morris's son David BOWEN continued at Llwhmeilir, and he married Joan the daughter of Philip LONG of Pembroke, but, as we will see below, she was not my ancestor. Their son Harry BOWEN married Elliw the daughter of Rees GWILLIM of Llystin, east of Newport (18), and their son Richard BOWEN I married Elizabeth the daughter of Sir John Wogan of Wiston. They were the parents of Elizabeth BOWEN, who married another Richard NASH (as described later), and of Richard BOWEN II, last in the line, whose daughter Catherine was born in 1560 and married John SCOURFIELD III, and whose descendants continued to own Llwhmeilir (19).

David BOWEN took as his second wife Joan HOWELL of Whitechurch, and they were my ancestors. Their son Henry BOWEN I moved to Haverfordwest to make his living by commerce, as did many younger sons of the gentry who did not inherit the family estate. Bartrum named Henry's wife as Alson ROGERS,

but I have not identified her family. Their son Thomas BOWEN is said in the Golden Grove Book (20) to have married Jane CATHARNE, presumably of the family at Prendergast (21), but she does not appear in Bartrum's version of the pedigree. Thomas's son William BOWEN married Jane the daughter of Richard BATEMAN of Haverfordwest, where a later Richard BATEMAN was mayor in 1583 (22). William was the father of Henry Bowen II of Haverfordwest, who was mayor in 1540 as described above. Henry had two sons: William and Thomas, and he seems likely, for reasons already described, to have been the father of Elizabeth who married my ancestor Richard Nash III of Carmarthen.

(Part 2 to follow in the next issue of the journal)

Derek Williams (1990)

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Jenkin Lloyd of Llangoyd, Doctor of Divinity

Sometimes when researching a particular family, a name comes into the picture which is significant in the documentation (e.g. of Wills), but without an obvious family connection. Such was the case when investigating the Phillipps's of Tregibby for another article to appear in the Dyfed FHS journal.

Jenkin Lloyd was influential in resolving what might have been a serious and expensive squabble in the affairs of Anne Phillipps of Porth Eynon (d. 1661), and subsequently I found his name attached to several other testamentary documents, where there was a lot at stake, so must have been well educated and influential, so who was he?

He wrote on one occasion from "Llangoyd", which I guessed could be Llangoedmore, on the north side of the Teifi. However, he does not fit into the branch of the Lloyds of Gilfachwen, Cilgwyn and Coedmore. Born in 1624, he was the second son of John Lloyd of Vairdre(f) Fawr, and his wife Margaret Herbert, of Dol y Cors, Cwmystwith of the Herbert family of Hafod (also in Cwmystwith). This must be the John Lloyd of Vairdre, who owned and gave name to the 'Vairdre Book', now held by the National Library of Wales.

In the following, we remind ourselves that the early skirmishes of the Civil War, with its divisive effect, had been around for some years. With the loss of Charles I in 1649, the Protectorate of Cromwell, and the Restoration in 1660, they were turbulent times.

Jenkin went to Jesus college, Oxford, where he matriculated in 1640. This was not a unique achievement for a Cardiganshire lad, as James Phillipps of Tregibby (who became a Colonel in the Parliamentary army) went on the same path some 20 or more years earlier. Jenkin went further along the academic pathway, and was awarded the M.A. in 1648, and later the D.D. His entry in *Alumni Oxoniensis* reads:

JENKIN LLOYD

s. John, of Varedreff, co. Cardigan, gent. **Jesus Coll.**, matric. 4 Dec., 1640, aged 16; created M.A. 14 April, 1648, created D.D. 12 Sept., 1661 (rector of Llandissill, co. Cardigan), sequestered to the rectory of Llangoedmore, co. Cardigan, 1646, by the Westminster assembly, vicar of Llanvihangel-Ystrad, co. Cardigan, 1661, rector of Llanychllwyddog, co. Pembroke, 1663. See *Ath.* iv. 673; *Burrows*, 504; *Fasti*, ii. 258; *Add. MS.* 15,670, p. 225; & Foster's *Index Eccl.*

Back in West Wales, 1648 was the year in which Sir Richard Phillipps of Picton died, leaving a lengthy and complex Will, witnessed by Jenkin.¹ However before long he was in London, where he was a chaplain to Oliver Cromwell (one of a number, as Cromwell “commissioned many leading Puritans to be his chaplains”).²

In 1654 he became M.P. for Cardiganshire,³ and a Commissioner in the Cromwellian administration, with lodgings assigned. He was also busy at Jesus College in Oxford, which was in religious sectarian turmoil and financial disarray in the era, becoming Bursar for a time, with some success in controlling misappropriation of funds.⁴ The words describing him include ‘nimble mind’, ‘bland tactician’, and ‘shrewd gymnastic by which Jenkin Lloyd became transformed from a Puritan Commissioner into an Anglican pluralist’.

In 1661 he was awarded the Doctor of Divinity. We are given a hint as to his motive for a return to Cardiganshire at the very end of the lengthy article cited below on the Puritan Visitation of Jesus College, and the Principalship of Dr. Michael Roberts, “... veritably he could thank his stars that the Republic’s business in South Wales kept Jenkin Lloyd of Llandyssul away from Jesus.”

In the late 1640’s, the *Committee of Plundered Ministers* was active in replacing the Anglican Ministry, based on the Book of Common Prayer, by the Puritan services of preaching and catechism, preferably in Welsh. This was implemented in Wales by the law named *Deddf Taenu’r Efengyl (1650)*. The sequence of Jenkin’s locations as Rector between 1649 and 1661 is confusing, it is uncertain how long he remained in any one post, with five parishes in all mentioned in his connection, and whether it was his religious leanings or his politics which were the issue. The other alternative might be that he was introduced into a parish, where the resident incumbent had refused to comply with *Deddf Taenu* and was sequestered. There were complex underlying issues, and ways in which an accommodation could be arranged (e.g.) by a Rector refusing to hold a service that would satisfy the Presbyterians but allow visiting clergy to do so at his church.

According to E.D. Jones, in his article *Ymneilltuaeth gynnar yng Ngheredigion*,⁵ in 1646 Jenkin was at Llangoedmore, in 1658 he was at the church of Llanrhystud but lost his place, however the same year he was again Rector of Llangoedmore, and in 1661 Ystrad (Llanfihangel Ystrad).

¹ Will at NLW, SD 1648–54.

² *The Major English Puritans* in faithbibleonline.net

³ W.R. Williams, *A Parliamentary History of the Principality of Wales*, Brecknock (1895).

⁴ Thomas Richards, “The Puritan Visitation of Jesus College ... &c.”. in Tr. Hon. Soc. Cym 1922–23.

⁵ E.D. Jones, in *Ceredigion*, vol. 4, No.2 (1961).

He became again active in Cardiganshire and Pembrokeshire legal matters. In January 1661, the same year as his D.D., he dealt with the complex affairs of Anne Phillipps of Porth Eynon, mother of James Phillipps of Tregibby and The Priory, Cardigan.⁶ James was also influential as a Parliamentarian who had worked with Jenkin on various Committees when both were MPs for Cardiganshire, so it is no surprise that he turned to Jenkin when matters got complicated.⁷ There were apparently other people interested, however Jenkin negotiated a document whereby possible claimants, including Sir George Carew of Carew, and James Lloyd of Cilrhywe, and their wives, renounced any interest in the estate. This no doubt saved prohibitive costs for all in lawyers' fees if these claims had been pursued. (Maybe he was recompensed by James, or perhaps a previous favour repaid). He was even able to write a personal covering note to a Thomas Jones, Registrar at the Carmarthen Consistory Court.⁸ Again checking the Alumni, we find that Thomas Jones of 'Tredoyer,' co. Cardigan' matriculated from Jesus, Oxford in 1641, aged 19, so they were much of an age and would have known each other a long time.

