

CYLCHGRAWN HANES TEULUOEDD DYFED

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DYFED FAMILY HISTORY JOURNAL

Volume 14 Number 6
August 2022

Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Dyfed Family History Society

REGISTERED CHARITY No. 513347

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Llymydd The Bishop of St Davids.

Chairman **Position vacant (tba)**
Cadeirydd

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9 St Peter's Street, Carmarthen. SA31 1LN

Ceredigion County Archivist

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

Pembrokeshire County Archivist

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

The Representative of the NLW

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

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Indexing Project **Rosaleen Boardman (6495)**

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* TRUSTEES

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

Please quote your membership number in any correspondence.

Work on the **December Journal** will begin as soon as this one
finishes but the deadline for copy is **15 October 2022.**

Welcome to the 40th Anniversary issue of the journal. I hope that the content brings back a few memories for some and a glimpse into the Society's past for others.

In future years when our descendants are researching us, they will obviously discover 2020–2022 as “The Covid Years” much as we view 1918–1920 as the influenza pandemic aka “Spanish Flu” which killed 17–50 million (or more) souls; and our earlier ancestors saw 1356–1353 as the “Black Death” which killed 75–200 million!

I hope that all members have enjoyed Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 70th Jubilee celebrations. Many of us have only known one Queen but our research has led us back into the reigns of many other monarchs!

Over the last 40 years our journal has been and will hopefully continue to be the main form of contact between members, even if it migrates to being an electronic copy in years to come. With the coming of the internet and social media we only hope to expand and improve this contact. Our committee are dedicated to improving the website offerings – shop, resources, journal archive, MIs and members interests. We hope to have the Welsh version up and running this year. Expanding the way members and non-members alike can interact via face to face meetings, Zoom meetings, Website and social media.

The Society exists to serve anyone interested in genealogy, family history and local history in the Dyfed counties of Cardigan (Ceredigion), Carmarthenshire (Sir Gaerfyrddin) and Pembrokeshire (Sir Penfro) but it is only through the participation of our members that we can survive, from paying subscriptions, volunteering on committees, writing articles for the journal, transcribing MIs or just offering to help other members with their research.

I have spent the last few months reading every journal from the last 40 years and was staggered by the amount of information that is held within those pages. I would encourage members to “take a trip down memory lane” you will be amazed what our Society got up to.

On a personal note, I would like to remember and thank all the past editors who did a sterling job right from the word go in 1982 – without the aid of the technology we take for granted these days. You will find their details and others later in this edition. Here is to the next 40 years!

Editor

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Branch Meetings & Other Events

(The venues for branch events are listed inside the back cover)

Cardigan Branch

- Sep 5** Old Maps and Roads in Cardiganshire – Helen Palmer County Archivist
Oct 3 Members discussing their own Research (room to be announced)

Carmarthen Branch

- Sep 28** Carmarthen Night Life, Mr Andrew Padfield
Oct 26 War Graves: An afternoon visit to St David's Church Cemetery led by Mr Richard Goodridge
Nov 30 Impressions of Carmarthen by Mr John Green

Haverfordwest Branch

- Sep/Oct** Research Day at Pembrokeshire Archives (tbc)

Llanelli Branch

(note new venue Llanelly House, new time 2pm)

- Sep 19** The Surprises of Family History by Maria Aitkin

London Branch

- Sep** London walk taking in sites of Welsh interest (details to be finalised)
Nov ZOOM meeting (tbc)

Upper Towy Valley Branch

- Sep (tbc)** Guided Tour of Llandovery – Mr Hugh Davies
Sep 17–18 Llandovery Sheep Festival, Llandovery
(<https://llandoverysheepfestival.co.uk>)
Oct 24–28 Visit to Yorkshire, based in Harrogate (further details from branch)
Nov (tbc) Christmas Dinner

1022 Battle of Abergwili

- Aug 13** Bishop's Park, Abergwili (for details see www.parcyresgob.org.uk)

The Family History Show

- Sep 24** 10.00–16.30 Kempton Park Racecourse

Local History Book Fair

- Oct 29** 10.00 – 4.00pm Swansea Museum

FHF Really Useful History Show

- Nov 11–12** Online (see <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>

Presidents and Chairmen

President – Bishop of St David's

1983–1992	Right Rev. George Noakes
1992–1996	Right Rev. John Ivor Rees
1996–2002	Right Rev. David Huw Jones
2002–2008	Right Rev. Carl Cooper
2008–2017	Right Rev. J Wyn Evans
2017–present	Right Rev. Joanna S Penberthy

Chairman

1982–1983	William Phillips (2)
1983–1988	John Rowlands (7)
1988–1991	Mrs Thelma East (76)
1991–1992	Rev. Canon H P Fuller (231)
1992–1993	Mr Ken D Evans (1118)
1993–1996	Mr Peter Gibby (526)
1996–1998	Rev Tom Evans (921)
1998–2000	Mr Ted Hackett (955)
2001–2005	Mrs E M Williams (36)
2005–2009	Mr Henry Ferguson-Thomas (3157)
2009–2011	Mrs Ann Owen (949)
2011–2014	Mrs Rosalie Lilwall (123)
2014–2017	Mr Huw James (4577)
2017–present	Vacant

General Secretary's Report

AS YOU MAY have noticed, most of this journal has been about our 40th anniversary. Some members have been singled out, we have included a list of society chairmen for example, but there have been a lot more volunteers who have gone unmentioned but are very much appreciated. From the minute secretaries, branch secretaries, researchers and coordinators to the volunteers putting chairs out and making the teas you are the backbone of the society. Many people have volunteered for more than one role, very often at the same time, we thank you for this, I know how difficult it can be. Thank you to those who contribute to the journal, I have spent a few weeks looking back at your articles and thank you also if you have been a speaker at our meetings. If you have any memories about the last 40 years then we'd love to print some in the next edition, please let us know what you'd like to see in the next 40 years too!

We had an excellent AGM in April, there was a good turnout (apologies for the early start in Kansas, Donna), and a lot was achieved. We have decided to start an online branch, more details when we have decided how to do it. There was a small change to the constitution to allow the Treasurer to make online payments to the publishers of the journal.

We made Betty Davies an Honorary Life member in recognition of her many years volunteering for the society.

We hope to revamp our Facebook page next year, hopefully this will allow people to ask questions to help with their research. We also hope to branch out into Twitter and Instagram, two areas of social media of which I am totally unfamiliar.

Some new names you will hear a lot in the coming months, David Cuffley, Sarah Barker and Rosaleen Boardman – more details later in the year.

Another new name is Gareth Morgan who has volunteered to become our new webmaster, this should enable us to make some real progress on making our website more bilingual.

Keep an eye on the Society Spotlight on our website for any up to date news.

Colin Potter (5576)

Vol 1.1

Aberystwyth started in mid July 1982 with Rev Stephen Morgan (5) as its chair and unfortunately folded in April 1992.

General Secretaries

1982–1983	Mr D ET Lewis (3)
1983–1989	Miss Moira C L Evans (39)
1989–1992	Mrs Angharad Rhydderch (501)
1992–1995	Mrs Jean Istance (168) (also 1999–2000)
1995–1998	Mrs Ann Owen (949)
2000–2003	Mr John James (2580)
2003–2007	Mrs Beti Williams (1315)
2008	Mrs Sandra Davies (3166)
2009–2010	Mr Robert Jones (2623)
2010–2014	Mr Huw James (4577)
2014–present	Mr Colin Potter (5576)

Membership Secretaries

1983	Mr E Griffiths Walters (8)
1990–1993	Mrs Helen Mosey (30)
1993–1997	Mr Mike Flude (1653)
1998–1999	Mr John Hughes (1946) * (also 2008–12)
1999–2002	Mr John James (2580)
2002–2004	Mr W Glyn Howells (2524)
2004–2007	Mrs Juli Rees (3214)
2012–2019	Mrs Joan Beckingsale (4120)
2019–present	Mr David J Skyrme (6232)

* also Internet Co-ordinator, in Aug 1998 provided first email address.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir/Madam,

CARMARTHEN RFC (Quins) are looking for a volunteer to help them complete the research into the club's history and would dearly like to have this completed by 2024/2025 when the club celebrates its 150th year as a rugby club. We have done some extensive research on microfilm and on-line from 1874/75 to 1919/20 and found out so much we did not know about the club's history. However, we have a great deal still to learn about seasons 1920/21 to 1949/50. This includes our lack of knowledge on club officials (which are usually found at AGM's), match reports, issues of special interest and names of players who turned out to play each week. We are seeking someone who has the time and necessary skills to work on microfilm records of local newspapers for this thirty-year period. If any of your members are interested in taking on this task, would they please contact me so that we can discuss in more detail how we can work together to complete the club's history.

Yours sincerely

Percy Jones – Club Historian

Email: jpjones@talktalk.net

Hi Cate,

THIS LINK WAS in the Lost Cousins Newsletter and thought it might be of interest to members if they don't already know about it.

The Annotated Index to the Parish Registers of England and Wales available for free on the internet archive. It lists the parishes that have registers earlier than 1813 (some may be in private hands).

<https://archive.org/details/keytoancientpari00burkuoft/page/n51/mode/2up>.
Ones on this page have parishes in Cardigan & Carmarthen listed.

I am finding the article on Agricultural labourers very interesting in the latest DFHS newsletter.

Rosaleen Boardman (6495)

William Nevin and the Story of Pembroke Dock 1900–1960

A RECORDING of the 30-minute talk given at the Pater Hall on ‘William Nevin and the Story of Pembroke Dock 1900–1960’, to mark the anniversary of the Hall’s official opening on December 11th, 1957, has now been uploaded on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuJgmJuGl28&t=1356s>

The Pater Hall was opened by Alderman and Mrs W Nevin, then Mayor and Mayoress of Pembroke Borough. In the talk, their grandson Michael recalls their lives and tells the story of Pembroke Dock during the first sixty years of the 20th century through two World Wars and the Great Depression, before better times arrived in the 1950s.

The talk concludes with the story of the last flight of the Sunderland Flying Boat into Milford Haven in March 1961 and calls for its return to be on permanent display in Pembroke Dock. “The role that the town and its people played during the nation’s darkest hour is often overlooked, yet it should be remembered, and indeed remembered with honour. And what better memorial could there be than the return of the last Sunderland for permanent display here in Pembroke Dock, as the citizens of the French Republic intended when they donated their last flying boat to the people of Pembroke Dock sixty years ago, as their salute for the part that Pembroke Dock played in winning the Battle of the Atlantic and the contribution, they made to the liberation of France in 1944.”

Michael Nevin

Dear Cate

I AM THE great-great-granddaughter of Jac Ty-isha (John Hughes) of the Rebecca Riots and I am writing from Victoria, Australia.

It has occurred to me that your readership might be interested in the fact that my book, *No Ordinary Convict: a Welshman called Rebecca*, is now available as an Amazon Kindle e-book. They can even check it out first, before downloading at a fraction of the price as a hard copy.

Cofion cynnes

Janine Marshall Wood – Author

My Journey Through Family History – 2. South & West Wales By John E. Hughes

JOHN HAS kindly donated some copies of his book to the Society, if you are interested please contact the Editor.

Cate,

I THOUGHT you'd be interested to know how eagerly the journal is received by some members. I had two email queries from my article in last quarter's journal about John Crosse Crooke. One of these queries arrived before my own copy had even come in the post, the other the day after!

Helen Rees (625)

Editors

1982–1984	Mrs Sheila A Rowlands (7)
1984–1987	Mr William H Howells (78)
1988–1989	Dr Janet E Marx (716)
1989–1995	Mrs Sue Passmore (602)
1995–1999	Mrs Jean Istance (168)
1999–2003	Mrs Francesca Llewellyn (437)
2003–2005	Mrs Rosalie Lilwall (123)/Mrs Ann Owen (949)
2005–2008	Mrs Ann Owen (949)
2008–2018	Glyn Macken (3481)
2018–present	Cate Hobbs (2872)

Vol 5.5 – 1995

It was noted that the LDS had opened a Family Search Centre, Cardigan Road, Newcastle Emlyn SA38 9RD (01239) 711472 and it is still in operation today (it was the first to open in Dyfed).

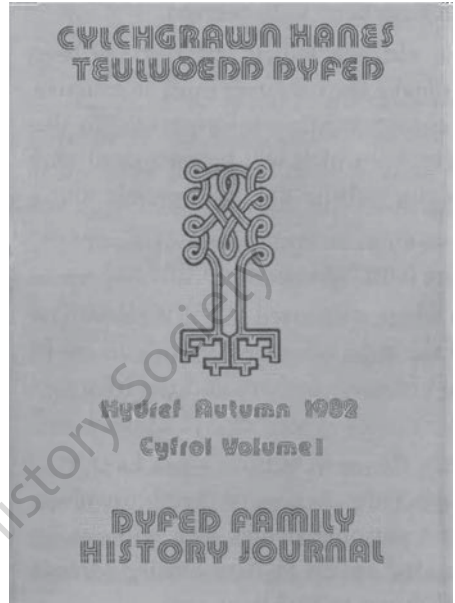
Extracts from the First Journal

Volume I Number I – Autumn 1982

FROM THE EDITOR

Success in tracing your family history - is so much more interesting than your 'family tree' alone - depends to a large degree on luck combined with determination. The latter is probably of more importance in Wales, where records are fewer and were once less well-kept. The chances of success are greatly increased by contact with other family historians who are willing, in large numbers, to share their knowledge with others. That Dyfed has its share of such folk is something I can vouch for, from my own experience in recent years, even if you could not deduce it from our fast-growing membership. It is both a great honour and a very real pleasure to be entrusted with the task of producing this Journal which will be the medium for so much co-operation and friendship between those who share Dyfed ancestry.

Eyebrows can be seen ascending as mental note is made of the Editor's address, so a word of explanation is due. Few aspects of FHS work can be done by post but editing from a distance is one which has many precedents. Nonetheless, the arrangement has been made in the knowledge



that I shall shortly return to live in the county, where I was born and brought up, which I still haunt frequently and where my own research is centred.

The rest of us must be ever thankful to those who worked for the Society in its early days. Bill Phillips, our Chairman strove to bring it into existence; he has, moreover, shown great faith in this Journal. David Lewis, our Secretary and David May, our Treasurer, must by now have quite forgotten what 'spare time' is, such has been the pressure of work in a few short months

- they and others on your committee have worked hard on your behalf, while still trying to fit their existing full lives into the demands of a Family History Society.

The logo of the Society, based on a motif from the Nevern Cross, is the work of Lynne Davies (12), who incorporated it into his excellent design for our cover. The illustrations are also his and the maps are by John Rowlands (?); they all add much to this Journal. My thanks go to Peter Dawkins Palmour for typing the

birth brief and, indeed, to all who have given their support. Not least among these are the authors of the articles in this issue who responded to requests for contributions in spite of the fact that the first issue was an unknown product to them all. I am most grateful to them and know that you will enjoy reading their work. Finally, I must thank Janice Whiley for the typing and her help in getting the layout right.

SHEILA ROWLANDS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Over recent years, Family History research has become an all-absorbing interest for many people in this country, and also, perhaps, more so for many people in other countries with roots in Britain. To assist the many family historians a variety of Family History Societies have sprung up all over the country. In Wales, for instance, there are now Societies covering Clwyd, Gwynedd, Powys, Gwent and Dyfed, in addition to the South Wales Society which originally covered all of Wales.

The Dyfed Family History Society, which was inaugurated on 3rd April 1982, caters for the requirements of family historians

in Dyfed, which incorporates the old Counties of Cardigan, Pembroke and Carmarthen. In order to provide adequate coverage of this large geographical area, the main Society Meetings will be held quarterly in Carmarthen, with monthly Branch Meetings in Llanelli, Carmarthen, Haverfordwest, and Aberystwyth. With this arrangement, and the facility of being able to attend whichever meetings suit their requirements, it is hoped that all Society Members will derive the maximum benefit from membership.

If early indications and response are anything to go

by the Dyfed Society will be active and successful. We had upwards of 200 enquiries before inauguration, and at this stage, two months later, we have 130 paid-up members with more coming in all the time.

Naturally, it will take a little time before the Society and all of its branches are fully operational, but even now, with two branches at Llanelli and Carmarthen working, it is evident that there is tremendous enthusiasm which augurs well for the future.

With four other branches of the Society in operation, there should be plenty of material and articles forthcoming for inclusion in the Society's quarterly journal. I would appeal to every member to support the Editor actively. I need hardly tell you that it is your Society, and the Journal is the meeting place for your ideas and interests. If you have not previously considered contributing items of interest to a Journal of this sort, give it some thought; if you need help in putting your thoughts into print, that can be arranged.

In a Family History Society, there is obviously a cross-section of researchers, varying from beginners to experts. It is hoped that much mutual assistance will evolve to the benefit of all concerned. When the time

comes, as it will shortly, for us to embark on specific projects, such as indexing records, recording monumental inscriptions, etc., I hope that we can look for the co-operation and assistance of everyone in the Society to complete this work as soon as possible.

