

CYLCHGRAWN HANES TEULUOEDD DYFED

CYFROL 15 Rhif 2
Ebrill 2024



DYFED FAMILY HISTORY JOURNAL

Volume 15 Number 2
April 2024

Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Dyfed Family History Society

REGISTERED CHARITY No. 513347

President **Rt. Revd. Dorrien Davies, Bishop of St Davids**
Llynnydd

Chairman **Position vacant (tba)**
Cadeirydd

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

Carmarthen **Vacant**
Caerfyrddin

Haverfordwest **Mr. Geraint Davies*** (4553)
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Llanelli **Mrs. Linda Martin*** (5468)

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

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

General Secretary **Mr. Colin Potter*** (5576) secretary@dyfedfhs.org.uk
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Projects Co-ordinator **Mrs. Janice Hughes*** (4750)
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Social Media/
Publicity Officer **Situation Vacant**
Snyddog Cyhoeddusmydd **publicity@dyfedfhs.org.uk**

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Carmarthen County Archivist

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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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Dyfed Probate **Mrs. Beti M Griffiths** (3566)
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Journal **Ms Cate Hobbs (2872), Mr John Paterson (216)**
Indexing Project **Rosaleen Boardman (6495)**

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

* TRUSTEES

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

Please quote your membership number in any correspondence.

Work on the **August Journal** will begin as soon as this one
finishes but the deadline for copy is **15 June 2024**.

THIS YEAR again the AGM is being held in person and via ZOOM on Saturday 27 April in Carmarthen Library. I urge all of those who live in the area to try and attend as we have Edward Perkins giving a talk “An Auctioneers Tale” and it would be nice to support the Society at a time when sadly our numbers are dwindling. If you want to attend online you will need to email the Secretary for an invitation.

I have included a short biography of our new President the Right Reverend Dorrien Davies, Bishop of St Davids on page 21, as we welcome him to the Society.

We have recently had a lot of records digitised (Wills, Carmarthen Vaccination Records and others) from the Carmarthen storage area, which were on fiche. We hope to see them on the website soon, please go on the website and check out what else has been added.

Please check/update your own dashboard to ensure we have your correct address and email (this ensures the journal gets to you and membership renewals can get to you too). Remember also to tick the box(es) of those branches you want to be affiliated to; also the Online Discussion Group (ODG) if you want to be included on their Zoom invitation list, a tick in the box means you get an invite to the Zoom meeting – no tick no invite!

My thanks as usual to all those members who have taken the time and trouble to write articles for inclusion, my apologies for any that have had to wait due to the delightful influx I received at the end of last year, but I am working on ensuring all get published eventually. Please keep sending them in to ensure that we have plenty to fill the next few issues.

As you should know by now this is my last year as editor, so far no one has come forward to volunteer for the position. I have compiled a PowerPoint presentation of what the role entails which I have presented to the ODG, and I am happy to share with anyone interested, also I am happy to talk/email with anyone thinking they might like to volunteer.

Editor

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

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Branch Meetings and Other Events

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

Cardigan Branch

- 8 April Harbours, Railways and Airports of North Pembrokeshire – Edward Perkins
13 May Cardigan Workhouse – Helen Palmer
3 June Merched Beca – Emyr Phillips
July NO MEETING

Carmarthen Branch (now at 2.00pm at Spilman Hotel)

- 24 April TBC
29 May TBC
26 June TBC
31 July TBC

Haverfordwest Branch

- 10 April NO MEETING
8 May Archives Afternoon at Pembrokeshire Archives 1–4pm
12 June TBC
10 July TBC

Llanelli Branch (now back in Llanelly House)

- 15 April TBC
20 May TBC
17 June TBC
15 July TBC

Upper Towy Valley Branch

- 24 April Speaker to be confirmed
22 May TBC
26 June TBC
24 July Monumental Inscriptions

London Branch

- 15 June AGM followed by Members' discussion – meeting in person, we hope to offer a Zoom link too subject to sufficient bandwidth.
- 11–18 Aug Visit to National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth
- 21 Sept Women in Carmarthen – Mary Thorley (via Zoom)
- 9 Nov The Rebecca Riots through the letters of Middleton Estate land agent Thomas Herbert Cook (via Zoom)

Online Discussion Group (online@dyfedfhs.org.uk)

- 29 April Anona Morgan's research into her family's link with their local chapels
- 27 May TBC
- 24 June TBC
- 29 July TBC

14–15 Sept Llandovery Sheep Festival – a weekend celebration of rural crafts, food, entertainment and of course, sheep farming

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>

Dyfed Family History Society Annual General Meeting

Saturday 27 April 2024

In person and via Zoom – 11am–2pm

**Meeting Room 2, Carmarthen Library, St Peters Street,
Carmarthen SA31 1LN**

Speaker (*from 12.30pm*) Edward Perkins – An Auctioneers Tale
(Those wishing to participate in the ZOOM meeting need to email secretary@dyfedfhs.org.uk to receive an invitation giving joining details)

Draft Agenda for the AGM 2024

Saturday, 27 April 2024 at 11.00 am

Carmarthen Library, St Peter's Street, Carmarthen

And online via Zoom.