While this is a single case, it shows his extent of his contacts. Like many of his time, he adapted to the Restoration, both as a Minister of the Church, and a local expert in legal matters, the framework of both changing radically yet again, although I lose sight of him after 1661.

In the Alcwyn Evans genealogy, he married Anne Brown of Bristol, d.s.p., but from Benjamin Williams¹⁰ his wife was Elin Llwyd of Gernos. His elder brother also d.s.p. and his younger brother remained a bachelor. The Vairdre estate was subsequently divided between the four daughters of John and Margaret Lloyd.¹¹

Jenkin Lloyd's Will¹² describing him as 'Doctor of Divinity' of Llangoedmor is dated 1674, and includes wife Lettice, (possibly a daughter of John Stedman),¹³ with his sons Littleton Lloyd and Thomas Lloyd as Executors. 5 sons and 3 daughters are named. The signature at the bottom, is clearly identifiable as the same signature as elsewhere, although shakier than in earlier documents.

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⁶ See separate article on James Phillipps.

⁷ See separate article on Anne Phillipps.

⁸ SD 1661–19.

⁹ The old spelling of Troedyraur.

¹⁰ Benjamin Williams *Enwogion Ceredigion* (1869).

¹¹ See Alcwyn Evans genealogies, p. B 25.

¹² SD 1674–132.

¹³ Cambrian Quarterly No. 15, 1832.

Help Needed

The Lloyd family of Bronwydd mansion

I WAS GIVEN your details by Glen K Johnson (the history man) of Cardigan. Do you have any info on the Lloyd family of Bronwydd, please. In particular, a Jane Lloyd from the mid 1700's. The reason I ask is this, I'm a metal detectorist from West Wales and have come across a gold mourning pendant with the inscription 'JANE LLOYD DIED OCT 22nd 1782 AGED 27'. My aim is to hopefully return it to the family descendants of this person, if any still alive today.

The reason I mention Bronwydd is that in Llangunllo church, Coedybryn there is a burial record for a Jane Lloyd in November 1782, a month after the death so hopefully this is her. Coedybryn have no records of anything pre 1784 unfortunately. Bronwydd mansion or what's left of it is right adjacent the church in Coedybryn. There is also a baptism record in Cardigan for a Jane Lloyd in 1755, which could be her as I found this pendant in the Cardigan vicinity. The baptism record shows a father's name of Thomas. I know from snippets I've read online that there was a Thomas Lloyd of Bronwydd who had a daughter called Jane, but I don't have birth or death dates of this person, or if it is even her?

If anyone can help me trace the family, please contact me.

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Lewis and William Rowlands

I AM LOOKING for help finding Lewis and his father William Rowlands in Dyfed.

I have many records for Lewis Rowlands in Swansea on all census returns from 1861 to 1901. On these, his declared age gives estimated birth in all years from 1827 to 1831. His birthplace is consistently given as Newcastle Emlyn. I have, however, failed to find any relevant records on Ancestry using these details. The only information I have found so far about his father, William, is from Lewis' marriage certificate. Lewis married Mary Ann Gorwell at Bethesda Chapel in Swansea on 30th August 1864. I believe that Bethesda Chapel was a church of the Particular Baptists. The marriage was conducted by Minister

was Richard Abbott Jones and the Registrar was Jeremiah Daniel. Lewis is recorded as aged 35, giving an estimate of his birth year as 1829, within the range implied by his census records. It is recorded that he was a house painter. He signed in good longhand. Mary however made a cross, and I assume from that that she was illiterate. Witnesses were Herbert and Elizabeth Lewis. On the certificate, his father William is recorded as deceased, and as having been a glassblower. Again, I have failed to find any relevant records for William on Ancestry using these details, including searches in combination with those for Lewis.

Our family's oral history includes tales about Lewis, such as that he fought in the Crimean War, but I haven't yet been able to corroborate this. I have found a newspaper record of Lewis being fined for being drunk in Swansea on a Sunday in 1895. Perhaps his statements about where he was born, his age, and his war record were invented! If so, he did remember the fiction of his birthplace for over 40 years. But seriously, it does seem strange that using these records hasn't brought up anything even for the 1841 and 1851 census records.

Any help will be very welcome, as I've been stuck here for a couple of years. Whether or not I find records of Lewis or William in Dyfed, I am fascinated by the record of the latter being a glassblower. I would be grateful if anyone has any suggestions as to where I might find out about glassblowing, apparently in Dyfed, in the first half of the 19th century. I have also considered whether to assume William was also a Particular Baptist and seeing what records that might lead me to. Any thoughts on that idea would also be welcome.

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Benjamin Rees

MEMBERS MAY BE familiar with Benjamin Rees of Granant's 1899 book *Hanes Blaenymaun, Gerazim, Penuel*. It refers to Titus (ap) Lewis's *History of Blaenymaun Chapel*, dated 10 July 1795, which covers the period 1706 to 1795. Lewis's book was in turn transcribed into the Church Register by Deacon David Davies.

Does anyone know where there is a copy of the book or the whereabouts of that Register? A particular reason why I am interested (and perhaps other members might be) is that Lewis provides a list of the 237 members of

Blaenywaun in 1795 analysed by parish, together with the addresses of many of them. Does anyone have a copy of that list, perhaps?

I am descended from Vinsant and Martha Lewelyn (various spellings!) who left the Blaenywaun ongregation in 1799 to join Soan Chapel, seemingly as early anti-tithe agitators.

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Sinnett Family

I'M RESEARCHING my family history, in particular the Sinnett family. They mostly came from Northam, Devon, but I have a David Sennett born 1693 who possibly came from Steynton, Pembrokeshire. Would any of your members be researching Sennett or Sinnett? Also would anyone recognise this gentleman, photo taken around 1900 who maybe is a Sinnett?

Jan Lintott
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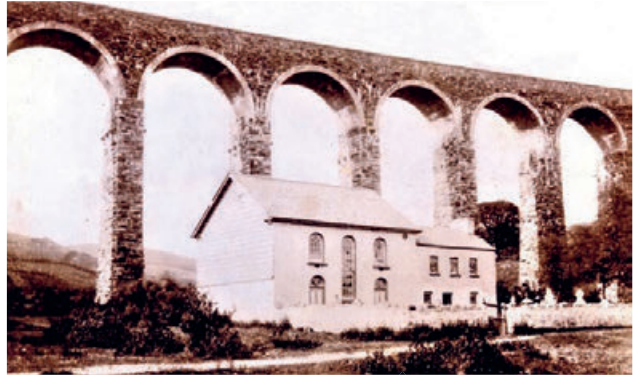
Is this a Sinnett?

Capel Gosen, Cynghordy

IT ALL STARTED in 2014 when my wife's extensive theatrical and historic costume collection needed to be rehoused as her 102 year old godfather's house was no longer available for storage. Idly looking at properties for sale in SA20, we came across Capel Gosen with a throwaway comment "look, this would be ideal; costumes stored in the vestry, and organ in the chapel for me and a tenant in the chapel flat to fund it".