I would like, in conclusion, to place on record our thanks for the assistance and encouragement we received from the other Welsh Family History Societies, and the Federation of Family History Societies, in the founding of the Dyfed Family History Society. In particular, Mrs Dilys Glover, Secretary of the Powys Society, Mr Bob Williams, Chairman of the Gwynedd Society, Mrs F.M. Whyatt, Secretary, South Wales Society and Mr C Pitt-Lewis, Chairman Gwent Society. In the early days when the Dyfed Society was being founded the advice and assistance received from Miss Maureen Patch, County Archivist, Dyfed, and her staff, rendered our task very much easier and it was very much appreciated. The fact that we will be able to incorporate the Society records into the County Archives will assist tremendously in the years ahead and be of mutual benefit to all concerned.

W PHILLIPS

Dyfed FHS Founder Members

In the first issue of our journal, Vol. 1 No. 1, published in August 1982, the names of the 123 Founder Members were listed. The 15 still in the Society today are listed below:

2	Mrs Maureen BARBER, Bolton
3	Mrs Margaret TREHARNE LEWIS, Carmarthen
10	Mr Stephen EMLYN-JONES, Porthcawl
25	Mr Ian G D PHILLIPS, Llandudoch
30	Mr & Mrs Gareth MOSEY, Llanelli
39	Miss Moira C EVANS, Ammanford
48	Mr Christopher J PITT-LEWIS, Shrewsbury
51	Mr Stephen P Benham, Llangynfelyn
71	Mr Eric L HARRIS, Llandeilo
76	Mrs Thelma EAST, Carmarthen
79	Mrs Christine DAVIES, Llanelli
85	Miss Elizabeth A Daniels, Llanelli
88	Mr Stephen P REES, Llanelli
114	Dr Brian P SWANN, Camberley
123	Mrs Rosalie V LILWALL, Gloucestershire

Over the past 40 years many of these names have appeared in the list of officers or as the author of articles and many are still contributing to this day. They all deserve our thanks, and the Society will present them with a small token of our appreciation for their support over the last 40 years.

The opposite pictures are of the Committee members in 1988 and 1993 taken from the 30th Anniversary journal – we were hoping to have a 2022 Committee photo in include but as yet we have not met face to face since 2019 and a picture of our ZOOM faces on the computer was not an acceptable alternative!

The Committee 1988



Standing (l-r): David James, Shirley Williams, Tracy Jones, Vic Williams, David Francis, Mary Binding, Elin Williams, Audrey Powell, Elvet Morris, David May, Connie George.
Seated (l-r): Roy Edwards, Helen Mosey, John Rowlands, Thelma East, Moira Evans, Phyllis Brazell, Peter Dawkins-Palmer.

The Committee 1993



Standing (l-r): John Jarman, Gordon Brown, Peter Gibby, Ken Evans, Gerald Thomas, Ann Owen, Vernon Jones.
Seated (l-r): Rosalie Lilwall, Jean Istance, Susan Passmore, Iain Swinnerton (FFHS President), Pauline Saul (FFHS Administrator), Chris Davies, Helen Mosey.

The Power of Education

A prime example of the power of education, a favourite topic of mine, is the story of my grandfather, Thomas Williams. This article describes his lowly beginnings in the 1860s, how he was given the opportunity to become a pupil teacher at his small, rural Pembrokeshire school and from there, how he qualified to become the headmaster of a nearby school. We see how this progression not only significantly altered the direction of his own life but also helped shape the futures of his pupils and family.

Along the way, we will see how the school admission registers and school logbooks give us not only a window into school life in those days but also an insight into the educational impact Thomas Williams had on the children of the parish including his own family.



Frogland or Frogden

In a field up the path from Carew Church towards Stephens Green Farm near Pembroke was a labourer's cottage called Frogland or Frogden. The primitive, single storey cottage was divided into two small dwellings, one occupied in 1860 by an agricultural labourer called James Williams and his wife Anne (née Macken), the daughter of the farmer of nearby Flemington Mill. There was a well close by for water, the only facility. Their first child James, born that year, tragically died just a week old. The following year a second son, my grandfather Thomas, was born at the cottage, and a third child, Jeanette, was born in 1864. From Thomas's lowly beginnings, the insecure and impoverished life of a labourer beckoned.

Thomas would have walked down the hill each morning to school in the village of Carew Cheriton. The school log book, which commences in 1871, first records Thomas requesting a day's holiday on 25 July 1871 – granted. By November 1873 Thomas is recorded as a Monitor in an Inspection report, the same in 1874 and 1875. An interesting entry for 10 December 1874 regarding school fees reads: 'The Children of Labourers – payment 2 pence weekly, must be paid in advance.' In the 1876 Inspection report Thomas was a pupil teacher of the 1st year and 'had passed well'; similarly in the 1877 Inspection report, when he was then a pupil teacher of the 2nd year. Not all was well in the early half of 1878 when the new headmaster spoke to Thomas about the unsatisfactory discipline in his class and later he was reprimanded for want of punctuality and diligence – perhaps a case of a new headmaster making his presence felt! It had the desired effect as a later entry records Thomas Williams as being very diligent with his class which had made good progress with arithmetic. The 1879 Inspection report records Thomas Williams, now pupil teacher of 5th year, passed fairly but should attend to spelling. By February 1880 his class was declared very satisfactory. The Inspection report later that year now described him as an Assistant Teacher, and records he had passed fairly and should be informed he was now qualified under Article 79 but not under Article 60, meaning he was qualified for employment as an Assistant Teacher but was not yet a certified teacher or a provisionally certified teacher eligible to take charge of a small school. During this time the sewing mistress at the school was a Mrs Williams, very probably his mother who was a dressmaker.

In the December of 1880 Thomas left Carew School having been awarded a place at the South Wales and Monmouthshire Training College, the well-established teacher training college at Carmarthen (later to be known as Trinity College, Carmarthen), starting there January 1881 aged 19. The College's role was to train young men for teaching in Church primary schools. There was a strong emphasis on sport, particularly rugby, and Thomas represented his college at both rugby and cricket, two sports he had a keen interest in all through his life.

The 8th January 1883 saw Thomas Williams, Registered Number 10676, certificate of the 2nd Class, aged 22, commence his duties as Headmaster of the Lawrenny National School. (At that time, on qualifying from college a 2nd Class certificate was awarded which could be raised to 1st Class by good service only.) The school roll was then 41 pupils out of a population of 278 at the last Census. The school building was leased from J F Lort Plillips of

Lawrenny Park on a yearly rent of one shilling. There was no playground, but the children were allowed to use Lawrenny Park as such.



Lawrenny School

The parish of Lawrenny was comparable to Carew which meant Thomas was attuned to the rhythms of a small rural school as it followed the seasons and where the weather was a significant factor in the level of attendance. At busy times on the land the older children were needed to help their parents and when the weather was bad, as it often could be, the children from the outlying farms and dwellings would not come into school. Outbreaks of infectious diseases were a constant worry and interrupted the children's education, sometimes by isolation at home but also requiring Thomas to close the school. For instance the school had to be closed for three weeks in the summer of 1891 during an epidemic of measles. Tragically for Thomas and his wife the epidemic probably took his second child, Millicent Ann, who died that July aged only 11 months.

By 1895, the contrast between Thomas and his father at a similar age was stark. Whereas his father had been an illiterate manual worker living in a humble cottage in a field, Thomas and his family were living in the School House in Lawrenny village, a two-storey house with a garden on a yearly

tenancy from J F Lort Phillips at £4 p.a. He was established in a responsible position on an annual salary of £125 16s. 9d. (unchanged from 1883!), possibly five times the income of his father. The value of Thomas's education was certainly becoming very evident.

There was, however, one similarity with his father; they both married a farmer's daughter. But there the similarity ended. Thomas's mother, Anne born in 1825, was the daughter of a farmer of 11 acres, a farm servant at age 18 and dressmaker when she married in 1860. She probably did not have the opportunity to go to school as she made her mark on the marriage register with an 'X', as did his father. On the other hand, Thomas married Mary Hughes (known as Polly) in Lawrenny Church on 19 November 1887. She came from an old St Issells farming family and had attended Lawrenny School and earlier a Dame School. Her father had brought his young family over to Lawrenny Newton, one of the larger farms in the parish at 277 acres. Tragically he died when Polly was only 12 years old; legend has it he died of a heart attack after attempting to lift a cow for a bet at one of the local agricultural shows. Her younger brother Thomas broke away from the family tradition, becoming a furnishing buyer at a large department store in London. But yearning for a return to his native Pembrokeshire he realised his dream in 1902 when he established the well-known store 'T P Hughes' in Tenby. He was elected Mayor of Tenby in 1925.

Reading the final column of the Lawrenny School admission register which recorded what happened to the children when they left school, typical previous entries were: 'To work at the home farm', 'To be a domestic servant', or 'To be a labourer'. The zeal of Thomas Williams for his pupils to reach their potential began to show through with entries such as, 'To be a learner in G.P.O.' or 'To be a clerk on Great Western Railway' and 'Entered Pembroke Dock County School'. He regularly entered his stronger pupils, both girls and boys, for scholarships to the emerging County Schools in the area at Narberth, Pembroke Dock and Tenby with increasing success. For instance, the entry in the school log book of 27 August 1900 records 'Janet E Thomas pupil in this school won a scholarship to Narberth intermediate School taking second place in the list of candidates.' Janet was the daughter of the farmer of Prettyland Farm in Lawrenny who went on to qualify as a dispensing chemist. She is not recorded with her family at Prettyland in the 1901 Census, but it is interesting to note in the census page for St James Street, Narberth there is Jennet E Thomas of the right age who was a boarder with a family. Did she have to board because

it was not possible to travel daily from Lawrenny to Narberth? Some historical information about the school sheds some light on the situation as it was then.

Narberth County School was the second most important selective secondary school in the area after Pembroke Dock County School in terms of the central grants available. The school was founded in 1895 and moved the next year to new premises described as follows:

A good stone building on a hillock halfway between the station and the town, commanding very fine views of hills and valleys. The school buildings have been completed by the addition of a kitchen and a Manual Work Room ... there is a really fine playground, with a good cricket pitch. A neighbouring field also belongs to the school; it is not very level, but football can be played in it ...

Pupil numbers grew to 122 (57 boys and 65 girls) in 1910 but up to 1920 numbers were mostly below 100. Most pupils attending the Intermediate schools had to pay tuition fees but Narberth charged the lowest fees in Pembrokeshire, £3.6.0d. Janet was awarded a scholarship exemption by the school Governors for the whole of her time there.

There was an original idea that hostels might be provided for children who could not conveniently travel to school daily. Instead, it was typical of rural Intermediate schools that a proportion of their pupils stayed in lodgings – it was between a quarter and a third at Narberth. It was notable too at Narberth that many of the pupils in lodgings were Welsh-speaking children from the area north of the Landsker Line, whereas most of the pupils in the school, some three-quarters of them, were English-speaking pupils from the town and the area south of the language line. One old pupil, at the school in the early 1900's, thought that he and his fellow Welsh-speaking contemporaries were 'second-class Citizens' at Narberth. Another old pupil referred to the school as 'an alien environment' for Welsh-speaking children; town children, he said, looked coldly on the Welsh, and even some teachers derided their Welshness. Let us hope our English-speaking Janet Thomas from Lawrenny was kinder to the Welsh-speaking pupils.

Just because a scholarship was won did not necessarily mean the child took it up. In the summer of 1904 Thomas's pupils won two out of the six scholarships to Narberth but neither went there. The parents of pupil George Atherton, the son of a local gardener, may have thought he was too young to go or there may have been financial reasons, both common drawbacks to the children of rural

communities. So George stayed on at Lawrenny School until he was aged 16 when he took an open examination to become a male learner in the Post Office and came first out of 25 candidates, eventually becoming an Overseer in the Post Office at Carmarthen.

A Schedule required by Pembrokeshire County Council under an Education Act provides some interesting details about Lawrenny School in 1903. Thomas Williams was now 'Head, Trained Certified 1st Class'. The school roll was up to 60 pupils (mixed) and there were two paid Pupil Teachers both former pupils who were taught, 'By Master [meaning head teacher] and by Correspondence Class.' No fees were charged. Evening School had temporarily stopped due to too few pupils but was expected to resume later that year. It was certainly operating in 1908 as the Board of Education was notified of a payment of £5.1s.6d. for 'Lawrenny evening school.' Thomas Williams saw the evening classes as a vital continuance of education for those who did not go on to further education. For instance Bertie Hughes who lived on tenanted Tedion Farm recalled that when he left school in 1917 aged 14½ years, "Master told me in no uncertain terms I must come to evening classes as my education was not finished. I did go and what I learned gave me the confidence to buy Prettyland Farm."

Thomas Williams's reputation in the education circles of Pembrokeshire grew over the years. In 1902/3 he was President of the Pembrokeshire Teachers' Association. At one Education Committee in 1910 a proposal was passed that Thomas Williams be congratulated on the examination result of one of his pupils with an added comment that he was one of the best head teachers in the county. The report continued, "There were complaints that children of the country schools were not able to pass into the county schools. There was no such complaint at Lawrenny, where the school was very overcrowded as a result of children being drawn from neighbouring parishes."

Outside of school, Thomas Williams was keen to develop the self-assurance of the children of the parish by putting on concerts, coaching them to take part in church services – he was superintendent of the Sunday School – and to enter classes at the local Eisteddfods where he was often an adjudicator. In the school log book for November 1913 is an entry that reads, 'At an Eisteddfod held at Martletwy on Saturday evening, Elsie Jenkins and John Cole tied for 1st place in the handwriting competition for children from 10 to 15. There were 38 competitors. Lionel Williams took 1st place in the competition for under 10. There were 14 competitors. Theodocia Murray took first place in competition in

Recitation for Children under 10. Owen Williams, an old boy, won the prize for an essay and Ira Jenkins another old boy the bass solo.'

Of course Thomas Williams was not unique in his unbridled enthusiasm for education and undoubtedly there were many head teachers across Wales investing similarly in their community. But the most profound impact of Thomas's own education was on his own family, all of whom he taught. When his children took external examinations, Thomas was known to take them and to sit outside the room having obtained a copy of the examination paper. As the poor child emerged he or she would be thoroughly quizzed by Thomas, keen to assess their performance.

His eldest child was Ethelbert John Williams b.1889, known as Bertie. In 1902 Bertie came first on the list of successful candidates for Narberth School but stayed on for two more years taking an examination for much sought-after apprenticeships in the Dockyard. Lawrenny School log book records he was successful, coming 13th out of 127 candidates for just 40 places, starting in 1904. As an apprentice shipwright, he completed four years at the H.M. Dockyard Upper School, winning prizes. Such an achievement was assessed to be the equivalent to at least a 3rd class honours degree in engineering and although the School could not make academic awards such attainments were recognised by institutions. He was later to work on submarines in Ireland but changed career and returned to Lawrenny to succeed his father as head teacher of Lawrenny School having graduated from Culham College, Oxford, a teacher training college, in 1926.

We have already heard about his next child, little Millicent who died in 1891. Another great sadness for Thomas and his wife Polly was the death of another daughter Edith Violet in 1893, again just 11 months old. In between those two daughters was Jeanette Mary b.1892 but Thomas had the unenviable task of writing against her name in the school admission register 'Died Dec. 11th 1897.' Sickness amongst the schoolchildren was very prevalent at the time.

Next born in 1896 was Owen Thomas Hughes Williams. He went to Pembroke Dock County School in 1909 aged 13 years having come second in the list of successful candidates. He progressed well. His father was famous, or infamous, for pushing his children academically and when Owen wanted to go to university passes in Greek and Latin were required, subjects not taught at his school. His father, not knowing either language, undeterred studied the curriculum from text books a chapter at a time and taught Owen himself.

In due course Owen secured a place at University of Birmingham to study classics. The Great War interrupted his studies, however, because he signed up for the Royal Engineers probably in December 1915. He went to the Western Front where in July 1917 he suffered a serious head wound at Ypres during preparations for the Battle of Passchendaele and was evacuated to England. His parents were extremely worried, particularly in case he could not continue his academic career. Thomas had already written in the school admission register against the name of one pupil, 'Killed in action in France'. That lad was George Bowen Evans of Tedion, who had left the school in 1908 to become a clerk with the Great Western Railway before joining the Welsh Regiment. He was 23 years old and fighting on the Somme. But luckily Owen recovered and returned to university, graduating BA (Combined Arts) in 1920, afterwards securing a position as classics master at Bromsgrove High School where he remained becoming Deputy Head before he retired. At the end of 1918 the village was grieving the loss of another Lawrenny lad, Thomas George Cole, who had originally joined the Pembrokeshire Yeomanry and had died in a prison of war camp in Germany – another very sad entry in the School admission register.

Another daughter Mary, known as Molly, was born in 1898. She left Lawrenny School to be a learner in the G.P.O. at Abergavenny. She made a career in the Post Office, becoming head postmistress at Pembroke and lived back at the Old Rectory at Lawrenny Ferry, a large house Thomas had moved to when his family outgrew the School House up in the village.