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To sign as a proper and accurate record of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22 April 2023.
3. Matters arising.
4. To receive the Secretary's report for 2023.
5. To receive the Treasurer's report and accounts for 2023.
6. To receive the Membership Secretary's report for 2023.
7. To elect officers for 2024 (The names of the nominated officers are shown below (not including Branch Chairs who are elected by their Branch members)).

Officers nominated for election by members of the Society at the AGM 2024:

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

8. The appointment of Independent External Examiner – Caroline Wheeler (Bevan Buckland LLP) for the year 2024.

General Secretary's Report

THE NEW Bishop of St Davids, Dorrien Davies, has agreed to become our new president, we look forward to hearing from him in the future.

The standout success for 2023 was the Online Discussion Group. We set up a new system which made it easier to send Zoom invites to interested members. Members just need to log in, tick the relevant box and an invite will be emailed to the address which is in your records a few days before the meeting. About 40 members regularly attend and many of them log in early just for a chat. Thanks to Rosaleen Boardman and Gareth Morgan for organising these meetings.

We have deposited our collection of wills, and the Carmarthen vaccination records to a company in Swansea which will convert them to PDF. We hope that there are no more fiches lurking in our storeroom! We aim to add them to our publications page later in the year.

Our collection of Monumental Inscriptions is growing with new names added very frequently. The project has now grown so large that we are changing the system to enable members to make searches easier.

Sadly, attendance is down in most branches and has not picked up since Covid, we welcome any suggestions to improve attendance at our meetings.

As David's excellent report shows, membership has dropped to under 900; as a comparison Glamorgan's membership is around 1100.

I would like to thank the committee for their help in 2024 and wish Eric Davies a happy retirement as he has now stood down as Carmarthen Branch Chairman after 11 years in the role.

As you may be aware, our journal editor is retiring, there will be two further issues after this one unless a replacement is found. Please contact the editor for further information.

Colin Potter (5576)

(Please note that this report and the other AGM documents that follow (except the Membership Secretary's Report) are all in Draft, the final documents will be sent by email newsletter before 27 March and will also be available on the Society Spotlight page on the website from that date.)

Treasurer's Report

The Society's financial strength continues with the total closing balances similar to those of 2022. Total subscriptions fell but interest received rose substantially. An increased amount of face-to-face activity resulted in higher spending which led to a deficit for the year. The first insurance premium was paid for a policy to protect our trustees against potential financial liabilities. The 2023 Accounts show routine and development website costs as separate items.

DYFED FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023 Registered Charity Number 513347

INCOME	2023	2022	EXPENDITURE	2023	2022
Membership			Capital Expenditure	£50.00	£455.97
Subscriptions & donations	£11,094.07	£11,634.00	General Expenditure		
Gift Aid	£2,205.69	£1,994.07	Journals including postage	£8,148.30	£8,747.62
Total	£13,299.76	£13,628.07	Website Maintenance & Support	£904.39	
			Storeroom rent	£1,440.00	£1,140.00
Sundry Income			Trustees insurance	£276.76	
C&C Bank interest	£1,263.95	£525.51	Transferred to branches	£900.00	
Reserve account interest	£40.66	£1.67	Events & publicity	£47.95	
Sales	£23.05	£23.00	Total	£11,717.40	£9,887.62
Online sales	£447.00	£422.00	Administration costs		
Total	£1,774.66	£972.18	Traveling expenses	£1,161.05	£100.60
			Accommodation	£357.00	
Five Branch Current Accounts			Subscriptions to other bodies	£394.42	£423.30
Total change	-£1,099.05	-£1,206.04	PayPal fees: Subs & donations	£167.64	£189.18
			PayPal fees: Online shop	£14.49	£14.56
			Meeting room hire	£212.00	
			Postage	£44.33	£87.81
			Zoom licences		£287.76
			Printing and stationery	£24.49	
			Subs refund & unpaid cheque		£23.00
			Total	£2,375.42	£1,126.21
			Founder Member Awards		£293.58
			Projects		
			Website Development	£295.40	£1,324.21
			Monumental Inscriptions	£410.05	£90.00
			Storeroom audit & clearance	£62.75	
			Digitisation of bmd records	£36.00	
			Total	£804.20	£1,414.21
Total Income	£13,975.37	£13,394.21	Total Expenditure	£14,947.02	£13,177.59
			Surplus/Deficit	-£971.65	£216.62
				£13,975.37	£13,394.21
Balances brought forward	01-Jan-23	01-Jan-22	Balances to carry forward	31-Dec-23	31-Dec-22
31 day notice account	£56,577.63	£60,052.12	31 day notice account	£61,391.58	£56,577.63
Reserve account	£5,200.70	£400.03	Reserve account	£1,461.36	£5,200.70
Current account	£2,043.27	£1,426.13	Current account	£546.94	£2,043.27
Five Branch bank current a/cs	£3,078.89	£4,284.93	Five Branch bank current a/cs	£1,979.84	£3,078.89
PayPal	£46.52	£567.18	PayPal	£595.64	£46.52
Total	£66,947.01	£66,730.39			
Surplus/Deficit	-£971.65	£216.62			
Total of closing balances	£65,975.36	£66,947.01	Total of closing balances	£65,975.36	£66,947.01

I have examined the Income and Expenditure Accounts of the Dyfed Family History Society for the year ended 31st December 2023 and have verified the balances at NatWest Bank, Cambridge & Counties Bank, PayPal and the five Branch Bank Current Accounts. In my opinion these Income and Expenditure Accounts are in accordance with the books and vouchers of the Society and give a true statement of the affairs of the Society. The Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission. Full details of the composition of all figures in the Accounts are available from the Treasurer, if required.