After several inspections, we rather fell in love with the wonderful building which sits right by (and predates) the amazing Cynghordy viaduct. The chapel was last used for services in 2010 and, standing empty for some four years, much work was needed to restore it. Work went ahead after the Bat Survey and listed building permission had been obtained, and we were very fortunate in the team of dedicated craftsmen who undertook the work. With the help of friends, we did all the exterior painting while the scaffolding for the roof renovation was in place, renovated the vestry and updated the flat's interior.

A reopening event took place on Saturday 1st October 2016 followed by a splendid tea in the vestry. We had long since decided that my wife's costumes couldn't possibly be stored in the vestry as it was such a fine and useful space, and we also decided that the chapel itself should be used for the community and include concerts, recitals, and other events.



Pre 1922

It was at the opening occasion that we met a relative (The Rev'd Dr Wynford Thomas) who had made a study of his family which overlapped with my family, and it seemed that many of my ancestors came from Cynghordy, including Oliver Williams the blacksmith. As a child I remember being told that my grandfather, Ernest Williams, who died at the age of 94, used to take the train from Pontarddulais to stay with an aunt at Cynghordy, the family having moved to the Henty to get employment at the tinplate works in the 1890's.

Begun in 1844, the Capel Gosen buildings included a small, attached house with an outside staircase to a first storey vestry and the first services were held in 1845. Then in 1922, a two-storey extension was built on a scale which matched the chapel. It included an upstairs vestry and a caretaker's flat which was in use right up to the closure of the chapel. Like

many such buildings, the archive is very slight, and despite having contacted the Presbyterian Church in Wales and spent many hours at the National Library, as well as leafing through local newspapers (a pity the



Today

wonderful online archive ends at 1921!) we have found nothing at all about the substantial work of 1922. It seems a strange date to venture into a rather large scale development as the country was still in a rather depressed state after the First World War, and there was no expansion in population in the area resulting from new job opportunities. The number of members remained much the same until the 1940's (Hanes Methodistiaeth Sir Gaerfyrddin – Y Parch James Morris published in 1911 gives the membership as 75 in 1908), yet there must have been the funds to employ an architect (John Owen Parry from Ammanford) and, unlike the chapel, the woodwork was obviously done by a professional carpenter. It must have been a very costly project.

In October 2022 at Gosen we held an exhibition of all things to do with Cynghordy; farms and notable houses, brickworks, railway, school, places of worship, post office, people etc. and we hoped that someone would be able to solve the mystery! To date this has not happened. We were given a 1945 centenary booklet with a history of the chapel, but no mention was made of the 1922 work. The only vague possibility is that Mr Isaac Hayley (from Yorkshire) of Glanbran Mansion may have made a significant contribution as he was a Methodist, and the intriguing Hanes Methodistiaeth Sir Gaerfyrddin relates that the preacher at Gosen would have to give his sermon in English to Mr Hayley at Glanbran and was rewarded with 5 shillings and a “sumptuous dinner”. Any help to solve the “1922 Gosen Mystery” would be much appreciated.

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Jenkins/Jones of Haverfordwest

I AM A MEMBER of DFHS and, as I shall be 90 in September, I am trying to get back another generation (or whatever is possible) on my Jenkins/Jones ancestors of Haverfordwest. 1828 was the year of the death of my earliest known ancestor in Wales – Thomas Jones, Gent. father of Susannah (nee Jones – who married Philip Tirrell 1802 at Battersea St. Mary London. (I have copy of marriage certificate with both named of that Parish). Their first child was Christened at Battersea before they moved to Chelsea.

Philip must have been an Out Pensioner and I have a commemorative Nelson Trafalgar medallion which probably originated from there also my sister has a walking stick with ivory head of Wellington which our great grandmother

(Perry) was reputed to use. Susannah Tirrell nee Jones and Philip Tirrell all appear in archives of National Records – the wills of Susannah (Tirrell nee Jones) and Thomas Jones have great detail and I have copies.

Thomas Jones left a great deal of money in his will to daughter Susannah and her family (then living in Newington South London recorded as Surrey), a Long Annuity, Bank of England, also money for a ring to his great friend, a famous dental surgeon living in Great Ormond Street – who invented the dentist's chair, and who later emigrated with his wife and died abroad.

In view of the London connections, I have wondered if Thomas had business/investments or at one-time lived in London and I do not know why he died at the home of relative Mary Jenkins nee Jones named as a niece – except he was ill and anticipating death – his son had died but his son's wife and her children were left money in his will. I have never managed to trace any other links, but one of his grandsons was named Thomas after him and a London descendant was given the Christian names Thomas Jones.

Philip Tirrell was injured when serving on St. Vincent with 53rd Regiment of Foot (as recorded in National Archives) and came to London as a Chelsea Out Pensioner. Many of his descendants lived in Chelsea including my great grandmother Margaret Maria (born 1843) in Camera Square till she married George Perry of Essex and moved with him to East London where they ran a Police Lodging house (my grandfather Frederick was a Met. Policeman who lodged there, and must have met my grandmother (he was once pictured in the newspapers guarding Winston Churchill at the Sidney Street Siege).

My great grandmother's father was recorded as "conductor of bus" but some of the Tirrell family were in London businesses catering for food and drink, and two of the Chelsea Tirrell's appeared in Court at the same time as famous London coach entrepreneur Shillibeer, who went bankrupt and later sold his coaches for use in funerals.

My records after Thomas Jones' death in Haverfordwest are full and I have given information to Dyfed FHS, but the name Thomas Jones who according to his will was buried 1828 at St. MARY HAVERFORDWEST is, as one may imagine, everywhere in abundance.

I paid one researcher (with no joy) who said he thought Thomas Jones was a non-Conformist (if so why was he buried at St. Mary Haverfordwest?). His relatives Mary and John Jenkins (who he was living with at the time of his death

in Shut Street) inherited a lot of money, John Jenkins was a Haverfordwest cabinet maker who later appears with wife Mary (named as NIECE of Thomas Jones) as Proprietors of Houses (which apparently meant that they managed houses rather than owned them) and John Jenkins was an Executor of Thomas Jones' estate – or one of the Executors named in the will. Money was left to the daughter and son of Mary and John, also living at Shut Street. Mary and John were apparently of local origins and married in a Church in the area.

The will of “my” Thomas Jones is very detailed and some parts difficult to read on the copy from the National Archives. Others who appear in Shut Street were left sums of money – a milk maid, a local dress shop owner Elizabeth ? – possibly relatives.

I would be delighted if anyone may be able to help unravel where my ancestor Thomas Jones fits in to Pembrokeshire/Welsh history, especially as some of my family lived in Fishguard and I still have a nephew there who has tried searching local tombstones with no luck. Family, now in Brittany, visit and I travel as a passenger with them when they drive to Pembrokeshire, this year we are booked in Broad Haven, in early September, for my 90th.

I had my DNA done long ago by Oxford Ancestors which was intriguing but with no Welsh clues. I have always been intrigued that Thomas Jones (even taking into account the huge amount of people over centuries with the same name!) who seemed to be wealthy and appears in the National Archives records as does his daughter – is so difficult to trace. I have tried St. Mary's Church records on internet and could not find a burial there. I had hoped that the Jenkins relatives might have produced some clues but so far not. The daughter and son of Mary and John Jenkins (who all lived in same house as Thomas at the time of his death) later appear still living in same area. There is a Thomas Jones in earlier militia who could be a possibility but too vague to identify.