Audrey May was born in 1900. She left Lawrenny School aged 13 winning a scholarship to Narberth School from where she gained entry to University College Swansea graduating with a B.A. She then taught French and music in the midlands and in Kent.

Three sons were born after Audrey, all of whom went into banking – George direct from school into the National Provincial Bank in Pembroke Dock and Lionel and Wilfred via Narberth School into the National Provincial Bank and Barclays Bank respectively. All made successful careers becoming bank managers requiring they move beyond the borders of Pembrokeshire to Swansea and into England.

As can be seen, Thomas and Polly Williams saw all their children leave both home and the district as a consequence of their education, although Bertie and Molly eventually returned to Lawrenny. Ever was it thus that the more remote

areas of the county could not provide opportunities for those who wished to pursue careers outside traditional rural employment. Nevertheless, those who did stay used their education to improve their situation and to prosper which in turn benefitted the whole area.

The Pembroke County and West Wales Guardian edition of July 1st, 1932 devoted two columns to a report on Thomas Williams's funeral, beginning with the words, '... his death has cast a deep gloom over an extensive part of Pembrokeshire.' It went on to recall he held the position of Headmaster at Lawrenny School for 45 years with considerable distinction, adding, 'In times of distress and difficulty, all went to 'Master', as he was familiarly known, and no one left him without some



Thomas Williams in Masonic regalia

measure of relief. He would never lend an ear to gossip, and always seeing the good in his fellow man, was never heard to utter an unkind remark about anyone. He was fearless in the face of opposition and possessed an indomitable spirit which he preserved right to the end.' The report also recollected his connection with Freemasonry, recalling he was Worshipful Master of Narberth Lodge as well as holding senior positions in county masonic circles.

One question abides. Why did Thomas Williams not seek to progress from Lawrenny School, to improve his standing even further? After all, his success was acknowledged in local education circles and his horizons were not limited to Lawrenny; he travelled regularly to the large towns in the county for meetings in connection with his work and Freemasonry. In 1902, representing the Pembrokeshire Teachers' Association, he attended the installation of H.R.H The Prince of Wales as Chancellor of the University of Wales at The Pavilion, Carnarvon. For many years he seldom missed an international rugby match at Swansea or Cardiff. Possibly the answer to the question is quite simple: perhaps

it was because his roots in south Pembrokeshire ran deep and, as a tribute in his obituary noted, he was a lover of country life.

From a humble start in life, one man's education led to the benefit of so many, yet he saw his children and grandchildren scattered across the UK and beyond. Nevertheless the generations have been drawn back regularly to Lawrenny – as one family member put it, “Lawrenny is the family's spiritual home.”

Tom Williams (1485)

Note

The admission registers and log books of local schools can contain considerable information for family historians although the content may vary between schools, sometimes even between head teachers in the same place. Many are accessible at the Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion Archives. Also, many searchable digital copies of both admission registers and logbooks from the 1870s up to 1914 are available on Find My Past.

Vol 3.3

In a report from Thelma East, Chairman on her trip to the 1st International Congress of FHS in Sydney, Australia commented “all our name badges stated our name and postal town instead of society. Mine had Worcester, England and some were worse, the Joneses from Glamorgan FHS had “Cardiff, England” on theirs! I refused to wear my official badge and chose to wear my Association of Welsh FHS badge with “Wales” written on it. When asked why mine was different I explained that I am a Welsh Non-conformist!”

Vol 3.5

A Reminder – your journal needs you! (A cry our editor echo's today)

Articles of any length are required for the next issue.... Everyone is an expert on your own family, and I am sure there are many members with valuable knowledge which should be published. A glance through this or any previous journal will give you plenty of ideas for topics or approaches. References to unusual sources are always welcome, and copies of especially interesting/helpful documents also; if writing on the original is unclear a transcription should be included. Documented information on occupations followed by ancestors would also be of great interest: millers, tanners, weavers, hatmakers etc. Portraits of Parishes are welcome too; particularly where the primary source is a parish history in Welsh and long out of print: maybe the fortunate bilingual members could make this knowledge available to a wider public.

Some thoughts on the origins of the London Branch of the Dyfed FHS and Family History in general in 2022

I was fortunate enough to begin family history in 1967 when aged 19 and was equally fortunate to have been given the middle name of Picton by my father, Frederick William Swann (1888–1958). He was born at Norwich, married twice, was aged 58 when I was born in 1947 and died in January 1958 at Bournemouth, aged 69. So I was never able to ask him where this middle name came from – and my mother knew very little indeed apart from a family story that it came from Sir Thomas Picton, who had a daughter and she had eloped and married her music master named Swann against his wishes. He cut her off without a penny and to spite him she had called all her children Picton Swann.

This was total family fiction, and post-rationalising everything my father worked in the insurance industry all his working life, starting at Norwich but by 1911 had gone to stay at London and lived with his great uncle at Upper Holloway. His full name was Isaac Picton Swann (1843–1920) and he was the eleventh of twelve children born to a Jedidiah Swann (1804–1886) and an Elizabeth Picton (1805–1882). The children were all baptised at the parish church of Worstead in Norfolk between 1826 and 1846. However their marriage did not take place there, and it took me until 1978 to discover where and when they were married [St. Luke's Old Street Church, London, in 1825]. So, I believe any family stories were passed down from this great-uncle – and my father also had three sisters, all of whom had Picton as their middle names. He was disappointed he had not been given this middle name as well, and was determined to rectify it when he had his own children.

In 1967 I was at the new University of East Anglia (UEA) studying chemistry, and came across a small book at Smiths written by Anthony Camp entitled *Tracing Your Ancestors* costing a whole four shillings and sixpence. This was the first decent guide for beginners as to how to conduct family history research. From this, it became clear that I had to go to the Public Record Office and look at the Census Returns for 1851. So, it was an early morning cycle ride of 4 miles from the student residences to Norwich Thorpe station and the first early morning train up to Liverpool Street station. Eventually, after a two hour wait, the original Census book for Worstead and 1851 came up and I had my first exercise in palaeography – eventually managing to decipher the place of birth of Elizabeth Swann as Cosheston, Pembrokeshire.

Fast forward to 1972, and by then I had begun work in the pharmaceutical industry at Windlesham in Surrey, was living at Camberley, had joined the Society of Genealogists and then wrote a letter to the new National Army Museum at Chelsea asking what information they had on Sir Thomas Picton. The answer was very little original information, but one item was a bound booklet written by a 13-years old boy as a school project after seeing the 1971 film “Waterloo”. He lived at Netley on Southampton Water, so I decided to drive down and visit him. His father had placed an advert in the *Times* newspaper asking for anyone interested in Sir Thomas Picton to contact the given Box Number. He had received about a dozen letters, but one letter stood out as the author clearly knew something about family history. He lived at Fleet in Hampshire, only 10 or so miles away from where we lived, so I called to see him on the return journey from Netley. His name was (and I hope still is) Paul Hitchings. Paul was to be a key individual in a mutual research journey into Dyfed family history from about 1974 to 1979.

Paul also had a family Picton connection into Pembrokeshire where his Hitchings family came from. He had a first-class degree in law from Oxford and in the early days of our association he was prolific across several surnames. He already had come across and networked to Roland Thorne, the founder and first Chairman of the London Branch of the Dyfed FHS.¹ Between the three of us we totally reworked what was known and in print for the various Picton families in Pembrokeshire. In those days, the first Journal to be founded covering Dyfed was the South Wales Family History Journal but this was too large an area in scope and was gradually replaced by more local family history societies for South Wales. This led to the formation of the Dyfed FHS, which I joined at its inception and also of its London Branch, driven initially by Roland Thorne. I was invited to give the talk on our Picton research at the first AGM in London

¹ Roland Thorne’s legacy can be seen in his numerous articles in the *Pembrokeshire Historian* and his editorship and biographical entries on MPs, 1790–1820, for the History of Parliament Trust. Outside the History of Parliament, Roland contributed 44 articles to the Oxford DNB. He contributed to the Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion and wrote chapters and articles for the *Pembrokeshire County History*, *National Library of Wales Journal* and *The Pembrokeshire Historian*. He is remembered at the History as a very hard-working and genial colleague, whose diffident manner concealed leadership skills of a high order. He was a great raconteur, with a keen sense of humour – revelling in the absurdities of life and the follies and pomposity of those in authority. The History of Parliament was fortunate to have benefited from his dedication over such a long period as was the London Branch of this Society.
<http://www.histparl.ac.uk/news/obituary-roland-thorne>

held at the Society of Genealogists, borrowed a good slide projector from work, and this was the last time that Paul Hitchings came up to a meeting. He had become the chief ‘legal eagle’ for various major companies by then and had no time. As he said to me once: “It is hard work when the meetings finish at 3 am and start again at 8 am.” He bought a flat in London and stayed there during the working week to save on commuting trips to and from Camberley. Even so, once a year usually at Xmas, he would send me a catch-up letter on what snippets he had found out of new research during the course of the previous year. We last saw each other about ten years ago, when I had the chance to update him on how DNA was changing all our prior research.

I had also looked into what evening classes were running at Camberley in 1972 and was amazed to find evening classes in family history being organised and run by a gentleman, Donald Steel (died 2008). He was then at the height of his powers and was one of the key transformers and influencers as to how family history developed, was taught and popularised for everyone in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. He was responsible for the very first TV programme on family history, telling the story of the ITV broadcaster Gordon Honeycombe and the Honeycombe surname in 1978. How he achieved all this and his contributions are described nicely in one of my really favourite books, *Family Matters: A History of Genealogy* by Michael Sharpe (2011). So, I was very lucky to be in a key place at a key time as the whole study of family history transformed itself in the 1970s by the formation of regional societies and the opening up of new record classes. Of course, Wales was always different – and the work of John and Sheila Rowlands stands in a class by its own.

I had already exchanged letters and information with Mari Alderman before she took on the role of the first Secretary of the London Branch, as we had mutual interests in families at Eglwysilan in Glamorganshire. My wife is Welsh, from Penygraig in the Rhondda Valley, and this was where some of her family had lived. Others from those early days I can well remember are Reginald (Reg) Davies, who died recently at Parrog near Newport, but was working in a MRC group at Leicester University studying drug metabolism in the 1980s;²

² Reg Davies is best remembered for his work and website on Welsh mariners. In June 2015 he led a group I had assembled for a Picton Reunion into Nevern Church and the castles at Nevern and Newport. A suitable tribute would be the scanning and indexing of Class BT 98 at the National Archives which covers the Crew lists for the whole country, 1835–1857. These records are slowly crumbling away in places and can be a major missing source of men whose names are missing from the 1841 and 1851 Censuses.

Stephen Van Dulken, who led several records indexing projects at the then Public Record Office involving Pembrokeshire, some of which are still on the shelves of the National Archives at Kew and Frank Phillips from Ealing, who beavered away on the many and varied Phillips/Philips families from South Wales. Collections of his articles (16 in all) were deposited in their entirety in the Pembrokeshire Archives and are now all available there. I wrote a fuller account as how I remembered him for the Phillips DNA Surname Project several years ago. They were always keen to establish the Y Chromosome DNA signature of the Philipps families of Picton Castle, which is not straightforward at all to achieve. Most male lines eventually die out or daughter out, as happened in the direct Philipps male line in 1823.

My work on the Picton families led to an interest in DNA and family history from 2006 and an involvement with ISOGG (International Society of Genetic Genealogy) from 2007. In 2008/9 I played a very significant role in getting a vastly expanded DNA lecture presence into *Who Do You Think You Are* at London, Olympia. This has continued to the extent that we have retested several of our initial male Picton DNA individuals to a new standard using BigY-700 DNA sequencing from Family Tree DNA. This enables reconstruction of an overall Picton family genetic tree even though no paper records survive. There is now the tantalising possibility that when these branches separated from each other may be dated. But that probably deserves to be the basis of a separate future article.

It would also be churlish of me not to acknowledge several long-standing members of the current London Branch. Mari Alderman still appears from time to time and represents a link back to the earliest days of my research interests. The others know who they are, and I am forever grateful for their friendship, much hard work and shared experiences in mutual learning. Wales family history is still relatively neglected and important, especially compared to Irish family history. We all know of its difficulties with patronymic surnames – and previous DNA work with the activities of the company DNACymru [BritainsDNA] has done its reputation no good at all.³ Nevertheless, the future will lie in combining Y-DNA with documentation to tell a self-consistent story. Cost will always be an issue, but an equal challenge to cost will be effective

³ Debbie A Kennett, Adrian Timpson, David J. Balding and Mark G. Thomas, *The Rise and Fall of Britains DNA: A Tale of Misleading Claims, Media Manipulation and Threats to Academic Freedom*, *Genealogy*, 2018, 2, 47; doi10:3390/genealogy 20400047.

collaborative working and how that gets organised. Grouping of family trees will occur via Y-DNA work, but I remain somewhat sceptical whether mega family trees, as promoted by companies like DNA Heritage, will ever catch on. Many experienced research folk in Britain do not like to see their hard-won information as a dot on someone else's critical path.

Darris Williams leads the Welsh research effort at FamilySearch and they may have a larger role to play in the future. The Mormons have access to that vital ingredient of money and if anyone will keep computerised information systems up to date, it will be them. The only real gap now left in family history is OCR recognition and simultaneous indexing of older handwriting, and even that is becoming possible. My colleague Debbie Kennett even has the death of family history as the conclusion to one of her DNA talks. But the good news is that if it happens anywhere, it will happen first for Ireland and Irish records. Anyone who looks at the Rolls of the Courts of the Great Sessions will know of the digitization effort required to tackle that particular mountain for Wales.

Brian Picton Swann (114)

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Memories of a Founder Member

The beginning of Dyfed Family History Society

At the beginning of 1982 there was a lot of talk about a new History Society. I was very lucky as one of the founder members, David Elvet Lewis (3), worked with my husband.

In March of this year the inaugural meeting of the Dyfed Family History Society was held in Carmarthen Library. I went along on my own feeling very naive as I knew nothing, only my Maiden name.

The speaker that first meeting was Mr Don Steel who really knew what he was talking about and gave us many tips.

After the meeting it was decided to have four branches of the Society – Aberystwyth, Carmarthen, Llanelli and Pembrokeshire.

In Llanelli we met on the third Monday of the month at a disused chapel in Lakefield Rd under the chairmanship of Gerald Thomas (19). Gerald was not

well educated but he knew so much about Family History – if he didn't know the answer, he knew a man who did.

The meetings usually had a speaker and time for the new members to be helped by the older people. There were quite a lot of people who had been researching for years, namely Mary Price (16), Olwen Griffiths (55), David Francis (351) and Ron Powell (99). These have all passed on, in fact there are only two of us originals left – me and Stephen Rees (88)

When this Covid is over we will still be meeting on the third Monday of the month. We have been a very peripatetic group. The library where we now meet is probably our seventh venue, we have also had many chairpeople, our latest being Linda Martin (5468).

Chris Davies (79)

Forty Years of Family History

I first heard of the proposed Dyfed Family History Society when my father read out an article in the newspaper advertising a meeting in Carmarthen arranged with a view to setting up a society for researching one's family tree. My parents encouraged me to go along, as this was something I had already been doing for a number of years.

The meeting was very well attended and there was great enthusiasm for setting up the society with branches to be established in the three areas which formed the former county of Dyfed. We queued up to sign our membership – I was number 39!

I started attending the meetings in Carmarthen on Wednesday evenings along with my friend Denise. We have since discovered we are a DNA match and are distant cousins – still working out how but getting much nearer! I have fond memories of the hard-working members of these early days – Vernon Jones, David and Margaret Lewis, Elin Williams, Mary Binding, Elfed and Olive Morris, David May, Griff Walters, Angharad Rhydderch and so many others.

After a year or so I somehow found myself to be Secretary of the Society, a post I thoroughly enjoyed for over six years. It was so interesting to correspond and meet with such a large number of people from all over the world, all interested in tracing their family history.

In 1987 we hosted the British Family History Conference in Aberystwyth – a chance to stay again with Mrs. Rees, my landlady from university days, and enjoy the company of so many researching their family trees.

My own family tree grew from visits with the Carmarthen Branch to churches, Records Offices, and the National Library of Wales alongside trips to other places of interest, and from the informative monthly talks as well as the talks and records at the Annual General Meetings – I remember travelling through thick snow to attend one of these at Carmarthen! We also travelled to other societies – the family came with me to help set up an exhibition stall at Caldicot. We ourselves contributed to the collection of records – I recall transcribing local sections of the 1881 census.

My first article for the Journal, “From Caio to Caerbryn”, resulted in much correspondence and happy meetings with cousins from both my grandfather and grandmother’s sides of the family, which added to my knowledge and enabled me to expand my tree sideways and upwards!