Signed:
 Caroline Wheeler
 Independent External Examiner Date: 2024

Signed: *Gareth Wyn Jones*
 Gareth Wyn Jones
 Treasurer Date: *20th February* 2024

Adroddiad y Trysorydd

Mae cryfder ariannol y Gymdeithas yn parhau gyda chyfanswm y balansau cau yn debyg i rai 2022. Bu lleihad yng nghyfanswm y tanysgrifiadau ond cododd y llog a dderbyniwyd yn sylweddol. Arweiniodd cynnydd yn y gweithgaredd wyneb-yn-wyneb at wariant uwch a olygodd ddiffyg ariannol ar gyfer y flwyddyn. Talwyd y premiwm yswiriant cyntaf am bolisi i ddiogelu ein hymddiriedolwyr rhag rhwymedigaethau ariannol posibl. Mae Cyfrifon 2023 yn dangos costau rheolaidd a chostau datblygu'r wefan fel eitemau ar wahân.

CYFRIFON INCWM A GWARIANT CYMDEITHAS HANES TEULUOEDD DYFED AM Y FLWYDDYN A DDAETH I BEN AR 31ain RHAGFYR 2023 Rhif Elusen Gofrestredig 13347

INCWM	2023	2022	GWARIANT	2023	2022
Aelodaeth				£50.00	£455.97
Tanysgrifiadau a rhoddion	£11,094.07	£11,634.00	Gwariant Cyfalafol		
Cymorth Rhodd	£2,205.69	£1,994.07	Cylchgronau a phostio	£8,148.30	£8,747.62
Cyfanswm	£13,299.76	£13,628.07	Gwefan: cynnal a chefnogi	£904.39	
			Rhent storio	£1,440.00	£1,140.00
Incwm Arall			Yswiriant ymddiriedolwyr	£276.76	
Ulog Banc C&C	£1,263.95	£525.51	Trosiwyddiadau i ganghennau	£900.00	
Ulog cyfrif wrth gefn	£40.66	£1.67	Digwyddiadau a chyhoeddurswydd	£47.95	
Gwerthiannau	£23.05	£23.00	Cyfanswm	£11,717.40	£9,887.62
Gwerthiannau ar-lein	£447.00	£422.00	Costau Gweinyddol		
Cyfanswm	£1,774.66	£972.18	Costau telthio	£1,161.05	£100.60
			Llety	£357.00	
Pum Cyfrif Cyfredol Cangen			Tanysgrifiadau i gyfrif eraill	£394.42	£423.30
Cyfanswm y newid	-£1,099.05	-£1,206.04	Ffioedd PayPal/Tanysgrifiadau a Rhoddion	£167.64	£189.18
			Ffioedd PayPal/Siop ar-lein	£14.49	£14.56
			Llogi ystafelli gyfarfod	£212.00	
			Post	£44.33	£87.81
			Trwyddedau Zoom		£287.76
			Argraffu a deunydd swyddfa	£24.49	
			Ad-daliadau i aelodau a hen siec		£23.00
			Cyfanswm	£2,375.42	£1,126.21
			Gwobrau Aelodau Sylfaenol		£293.58
			Prosiectau		
			Datblygiad y wefan	£295.40	£1,324.21
			Arysgrifau Coffa	£410.05	£90.00
			Archwilio a chlirio'r storfa	£62.75	
			Digido cofnodion gwm	£36.00	
			Cyfanswm	£804.20	£1,414.21
Cyfanswm Incwm	£13,975.37	£13,394.21	Cyfanswm Gwariant	£14,947.02	£13,177.59
			Gwarged/Diffyg	-£971.65	£216.62
				£13,975.37	£13,394.21
Balansau a ddygwyd ymlaen	01-10n-23	01-10n-22	Balansau a ddygir ymlaen	31 Rha-23	31 Rha-22
Cyfrif rhybudd 31 diwrnod	£56,577.63	£60,052.12	Cyfrif rhybudd 31 diwrnod	£61,391.58	£56,577.63
Cyfrif wrth cefn	£5,200.70	£400.03	Cyfrif wrth cefn	£1,461.36	£5,200.70
Cyfrif cyfredol	£2,043.27	£1,426.13	Cyfrif cyfredol	£546.94	£2,043.27
Pum cyfrif cangen banc	£3,078.89	£4,284.93	Pum cyfrif cangen banc	£1,979.84	£3,078.89
PayPal	£46.52	£567.18	PayPal	£595.64	£46.52
Cyfanswm	£66,947.01	£66,730.39			
Gwarged/Diffyg	-£971.65	£216.62			
Cyfanswm y Balansau Terfynol	£65,975.36	£66,947.01	Cyfanswm y balansau terfynol	£65,975.36	£66,947.01

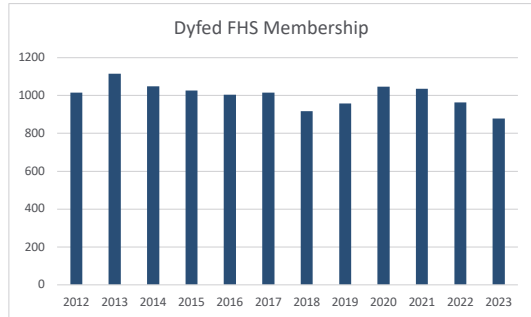
Llofnod:.....