With my husband's family having a Scottish surname I was astonished to find on research how prolific we from the British Isles were in emigrating. In some islands in the West Indies Scottish surnames were the most prolific (I dare say no doubt Plantation owners or Overseers and had children by or married female slave workers and luckier children of these relationships sometimes went on to inherit.)

With many thanks and hoping this makes some sense.

Betty Telford (6432)

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David Harry (Harries) Mariner and Shoemaker of St Clears

DAVID HARRY was my great, great, grandfather, and he drowned in the Laugharne estuary in 1855 together with his 13 year old son George HARRY, when their boat sank en route with a cargo of Culm (Coal) from Kidwelly to St Clears. Their bodies were recovered, and both were buried together at St Mary Magdalene Church, St Clears, Carmarthenshire on 7th May 1855.

Burial record No. 262 page 33 in the Carmarthen Burials (copyright Welsh Archive Services) shows:

David Harry age 42 Birth 1813 Burial date 7 May 1855, St Clears, Carmarthenshire.

And burial record No.263 on the same page:

George Harry age ... etc.

Noted in the margin – *Both Father and Son found drowned in Laugharne River.*

In the The Pembrokeshire Herald and General Advertiser 11th May 1855 a report stated:

‘Inquest – An Inquest was held by Mr. Geo. Thomas, at St Clears, on Monday last, on the bodies of David Harry and George Harry who were both drowned by the sinking of a boat. It seems that on the previous Thursday, the men were proceeding from Kidwelly to St Clears on the Laugharne river, in a boat heavily laden with [?]. The day was stormy, and the boat carried sails. After sailing some distance up the river the boat was seen to capsize by several i(n)dividuals on the shore, and before any assistance could be rendered the two unfortunate men who were on board sank to rise no more. The Jury [found] a verdict of Accidentally Drowned.’

At the inquest the verdict was that David and George HARRY were accidentally drowned. After searching the overgrown foliage and brambles at St Mary Magdalene Church, St Clears on a number of occasions over the years, I found a memorial stone in the brambles at the side of the church. It doesn't appear to be part of their grave.

David HARRY married his first wife Mary WILLIAMS on 7th April 1840 at St Mary Magdalene Church, St Clears. David's father was Richard HARRY, a Sailor. Mary's father Jonah WILLIAMS was a Labourer. Both David and Mary were of St Clears.



The 1841 Census shows David HARRY aged 25 years and his wife Mary aged 25 years at Cliff, St Clears. Their daughter Martha HARRY was 3 months old. David is described as a Shoemaker and all the family are recorded as born in St Clears. Martha HARRY was my great grandmother. Following the death of Mary HARRY, David HARRY was married again on the 10th April 1849 at Llanfihangel Abercwywn Church, Carmarthenshire, to Anne THOMAS. David is recorded as a widower, and a Shoemaker of St Clears. His father is recorded as Richard HARRY a Sailor. Anne THOMAS' father David THOMAS was a Labourer.

The 1851 Census shows David HARRY who calls himself David HARRIES, aged 35 years, a Shoemaker, born in St Clears, at Cliffside, St Clears together with his wife Anne HARRIES, aged 27 years, born in Llanfihangel, a Shoe Binder. There are four children shown, Martha HARRIES aged 10 years, George HARRIES aged 8 years, Maria HARRIES aged 5 years and William HARRIES aged 1 month. David and Anne also had another daughter Jane who was born in 1853.

Following the death of David HARRY, his widow Anne married David REES a widower, on 26th November 1886 at St Clears Church.

Martha and Maria HARRY who continued the surname HARRIES eventually moved to Llanelli and Pontardulais on marriage, and I have been able to trace Martha's family after marriage as far as myself.

From my research I believe that David HARRY's parents were Richard and Jane HARRY. Richard HARRY, a Mariner, of St Clears, married Jane PRICE on 28th July 1807, both of St Clears Parish, at St Mary Magdalene Church, St Clears.

Richard HARRY was buried at St Mary Magdalene Church on 24th August 1835 aged 48 years, which would put his date of birth around 1787.

I have searched the baptism records and found a Richard HARRY baptised

at St Mary Magdalene Church on 24th March 1784. His parents were David HARRY and his wife Elizabeth DAVID.

I would like help in finding any information regarding the Sailors and Mariners of the St Clears rivers, which was a busy port on the river at the time. Whilst searching the graveyard of St Mary Magdalene church, I came across a number of overgrown covered gravestones of shipwrights and boatbuilders from St Clears. Also, if anyone has information regarding the actual grave locations or grave plan in St Mary Magdalene Church, St Clears would help me in my quest.

I also believe that the memorial stone to David and George HARRY which is quite a large stone, would possibly have been provided by the seafaring community of St Clears or the Parish Council.

Terry Stokes (6093)

Email: terrystokes342@gmail.com

* BREAKING NEWS *

GRO Makes Digital Image Download of Birth and Death Records Available

YOU CAN now order instant-access images of birth records from 1837-1922 and deaths from 1837-1887. Civil birth and death registration records from selected years are now available as instant-access digital images via the General Register Office (GRO) website <https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/login.asp>

Birth records from 1837 to 2021 and death records from 1837 to 1957 and 1984 to 2021 are indexed on the GRO website. Family historians have previously had the option of ordering records as either a print record for £11 with a GRO index reference supplied, or a PDF for £7. It takes up to four working days for orders to be despatched.

However, the GRO has now launched a scheme for births from 1837 to 1922 and deaths from 1837 to 1887 to be available as digital images. The digital images cost £2.50 each and are available to view immediately after purchase. There are still some anomalies where digital images are not available within these dates, be aware. Marriage records are still only available as print records (no PDF or Digital copies)

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
1357	Bennett	Richard	Farmer	Camrose	Pembr	Wales		1635	1738
1357	Bennett	William	Farmer		Pembr			1720	1800
3445	Evans	Mary		Llandello Fawr (Ffairfach)	Carma		Death	1852	1862
5694	Lile	Catherine		St David's	Pembr		b 1863	1863	1921
12327	Davies			Llansadwrn	Carma			1780	1830
12423	Owens	David	Farmer	Penbryn	Cardi	Wales	Any	1804	1874
12513	Jones	Richard		Cilycwm	Carma	Wales	Birth	1644	
12513	Jones	John		Cilycwm	Carma	Wales	Birth	1695	
12513	Jones	Hugh		Cilycwm	Carma	Wales	Birth	1718	
12513	Jones	Hugh		Orange	Virgi	UK	Birth	1724	
14427	Williams	Moses	Smithy	LLandebie	Carma	Wales		1826	1915
14427	Williams	Arthur	Farmer	Llandebie	Carma	Wales		1790	1850
14427	Williams	Moses?	Farmer	Llandebie	Carma	Wales		1770	unknown
26321	Thomas	Daniel Owen	Market Toll Collector	Cardigan	Cardi	Wales		1881	1914
34713	Laugharne			Marloes				1750	1820
36392	Clement	Joseph	Lead Works	Llanelli	Carma		All	1777	1856
38751	Evans	Various	Various	Nevern	Pembr	Wales	All	1700	1900
42411	Bowen	Owen		Ambleston	Pembr			1716	