Most of all, though, each of us benefited from the advice given by and exchange of information with other members. The much-missed Islwyn Walters was always helpful and generous in sharing information. At one memorable meeting I spoke to new members Emmie and Lewis Harris about their family interests and found Emmie and I were of the same family in the Caio and Ffaldybrenin area – we had a wealth of information to share! Emmie, Betty Davies and I share many interests and Betty and I travelled to Rhydymerau to classes taken by Emrys Williams. When the society set up a research room in Carmarthen, Emmie and I spent many enjoyable Saturdays on duty together there, and we still enthusiastically share information.

As time went on and the further back I went in my research my Carmarthenshire family tended to come mainly from the Llandovery, Llanycrwys and Ffarmers area, towards Lampeter, and I began to attend the more recently formed Upper Towy Valley branch in Llandovery.

Over the years I gave talks on a number of topics to the Carmarthen, Llanelli and Upper Towy Valley branches – a good way of concentrating one’s efforts and organising one’s research!

The Upper Towy Valley branch first met at the Catholic Church Hall, later moving to the hall at Dolau Brân. We have had a busy time at Llandovery, organising talks, recording memorial inscriptions in churches and chapels all over the area, manning our stand at Open Days and at the Family History

Fayres in Carmarthen, putting on exhibitions at the annual Sheep Festivals, with many dinners and memorable outings together. We visited Oakham Treasures and Brunel's S.S. Great Britain in Bristol, the silver and lead mines at Aberystwyth and Rhandirmwyn, Madame Adelina Patti's home at Craiginos, Hay-on-Wye, the Judges' Lodgings in Presteigne, Stradey Castle, Cardigan Castle and the National Library in Aberystwyth, Llancaiach Fawr Manor House and the "Who Do You Think You Are?" exhibition in Birmingham, to name just a few. More recently we decided to go further afield and have had wonderful visits to the First World War graves in Belgium, to Ireland and to the Isle of Man.

One memorable occasion was when we dressed up to take part in the Welsh War Horse, a filmed re-enactment of Lloyd George's visit to Llandovery designed to "encourage" enlistment in the First World War.

Over a number of months a group of us set up a course of sessions on family and local history at Halfway, Talley, with members of the Alzheimers' Society, which were well-attended and where many memories were shared.

Numerous interesting speakers have given us fascinating talks on a range of historical subjects, we have enjoyed "Bits and Bobs" evenings identifying mysterious objects from yesteryear and our own members' family research evenings have also proved very popular.

Since the Heritage Centre with our Family History Research Room was set up in Llandovery, we have regularly met to help members of the public tracing their family history. We keep a wide selection of records there, put on exhibitions of photographs and various events and themes – our window displays include the beautiful Victorian Christmas, St David's Day and the Jubilee celebrations.

As well as furthering family and local history research and information, my main memories are of the friendships formed, with members who are always ready not only to share their knowledge, but to help and support one another at all times. In a way we have created our own family. Here's to the next forty years!

Moiria C. L. Evans (39)

Vol 3.2 "Dyfed Inventors"

Patent No. 4025 in 1816 Benjamin Rotch, late of Castle Hall, Milford Haven now of Bath, gent., a Quaker. Flexible elastic horseshoe!

Setting up a London Branch of the Society

The prime movers in setting up the London Branch in 1986 were John and Sheila Rowlands, who contacted three people among their contacts living within easy reach of central London, Roland Thorne, Janet Daniels and Mari Alderman, to form a steering committee. While all three took on roles it must be said that Roland did the lion's share of organizing speakers. We contacted anyone on the Dyfed membership list who lived in the south-east of England to invite them to meetings.

There was 'enthusiasm for developing the branch' and the 'opportunity for discussing topics of mutual interest'. In those pre-internet days, meeting people who could share ideas about Welsh research was a revelation. Problem-solving sessions were to become a frequent event.

The programme was varied and in 1987 included 'Vestry Records' by John Rowlands and 'Pseudo-ancestors' by Dr Brian Swann. An early attender and committee member Dr Reg Davies gave several talks on Welsh Master Mariners. The standard of speakers has been very high and included J Barry Davies on Patronymics (1991), Dr Angela John on the role of women, Dr E Wiliam from St Fagan's on Homes of the Welsh People (1996) and Dr Jill Barber on Pedigree Books, a unique source for Welsh Family History (1998).

Gradually other Welsh FHS agreed to sponsor the branch and members of the various societies reported on indexing and publications from across Wales. By April 1991 40 people attended the AGM, with a talk by Janet Daniels about her one-name study into the name Protheroe. Among the best-attended meetings have been those in which Huw Edwards spoke about London's Welsh chapels.

Over the years we have added to our range of activities, including several indexing projects, an annual summer trip to the National Library at Aberystwyth and the occasional walk around places of Welsh interest in London.

*Mari Alderman (136)
and Anna Brueton (1806)*

Vol 3.4 – Aug 1989

It was proudly announced that the Society had recently purchased an AMSTRAD 8512 computer in order to promote a more efficient service for its members.

10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

On Saturday, 27th June, the Society celebrated its 10th anniversary at the Halliwell Centre, Trinity College, Carmarthen and 120 members were present. It was a glorious day, everyone looked as if they were prepared to have a good time and we certainly had one. From 10am people were pouring in, and the proceedings were officially opened at 11 o'clock by our Chairman Ken Evans who welcomed our distinguished guests: Col Iain Swinnerton, President of the Federation of Family History Societies, Pauline Saul, the Federation's administrator, and Dr John Owen, the Dyfed County Archivist. Ken remarked "Some of you may think it a novel birthday party at which you have to pay to come in, pay for your coffee and lunch and at the same time are heavily encouraged to buy a raffle ticket. This is not just an indication that many of the Committee's ancestors came from Cardiganshire! Though no doubt many did. We need every penny we can get if we are to continue to undertake the projects needed to improve our service to members everywhere. Over half our members live outside Dyfed and the Committee is especially anxious to try and do more to help them with their research.



We are especially pleased to welcome Mr & Mrs Haydn Thomas from Vancouver here today."

Ken recalled the first meeting of the Society on 8th May 1982 at the Public Library in Carmarthen, and it was particularly pleasing that the first Chairman, Mr William Phillips was present, his membership number is No 2! No 1 is reserved for our President, The Rt Reverend George Noakes, Bishop of St David's and Archbishop of Wales, who held the Presidency until his retirement a year ago. We are very honoured

to have the present Bishop of St David's as our new President. At that first meeting 60 of the Society's then 99 members were present: we now number over 1,000. David Lewis was the first Correspondence Secretary, Griff Walters was Strays Co-ordinator, David May, Treasurer, Elvet Morris was the Projects Co-ordinator and Thelma East was responsible for Members' Interests. Sheila Rowlands launched our successful Journal. The three branch chairmen were Vernon Jones and Gerald Thomas, who are still serving today in the same capacity and Stella Peters who was succeeded in Pembrokeshire by Peter Dawkins-Palmer. Later Helen Mosey took over as Treasurer and William Howells as Editor. In 1983 John Rowlands became chairman, a post he ably and effectively filled for the next five years, succeeded by Thelma East and Canon Fuller. To all these individuals and those who worked with them, we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude. Without their dedication and hard work, the Society would never have got underway and developed as it has; and it gives me the greatest pleasure to extend to them our sincerest thanks and appreciation. The Chairman concluded his speech by welcoming our first speaker, Dr John Owen.

Dr Owen said he vividly remembered Mr William Phillips calling on him to say that it had been decided to found the Society. He spoke of the way in which some academics viewed the upsurge of interest in family history, at first, with suspicion, one going so far as to remark: 'I did not know there were so many people with an identity crisis!' However, an interest in family history was well founded in the 19th century and Charles Dickens 'sends it up' very amusingly in *Bleak House* and *Martin Chuzzlewit*, from which Dr Owen read excerpts. He felt that today the threat of drifting into anonymity in a busier, rootless world was one of the reasons why people were researching their family history. He related a 17th century joke directed against the Welsh fascination with long pedigrees: 'apparently James I was visiting Wales and found that his escort of loyal Welsh gentlemen were raising so much dust that he was being choked in his carriage, so he suggested that those with the longest pedigrees should ride ahead to arrange his accommodation and with that the dust subsided totally or almost; to his surprise he saw he was still accompanied by one solitary gentleman. "Have you no pedigree?" he asked. "My pedigree is as good as anyone's" came the reply, "but my horse

isn't!" Dr Owen ended the first part of his speech by saying that 16 years as an archivist had left him little time to research his own family and he knew he could count on sympathy from his hearers when he admitted that three of his grandparents were named Jones. In conclusion he spoke of the origin of the three Dyfed Record Offices and their eventual amalgamation as one service which had enabled the provision of better facilities for researchers and his fear that the return to unitary authorities when 'Dyfed' would disappear (on 1st April 1995) and the three former counties of Cardigan, Carmarthen and Pembrokeshire once more reappear, might bring about alterations to this service. However, if, as is proposed, the record offices become part of the National Archives Service responsible to the Public Record Office rather than to local government, a unified service will be maintained.

Between 12 and 2 o'clock there was further opportunity for everyone to see the displays and study the resources made available in adjoining rooms as well as to partake of the excellent buffet provided. An interesting display of artefacts had been created by the Cardigan Branch including a traditional quilt, school books, apprenticeship

papers and old photographs; Carmarthen had a fascinating collection of material on the Rebecca Riots: next year is the 150th anniversary of the renewal of the riots, four years after the destruction of the Efail-wen gate in Pembrokeshire and if anyone has any family connections with known Rebecca rioters it would be very interesting to hear from you, with a view to having a special feature in the Journal. Mr D.E.T. Lewis's 'Merlin' group had brought along the many Carmarthen parish records they have transcribed; Pembrokeshire Branch under Mr Peter Gibby, our Projects' Co-ordinator, had provided copies of the many indexes created by our Society and Mr Gerald Thomas, Llanelli Branch was busy at the photocopier all day, with the marriage indexes, while Mrs Thelma East guided inquirers through the St David's Probate Index. One of the most fascinating items was displayed by Llanelli Branch member Miss Glenys Stone, who has recorded in exquisite watercolours every home, church and chapel connected with her family. The bookstall too did a roaring trade.

The day concluded with a most interesting and informative talk by Col Iain Swinnerton who gave us the benefit of his 40 years' experience as a family

historian. Today he spoke of his one name research and the many valuable sources to be found in one's own home like prayerbooks as well as the more familiar Bible, since many were often gifts from relatives and are equally likely to have been used for recording family events; he also recommended looking out for baptismal certificates or the certificates issued under the terms of the Factory and Workshops' Act, 1891 which required official notification of an applicant's date of birth for employment; invitations to weddings were often preserved. Such items are much cheaper sources than very expensive Register office certificates. He also reminded us that we should pursue our family solicitors, who often held important and interesting

documents. Col Swinnerton had brought along many examples of these, and other unexpected sources and his talk was an inspiration to research more thoroughly at home first and not risk 'wasting money'.

To sum up - an unforgettable day and a worthy commemoration of ten flourishing years, with especial thanks to our General Secretary Mrs Jean Istance and Programme Secretary, Rosalie Lilwall on whom much of the initial organisation devolved and to the many officers and branch members who helped in so many ways, in transporting displays, acting as Stewards and helping with enquiries.

We hope that when the 20th anniversary rolls around, we will be able to welcome even more of you to celebrate it.

Treasurers

1983–1984	Mr David G May (4)
1984–1990	Mrs Helen Mosey (30)
1990–1991	Mr T P Lewis
1992–2005	Mr W John Jarman (877)
2005–2012	Rhodri Dafis (2284)
2012–2017	Mrs Sue Balkwill (5007)
2017–present	Mr Gareth Jones (4122)

Pembrokeshire Archives: Retrospect and Prospect

Happy Birthday, Dyfed Family History Society

By the time that the DFHS was born, Pembrokeshire County Council's Record Office (as it was then known) was already a teenager and rapidly closing in on twenty years old. During that time, the parent authority changed from Pembrokeshire to Dyfed County Council, finally reverting to its former title in 1996.



In 1982, the service was no longer in its infancy. Based in the former county gaol in the outer bailey of Haverfordwest castle, it had gone through the early, exciting stages of defining and establishing itself, taking in records to fill the strong rooms and welcoming the relatively few researchers into a tiny reading room. Most, if not all these researchers, were academics. The service became used to the gentle rhythm of retrieving documents and supporting professional people in pursuit of educational or work-related goals. What a revolution was to come!



Old research rooms

At some point in time, an amazing discovery was made; archive services held name-rich sources that were perfect for tracing ancestors. What, perhaps, made even

more of an impact for Pembrokeshire Archives was that the pursuit of family history took off, grabbing the attention of people far and wide. At a time that pre-dated the widespread use of the internet with its data-sharing abilities, there were few options open to genealogists when it came to research: travel the length and breadth of the land or employ someone to do the work either via paid research or by persuading someone local to do it on their behalf. Either way, it resulted in people coming through the doors in ever-increasing numbers who were enthusiastic, even fanatical (!), family historians, fired up with the thrill of the chase. Those were the days when nearly all the parish registers in Pembrokeshire were in hard-copy format, and members of staff in the office were kept incredibly busy, not to say fit, going back and forth between strong room 4 (where the parish registers were then kept) and the research room. We had one lady, Mrs Joy Fuller, who came with her husband and dogs on a two-week holiday twice a year to do her research. If we couldn't set our watches by her, we could certainly set our calendars by her! Everyone knew when she was coming and was prepared for a busy couple of weeks. The closer it got to the end of her holiday, the faster we had to work to get through her list of document requests! At the end of the two weeks, we were always rewarded with at least one large box of biscuits. In some ways, it is sad to reflect that those days are no more due to the advent of digital imaging, the internet and image-hosting family history subscription web sites.

And so, we moved into a new technological era, which was more shocking to the service's system than it might otherwise have been, since technology was largely an alien concept as late as 2000 when I started with the authority. One of my first goals was to encourage the development of IT within the office by purchasing staff computers, establishing an IT network linked to the county council and securing e-mail addresses for all the staff – what a novel experience for all concerned!

While all this was going on, the reports from the Public Record Office and the Historical Manuscripts Commission were becoming increasingly bleak as the old gaol struggled to keep pace with the ever-rising demands from professional bodies and the public. Unfavourable comparisons were inevitably made by researchers who had experienced other local authority archive services: where were the disability accessible toilets; why wasn't the search room more accessible for wheelchair users; why were our opening hours not extended to evening and more regular Saturday opening; where could people sit to take a break from their research and eat refreshments? The professional bodies had even more pressing concerns about the suitability of the strong rooms for the long-term preservation of the archives held within them.



To cut a long story short, the service finally moved to a more suitable purpose-built building in 2013 and re-opened to the public in March of that year. A fitting event to happen in the 50th anniversary year of the service. The service now boasts an integrated archives and local studies function, giving access to a considerable amount of primary and secondary

source material that supports research into family and local history. In terms of its Pembrokeshire remit, the collection is second to none: a great place to start your historical research!

What of the future? Following the journey through COVID-19, we are facing a long process to recover the damage done to the service's profile. Ironically, many more people are aware of the existence of the building called Pembrokeshire Archives than before the pandemic; they just do not know that it houses the service of the same name. The coming months and even years, therefore, need to be devoted to developing our profile and encouraging researchers to return to the fold, since many have not crossed our threshold since we closed our doors in March 2020.

Due to the continued use of the building to support the authority's COVID response, our opening hours have not reverted to pre-pandemic levels. We are currently open Wednesday to Friday between 10:00am and 4:00pm by appointment, and researchers can pre-request archives if they know the exact reference number.

You can book a space by e-mailing record.office@pembrokeshire.gov.uk or by calling 01437 775456. Why not make a date with us in the research room? We cannot wait to assist you with your research whether it is family or local history!

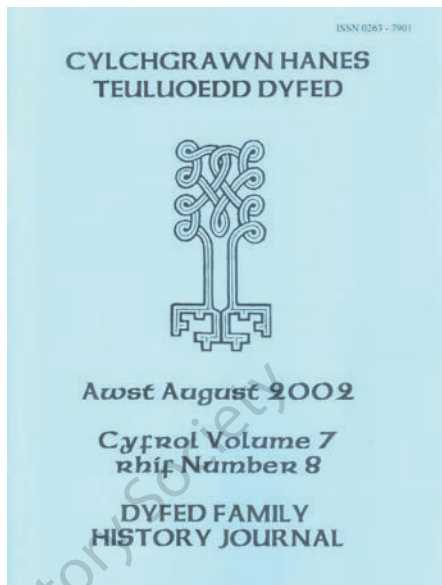
Claire Orr

Archives Manager

20th ANNIVERSARY EDITORIAL (extract)

The committee and I have great pleasure in welcoming the new Bishop of St David, the Right Reverend Carl Cooper, B.A. M.Phil as our new president. I am also pleased to be publishing the two winning Millennium Competition entries: Gary Suhm from Wisconsin, U.S.A. and John Hughes from Stafford. Well done both of you.