Gareth Wyn Jones

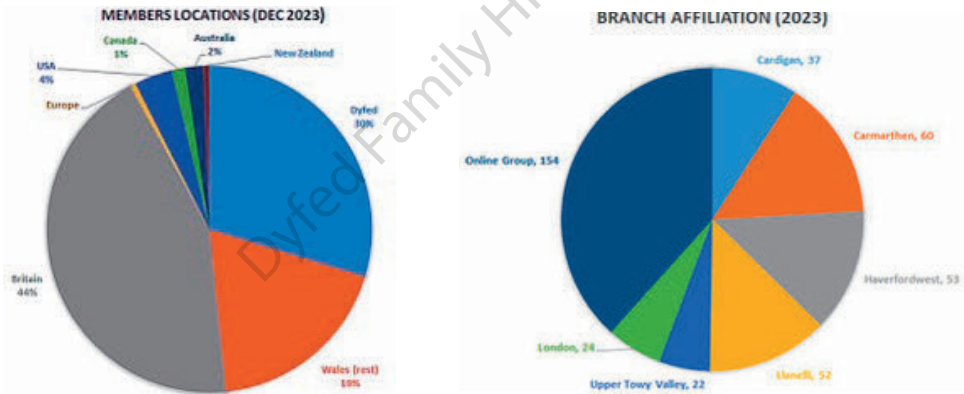
Trysorydd Dyddiad: *Chwefror 20^{fed}* /2024

Membership Secretary's Annual Report 2023

AT THE END of 2023 we had 879 members, the lowest that I have records for. During the year we had 142 new members, but this was eclipsed by 14 resignations, 14 deaths and 198 who did not renew. Of those who left 101 had been with us only a year.



As the chart on the left below shows, only 30% of our members live in Dyfed. In March an upgrade to our membership system now allows members to specify which branches they are interested in, since most of our members do not live in the vicinity of where their ancestors lived. The chart on the right shows the branch affiliations of those who have registered a branch interest. As can be seen the online group is the most popular since geography does not prevent them from attending meetings.



Of the 102 new members who joined since the upgrade, 86 (85%) expressed an interest in one or more branches. However, of our members who joined before then, only 151 (19%) have registered a branch interest. On average those who have registered specify 1.7 branches of interest.

We encourage members who have not done so, to register a branch interest, since this means that they will be kept informed of branch meetings and other

genealogical news of local interest, and some of the meetings of traditional branches do also take place online.

On general membership administration matters, the two most common issues that involve my intervention are members who subscription lapses when they did not intend to leave and forgetting access codes. For the former, several reminders do go out, though not everyone claims to receive them. So why not check the renewal date which is clearly printed on the address slip for your journal and make a note of the date to renew. As for access codes, I remind you that I do not have them. All you need to do is to start logging in and click on the link that says, “forgot access code”. Just make sure that if you change your email address, to update it in the membership system or contact me to do it for you.

David J Skyrme (6232)

A request for help from the Jewish History Association of South Wales

OUR ORGANISATION is currently carrying out a scoping project to uncover materials held by various organisations across north/mid/west Wales that relate to the local Jewish communities. I would be very grateful if you could let me know if you might have come across any relevant materials during the course of your research?

Laura Henley Harrison

Project Officer

Jewish History Association of South Wales / Cymdeithas Hanes Iddewig De Cymru

Tel/Ffôn: 07955 817 400 Email / E-bost: laura.henley.harrison@jhasw.org.uk

Website / Gwefan: <https://www.jhasw.com/>

Digital Collection / Casgliad Digidol:

<https://www.peoplescollection.wales/users/31091>

6 Moira Terrace, Cardiff/Caerdydd CF24 0EJ

A guide to interviewing elderly relatives for family history research.

<https://ourpublicrecords.org/interview-elderly-relatives/>

Letter to the Editor

Penmorfa School, Sarnau/Penbryn, Cardiganshire 1930–1932?

I have found a photo of Penmorfa School near Tresaith in Cardiganshire taken about 1930s. My mum had written all the names of those on the photo. I am not sure where to send it to so it can be remembered. My mum was Betty Griffiths, and she has written the farm names behind the children's names. Penmorfa School is near Tresaith and Penbryn , Aberporth, it now no longer exists.



Top Row from left to right: Glyn James, Ieuan (Dolfyn), Guto (Castell), Elwyn (Dol), Dai (Pencastell), Evan J, Pervin, Mr Evan Gwilym (Pathneedr).