42411	Bowen					Pembr				1691		
42411	Lewis	Anna Maria								1750		
54528	Bartlett	John	Farmer	Wiston		Pembr	Wales			1775		1838
68412				Boncath		Pembr						
71127	John/John	Gelly	Blacksmith	Pembroke		Pembr	Wales	All		1725		1825
71127	Lang	Richard	Farmer	Woodhouse Fm		Pembr	Wales	All		1725		1840
71127	Margaret	Evans	Housewife	Pembroke		Pembr	Wales	Marriage St Mary's 1760		1735		1800
74526	Lewis	Elizabeth		Milford		Pembr	Wales	Baptism		10-Jul-25		
74526	Lewis	John		Milford		Pembr	Wales	Baptism		23.03.1799		1839
74526	Watkins	Elizabeth		Milford Haven		Pembr	Wales	Birth/Death		1795		1855
74526	Ford	William	Horsekeeper	Dolgywym		Carma	Wales	Baptism		12.8.1769		
74526	Watson	Elizabeth "Betsy"		St Clears		Carma	Wales	Baptism		5.10.1797		
74526	Ford	Jane "May"		St Peter		Carma	Wales	Baptism		15.2.1824		
77221	Thomas	Benjamin		Llanwinio		Carma	Wales	Birth		1860		
78569	Davies	Edith Julia		Begelly/ Tenby		Pembr	UK	Birth/ childhood		1868		1892
81649	Morris	William	Master Mariner	Solva		Pembr	Wales	Lifestory		1825		1901
81649	Lloyd	David	Farmer	Rhos Llangeler		Carms	Wales	Lifestory		1843		1918
82468	Couper	Thomas	Ag Lab	Llandewy-Brevy		Cered	UK	Anything		1940		1983
86756	Nicholas	Evan Roberts	Master Mariner	Tresare Farm Mathry		Pembr	Wales	Life		1949		1918



Around the Branches

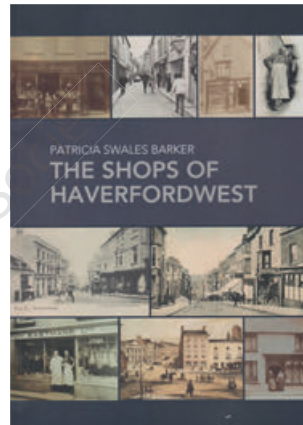
Some branches are beginning to meet again, and some continuing on Zoom. Please check with your local branches, DFHS Facebook page or DFHS website for updates.



HAVERFORDWEST

The Shops of Haverfordwest

In April, in a detailed illustrated presentation, Mrs Pat Swales Barker, BEM took us through the history of the shops and buildings of Haverfordwest, street by street. At the start she acknowledged the support given by the Heritage Fund and by Pembrokeshire County Council in publishing her book on the subject, and also her friends for their help in remembering their experiences as owners, workers or customers in the town; and for the loan of photographs.



High Street, one of the original streets of the town, has two important buildings: St Mary's Church at the top and the Shire Hall at the bottom of the hill. Some of the shops included Ralph Thomas, butcher; W H Smith & Sons (High Street), which was moved from the railway station; Potter's, printer, book-binder and stationer; C Parry, chemist; B H Munt, jeweller: a family business spanning eight generations. Down the left side of the High Street were the old post office, which became a barber's shop. Swales Music Centre ran from 1961 to 2006. T P Hughes, clothes shop opened the Haverfordwest branch in the mid 1920's. Green's Cycles also sold the Reliant three-wheeler, gramophones and 78 rpm records. The Wedding Ring Shop also made watches.

In a similar vein, Mrs Swales Barker described the premises in Market Street, Bridge Street, the Old Bridge, Quay Street, Castle Square, Dew Street (her great grandfather owned the Flannel Shop) and Portfield. Just a few of the names she talked about, such as Hilton John, clothing; Dewhurst, butchers; Ocky White; John Bull Stores; Woolworths brought back memories of happy days shopping in the town.

My Family Story

In May, at short notice, we were fortunate to have Mrs Pat Swales Barker to speak to us again about her family history. Her mother's side came from Penrhos, Bletcherston and Narberth and her father's side from Yorkshire.

Born in Haverfordwest and educated at Prendergast Junior School and Taskers Grammar School. She graduated in music at Cardiff University and following a PGCE at Goldsmiths College, London, she taught music at Lewisham and at Blackheath High School. She returned to Haverfordwest in 1977 to the family business of Swales Music Centre until 2006. For some time, she was Musical Director of Haverfordwest Operatic Society, church warden and organist at St Mary's Church, school governor and magistrate. Mrs Pat Swales Barker is a Burgess of the guild of Freemen of Haverfordwest and was awarded the BEM in 2015.

Awarded an MA in Local History in 2002, she has researched and written widely about the history of St. Mary's Church and studied the musical and cultural history of the area as well as the commercial and social history of the shops and shopkeepers of the town. We are most grateful to her.

Research at Pembrokeshire Archives

In June, we visited Pembrokeshire Archives, Haverfordwest to do further research. As always, the staff are welcoming and helpful.

Geraint Davies (4553)

LONDON

February meeting

Dr Marian Gwyn, a heritage consultant, researcher, writer and educator, spoke to the Branch on 18th February on the subject of "Welsh Wool and Atlantic Slavery". It is impossible to do justice to such a wide-ranging talk in this short report, but I will try to cover the highlights.

Although there was nothing new in slavery, the scale of the transatlantic trade, Britain's part in it, and the suffering involved, made it exceptional among other forms of human atrocity. In her view, the system was most abusive in the Caribbean, where sugar plantations had the highest death rates. The mining of

mercury was also a particularly dangerous occupation. Moreover, as the owners invested only what was necessary for production; little of the profits flowed back into the local economy, leaving it impoverished.

It used to be thought that the Welsh economy had little involvement with the slave trade, but recent research has shown how deep the links ran. Many of the products which formed the basis of the Welsh industrial revolution were fundamental to the trade. Copper enabled ships ('copper-bottomed') to travel faster and last longer and was made into currency for trade with Africa. Iron was used for armaments, shackles and industrial machinery. Lead was used to paint ships, and in the manufacture of lead shot.

The woollen fabric known as 'Welch plains', woven in mills across Wales and famed for its durability, went to clothe slaves in the Caribbean and North America. In the eighteenth century weaving in Wales was carried out on handlooms by small-scale family producers, often providing an additional rather than main income. The unfinished cloth was collected from across Wales and brought to the area around Shrewsbury to be finished and sent to Liverpool for onward shipment by the Drapers' Company, who controlled the trade.

Some of the profits from the trade were spent in Wales. Many existing country seats were improved, and new houses built, as their owners grew richer through their transatlantic profits. The most successful slave owners rose quickly through society and wished to display their new-found wealth. Among the many seats mentioned by Dr Gwyn, those in Dyfed included the Slebech estate, bought in 1795 by Nathaniel Phillips, who made his fortune in Jamaican sugar plantations and Ffynone House, built by Captain Stephen Colby, who was involved in naval runs in the Caribbean.

June meeting

The Branch AGM was held on 10 June, both in person and via Zoom. I had given prior notice that I would resign as Chair. Janet Hudson was elected to the vacancy unopposed; I'm sure the branch will be in safe hands. All the remaining officers were prepared to continue in post and were elected unopposed. I will remain as Branch representative for Dyfed FHS.

Anna Brueton (1806)

LLANELLI

IN MARCH we had no speaker as we had a lot of sorting of paperwork. We trawled through the paper which was mainly things that Gerald Thomas had accumulated and decided that we keep it all. But where would we keep it. The staff at Llanelli House kindly said we could leave it there.