The committee have decided to award a prize for a 20th Anniversary Competition. However, you the membership, don't have to do anything. The prize will be for the best article that has been published in Volume 7 books 1-8 of the journal.



Hopefully, the winner will be announced at the Open Day.

FRANCESCA LLEWELLYN

OPENING SPEECH FOR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Volume 8 Number 1 - December 2002

Madam Chairman. Members and Friends - I trust you will bear with me if I voice some recollections of the formation of the Society; I cannot let twenty years pass without a few remarks.

I recall the Inaugural Meeting when William (Bill) PHILLIPS was elected as our first chairman and volunteers filled the essential posts. The TENTH has gone and the Twentieth has arrived. Faces

have changed but the fellowship and comradeship originally present gave rise to Members' confidence and trust to run this Society. Bill PHILLIPS once said to me, "If we adopt a policy or choose a course of action, we must do so with the best interests of Members in mind". It was true then and is true today of our present Management Committee. The help with advice and co-operation

from the Powys Family History Society, particularly Mrs. Dilys Glover and David Peate enabled us to have a flying start in setting up the organization to attract charitable status. We thank them.

I believe that all our members regard the Journal as I do, as the CEMENT keeping together members far and near. May the good work continue to produce pearls in each issue; the slogan for today is: SUPPORT YOUR EDITOR.

In the first two years it was nose to the grindstone, as most of the Executive Committee held down full-time jobs, claimed no expenses and welcomed donations of stamps, stationery and files; even rubber bands, pens and other bits and pieces were given freely by members and some organizations.

There were a few lighter moments and one I recall is of an early letter following publicity in the Swansea area. The address was perfect but addressed "Dyfed Family Planning Association". It went something like this: Dear Mr. Lewis, I know all about my father, but my mother is another story and a few of my brothers are likewise. Would you kindly disclose what you know about my mother, and I will be grateful? Yours truly... I replied per return of post; declared myself Not Guilty and enclosed an application form. This was really a cry for help, but

unfortunately, we never heard from this lady again.

One positive step was the acceptance by the Church in Wales, through our first President (former Archbishop) Bishop George NOAKES, Bishop of St. Davids, of the creation of Alphabetical Indexes of Church Records for the Society. The National Library of Wales, Carmarthen Record Office and the Society of Genealogists London would receive copies and more importantly the Incumbent of the Parish. Bishop NOAKES was a far-seeing man and could see the benefits for the Clergy and their searches - when he learned they were to be free this was the clincher in the proposal. It is my earnest hope that our President Rt. Revd. Bishop Carl Cooper will continue the pattern of his predecessors to allow the completion of those Parishes outstanding (about 25% left to do in Carmarthenshire).

Later the Merlin Indexing Companions came into being - a tough job for the initial six members to continue the Indexing virtually on the same plan, except they had a common pool which allowed the production of Indices as long as there was money in the pool. Over the years about £250 was spent on materials postage and phone calls etc.

At this point I would like to thank my wife, Margaret, for doing most of the proofreading for

the Indices and would also thank the staff of The National Library and Carmarthen Record Office for all their help over many years.

By the way, should you feel, you would like to know further details about our Society, I recommend a recent publication called “Carmarthenshire Memories of the Twentieth Century”, produced by the Antiquarian Society and edited by Miss Eiluned REES. The author of the account is Mary Binding of our Society and a staunch Member for many years.

Today we have a fantastic array of exhibitors pertaining to Family History and allied subjects and I thank them for coming along and

sharing their sources with us. We very much appreciate their presence and effort to come and be part of our Anniversary Open Day.

As you know we have Members around the world and their support and active interest through correspondence and the Journal are highly valued, keep up the contact as well as you are able. Our Society is high-tech with the mouse and low-tech with the paper.

When all is said and done, the success standard comes from the Members, and it is evident that many more Anniversaries will be celebrated to their lasting credit.

DAVID E TREHARNE LEWIS (3)

Webmasters

2003–2004	John Hughes (1946)*
2004–2011	Tommy Evans (3303)
2011–2022	Mr Geraint Davies (4553)
2022–present	Mr Gareth Morgan (53429)

*using the email that we currently have

Strays

A “stray” is a person recorded in the censuses, registers or on a gravestone outside the area in which they normally live or where they were born. Many members of family history societies used to send these, when they noticed them during their research. We currently have 7939 on our database, but did you know that members can search these and add additional ones that they find?

George Bowser and the Early Development of Burry Port

When George Bowser arrived in the Pembrey area just over 200 years ago, Burry Port didn't exist. There were just a few scattered farms and rural cottages. There were no railways or decent roads making transport very difficult and most people travelled by stagecoach or sailing ship.

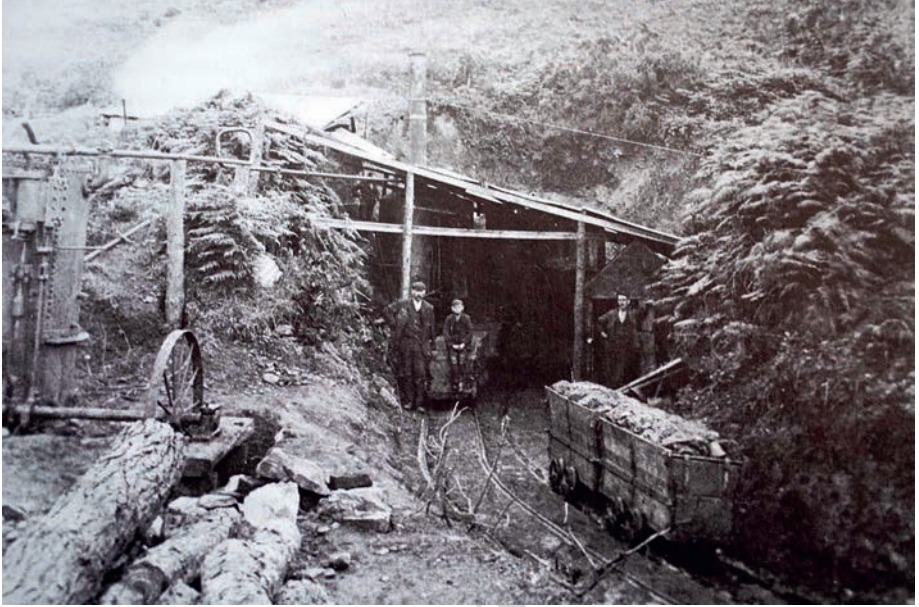
In the churchyard of St Illtyd's Parish Church, Pembrey, the epitaph on his tombstone claims that

'George Bowser, Esq., who died March 29th 1835 aged 77 years... was the first to discover the rare and most valuable capabilities of the coast in Pembrey on which the harbours are situated, consequently was the founder of all the maritime improvements which have since been effected there ...'

So, who was George Bowser and what did he actually achieve? Why did he choose Pembrey for his industrial enterprises? Why did he bring his wife Anne and their six children from their comfortable life in the Home Counties to what was then a rural Welsh backwater? George Bowser's life from 1756 to 1835 spanned much of the early days of the Industrial Revolution in the United Kingdom. He had inherited property in Middlesex and a substantial sum from his father-in-law which he later invested in his enterprises.

Bowser was a member of two city guilds in London and a 'man about town'. The Industrial Revolution, had started in 1709 with Abraham Darby's iron works in Shropshire. Fortunes were being made in coal and iron by men like the Earl of Bute in Cardiff. This was an era of great optimism and enterprise. Bowser's contemporaries like William Crawshay had built his great iron works in Cyfarthfa, Chauncey Townsend created the great copper industry in Swansea and Charles Raby was investing heavily in coal and iron production in Llanelli. In 1806 George decided to get in on the act. He gained experience firstly with a company of copper smelters in Swansea and later worked with Charles Raby in Llanelli.

In 1806 George Bowser moved his family from Middlesex to Kidwelly. He purchased land, started coal mining and built a house in Bryndias, Pinged, on the Western slopes of Pembrey Mountain. He must have used horse drawn carts to transport the coal as there were no tram roads. He probably used Thomas Kymer's shipping place on the Gwendraeth Fach which had been built in 1766. This and 1 Km of Kymer's canal have recently been restored.



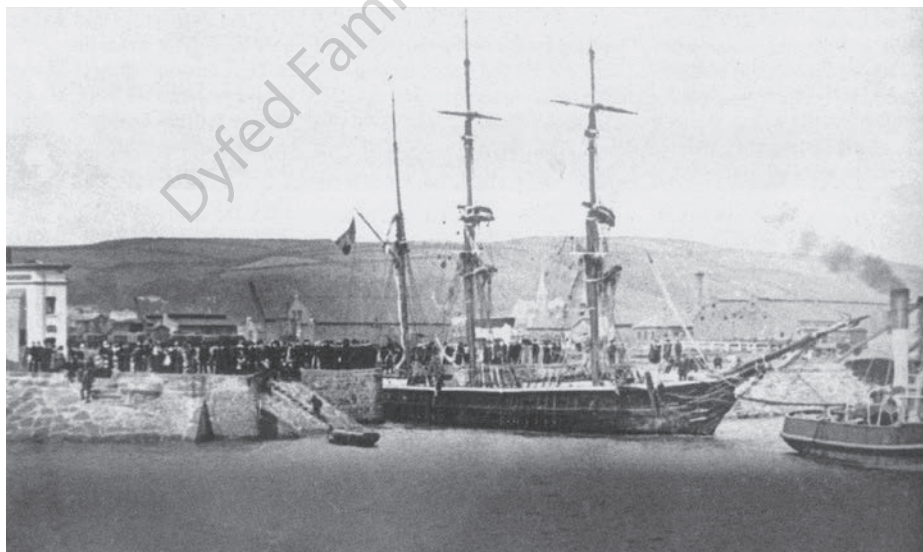
Gwscwm Colliery from Pwll Magazine



Burry Port harbour 1910 from National Museum of Wales

In January 1807 Bowser took out a lease on Cwm Capel and four other small collieries. Over the next three years, Bowser invested a lot of money in their development. These mines were 'levels' because they went straight into the hillside and not down a pit. There was a shipping place in Barnaby Pill, near Pwll, but this was inadequate for handling the output from Bowser's collieries. Bowser couldn't export his coal in anything like the quantities needed for making a profit. He needed better docking facilities, but the shoreline in those days was one long line of sand dunes. The experts said a harbour couldn't be built there. But, in July 1809, Bowser wrote to the Earl of Ashburnham's agent laying out plans for a tram road and a canal to transport coal to a new shipping point near Pembrey. Bowser also proposed setting up copper and lead works to facilitate trade at this new shipping point. An agreement was drawn up, but was later found to be defective causing a lot of legal problems and expense. However, they had to muddle through because it was in everyone's interest. Bowser planned to divert some streams to cut a channel through the dunes to provide access for small coastal vessels to take on coal.

Bowser undertook the difficult and expensive work of constructing a tramway from Cwm Capel. However, this was poorly constructed and subsequent problems involved him in several compensation claims from local farmers. The infrastructure also proved inadequate to transport enough coal to generate



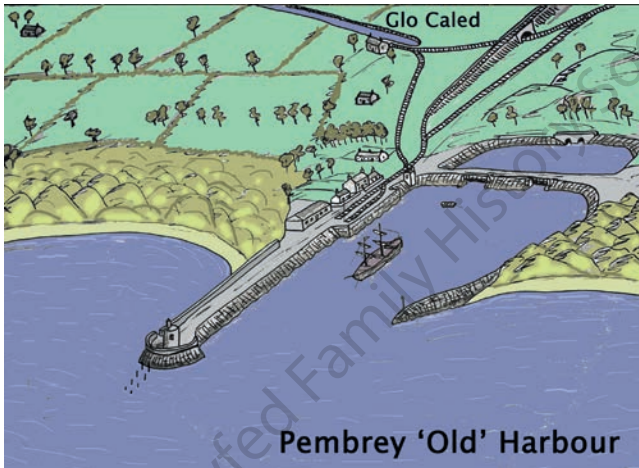
Burry Port Harbour 1894

sufficient funds and his money began to run out. To raise finance, he tried to find a business partner, but his first two attempts ended in disappointment. These failures were a further drain on Bowser's finances by way of legal expenses to extricate himself from these partnerships.

Finally, in 1815, Bowser turned to his London solicitor, Thomas Gaunt. Gaunt had anticipated this and had already bought a property, New Lodge, in Pembrey two years previously. Gaunt proposed a new partnership with Bowser and two others to forge ahead with Bowser's plans for industrially developing the area. A harbour was desperately needed since shipping from Kidwelly from Kymer's Quay and other points had almost ceased because of silting. The Gwendraeth Valley coal mines desperately needed a newer, more efficient shipping point. Gaunt plunged into this project with a great deal of enthusiasm but with little business sense. As time went on Bowser became alarmed at the escalating cost of the Pembrey Harbour project, and so in March 1818 he left. This caused a lot of acrimony between Gaunt and Bowser. They were still in partnership with their collieries, iron furnaces and tramways and these now became sources of bitter disputes. Gaunt prevented Bowser from using the harbour to export coal, which was economically crippling for Bowser. To bring coal from the Gwendraeth Valley a junction with the Kidwelly/Llanelly canal was formed in Pined to the Glo Caled basin in what is now the Pembrey Links. From there a short tramway led to Pembrey Harbour. Several tramways were also laid to bring coal from the local pits. Traces of these can still be seen today. This network of tramways, canal and harbour was formally opened on May 1st 1824 amid great celebrations, which were reported in glowing terms in the Cambrian newspaper. Pembrey harbour was initially a great success, but as time went on its inadequacies became apparent. It simply couldn't handle the volume of coal being produced in the area. There were also problems with silting which restricted access by shipping. In 1824, Bowser, aware of these problems, proposed a new, scaled up version of Pembrey Harbour in Tywyn Bach for which he tried to raise support. However, when the New Pembrey Harbour Company was formed in 1825, Bowser was excluded. The way he had pulled out of the Pembrey Harbour project probably went against him and he was also short of finances. Indeed, he was so short of money he applied for a pension from one of the City Guilds in London of which he was a member. During the Napoleonic Wars there had been a great demand for iron and the coal needed to produce it. In 1815 alone, Great Britain exported a million muskets plus canon and a vast amount of ammunition to the Continent. But when the war with France ended demand slumped and the operations in Pembrey couldn't compete with the larger and more efficient industrial output of

Merthyr, Cardiff and Newport. In 1829 Thomas Gaunt's enterprises went into liquidation due to mismanagement and poor marketing. Gaunt did a 'moonlight flit' and rumours were that he had absconded to America. Consequently, Bowser was left holding many of his debts. Pembrey Harbour and Gaunt's assets went into receivership. However, the bright side for Bowser was that he could now use the harbour to export his coal.

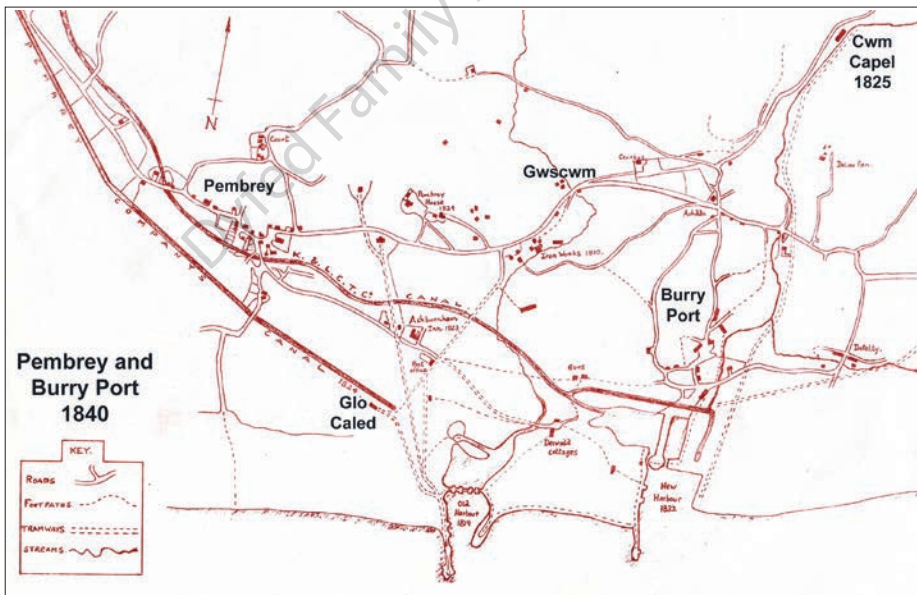
To begin with, work on the new harbour was slow because of the sandy, unstable ground and poor management. Stone quarried from Cwm Capel had to be brought down by horse and cart. However, the work accelerated between 1830 and 1832 when a tramway from Cwm Capel was completed. This enabled stone to be transported far more efficiently and cheaply. The course of this tram road



still exists today as a public footpath. In 1830 Bowser signed an agreement to ship all his coal through the new harbour. However, when the new harbour first opened in April 1832 there were only two loading bays, which led to competition between Bowser and others for priority in loading their ships.