2nd row: Eirwen Owen, Megan, Morfudd (Brynmelyn, Brynhoffnant), Annie, Betty (Police), Pala (Pencnwc), Peggy (Fronfelen), Gwen (Parc y Crag).

3rd row: Dan (Treddafus), Jenny, Sarah (Trefon), Betty (Elizabeth Evans, Talywerydd, Sarnau), Annie May, Kitty (Bryncelyn), Phyllis (Fern Cottage).

Bottom row: Trevor (Talsarn), Ivor (Nythfa), Jimmy Griffiths, Richard Griffiths, Lenard (Closglas), Parry (Fronfelen), Idris (Brynmelin), Dai (Sands).

Eleri Davies (5994)

Email: eleridavies555@gmail.com

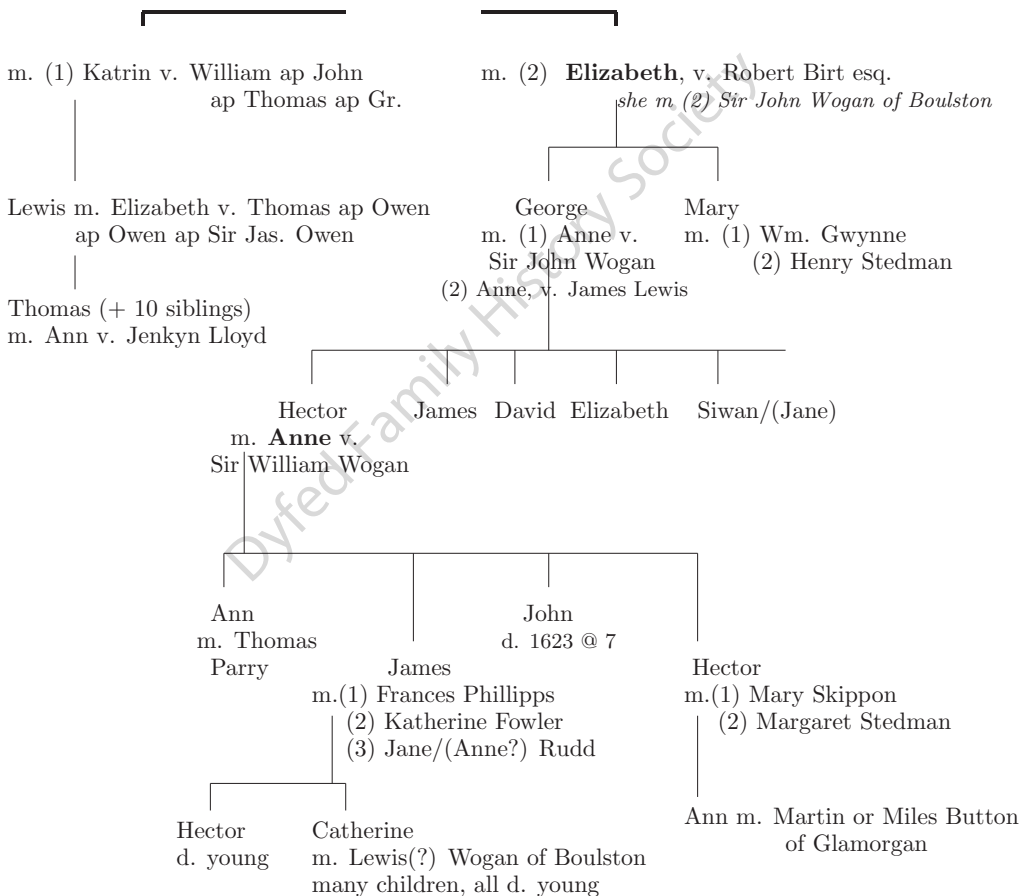
Phillipps of Tregybi and Cardigan Priory

Part I

James was a great-grandson of Eynon Phillipps who has appeared before in the Dyfed FHJ (issue 14.8 April 2023).

James however had a high-profile role during the interregnum, which was given scant attention for want of space, but is worthy of closer examination.

Eynon Phillipps



Note: v. = verch (daughter of)

His father was Hector Phillipps, and his mother was Anne, daughter of Sir William Wogan of Wiston.¹ We can assume that James was born either at Tregibby or at Cardigan Priory, (the two properties run jointly).

His grandfather was George Phillipps of Tregibby and The Priory. George was the first son of Eynon Phillipps by Eynon's *second* wife, Elizabeth Birt or Byrtt, from an influential Carmarthen family whose forbears came from Dorset(?), and before that from London. George was Sheriff of Cardigan in 1606.

With his ancestry in place, we can turn attention to James himself. However when we try to pin down his date of birth, there is a dilemma. The Welsh genealogies rarely include dates, except as an occasional afterthought, so we must depend on Wills where available, or later reconstructed records. According to the Dictionary of Welsh Biography, he was born in 1594, matriculated from Jesus College Oxford in 1610, presumably having travelled from Cardigan to Oxford at 11-12 years old Emily Pritchard gives 1594, citing *The Parliamentary History of Wales*, by W.R. Williams (1863).² However according to the History of Parliament Online he was born in 1624; see footnote [2] below.