In April our speaker was Rev David Jones, minister of Greenfield Chapel Llanelli. He wished to speak to us about his ministry. Born and brought up in the Seaside area of the town, he was a faithful member of Bethel chapel. He and his friends went to the chapel Band of Hope. He remembered one occasion when a man from the Temperance movement came from Cardiff to warn the children off the demon drink. This man had a beaker of pure alcohol in which he put some worms. The worms died and floated to the top. The man said that was what drink does to you, what do you think of that? One of the friends said, "If you've got worms – drink whiskey." Mr Jones told us about Sunday school trips to the Gower on two boats containing 400 children. There was no health and safety at the time.

Mr Jones worked in industry for many years and was married with a young family when he went to college in Cardiff. He lived up there during the week and only came home at weekends. While a student he had to do other jobs; he did a service in the prison, and he worked as a porter in the hospital. He also had to work in the complaints department of the council where they had many strange complaints. One he remembered was "My lavatory seat is broken, and we can't get BBC2".

He then went on to more serious things. Mr David Rees of Capel Als started Park Church where Iceland is now. Although the chapels were very full at the time after Evan Roberts' Revival in 1904, they were overflowing.

As he was coming to the end of his talk, he remembered another funny incident. Mr Jones was officiating at a wedding where the groom was a bag of nerves. he couldn't stop shaking. They got through the event and went to sign the register, his hand which was holding the pen was shaking so much that his new bride said, "For goodness sake put your weight on it", so he signed John Evans 12 stone 3lb!

In May we were treated to a very informative talk by Bel Romain on Whitford Lighthouse which is a landmark in the Llanelli area. Bel Romain works within conservation and sustainability with a particular interest in

metalwork (blackmountainconservation.co.uk). Bel was able to give us a detailed history of the lighthouse together with an analysis of why it now faces so many problems and what the options are for the future of this iconic structure in the Bury Estuary.

Shipwrecks in the Carmarthen Bay area and along the Gower coast had been an ongoing occurrence, however as trade grew in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the number of wrecks increased. Initially barrel post markers, of which there were 38 over the years, were used to warn shipping, sadly a number were destroyed by tidal action and the Bury Navigation Commissioners were asked to build a lighthouse.

The first lighthouse, a wooden pile structure, was lit in January 1855, storm damage caused repairs to be carried out, not long after it was hit by a ship and more repairs were needed. Another collision caused yet more damage and together with ongoing effects from tidal and storm action a new lighthouse was needed.

This second lighthouse was designed by John Bowen of Llanelli and was manufactured in Bridgewater by Hennet and Spink. This lighthouse was lit in October 1866. It was constructed using timber, wrought iron, cast iron, copper and concrete. Iron had become a very reliable and effective building material and in the nineteenth century Britain shipped prefabricated cast iron lighthouses across the world, including the Caribbean and Oceania. Material



for building a lighthouse at Bustard Head in Australia came from the same company responsible for the building of Whitford Point.

Whitford Point lighthouse is one of the few which has never been owned by Trinity House. Construction was brought about by the Burry Navigational Commissioners. In 1896, it passed into the hands of the Llanelly Harbour Trust. In 1997 the Trust was dissolved and the lighthouse, along with all other assets, became the responsibility of Carmarthenshire County Council.

Whitford Light House is both a scheduled ancient monument and a Grade 2 listed building, it is on the Heritage at Risk Register and is currently listed as being at risk and in very bad condition. Being a wave swept lighthouse has been a significant factor in its deterioration over time. It is now believed to be the last remaining wave swept iron trunk lighthouse in the world. In the years following its construction it suffered damage from tidal changes, marine and sewage fouling and corrosion. Biofouling – algae, molluscs and crustaceans are a significant problem. Of particular concern is the ongoing damage to the plinth. Climate change with frequent storms exacerbates the problems.

The lighthouse was used until it was decommissioned on 16th December 1920, more than a hundred years ago. Since then, no major works have been carried out apart from some work on the plinth in 1998.

Our speaker for June was local historian Lyn John who had a power point presentation of photos of old Llanelli. It started with a photo of a shop in Thomas Street called Ayres and Thomas. None of us were old enough to remember this. There were quite a few shots of Llanelli Docks at various stages in its life. Many of the old established stores were shown e.g. Bradford House, Morris the Realm and Chidzoys. Next came a shot of Ty'r Fran and Llanerch taken from the air.

Early photos of Morfa where the children were playing in the street – no sign of any cars. A photograph of the building, Gelli Onn, which was behind the Prince of Wales in Hall Street. This is where the first Sunday School was held in Llanelli When going up Gelli Onn nowadays you will see on the left wall a plaque which records the Sunday School. This building is also where the French Onion people lived during the winter months. They stored the onions in the stables below. There were scenes of Felinfoel Brewery and the old Island House. We saw photos of methods of travel, namely Trams, Trolley buses and Railways.

Chris Davies (79) & Linda Martin (5468)

CARMARTHEN

THE SPEAKER at our April meeting was Mr Chris Harte. Chris settled in Carmarthen some eighteen years ago. A very interesting fact to start his talk was that his father-in-law was one of the founder members of the Society in 1982, Mr. David Elved Treharne Lewis, membership number 3!

The talk was entitled “Writing History”. Chris started his career as a reporter with a local newspaper, then progressed to the *Sunday Times*, Harry Evans being the editor. He became an investigating journalist, around the time of the Thalidomide crisis. Chris left the *Times*, and moved to Australia, where he met many famous cricketers, and wrote thirty-three books! His journey then took him on to South Africa, to meet the people and the cultures. He has researched and written many books (the sixty fifth this year), including the Australian Society for sports history.

Nearer home after much research, are the books of Carmarthen Football club, and Carmarthenshire Hunts, these fine books were brought along for us to see. He also wrote an autobiography, there were family skeletons! Chris reminded us of the need to speak to people, record what the elderly in particular, had to say. He had so many stories, of people he had met along the way, so much information!

On May 30th members went to visit the new Carmarthenshire Archives Building in Carmarthen. The building has been designed to meet Passivhaus Standards, which is a rigorous European specification that works by insulating the building to the most effective level. The stable environment of the new Passivhaus facility will ensure that the building’s collections will be kept safe for future generations – in complete contrast to the previous building!

We were shown around the building by Mr Hayden Burns, the Senior archivist. The building is home to an extensive collection of historic documents that date from the 13th century to the present day. The collections include archives, maps, books, photographs, videos, sound recordings, Parish Registers, letters, education records, estate records and school records. Admission to the Search Room is free but must be booked beforehand and the staff can assist with any queries. During the tour we saw the two strong rooms where documents are kept and the central control room which was filled with all sorts of appliances and gadgets which ensure that the environment in the building is always stable. It was a most interesting visit, and we thank Mr Burns for guiding us around the building.

Eric Davies (3000)

ONLINE DISCUSSION GROUP

OUR ONLINE Discussion Group continues to thrive with 130 or so members registered to receive the Zoom link every month. Unfortunately, we had a problem connecting to the meetings in May & June but we will have that solved for the July session. Thankfully, using the ID and password codes has enabled most to log in in time for the talks. Apologies to those of who might have missed out. When permitted by the speakers, we will send out the PowerPoint slides upon request.

In May, Patricia Hood-Williams took us on an interesting journey with her Quaker Lewis family from Narberth in Pembrokeshire to Narberth in Pennsylvania. She included numerous maps and photos showing the familiar Pembrokeshire place names repeated in the settled areas around Philadelphia. I soon realised that I had attended a Cymanfa Ganu last August as part of the North American Festival of Wales in the same Bryn Mawr Chapel near Philadelphia that her family had attended all those years ago.