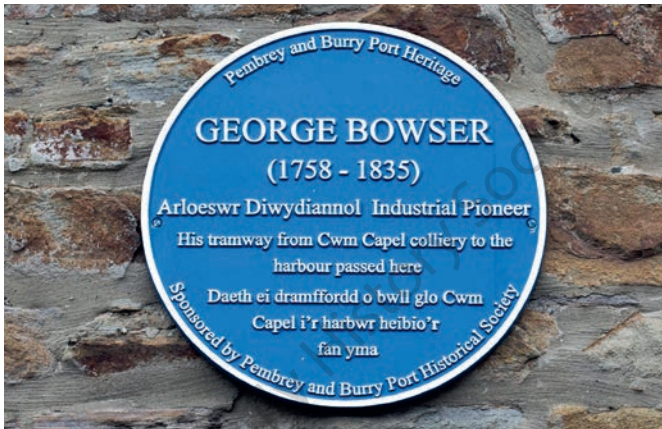
Disaster struck later that year when the harbour walls collapsed in several places due to poor workmanship and the unstable ground. The harbour was closed to shipping until repairs could be done. This delay was financially crippling for Bowser. In 1833 the Harbour Company hired James Green, a West Country canal engineer, to survey the harbour and the canal system. Green reported the canal system was not fit for purpose and he proposed a new canal to run from Pontyates to the new harbour. Water for the new canal would be supplied by damming the Dyfatty River above Cwm Capel. This became known as the Englishman's Dam or Pont Seisiwn which could also supply water for scouring the new harbour. He also proposed a floating dock, which would greatly increase the amount of coal that could be loaded onto ships. In 1834 a tramway was opened between Burry Port and Llanelli, remains of which are still evident in

Pwll. This meant that output from Llanelli coal mines could also be exported through the new harbour. In those days horses were used to haul weighty loads, and there was also a heavy reliance on manpower. During construction, the area around the new harbour must have been full of navvies from Lincolnshire, the Midlands and Ireland living in makeshift homes or shacks with their wives or camp followers and children. Navvies were renowned for their hard working, hard living, hard drinking and sometimes hard fighting lifestyle. It must have been a very interesting place in those days! In 1833 Bowser leased some land from Lord Ashburnham near the present-day Parsons Pickle factory and established a salt works. He also built a pub, the Lord Nelson, which was, no doubt popular with the navvies! The harbour finally opened in 1836. To avoid confusion with Pembrey harbour, the name was changed to Burry Port Harbour. On the 31st January 1836, the Cambrian newspaper reported that the Ninus of Scarborough, a sailing vessel of 300 tons had entered Burry Port Harbour to take on a cargo of Anthracite. Coal was transported in four barges tied together containing a total of 50 tons and pulled by a single shire horse which could haul them at 3 mph. George Bowser's vision had become a reality, however, he never lived to see it. He died on 25th March 1835. However, his sons, Samuel and George jnr. continued shipping coal from Cwm Capel down the tramway



Pembrey & Burry Port 1840 with permission from Cripps Collection

to the new harbour. In 1841, the floating or East Dock was opened providing a greatly enhanced capacity for shipping. The plentiful supply of coal and good harbour facilities attracted further industrial expansion – the copper works in 1849, the silver works in 1853, the lead works in 1865 and the tinplate works in 1890. In 1857 the Elkingtons, who owned the copper works, took over Cwm Capel Colliery from the Bowsers when the lease expired. From the time the new harbour opened, workers came flooding in together with their families and Burry Port was born.



Sited near the junction of the Old Tramway with Station Road, Burry Port

George had great plans; he was the ideas man behind it all, but on his own he lacked the resources to turn his plans into reality. The gamble he had taken in coming to Pembrey had not paid off financially. The difficulties in establishing an efficient infrastructure and his involvement in numerous legal disputes had drained his resources. However, this wasn't unusual. Charles Raby had lost a lot more through his coal and iron works in Llanelli. George Bowser was an entrepreneur with great vision – what we would these days call a blue-sky thinker. He saw the possibility of building a harbour when the experts said it couldn't be done. His ideas and efforts for establishing coal mines, iron foundries, copper works, a salt works and an integrated transport infrastructure were a catalyst that inspired others in the making of Burry Port.

Stuart Owen (84579)

Email: wstuartowen@hotmail.com

Archifdy Ceredigion Archives

Many congratulations to DFHS on 40 glorious years! I would like to pay tribute to all those in the Society who have worked so tirelessly over the years to make family history sources more accessible to everyone with Dyfed ancestry. We regularly use the products of your labours, so thank you! For all but the first eight of those 40 years I have been part of Dyfed Archives, and latterly Ceredigion Archives. After six years in the Dyfed Archives, Carmarthenshire Area Record Office, then based at the County Offices, Carmarthen, I moved to Ceredigion Archives in 1996. Many changes have occurred since then!



The Archives were situated in Swyddfa'r Sir, the former Queen's Hotel on the promenade at Aberystwyth. It was a glorious place to work, antiquated and elegant with beautiful views of the sea. The strongrooms were in the basement, so not very far above sea-level; various managers over the years would describe them as "under the sea" which was neither true nor helpful! Our strong rooms never let us down, remaining watertight to the end, apart from an unfortunate incident relating to the magistrate's court cells in about 1992! No documents were damaged. We were also lucky when a huge fire on the seafront in November 1998 destroyed student halls and a derelict hotel; staff at Swyddfa'r Sir were sent home as the building got increasingly smoky, and eventually it was only the caretakers, the archivist and the Registrar who remained in the threatened building. But the fire appliances from all over Wales did their job magnificently, and all was well.

The staff consisted of only two people in 1996; another was swiftly added, and we were a happy little band of three. Gradually we have increased in both responsibilities and numbers and now there are eight of us, covering Archives, Information and Records Management and Data Protection for the authority. It's a lovely team, and we're all incredibly committed to what we do.

The Archives moved house in 2012. The background was that Ceredigion County Council opened a new building for its Aberystwyth-based staff in 2009 and Swyddfa'r Sir's days were numbered. A new home was needed for the Archives and as part of the re-structuring process the Old Town Hall was identified as a site for the County Library, Archives and Day Centre for Older People. There

was some controversy at the time concerning the relocation of the other two services, but Ceredigion Archives was pleased with the proposal. We were able to design our very own record office, with great advice from Welsh Government advisors and others, and during 2011 the Old Town Hall was redesigned for storing archives in the 21st Century.

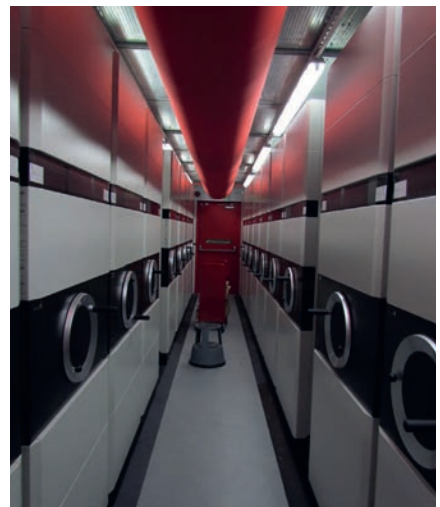


We felt very strongly that the new premises should reflect our ethos as far as possible and keep the comfortable atmosphere we had cultivated and cherished at “the Queen’s”. So, we brought our ancient “hotel-salon” chairs to our new place, got them stripped and re-upholstered and put them round a beautiful wooden search-room table, actually made from kitchen-worktop material. We have 1930s glass-fronted bookcases from the old Town Hall furniture, and a big red modern metal maps cabinet; the room’s colours are predominantly red and blue, which is always cheering! We hope researchers feel confident and happy in our search-room.

The strongrooms are a great improvement on their predecessors with an emphasis on space-saving by using rolling shelves; the ground floor ceiling was specially strengthened to accommodate the vast weight of this moving mass of



The old



... and the new

archives. The rooms are all air-conditioned and the temperature and humidity controlled. Archival material is generally uncomplaining and maintains good condition when the temperature and humidity is right, but we are now re-addressing the best ways to achieve this end in view of changing ideas about energy use; it is necessary or ethical to have air-conditioning running 24/7?

In some respects, Ceredigion Archives is still a deeply traditional archives service; we like seeing people come through the door, and we like offering advice and producing wonderful documents for them to enjoy. We still catalogue using traditional methods rather than an archiving software package. We still love to give talks and lectures, returning home through the soft summer evenings, or occasionally in a wintry blizzard! But we also like to use more modern methods of communication. Our website, though simple, is packed with information and includes not only all our catalogues, but also increasing numbers of scanned images from the collections. We are in contracts with Ancestry.com and Find My Past which means that we garner a small income when researchers view documents from our collections on those sites. We have a presence on Twitter and Facebook, and we have a series of WordPress blogs showcasing collections. All these may easily be reached through our website at www.archifydyceredigion.org.uk

Our online presence was a lifesaver for the service through the early days of the Covid pandemic. The authority's ICT team ensured that we could all work from home, a massive achievement, and we answered questions from the public by phone and email. We used Zoom and Teams for meetings and consultations – a lecture to one Women's Institute saw the County Archivist, dressed as Fanny Craddock mincing a beef-heart "live on air" from the comfort of her bedroom to demonstrate how mince pies were made in olden times!

We were allowed to access the archives periodically during the early days of the pandemic to ensure all was well with our precious collections, and in June 2021 we were allowed to re-open to the public. We still take some precautions (sanitising hands and open windows may be a permanent fixture from now on!) and we prefer researchers to book their place, but gradually the rules are relaxing and we hope and trust that Ceredigion Archives is as welcoming as ever. Do come and see us or contact us online if that is your preference. We look forward to hearing from you!

Helen M C Palmer

*County Archivist, Information and Records Manager
Archifydy Ceredigion Archives*

30th ANNIVERSARY EXTRACT

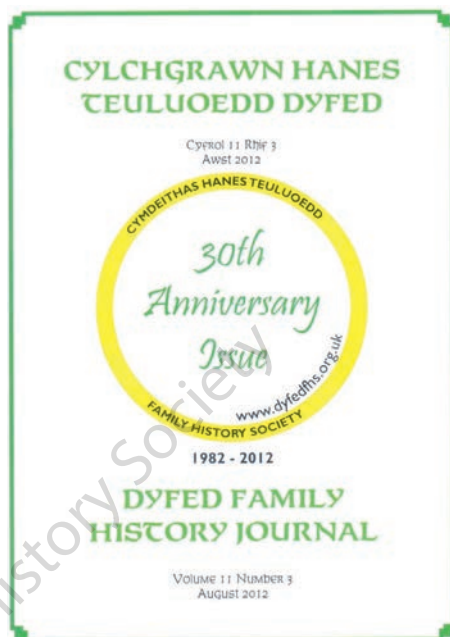
EDITORIAL

Llongyfarchiadau!

Our Society was founded in April 1982 and the first issue of the journal was published in August 1982. This issue celebrates the 30th Anniversary and reminds us what it was like in the beginning. To make it special we've added some colour pages (for this issue only!). We've also included some articles from early journals and these have been added exactly as they appeared originally to show the progress in 30 years. There are also some extracts to show what early members did for the Society.

Founder members did not have the technology we have today, a fact amply illustrated by our new website and membership records. While we can look back and see what has been achieved, we can also look forward and imagine what we can achieve with our new systems. We have more to do but the aim is to make Dyfed FHS the accepted source of information about Dyfed, not just for present members but for those who may be reading this in 30 or 100 years' time.

For example, our journal archive and its comprehensive index is available on line, but this is much more than simply



providing access to past journals. It is a record of the research we've undertaken and the knowledge we have today, recorded for generations to come and safely stored where it can be accessed by everyone.

This is our prime aim and I am hoping that if you have something you believe will be of interest to future generations, you will write it soon before it's too late. It doesn't have to be a lengthy dissertation; short factual articles are equally valuable.

GLYN MACKEN

Have I Finally Struck Gold?

This is a three-part tale of mining – data as well as valuable metals. It is also a reminder of the need to keep revisiting online resources that you have used in the past to check whether new content has been uploaded.

Part 1 – The Article That Started It All

Every week or so I make a habit of checking what new Skyrme articles have appeared on The British Newspaper Archive (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk). Its advanced search has a useful feature in that you can filter by the date content that is uploaded. As I did one of my regular trawls in early 2019, this headline from *The People* of 13 June 1926 caught my eye:



HUNT FOR HEIRS TO FORTUNE.
CHIEF - CONSTABLE'S QUEST FOR SKYRMES.
(From Our Special Correspondent.)
Swansea, Saturday.
SWANSEA and Portsmouth families are likely to benefit substantially as the result of the death of Wm. Skyrme, a Welshman, who has died in California after amassing a large fortune.

The Chief Constable was that of Swansea, who was approached by a Californian firm of solicitors hunting for heirs of William Skyrme. The article goes on to report that William was thought to have been born in Portsmouth but then had a succession of jobs in Swansea before emigrating to America. Over his working life he was believed to have amassed a fortune worth anything from £20,000 to half a million.

At the time I wrote in the news section of my website (www.skyrme.info):

“This story has so intrigued me that I am keen to find out more about William and find out what ultimately happened. I haven’t really started my hunt for gold yet – there is no William Skyrme born in Portsmouth or Swansea in my database – and it would help if we got to know his age. My family did live in Portsmouth at the time, but if they made a successful claim, it didn’t get passed down to me! So, if any of you know about this William, please let me know.”

Part 2 – Millionaire Minor: Fact or Fiction?

I then decided that I would do some data mining rather than gold mining. I went into my downloaded but unprocessed newspaper articles to refresh my memory. There, a few entries above *The People* article (and it had been sitting

in my computer since 2014!) was an article from *The Nevada State Journal* of 16th August 1925 headed “Millionaire Maker Dies at Advanced Age of 92”. The article is quite effusive about William’s exploits. During his lifetime he was a foreman and superintendent of some 20 mines from Butte (Montana) to others in Nevada, Utah, California and South America (he is said to have spent 4 years there). He is described as at one time the right-hand man of Marcus Daly who made his first millions by exploiting copper seams in the silver mines at Butte, to take advantage of growing demand for electric cables. It is said that William made mine owners into millionaires in four states.

As for his character, ‘Bill’ is described as a big Welshman “fearless, independent and fair, but always demanding a full day’s work from his workers.” And later in the article: “Good-natured, shrewd, strong, with an average man’s body but the strength of iron”. It then described an incident where he was stabbed in the stomach but held his wound in one hand while breaking his stabber’s jaw with the other.

By searching various online sources (including mining history websites and US Geological Survey reports), I was able in March 2019 to put together something of a timeline of his life in the USA:



Virginia City 1867–8

US National Archives and Records Administration Ref:NAID 519492

- 1860: Arrived at Virginia City, Nevada in February after a long trek (which passed over the current site of the city of Reno) in which he walked over snow-covered mountains and saved his frost-bitten leg with a poultice of bread and tea leaves; the world's largest deposit of gold and silver had been found there the previous year
- 1864: Listed as a resident in Aurora, Nevada (now a ghost town, some 100 miles from Virginia City); it is here that he is said to have known Mark Twain
- 1864: Married Janette Love, Virginia City
- 1870: Possible census entry Virginia City (spelt Schraum but other facts fit)
- 1878: Appointed as county assessor of Storey County, Nevada (the county of which Virginia City is the capital)
- 1879: Married (A)delia Higgins in Virginia City; with her there in 1880 census
- 1900: Anaconda, Montana - shown as superintendent of the High Ore Mine, of 223 workers; a US Geological Survey lists a Skyrme vein among the list of mining fissures
- 1925: San Francisco – died Saturday 15th August.

I have not yet found him in any US censuses after 1880. Also, previously I had not searched early enough in UK sources, since I did not appreciate how old he was when he died. His age at death of 92 and ages in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of 34 and 44 indicated that he was born around 1833–6. The Skyrmes from Pembrokeshire did not move to Swansea or Portsmouth until much later in the 19th century, so perhaps William emigrated directly from another part of Wales rather than Swansea as suggested by the article in *The People*.

So in March 2019 I was no nearer to solving the mystery of who William Skyrme was, until...

Part 3 – William Identified

In February 2022, almost exactly three years after the uploading of *The People* article, this article from the *Welsh Gazette* of 27 May 1926 appeared on the British Newspaper Archive website.

It even gives William's birthdate – 18th October 1835.



It goes on to mention sisters Sarah and Anne. Sarah married a John James and Anne married a Richard Sutton. It says that enquiries have identified a Samuel Sutton, a farm servant at the Old Castle, Cardigan. It gives information about what has been found about the Sutton and James descendants concluding:

“The name Sutton is therefore peculiar to the district and has probably become lost in recent years by marriage. There are good chances of Anne Sutton, who might have married a Davies, Jones, Williams or Evans, being still in the district.”