From the Alumni Oxoniensis website, to resolve the question we have:
Phillippes, James of co. Cardigan, arm. **Jesus Coll.**, matric. 16 June 1610, aged 16. [5]

Further, from the same source, we have what can only be James' grandfather:
Phillips, George of co. Cardigan, arm. **Jesus Coll.**, matric. 17 Jan., 1588–9, aged 18.

Noting that Jesus was established by Elizabeth I as the first *Protestant* college in Oxford, the family had an early connection with the Reformed church. James' first wife was Frances Phillipps, daughter of Sir Richard Phillipps of Picton. According to HPO, there were two children from the marriage, neither of whom survived. Sir Richard's Will of 1648 refers to his granddaughter Frances, daughter of James Phillipps Esquier (*sic*), however she does not appear in the genealogies, and presumably died young. Her mother Frances must have died

¹ Hector senior supposedly re-married to Katherine Oxenbridge Fowler, however this is unlikely, for reasons laid out in Part 3, on this lady and her connection to the Phillipps family.

² According to the *History of Parliament Online*, he was born in **1624**. The latter date would mean he was remarkably young to become a Colonel in the Parliamentary army, High Sheriff of Cardiganshire in 1649, and one of six to represent Wales in the 'Barebones' Parliament of 1653 (see Section 2).

before 1647, when James married for a second time to Katherine Fowler, the “Matchless Orinda”, daughter of Katherine Oxenbridge Fowler. This is where the story begins to get highly complicated, and it is with some difficulty that I now have a clear picture of the Phillipps/Oxenbridge/Fowler connection, see Part 3, centred on the two Katherines, to follow.

In the intervening years leading eventually to the regicide in 1649, he and his brother Hector were deeply involved with the activities of the Parliamentarians in Cardiganshire as well as in London.

(Part 2 will appear in the August 2024 issue)

[2] Lewys Dwnn. *Heraldic Visitations &c.*, Ed. Meyrick. 18**

[5] W.R. Williams. *Parliamentary History of the Principality of Wales*. Brecknock (1895)

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Dipping into the Archives in Carmarthen

Janet Neilson’s article in the August 2023 Journal, on the above, covering the Llandeilo Fawr Workhouse ledgers, led me to some thought-provoking questions. Her article mentions that Jane Harris, b 1829, resigned as schoolmistress of The Workhouse and moved to Bancyfelin Cottages, Llandebie, with her mother and became schoolmistress at Glynhir School, Llandybie.

Several of my family members lived in various of the four cottages in Bancyfelin, at different times. I was born in No 4 in the early 1950s and then, a few years later, we moved to a neighbouring farm, “Cae Garw”, living there until the early 1970s. My parents finally retired from the farm in the late 1970s.

The school referred to in Janet Neilson’s article was a Girls’ School, housed at No 1 Bancyfelin and founded by Caroline Du Buisson of Glynhir Mansion.

According to an extract from *A Carmarthenshire Huguenot Family* by T. H. LEWIS (available on-line), Miss Jane Harris taught religious education, arithmetic, writing, geography and needlework, including the art of embroidered samplers. The school had a lending library and there was a school uniform of a grey hooded cloak with red border.

Although it was a girls' school, my grandfather, David Thomas (b 1885), who lived at nearby Cae Garw Farm, was allowed to attend for his early schooling until he was old enough and able to walk the 2.5 miles to the next nearest school at Llandybie. I don't know how long my grandfather attended Glynhir School, but I do recall him and other local neighbours of that generation speaking fondly of Miss Harris. According to the census of the time, Miss Harris spoke both Welsh and English, as did my family and most of the residents of Bancyfelin and the hamlet of Glynhir, in my time there.

According to the article, Jane Harries resigned from the Workhouse and moved to Bancyfelin in 1869. The 1871 census states that Jane Harris is living at Bancyfelin as a Schoolmistress. The reference to Glynhir School is in the 1881 Census, followed by 1891, by which time Jane is living in Bancyfelin on her own. And, in 1901 at the age of 72, she is found living with her sister, Elizabeth Harries, aged 65, in Stone Street, Llandovery, who kept a tinplate and ironmonger shop.

I do wonder whether Jane resigned as schoolmistress of Llandeilo Fawr Workhouse so that she could become the schoolmistress at Glynhir School, some 5 miles from the workhouse in Ffairfach? What was the recruitment process like in those days? Was it by application or invitation? Caroline DuBussion, the founder of Glynhir School, died on the 30th May 1869 only 4 months after Jane Harris resigned from her post at the workhouse. In the last few months of her life, was Caroline trying to ensure the future of her school?

My thanks to Janet Neilson for reminding me of this little part of history, which has always walked with me and for stimulating my curiosity about Miss Harris' life. This shows how family history always carries one on to delve deeper.

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There is an ongoing community project collecting information on the **people and communities from the parishes of Cilycwm and Rhandirmwyn** (Rhandir Abbott). If anyone has old photographs with named people or family groups which they are prepared to share, we would be very grateful.