In our June meeting, the complexities of DNA were explained very clearly by Marguerite Fletcher and she was immediately asked to present a DNA Part II covering how to use your DNA results to work through your DNA matches.

If you would like to be added to the email list, please register by ticking the box for the Online Discussion Group on your membership profile on the DFHS website.

Rosaleen Boardman (6495)

CARDIGAN

SINCE MY last report, we had an organised trip to Fishguard where we had a guided tour of the sites of interest relating to the Last Invasion of mainland Britain in 1797. A group of French mercenaries attempted an invasion near Fishguard which was not successful. During their preparation for battle with the local militia, they discovered a large cache of wines and brandy from a local shipwreck which – excuse the nautical term- scuppered their chances of success. It was widely reported that a local woman, Jemima Nicholas and friends, rounded up some of the French, armed only with pitchforks and other farming implements. Our expert guide Edward Perkins was very informative and interesting.

In June, we had Richard Ireland, a retired university lecturer, talk to us on Crime and Punishment in Ceredigion. Richard has been a guest on some Radio 4 shows as well as being a participant on the BBC One Show twice. He is also the author of several books concerning Crime and Punishment. Richard gave a good presentation, was very informative and interesting with plenty of humour thrown in as well.

We have three local chapels where the MI's have not been recorded and it is our intention to complete these over the next few months. Dates to do this work has not been agreed so far but will be agreed at our July meeting, please check with our secretary if you wish to participate.

We continue to man our research room on Tuesday's and Thursday's which is now getting busy with the summer season approaching. Some of our members are also assisting our local Historian Glen Johnston to scan, catalogue and file an endless amount of material ready for display. Ken James is now a guide at Cardigan Castle and has already taken several groups around, I expect he will get busier over the summer months!

Phil Davies (5741)

UPPER TOWY VALLEY

OUR FIRST speaker of the new season was Mr Terry Norman of Ammanford.

Terry's talk to us this evening was on the Dynevor family and the influence they had on place and street names in Ammanford and the surrounding area.

The two main landowning families were the Earls of Cawdor and the Dynevors. The Cawdors owned a great deal of land in the Gwendraeth Valley while the Dynevor family's land was concentrated around Llandeilo, including Ammanford and the Amman Valley.

The Cawdors at one time owned 100,000 acres in Carmarthenshire and Scotland. They owned land around Llandeilo but most of the money came from the Ammanford area where the industry was. All coal under the land belonged to the landowners and to be able to mine for coal the land had to be rented and royalties paid.

It was generally the landowners who were asked to decide upon the names of new streets, and they would usually name them after themselves or members

of their family. Also, of course, streets would be named after influential industrialists, tin work owners and coal mine owners – in many cases these would be the landowners.

High Street in Ammanford was the main shopping centre. College Street was named after the college established next to the arcade by local chapels, under the influence of Watkin Wyn, who saw the need for education for poorer families and for children who worked in the mines. The chapel in Hall Street was also used as a college. After studying for two years, many went on to become school teachers or ministers, preaching for 7/6, plus three meals a day, often having to walk up to eleven miles to chapels such as the one at Gwynfe. After three years they were qualified. Teaching also went on in the hall of Gellimanwydd and Gwynfryn school at Brynmawr Avenue near All Saints Church which was built in 1915.

Terry showed us photographs of Wind Street and Quay Street from postcards – originally black and white, they would have been painted by hand, usually by women working in factories. The name Quay Street probably came from the fact that the river Amman was nearby. Until 1890 the river there was crossed by ford. A photograph of 1900 showed New Inn on the square, partly blocking the street. It was demolished in 1905.

Streets in Tirydail were named after the children of Colonel W. N. Jones, M.P., of Dyffryn House, who owned Tirydail Colliery, the tinplate works and the gas works: Harold Street, Norman Road and Florence Road.

Treforris in Betws was named after the dignitary Colonel Morris who built Brynffin in Betws – Colonel Road was also named after him.

Most council housing estates were constructed after World War II, only a few being built after the First World War, one of which was Iscennen in 1921, one of the oldest in Britain. Iskennen was originally a manor of this area, extending from the river Cennen to the river Amman. One of the titles of Lord Dynevor was Lord of Iskennen.

The Dynevor family was descended from Sir Rhys ap Thomas, 1449-1525, who is buried in St. Peter's, Carmarthen. Towards the end of the fifteenth century, Henry Tudor was one of the few people left who had a claim to the throne, then held by the Yorkists. Rhys ap Thomas from Llandeilo joined Henry and added significantly to his army. Terry reminded us that it is said to be Rhys ap Thomas who killed Richard III. Rhys ap Thomas's bed, moved from Derwydd to St. Fagan's, is ornamented by scenes from the Battle of Bosworth,

and the weapon marks on the bones of Richard III found in Leicester corroborate the fact that it was Rhys ap Thomas who killed him. Rhys was not given a title but a knighthood and land in Carmarthenshire, Glamorganshire and Pembrokeshire.

Henry VIII had Rhys ap Thomas's grandson beheaded and his lands taken away. His descendants retrieved the lands, 10,000 acres of which were in Carmarthenshire. The first Lord Dynevor was created in 1780. One of Rhys ap Thomas's descendants, George Rice, was invited to George III's wedding and coronation – he carried the crown and gave it to the Archbishop of Canterbury. He married Cecil de Cardonnel, daughter of the first Baron Talbot, whose title was passed to his daughter, and then to her husband. Talbot Road was named after the first baron.

Many other streets in Ammanford have been named after family members – Walter Road was named after the sixth baron, Walter Fitzurvan de Cardonnel Rice. He married Margaret Child-Villiers, eldest daughter of the Earl of Jersey, hence Villiers Road in Parcyrhun and Rice Street in Betws. Union Street was named after their wedding.

Today's Baron Hugo is the tenth baron. The eighth baron died shortly after the seventh and because of death duties, much land was lost. The family had agents to look after their land administration and management. Three generations of the Bishop family carried out this work. Bishop Road in Parcyrhun carries their name. Other traces of the Dynevors can be found – the Dynevor Tinplate Works and the Dynevor Arms Hotel, Pantyffynnon; the Dynevor and Maesquarre Colliery in Betws and Dynevor Terrace Tirydail. In the Amman Valley the Raven Colliery takes its name from the family's coat of Arms. There is also the Raven Tinplate Works and the Raven Arms Hotel and numerous Dynevor Cottages.

In Swansea is Dynevor Railway Station, the London line, and Dynevor School where Harry Secombe and Spencer Davies were pupils. There are also many Dynevor names in Neath.

In March our speaker was one of our own members, Sarah Jones. Sarah has recently been on a visit to Patagonia, to raise money for the Marie Curie charity and she spoke to us of her travels in this Welsh community.

Sarah collected £5,500 for the charity. Altogether £230,000 was raised for end-of-life care and bereavement counselling for Marie Curie in Wales. Our grateful thanks to Sarah.

We were saddened to hear that one of our faithful members for many years, Mrs Eirlys Faulkner, had recently passed away.

In April the Heritage Centre opened once again and we began our rota for the Family History Research Room. We also set up our Coronation display complete with King Charles and Queen Camilla in full regalia! At the end of the month, we had a fascinating and entertaining talk from Mr. Jeremy John on Dolaucothi and Caio.