Knowing William’s birthdate and names of his sisters, I found him in my database where he had been recorded about seven years ago. He was baptised in Llangwm, Pembrokeshire on 25th October 1835, the son of William Skyrme of Llangwm and Elizabeth Jones from Burton. He is descended from mariners, ferrymen, and watermen. In fact, in 1849, aged 14, he became a merchant seaman apprentice. He is described as “growing with a fair complexion and can write. Indentured to Hugh Taylor, Tower Hill London on vessel Thomas Kanion”. The next reference I found for him was as the father of Elizabeth, born in Lynn, Massachusetts in 1884 whose mother was Adelia Higgins. It’s just that I had not mined my database deep enough to connect my Californian William to the one in Massachusetts!

What the *Welsh Gazette* article misses is that William was one of eight children. As well as the two sisters mentioned (and I had already identified their spouses) he had three more sisters as well as two brothers. His younger brother Peter married Frances Mason and they had 8 children, some of whose descendants are living today. So there could have been many more heirs than originally conjectured.

So Have I Struck Gold? Well, I’ve certainly mined one seam of silver at least. I now know that William, the miner who made his fortune, was not from Swansea or Portsmouth, but Llangwm by the River Cleddau. But perhaps I won’t really strike gold until I find the result. Did the heir hunters in California find William’s descendants? All of them or just the descendants of sisters Sarah and Anne? And how much was the final fortune?

So perhaps there will be a part 4. And perhaps one of the readers of this journal will have inherited a share of William’s fortune and already know the answers.

David J Skyrme (3924)

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www.skyrme.info

THE SOCIETY'S LOGO

(Extract of article from Volume 11 Number 3, page 20)

Founder member Lynne Davies (12) designed the cover of the first journal, published in August 1982. He incorporated a logo, referred to by some members as the celtic key, that was based on motifs from the Nevern Celtic Cross. (above right).

The Norman church of St Brynach is on the site of St Brynach's 6th century "clas", an important ecclesiastical centre. At the time when it is said that Dyfed had seven bishops, this was probably the seat of one. Except for the castellated tower, perilously under-cut by the adjacent river Caman, most of the original Norman structure of the present building has been rebuilt.

The Nevern Cross on the south side of the church dates from the 10th century or early 11th century. It has classic braided decorations.

Around 2005 Elvet Morris (20) incorporated the original logo into a new design for the cover of the journal, in effect creating a new logo. His original artwork was "computerised" by someone unknown. This cover first appeared in August 2006

In 2008 the then editor (Glyn Macken) re-drew the logo to improve its clarity and it remains our logo today.



Carmarthen Archives

We are pleased to announce that the Carmarthenshire County Council's new archive service is open to the public from 14:00 on Wednesday 13 July 2022. Further details can be found at www.sirgar.llyw.cymru/archifausirgaerfyrddin www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/carmarthenshirearchives

Access to the new archives will be by appointment only. To arrange your appointment please email: ECSArchivist@carmarthenshire.gov.uk or telephone: 01267 228232. In addition, if you do not have a valid readers ticket, please register for an Archives Card before you visit at: <https://www.archivescard.com/ARA> We look forward to welcoming you to the new archives!

Our General Secretary, Colin Potter attended the Official Open Day on 11th July and the photos below are from that day.



Official Opening of the Carmarthen Archives on 11th July 2022



Entrance to the Archives from the Library



Carmarthen Library



The new Archives Reading Room



Archives storage facility

Vol 3.8

Mrs Freda Woollard (227) submitted the following:

“I came by this small poem in the parish magazine of St James Church, Norton, Sheffield, by the late Leslie Cooper and having received permission from their editor, I submit it as the “Thoughts of an MI Transcriber”:

In this Churchyard of Old St James,
Stand the headstones of many names,
Stones with names that time has lost,
Now stand green and over mossed,
Mother, Father and a child at birth:
Lie deep beneath this holy turf,
Some who sat among the pews,
Are resting now beneath the Yews,
People we never saw or knew,
Departed this life – 1742.”

Vol 6.8 – Dec 1999

In the Letters to the Editor – from John J Gameson (1714): “In the article “Genealogy on the Internet” in the August issue, Gareth Hicks states that conventional post is unkindly referred to as snail mail. In the same issue the interest of new member, Mr Jon Bradley Jeffreys, were published, so I wrote to him in Dallas, Texas on Saturday 21st August and received a reply on Saturday 28th August with lots of relevant information and photographs of family members. Taking the distance to Dallas as 4,000 miles this is equivalent to a speed of 47.6 miles an hour there and back! Not bad for a snail, eh?”

Help Needed

DURING LOCKDOWN, I researched my family history. I would be grateful if anyone could help me with the following questions arising from that research:

- 1) I have been researching the Philpin family from Wiston/ Rudbaxton/ Haroldston West, Pembrokeshire. Research was completed by another family member some years ago, that indicated that the family were linked to Walter Philpin (1550–1612); who was mayor of Tenby 1585. However, I have been unable to establish a link between Walter Philpin and the more modern generation of the Philpin family. I would be interested to know if there is any research available about Walter Philpin or where I might be able to find out any information about him. I would be particularly interested to know whom he married and details of any children he may have had.
- 2) There is a family story that one of my ancestors from Haroldston West/ Nolton area of Pembrokeshire was engaged to be married. It is said, in the family, that it was the tradition in that area for the husband to be, to give his fiancée 3 jugs, of different sizes, for their future marriage. My ancestor gave 3 jugs to his future wife. But, he saw her dancing with someone else at a dance, became jealous, went home and smashed the jugs! (They did reconcile and marry later!) I wondered if anyone knew anything about the tradition of giving jugs in Wales for future marriages? I have not been able to find out anything about this. I don't know what time period this was, but I would guess at 18th/19th century. (It could, of course, just have been a family tradition rather than a tradition of the area.)
- 3) I have been researching the Powell family from Roch/Walton West Pembrokeshire. My Great Great Grandfather, William Powell (b1824), was the landlord of The Three Mariners pub in Walton West. The pub no longer exists. I wondered if anyone has any knowledge about the pub and where the pub might have stood in Walton West. William Powell was living there on the 1851, 1861 and 1871 censuses. Apparently, the road running through Walton West was an old drover's road.

Thank you for your help.

Debra Powell (74881)

Email: debra544@btinternet.com

I RECEIVED A COPY of The Dyfed Family History Journal Volume 14 Nov 5 and in this was an article re the Rev Thomas Thomas.

I was amazed to read about Phebe Thomas who was my 3rd Great grandmother – her daughter Elizabeth married Joseph Whicher.

I am also trying to trace my Beynon ancestors. My mother's maiden name was Nancye Beynon Whicher, her grandfather was William Beynon Williams 1864 born in Caslan, Pembrokeshire.

I wonder if it would be possible for you to email me a copy of this article so I can add it to my online family tree.

(Editor – which was sent and the following was received...)

Thank you so much for finding me and for the copy of the article. I have added it to my family tree with acknowledgement to Jeni.

I would really appreciate any help in finding my Beynon ancestors – any information or photographs would be amazing.

Here is a potted history of what I know (or think I know!)

Me – Anne Beynon Thomas.

My Mum – Nancye Beynon Whicher b 1926 in Penarth and married Arthur Teifion Thomas – whose family came from Cwmsymlog, Ceredigion and were lead miners.

My Gran – Voilet Maude Williams – married Thomas Percival Whicher.

My Great Gran Rhoda Williams (nee Edwards) married William Beynon Williams (1864–1891) he was born in Caslan Pembrokeshire and died in Raglan Gwent.

I think his parents were Joseph Williams b. 1836 St Mary's Pembrokeshire and Martha Beynon b.1825 in Eglwyswin, Pembrokeshire.

I think her parents were John Beynon b.1796 in Haverfordwest and Martha? b. 1786 in Llawhaden, Pembs and that is a much information as I have.

Annie Beynon Lovelass (nee Thomas) (93961)

Email: annielovelass@hotmail.co.uk

I AM TRYING to find some old photos of Rehoboth Chapel located in Square & Compass, Pembrokeshire. The chapel has been listed for sale as a potential holiday let and I am in talks with the Welsh Government's history society to stop the sale and have the building listed.

They have asked me to find any old information, plans or photos of the site whilst they are doing their assessment on the building. I am a member of the Dyfed History Society but can't seem to find any photos on the website. So, I thought I'd ask if you would be able to help?

I have found a few things so far, one being Cerys Matthews' wedding in 2003 and the other interesting one being that the building was made by W.D. Caroe who made a range of churches and chapels across England and Wales. The site was originally made in 1840 and rebuilt in 1905. The government wants to know whether there are any remains of the original 1840 church on site or whether there was a church there before 1840. As the interior of the building is definitely before 1905 as you can see in this image below.



Courtesy of Pembrokeshire Archives

I have spoken to Pembrokeshire Archives, but they only have one photo from 1998. I would ideally need a much older photo to prove how trapped in time it really is. I hope you agree that buildings like these need to be protected and not just turned into a holiday let, especially when they are in such good condition.

Andrew Harries (77268)
Email: atharries18@gmail.com

WAS THERE SUCH a place, a tavern called the Wheaten Sheaf in Meidrim? No was the general consensus that is until Terry at Carmarthen Archives discovered the will of Phebe Thomas who had left it to her daughter Esther in 1834. It was situated somewhere west of the church. In the census of 1841, she is now Esther Edwards and working as a servant for her is Esther Thomas her niece.

This Esther went on to marry Jenkin Thomas (no relation) and together they ran the Fountain Inn still in Meidrim today. They had no children but looked after my grandfather who had been sent back to the village as a three-year-old after his mother had died in the Neath valley.

In the will of Jenkin in 1911 among his bequeaths are my grandfather Thomas and the children of the late Esther, John Thomas a farmer of Swansea and Phebe who married a John Davies. Jenkin and Esther's grave is marked by an Obelisk in the graveyard to the left as you enter the lich gate.

In the photograph is Jenkin to the left and my grandfather on the pony.

Rod Thomas (36629)
rod.thomas_902@sky.com





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.

CARDIGAN

Aberystwyth/Cardigan Branch Chair

1982–1983	Parch Stephen Morgan (5)
1984–1989	Mr David James (321)
1989–1992	Mr V H Williams (112)
1992–1992	Mrs Joan Fennell (1446)
1992–1992	Mrs B J Mason (1527)
1993–1994	Mrs Joan Fennell (1446)
1994–2003	Mr D Jenkins (793) (also 2007–09 & 2014–16)
2003–2007	Clive Richardson (2585)
2009–2014	Mrs Jane Kerr (233)
2016–present	Mrs Rae Morgan (5472)

WE RESTARTED our face-to-face meetings on 4 April. The committee decided to have an AGM, followed by a speaker. The officers elected were: Chairman – Rae Morgan, Secretary – Ken James, Treasurer – Goronwy Thomas, Librarian and Projects – Betty Griffiths, Fiona Thomas – Takes notes when we have speakers, Refreshments – Diane Green and new committee member Phil Davies. We look forward to working with our newest committee members.

Alma Stanford our previous Secretary stepped down after 9 years and Sue James our previous Treasurer stepped down after 6 years. The branch would like to thank them both for their support and hard work over the years.

To end the evening, Mr Emyr Phillips, gave us an interesting talk on “The Tom Mathias Photographic Collection.”

9 May, Mr Phil Davies, gave us a talk on his family tree. He had traced back his descendants to the Fitzgerald’s, of Carew Castle fame.

6 June, Mr Hedd Ladd-Lewis, gave us a talk on “The Life of the Rev Thomas Evans of Newport.”

22 April 2022 was the official opening of our Cardigan Archive and Family History Room at Cardigan Castle. There is a vast amount of history on Cardigan, the Castle, as well as Family History records: Mis, marriages, and baptisms. The records are continually being expanded by people donating estate books, business records, etc. of the area. We have had visits from people who are staying in the area and looking for information, many are members. The History Room is open 5 days a week: Monday, Wednesday and Friday by Glen Johnson, who deals with the history of Cardigan Town, and surrounding area; Tuesday by Betty Griffiths and Thursday by Rae Morgan both branch volunteers, several other members volunteer when they are in Cardigan.

Rae Morgan (5472)

CARMARTHEN

Carmarthen Branch Chair

1982–1993	Mr E Vernon Jones (6)
1993–1994	Mr D E Treharne Lewis (3)
1994–1997	Mrs Elin Williams (36)
1997–1998	John Maddox
1999–2013	Mrs Betty Davies (1554)
2013 – present	Mr Eric Davies (3000)

WE HAD OUR first meeting, the AGM, at the Spilman Hotel on Wednesday 30th March.

The Balance Sheets for 2020 and 2021 were approved with the 2021 sheet having no entries! The 3 officers were re-elected: Janet Slate as Secretary, Janice Powers as Treasurer and Eric Davies as Chairman.

On April 27th we had an extremely interesting talk by Mrs Marita Aitken on “The Thrills of Family History.” She was born in Lambeth but was raised by foster parents in a small rural town in Berkshire. While working in Bristol she met and married Bob. They bought the Castle Inn, Llansteffan in 1988 which they ran for 26 years. In 1989 she received a call from a man claiming to be

her brother (actually her half-brother) and when he came to visit her he had a suitcase full of family history documents and found that her mother had been born in Abergwili!

She subsequently found that she was related to numerous old families in Llansteffan and customers and people she employed in the Castle Inn turned out to be distant cousins! This was a tale with very unexpected outcomes and she is still researching her family history.

On May 25th Bruce Wallace traced the history of the “Picton Memorial in Carmarthen. The Picton Memorial commemorates Lieutenant General Sir Thomas Picton.” He was the highest-ranking British Officer to die at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. He was from Haverfordwest, but at the time of his death he owned Iscoed in Ferryside.

The original monument was erected in 1828 but it became dilapidated within a few years and was demolished in 1846. The foundation stone for the new monument was laid in 1847. In 1984 the top structure was declared unsafe and taken down. Four years later the whole monument was rebuilt stone by stone on stronger foundations.

Bruce Wallace has a great affinity with the Monument. He went to live in a cottage in Johnstown where the garden was completely overgrown. When he decided to clear up the garden, he came across what he thought was a simple garden wall but it was actually sculptured! It turned out to be a part of the original monument and is now displayed in in the Carmarthen Museum.

Eric Davies (3000)

UPPER TOWY VALLEY

Upper Towy Valley Branch Chair

1994–1996	Rev Tom Evans
1996–1998	Mr T Islwyn Walters (928) (also 2003)
1998–2002	Mrs Janet Watkins (1733)
2003–2011	Mr Henry Ferguson-Thomas (3157)
2011–2014	Mrs Beryl Morgan (1812)
2014–2019	Mr Alun Jones (4973)
2019–present	Mrs Davina Price (2773)

DURING THE SPRING we have had quite a busy few months in Llandoverly.

At the end of April members met together to create a new display in the windows of the Heritage Centre to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Llandoverly Male Voice Choir, with musical items and photographs of the choir.

The Heritage Centre opened at Easter, and we have started back at the Family History Research Centre once again, open to visitors from 11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays. A group of us met in May and June to continue our transcriptions of the memorial stones in Llandingat Churchyard, now nearing completion.

At the end of May we changed the choir display for a scene celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, complete with "Her Majesty" and royal regalia, which attracted much interest. Later in June an Open Evening was held at the Heritage Centre for members of the public to look around and meet the volunteers at the Museum and Family History Centre.

We are very pleased to be gradually beginning our meetings again. Several members met on a beautiful Sunday afternoon at the end of April for an outdoor meeting – a tour of places of interest in Llandoverly, ably led by our guide, Mr. Hugh Davies.



We began at the castle which was built in the twelfth century. Where the car park is now, there was once a moat surrounding the castle, with a causeway across – hence the name Penygawse for the restaurant in High Street, previously the butcher's shop.

At the junction of Queensway, after a visit from Queen Victoria and Broad Street, leading from King's Road, in honour of George IV who passed that way, is Llandingat House. The building, now under renovation, is a distinctive one, with seventeen chimneys, showing the owner's wealth by the number of hearths. Opposite was the Belle View Dairy, once one of Llandoverly's many public houses.

Just off the road are Rock Cottages, with pretty gable ends – the small window in the front of one indicated that this was a public house, where drinks

were served through the window to customers outside. Here the Towy used to flow around the church and joined the Bran further down. There was often a great deal of flooding in this area.

Church Bank was the main road to Carmarthen, where a wooden footbridge crossed the river. There are still signs of the riverbank. Vicar Prichard had a school here, which was washed away by the floods. Here, too, stood a gunpowder store for the Carmarthenshire Fusiliers.

Towy Avenue was not built upon until the end of the nineteenth century; it was still prone to flooding, with the water coming up to the first floor of the houses. Near Dingat Close the first chain bridge was built in 1832; previously a wooden bridge had been used. From Dingat View Church Lane wound to the right towards the town, one of the oldest roads in Llandovery. Another was School Lane behind Stone Street.

Because of the floods the town tended to move in an easterly direction away from the river, then when the railway came in the 1850s, the flow of the river was stopped. More houses could then be built, and from 1862 with the gas works – coal gas – more workers arrived needing more houses, leading to the building of New Road. More streets were built at the end of the nineteenth century though College View had been built in the 1820s. Photographs exist of these old cottages with their large chimneys.