Os oes gennych chi unrhyw hen luniau neu wybodaeth ynghylch plwyfi Cilycwm neu Rhandir Abad, mi fyddwn yn falch i gael cyfle i weld nhw a chofnodi'r wybodaeth. Please contact Dafydd Tomos (2905) on 07944 373473 or email daf@cilycwm.com

Dyfed and the 1893 National Eisteddfod in Pontypridd

In August, it was announced that the 2024 Rhondda Cynon Taf National Eisteddfod will be held in Pontypridd's Ynysangharad War Memorial Park. It is, therefore, very fitting to look back at Dyfed's links with the last time Pontypridd hosted the National Eisteddfod which was in 1893 – over 130 years ago!

The Eisteddfod was categorised by two main events as far as Dyfed was concerned – a hero's welcome for a Llanelli man and the pandemonium at the adjudication before the Charing Ceremony for a Cardiganshire poet.

Llanelli's bid for the 1893 National Eisteddfod

Llanelli had bid to host the 1893 National Eisteddfod but also bidding were Pontypridd, Neath... and Chicago! Chicago had seen a huge influx of Welsh migrants in the mid-1800s and the Welsh had played a huge part in establishing the city. In 1893, Chicago was hosting the World's Fair commemorating the arrival of Christopher Columbus 400 years earlier and the Welsh of Chicago wanted the 1893 National Eisteddfod to be taken there to be part of the celebrations.

The host for 1893 was decided at a meeting during the 1891 National Eisteddfod in Swansea. The case for Chicago was presented by Major Evan Rowland Jones, American Consul at Cardiff. Major Jones (1840–1920) was born in Tregaron, Cardiganshire before emigrating to Milwaukee, Wisconsin at the age of 15. He served as American Consul at Newcastle-upon-Tyne 1869–1884, then at Cardiff 1884–1892. He later resigned from the consular corps to become a Liberal MP for Carmarthen Boroughs which he held 1892–1895.

However, Pontypridd's case was substantially based on the fact that they felt they had lost out to Swansea for the 1891 National Eisteddfod due to underhand tactics and they had virtually been promised the 1893 hosting rights. Llanelli, along with Neath and Chicago, accepted Pontypridd's moral right to be host and this was confirmed unanimously at the meeting. (In similar circumstances, Llanelli and Newport were later the only bidders for the 1895 National Eisteddfod but Newport withdrew to allow Llanelli to be confirmed as host.)

Llanelly Glee Society

On the first day of competition at Pontypridd, the Second Choral Competition for Welsh mixed choirs of between 80-100 voices took place (the Chief Choral competition was for 200–250 voices). There were seven choirs competing including Llanelly Glee Society, conducted by John Thomas. However, there was some concern that Llanelly and Cilfynydd Harmonic Society may have been over the limit but the headcount of 99 and 100 respectively confirmed that they were within the rules.

The test pieces were ‘O give Thanks’ from Macfarren’s *Joseph*, and ‘Y Gwanwyn’ by Emlyn Evans. Following the 2-hour competition, the £70 (equivalent to £6,300 now) first prize was awarded to Llanelly Glee Society, with Blaenycwm United Choral Society receiving the £20 (£1,800) second prize.

The Vale of Towy Choir (Carmarthen)

On the second day one of the main highlights of the week took place – the eagerly anticipated Chief Choral Competition for mixed choirs of 200–250 voices. The Competition attracted a capacity audience in the 20,000-seater pavilion. The attendance seemed to justify the Eisteddfod Committee’s resolve to build such a large pavilion. In addition, this huge attendance reflected the popularity of the Eisteddfod and particularly the choral competitions amongst the Welsh public. As a comparison, earlier in 1893 Wales had clinched the Home Nations Rugby Union Championship for the first time; the competition included Wales beating England 12–11 at Cardiff Arms Park in front of a crowd of 15,000.

The progress of the Chief Choral Competition was necessarily slow, as in between each choir’s performance there was a significant lapse in time whilst the previous 200–250 choristers departed the stage, and the next 200–250 choristers took their place. This time was wonderfully filled with the sound of the 20,000-voice audience’s impromptu singing of traditional Welsh hymns sung to melodies such as *Crygybar* and *Aberystwyth*. For this was a devout audience who knew off by heart the popular hymns of the day.

The Chief Choral Competition had started just after 2 p.m. but it was not until 6.30 p.m., some four and a half hours later, that the adjudication was announced. The Vale of Towy Choir, conducted by Mr D. C. Davies, was one of

the six competing choirs but Rhymney United Choir was awarded first place and Cardiff Choral Union second place.

My maternal great-grandfather, C. Videon Harding (1847–1893) was a musician of great renown living in Carmarthen. He had been the organist at St Peter's Church, Carmarthen for almost 25 years but was also very well respected as a professional tenor singer, music teacher, concert organiser, choirmaster and conductor. He contributed greatly to local eisteddfodau as an adjudicator and post-eisteddfod concert artiste. As a conductor he was a tactful, commanding leader and his eisteddfodic successes with the Carmarthen United Choir brought him great acclaim and created a huge sense of pride for the town. He led the Choir at the Chief Choral Competition at the National Eisteddfod in Brecon in 1889 of south Wales. If it had not been for a lengthy illness which led to his death in April 1893, it is quite possible that he could have led Carmarthen's Vale of Towy Choir at the National Eisteddfod at Pontypridd later that year.