At the beginning of May we attended the unveiling of the memorial to hymnwriter William Williams, Pantycelyn, outside the Heritage Centre. This beautiful sculpture was created by renowned sculptor Gideon Petersen, who, with his brother Toby, created the statue of Llewelyn ap Gruffydd on the castle hill. Their father, sculptor David Petersen, was also present at the unveiling. The memorial is made of stainless steel, depicting musical staves and hymn sheets of William Williams' work. Speaking at the ceremony were Mayor of Llandoverly, Councillor Handel Davies; the Venerable Randolph Thomas, Chair of the Council at the University of Wales Trinity St. David and Professor E. Wyn James, expert on the life and work of William Williams, who lived from 1717 to 1791 and wrote over nine hundred hymns. The ribbon was cut by Cecil Williams, a descendant of William Williams, and his wife Cynthia, who still live at Pantycelyn in Pentre Tŷ Gwyn, with younger generations of the family also present. The ceremony ended with William Williams' hymns being sung by Llandoverly Male Voice Choir and tea in the Heritage Centre.

In May, too, we met to change our window display to coincide with the Urdd Eisteddfod coming to Llandoverly this year and visited the new Archives at Carmarthen, where we were given a tour by Archivist Mr. Hayden Burns, being shown the new measures for preserving the archives along with the storerooms with their moveable shelves containing thousands of records. Our thanks to Hayden.

From the opening of the Urdd Eisteddfod at the end of May we met each day at the Heritage Centre where our records were available in both our research room and new gazebo marquee for the many visitors arriving at the town. We had a busy and interesting week. We now look forward to the summer when we shall be carrying on with our transcriptions of local memorial inscriptions.

Moiria C. L. Evans (39)

Editor - Sorry to say I had to reduce this report to fit, the full report and photos are on the Upper TowyValley Spotlight on the website

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
41265	Mrs Rebecca Sanders	Mabe Burnthouse Cornwall UK	becalan@talktalk.net
81165	Mr Ian McGowran	Beeston Nottinghamshire UK	imgowran@outlook.com
77221	Mrs Catherine Martin	Narangba Queensland Australia	cathylmartin@bigpond.com
12423	Mr Phil Williams	Leicestershire UK	phil@williamsfamilytree.uk
54528	Mrs Maureen Burton	Tamborine Mountain Queensland Australia	me.burton@icloud.com
41948	Ms Janet Meredith Williams	Shoeburyness Southend-on-Sea Essex UK	
89323	Mr Stephen Boots	Southsea Hampshire UK	
88689	Mrs Anna Evans	Penylan Cardiff Wales	evanswda@brinternet.com
88522	Mrs Helen Hall	Badsey Worcestershire UK	helen@lctkd.com
75592	Miss Sarah Bassett	Llanelli Carmarthenshire Wales	
95865	Mrs Yvonne Caul	Bow Street Ceredigion Wales	yvcaul@brinternet.com
82468	Mr Ian Cooper	Wirksworth Derbyshire UK	Ianacooper@lineone.net
15376	Mx Ffion Lewis	Bristol UK	ffionmailewis@gmail.com
15855	Donna Stanton	Shawnee KS USA	stanton.donnak@gmail.com
68412	Mrs Vicki Michaelson-Yeates	Boncath Pembrokeshire Wales	vicky@michaelson-yeates.me.uk
35123	Dr Joanne Clark-Matott	Newton Upper Falls MA United States	joanne.matott@gmail.com
99952	Mrs Sandra Baylis	Claygate Esher Surrey UK	
99637	Mrs Emma North	Allscott Telford Shropshire UK	emma.north01@gmail.com
64396	Mrs Wendi Freeman	Garnant Ammanford Wales	missmagnum37@gmail.com
91711	Mr Stephen James Williams	Perth Western Australia	skwilliams@westnet.com.au

19887	Nick Nielson	Taylorsville USA	germanicelt@yahoo.com
71127	Edgar Johns	Toronto ON Canada	grumpykimberjohns42@gmail.com
18612	Ms Susan Brockhurst	Haverfordwest Pembrokeshire UK	susanbrockhurst769@gmail.com
14427	Mrs Irene Evans	Betws Carmarthenshire UK	evansj@hotmail.co.uk
85512	Mrs Sally Mair Ralphs	Hereford UK	
15632	Miss Lucy Morris	Trowbridge Wiltshire UK	
61492	Mrs Carol Broadbelt	Burnley Lancashire UK	cbroadbel88@icloud.com
42411	Mrs Nicolette Smith	Quainton Buckinghamshire UK	
86756	Miss Jessaline Rose Caine	Ripley Surrey UK	jessalinerose@outlook.com
81649	Mr James Morris	Kidwelly Carmarthenshire Wales	pjmorris53@hotmail.com
25886	Mr David William Kerrison	Solva Haverfordwest Pembrokeshire Wales	davekerrison@btinternet.com
74526	Mrs Leslie Randle	North Orem UT USA	lesliebrandt@gmail.com
33588	Mr James Power Butron	Milford Haven Pembrokeshire Wales	
44759	Mr Wynne Jones	Energlyn Caerphilly Wales	wynnejonnes70@yahoo.com
41847	Mrs Glenys McBurnie	Aberystwyth Wales	glenmcb@googlemail.com
98128	Ms Shirley Mannynvali	Coquitlam British Columbia Canada	b2smanny@hotmail.com
55445	Bronwen Lewis	Ingleton Co Durham UK	langcres@hotmail.co.uk
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84144	James Heffernan	Bridgewater Massachusetts USA	
78782	Dr Ann Warlow	Larkspur Douglas USA	Anaybackbeebe@gmail.com
42186	Mr Iwan Evans	Cwm Dyserth Denbighshire Wales	
81735	Mrs Brenda Rees	Llandeilo Carmarthenshire Wales	brendarees@live.co.uk
78569	Mrs Susan Creasy	Bristol UK	sue.creasy@btinternet.com
53116	Mr Huw Harries	Bowling Bank Wrexham Wales	cnocil1961@gmail.com

24434	Ms Joy Mortimer	Ilford Greater London UK	mortimerjoy@yahoo.co.uk
14843	Mr Anthony Gough	London UK	
14651	Mr Lloyd Thomas	Newcastle Emllyn Carmarthenshire Wales	lloydthomas464@gmail.com
77115	Mrs Louise Oakley	St Julians Newport UK	louiseoakley@virginmedia.com
82277	Mr Trevor Hughes	St Davids Pembrokeshire Wales	trev7791@outlook.com
67598	Mr David Thomas	Llandoverly Wales	
36827	Dr Colin Whitney	Valley Center CA United States	cwhitaz05@hotmail.com
95343	Lucy Davies	Wrexham Wales	
33435	Mr Robert Dunsdon	Bardwell UK	bob.dunsdon@btinternet.com
88565	Mr Christopher Norman Thomas	Newron Abbot Devon UK	yesstor@btinternet.com
12513	Mr James Garland Jones	Shreveport Caddo USA	jgJones09@gmail.com

Obituary

<i>Membership No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Joined</i>
76153	Mrs Norma Boulwood	2022
3081	Mrs Elizabeth M Fantham	2001
2885	Miss Cathryn Davies	2000
<i>Past Member</i>		
3322	Mrs Jean Williams	2002

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 Hwlffordd

Please check Facebook, Website Events or with the Secretary for details.
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 membership

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