Four farms in the area went back to medieval times: Neuadd, owned by Vicar Pritchard's parents, Pentre lands at Stone Street, Ty Cerrig and Cerrig Cottages and lands, and Castle lands – all gradually being built upon. The buildings near Landingat are the oldest survivors. New roads were built around Llanfair Church and the Workhouse in 1779 by the Turnpike Trusts.

Hugh pointed out to us the different styles of housing. Coming up to what is now the main road, we passed a red brick terrace with elaborate door architraves and bay windows. New housing included Railway Terrace off College View with the Salutation Inn being built in 1869 before the railway to Builth was built in 1870. The houses at Springfield Terrace on New Road however, existed from the 1830s. The College masters taught at other properties as well as Llandingat House before the College was built.

The houses in Towy Avenue were built around 1906. The first was owned by the Anthony family but when it was built Mrs Anthony refused to move in as it was too near the railway. Previously there was no building in this area because of the floods.

Where the railway shunting is was the Quakers' Graveyard. Broad Street used to be Lower Street – many roads changed their names. There were many shops along New Road, including a tuck shop and butchers. The first six houses along the second half of New Road were built later; others were built in twos, threes and fours – this is evident by the different railings, type of stone, pillars and chimneys – it was not just one long terrace built at the same time. The majority have attic rooms and one house, Breswylfa, has a date, 1900.

From Number 30, all the windows are bays, with the last house built being added on to two semi-detached houses. There were several shops in this section. Opposite is Rose Cottage, built in 1887. The next terrace has a darker stone – red sandstone and yellow window and door surrounds with no bay windows. It was built after the railway came for the railway workers.

At School Lane was several large barns. There were many small industries here with warehouses, including those of Watkins' Brewery. Pantycelyn, a house with a stone wall, had a passageway through and a shop. At the end of New Road there were stables behind the last two houses, which had dormer attic windows. Opposite was a barn which was demolished in 1908 to make way for the road – Stone Street. A commemorative stone states that the land, adjoining Windermere House, was given by Mrs Elizabeth Lewis, wife of Charles Prytherch Lewis.

In the 1790s the French Wars meant Southern England was unable to get meat from France and this gave an opportunity for the Drovers to take their cattle to the market in Smithfield.

From the 1790s on the town flourished. Many public houses opened and as the Drovers carried a lot of money, in 1799 David Jones set up his Black Ox Bank behind the King's Head.



The Drovers B&B in Market Square

To be a drover men had to be over the age of thirty, married and to have lived in a property for at least eight years. They were excluded from the benefits of bankruptcy laws. The Bank of the Black Ox moved to Market Square and then in 1909 to the site of Lloyd's Bank, which has a new facade on a much older building.

Some of the public houses along Stone Street were the William IV, the White Lion which moved to the New White Lion, the White Hart, now a large blue house and the Butchers' Arms, now painted yellow. Ty Cerrig with a brewery behind it was the house of author and historian A. T. Arber-Cooke. At the junction with the old BUILT Road, now Victoria Crescent, were the Black Swan and the White Lion. Many houses here have a new front – the actual houses behind are much older. They all have different styles and heights.

Next to the New White Lion was a cabinet maker, then the Greyhound Inn next to the entrance to Adelaide Street. The Golden Lion opposite had three storeys. It is the only shop with the original front – it was rebuilt to keep this but with only two storeys.

T. Harries, the glazier, has the old oak staircase from the original house. W.J. Jones' frontage has changed – it can be seen from the window on the side that the house is much older. Havard Mansions has an elaborate doorway and coving inside with a passageway leading to the back.

At the antique shop at the end of Stone Street was the Black Lion. Pentre House was formerly Pentre Farmhouse. Howell Harries came to preach here at Market Square, though he didn't have many good comments to make about the town! Llandovery had many breweries. Beer was taken from Llandovery by the wives of the publicans to Brecon. It had the reputation of being very strong beer and it was made illegal in Brecon to sell Llandovery beer until the sale of local beer was completed.

The river went from here at the Market Square towards the moat, under the houses. It was an open sewer until the 1830s when problems with rats forced it to be covered over. In the 1800s the meat market was converted into the Market Hall with its clock and the Town Hall had an open market below.

One of the Tonn family first kept the Post Office, later taken over by David Jones Roderick and then William Rees, who kept it at the time of the stagecoach crash and the first stamps in 1840. It moved to Alma House and then again to opposite the Market Hall. Here were the oldest houses in town.

Their fronts were cobbled and the Bawddwr ran in front of these. The red house used to be the Old Bear. Cobbles were found under the front of the house showing that it used to be further back.

In 1770 a group met here to organise the murder of William Powell of Llangadog. William Williams was one of the eleven arrested. Nine were taken to Hereford and tried. One aged seventeen and two of good character were acquitted. The other six were to be hanged and hung in chains and their bodies used for dissection. William Williams, however, escaped to France.

Our grateful thanks to Hugh for giving us such an enjoyable afternoon and sharing with us his comprehensive knowledge of the history of the town. We learned many things about Llandovery and saw things which are often passed, unnoticed. We look forward to September, when Hugh will guide us around another section of the town.

Moira C. L. Evans (39)

LONDON

London Branch Chair

1986–1990	Mr Roland Thorne (61)
1990–1992	Mr G Walters (8)
1992–1993	Mrs Janet Daniels (238)
1993–1995	Dr Reginald Davies (669)
1995–1999	Mrs Mari Alderman (136)
1999–present	Mrs Anna Brueton (1806)

ON 11 JUNE we held our AGM. This was our first ‘in-person’ meeting since 2020; people who were unable to attend in person took part via Zoom. This was a little unwieldy but enabled a wider attendance than would have been possible otherwise. Once again, all the officers were re-elected. The meeting went on to discuss the ways in which people kept their family history records and displayed family trees.

After a gap of two years, we are looking forward to our annual visit Aberystwyth for a week in August, to visit the National Library and other archives in the area.

Details of future meetings are not yet finalised, but we are hoping to arrange a London walk in September, taking in sites of particular Welsh interest, followed by a Zoom meeting in November.

Anna Brueton (1806)

LLANELLI

Llanelli Branch Chair

1983–1984	Mr Gerald Thomas (19) (also 1985–98 1990–93)
1984–1985	Mr D G Francis (351)
1988–1989	Miss Tracy Jones
1989–990	Mr Ron Powell (99)
1994–1996	Rev W J Griffiths (175)
1996–1997	Mr Ivor Griffiths
1997–1999	Mrs Jean O’Driscoll
1999–2001	Mr John James (2580)
2001–2003	Mr Alcwyn Vaughan (2771)
2003–2004	Mr Peter Thomas
2004–2005	Mr David Downing (1350)
2005–2008	Mrs Chris Davies (79)
2008–2012	Ms Joyce Reohorn (4170)
2012–2014	Mrs Sian Howells (4815)
2014–2014	Mr Keith Skivington (5273)
2014–present	Mrs Linda Martin (5468)

THE LLANELLI BRANCH met in their new venue of Llanelli House. It was lovely to be able to have a meeting after two years of lockdown. There was no speaker at the meeting and the members discussed what to do now that Linda Martin has resigned. No decision was made, it is hoped the position will be filled soon.

June

Our own member Chris Davies was our speaker in June. She came with her large collection of scrap books and photos and explained how she started delving into her family tree forty years ago when she joined Dyfed Family History Society at its very start and was encouraged by their enthusiasm.

When Chris started, she only knew three Grandparents, did not know who her paternal grandmother was, only that her name was Elizabeth Jones, not the easiest name to research! When Chris eventually found her, she was delighted to find that Elizabeth's mother's name was Emiah Maddox, there would not be too many of those!

Chris found in her research that she had a distant ancestor that was Lord Edmund Davies and her first cousin once removed was Lady Amy Parry Williams. In all she found 31 GGG grandparents and all were from a radius of 25 miles from Carmarthen town, she does not think that she will ever find her 32nd GGG grandmother as all she knows is her name – Mrs Jones. Chris has found many relations through DNA. She had family photos that had no names on them and how her aunt was going to tell her who they were but had a stroke on the day when all was to be revealed and died a few days later. A timely reminder to us all to check our photos.

Marjorie Witty (1804)

HAVERFORDWEST

Pembrokeshire/Haverfordwest Branch Chair

1982–1983	Mr Peter J Dawkins Palmour (17)(also 1985–88)
1983–1984	Mrs Stella Peters (74)
1984–1985	W A Insell (230)
1988–1993	Mr Peter Gibby (526) (1996–97, 1998–2000)
1993–1995	Mr Owen Bushell (53)
1995–1996	Mr Arthur Skone (1373)
1997–1998	Mr Ted Hackett (955) (2001–04)
2004–2008	Mrs Margaret Llewellyn (1072)
2008–2009	Mr Peter Wheeler (2746)
2009–2011	Mrs Rosalie Lilwall (123) (also 2013–14)
2011–2013	Mr Huw James (4577)
2014–present	Mr Geraint Davies (4553)

THE PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHIVES continues to be used as a vaccination centre and therefore our meeting room is not available.

On 2 April we visited St Mary's Church, Haverfordwest with Pat Swales Barker giving us a fascinating insight into the history of the church and the parish. Our thanks to her for the refreshments provided as well.

It is hoped that we can meet together for a Research Day at the Archives (in the research room) in Sept/Oct, please look for further details on the Haverfordwest Spotlight page, the Events calendar and the Facebook page or email the secretary.

Cate Hobbs (2872)

Vol 6.4 – August 1998

As relevant today as it was then!

A quote from Ted Hackett, Chairman talking about the internet. "What can be done for the vast majority [now in 2022 more of a minority but still as important a group] of our members who do not have the computing facilities to take advantage of these innovations?"

A big shout out to John Hughes (1946) who was a guiding light in introducing technology to the Society – he wrote a wonderful article in this issue entitled "Surfing the Web for relatives" which started "Or in my case 'paddling' until I got my feet wet and gained confidence that I wouldn't be 'spammed' or my computer catch a 'virus'. For those who have not heard these words before and wouldn't touch a computer with a barge pole let alone 'e-mail' over the 'Internet' all will be revealed! You only have to realise that when the present generation of school children grow up, the computer and the Internet will be as familiar as the telephone. It all started last Christmas when my wife bought me a modem as a present."

Little did we know then that even telephones would become alien to those of us brought up with dial telephones and now my kids answer their phone on their watches or via earphones!!

Vol 6.6 – April 1999

"NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES – There had been considerable concern over the future of the Carmarthenshire Archives during the past months but now the news is good. The Records Office at County Hall, Carmarthen has seen many lows and highs over the last two years, from a threat of closure to a successful lottery application... The grant will enable the office to move to part of the old Ysgol Bro Myrddin site in Carmarthen. This should take place sometime in 1999 and will mean a fairly long closure period ..."

We know that this wasn't the end of the problems for the archives but hopefully with the opening of the new Archives building in July this year all this will be a thing of the past (excuse the pun).

New Members

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

Member Number	Member Name	Address	Email Address
95927	Mr Gregory Lewis	Longueville NSW Australia 2066	
98684	Peter Brooks	Cardiff/Caerdydd Wales	
34437	Ms Fiona Thomas	Llandysul Ceredigion Wales	fionat25@btinternet.com
56131	Mrs Sandy Godfrey	Wokingham Berkshire	sandy_godfrey@hotmail.com
47333	Ms Elizabeth Thakkar	Swansea Wales	madyliz@hotmail.com
58438	Mrs Penelope Voekel	Los Angeles USA 90036	Penelopexv@gmail.com
92977	Mrs Ann Hopkins	Bognor Regis West Sussex	annahopkins175@gmail.com
59756	Mrs Mary Lynne Rees	Ammanford Carmarthenshire Wales	
48176	Mr Elwyn David Rice Davies	Melbourne Australia	elwyn.davies2@wh.org.au
72428	Ms Suzanne McCullagh	Llanstadwell Pembrokeshire Wales	suzydev27@gmail.com
92978	Mrs Ffion Kellell	Brynteg Wales	aberquarry@aol.com
41637	Mr Rob Scourfield	Cresselly, Kilgetty Pembrokeshire Wales	rob.scourfield@yahoo.co.uk
92133	Mrs Sandra Williams	Llanelli Carmarthenshire Wales	
34713	Mrs Catherine Saville	Denmead Waterlooville	Cathyprice1964@gmail.com
61355	Mr Rodney Davis	Uxbridge Middlesex	rod@scorpweb.co.uk
52755	Mr Jeremy Rix	Llangrannog Llandysul	jeremy@engageoko.com
56585	Mr David Hugh Barron	Nottingham Nottinghamshire	davidhbarron@bropenworld.com
72229	Miss Bethan Arrowsmith	Burntisland Fife	
75512	Mr Michael John Smith	Penllergar Swansea Wales	mjs88mph@gmail.com
12327	Mrs Delwen E Wilkinson	Melton Mowbray Leicestershire	snowdrop.2001@ntlworld.com

39133	Mr Ian Jenkins	Llanelli Carmarthen Wales	ian.m.jinks@gmail.com
18914	Christopher Cole	Stepaside Narberth Pembrokeshire Wales	colajr69@yahoo.co.uk
55486	David Williams	Burry Port Carmarthenshire Wales	d.r.williams@ntlworld.com
63461	Mr David Plank	Saffron Walden Essex	baytree1970@gmail.com
95262	Mrs Ruth Gower	Llanelli Carmarthenshire Wales	Tregoch@sky.com
63225	Dr Arwel Davies	Fforestfach Swansea Wales	arwel.davies0@gmail.com
39228	Mr Paul Bramwell Richards	Tenterden Kent	paulbramwell@tiscali.co.uk
46547	Mrs Annie Underwood	Tilthurst Reading Berkshire	annieunderwood@hotmail.com
42151	Ms Kathryn Tudor	Fishponds Bristol	krudor2@hotmail.co.uk
11116	Ms Eleri Davies	Sheffield	eleridavies@blueyonder.co.uk
55146	Mr Adrian Martin	Weston-Super-Mare Somerset	ademartin@gmail.com
85362	Mr Alan Davies	Newcastle Emlyn Ceredigion Wales	dgad02@icloud.com
69588	Mrs Carol Ann Cicero	Tonyrefail Porth	robsonc@hotmail.co.uk
46253	Mr David John Williams	Seaford East Sussex	davidw2718@btinternet.com
35184	Mr Dewi Jones	Caernarfon Gwynedd	dewicorn@outlook.com
55515	Ms Melanie Fletcher	Hay on Wye Herefordshire	melanie.fletcher@gmail.com
89193	Mr Glyn Thomas	Llandelo Carmarthenshire	
85941	Mrs Sian Williams	Caerphilly Wales	sianw22@gmail.com
49453	Mrs Joanna Price Almond	Llanelli Carmarthenshire Wales	jopricealmond@yahoo.com
46822	Mrs Linda Clewer	Whiteparish Salisbury Wiltshire	
14215	Mrs Janene O'Donnell	Hervey Bay Queensland Australia	bmjk@bigpond.com
99547	Mrs Nina Griffiths	Selly Oak Birmingham	minataff24@gmail.com
46699	Ms Val Ross	Beverley near Hull East Yorkshire	v.a.ross@live.co.uk

28314	Mr Richard Lloyd Pugh	Whitland Carmarthenshire Wales	richardlpugh@binternet.com
82658	Mrs Mary Thomas	Freedom Beaver USA	Lmcoffee@comcast.net
18165	Miss Alyson Fairweather	Barry Vale of Glamorgan	
68972	Mr Denis Loraine-Grews	Pinner Harrow Middlesex	denislorrainegrews@outlook.com
57285	Anthony Mitchell	Hawarden Deeside	tonymitch@talktalk.net
53374	Elizabeth Iona Williams	Pontiang Goodwick Wales	
44857	Mrs Linda Gregory	Burton Latimer Northamptonshire	linda.gregory152@gmail.com

Obituaries

<i>Membership No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Joined</i>
877	Mrs W John Jarman	1988
2558	Mr Michael D Webb	1999

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 Email: cardigansecretary@dyfedfhs.org.uk Tel: 01239 710829

Carmarthen CAERFYRDDIN

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

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

Haverfordwest Hwlfordd

The second Wednesday in each month at 7.00pm
Pembrokeshire Archives, Back Lane, Prendergast, Haverfordwest SA61 2PE
Contact Mr Vaughan Everett - Tel. 07837 039150.

Email: haverfordwest@dyfedfhs.org.uk

Llanelli

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

London Llundain

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

Upper Towy Valley Cwm Tywi Uchaf

The fourth Wednesday in each month at 7.15pm
The Dolaubran Complex, Brecon Road (next to Co-op. Store), 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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Matters relating to the journal (articles, photographs, letters, help needed, advertising)

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Matters relating to the website

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Matters relating to Memorial Inscriptions

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