Sergeant William T. Davies from Llanelli – winner Queen's Shooting Prize

On Thursday morning, the sky above Pontypridd was covered with thick cloud and the torrential rain, which had started the night before, continued to fall. However, this did not stop the enthusiastic reception that was given to Sergeant William T. Davies from Llanelli at Pontypridd's Taff Vale Railway Station. Sergeant Davies had become a national hero and was regarded as a world champion after winning the Queen's Prize for shooting at Bisley in Surrey. The Queen's Prize was, and still is, generally regarded as the most coveted prize in the shooting world. It was first shot for in 1860 when Queen Victoria gave a prize of £250 (equivalent to £22,500 now) for the winner. Pontypridd Volunteers and the Volunteer Band escorted Sergeant Davies from the station to the Eisteddfod pavilion. He was placed in a chair and carried shoulder high as the procession, led by the band playing 'The March of the Men of Harlech', made its way through the cheering crowds along Pontypridd's Taff Street to the pavilion. Following his similarly enthusiastic reception at the pavilion he was introduced to the audience. He made a humorous speech in Welsh thanking his fellow compatriots for their welcome adding that, whilst he was able to do a little shooting, he was a miserable failure as a public speaker. He took his seat on the platform as the Eisteddfod programme continued.

Rev. John Ceulanydd Williams, Talybont, Cardiganshire wins the Chair

There was much excitement as the time came to award £25 (£2,250) and the carved oak chair for the *awdl* (ode) 'Pwlpud Cymru' (The Pulpit of Wales).

However, controversy followed when there was a disagreement amongst the three adjudicators. Gwilym Cowlyd (from Llanwrst) had disagreed with the decision of his fellow adjudicators, Pedrog



(Liverpool) and Dyfed (Cardiff), and tried forcibly to give his own adjudication. Judge Gwilym Williams had to intervene, and a verbal altercation ensued with the Judge making it absolutely clear that Cowlyd was in the minority and had no right to speak on the platform. This led to considerable disorder before Gwilym Cowlyd was forced to leave the platform following the Judge's remark: *'It is I who am in authority here today, and you must obey, sir'*. Once the situation had settled down the announcement was made that Obed-Edom was the pseudonym of the winner. This was Rev. John Ceulanydd Williams, a Baptist minister from Maesteg but who was originally from Talybont, Cardiganshire. Two bards escorted him from the auditorium onto the platform whilst the brass bands that would be taking part in competition later that day played 'See the Conquering Hero Comes'. Rev. Williams was seated in the prize chair whilst the Archdruid Clwydfardd held the sheathed sword above his head, and called out three times, *'A oes heddwch?' (Is there peace?)*, receiving each time the answer, 'Heddwch' (Peace) from the 14,000-strong crowd. Pontypridd's Madame Williams-Penn sang the charring song and the Archdruid declared Rev. Williams as the Chaired Bard.

Capel Als Congregational Choir, Llanelli

On the last day of the Eisteddfod, a competition was held for congregational choirs, choirs strictly of one congregation and from 50 to 80 voices. There were only two entries and Capel Als, conducted by Seth Jones was placed second to Soar Congregational Choir, Merthyr.

Capel Als had a congregational capacity of 1,150 and is a Grade 2 Listed Building. It is regarded as one of the most significant religious buildings in Wales.



Capel Als, Llanelli

The above article is an edited extract from Sheldon Phillips' book: *No One Remembers Pontypridd: The forgotten story of the 1893 National Eisteddfod* (£12.99) available from Storyville Books, 8 Mill Street, Pontypridd; National Library of Wales (Gift Shop) and other outlets. It is also available online from www.carreg-gwalch.cymru.

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Our new President

Rt Revd Dorrien Davies is the 130th Bishop of St Davids. He was elected Bishop in November 2023, consecrated in January 2024 and enthroned in February.

Born in 1964 in Abergwili, near Carmarthen, he is a graduate of the University of Wales, Lampeter, ordained deacon in 1988 and priest in 1989.

He served his curacy in Llanelli and subsequently served as Vicar in Ystrad Aeron and St Dogmaels. In 2007, he was made a Canon of St Davids Cathedral and in 2010 became Canon Residentiary. In 2017, he was appointed as Archdeacon of Carmarthen, a post he held until his election as Bishop.

A native Welsh speaker, Bishop Dorrien is married to Rosie and they have two sons, Morgan and Lewis. Morgan is currently serving as Canon's Verger at the Cathedral.

The Pembroke brothers who helped to build a city (and others who didn't)

Part I

The town of Ballarat, about 70 miles west of Melbourne in Victoria State, Australia, was founded in 1837 when a group of Europeans first sighted the area. It grew, tent by wooden shack, until 1851 when gold was discovered there and around; so much gold that the only way to spend it sensibly was to raise buildings large and small, preferably in stone. Such an enterprise, of course, required a large army of skilled builders to carry out the work. Among those who heard the call were three brothers from Pembroke. They travelled with their families out to Ballarat to begin the work. The following is their story but, if you want a glimpse of what was eventually achieved, take a look at the film on YouTube entitled *Exploring Ballarat Australia Legacy: A City of Remarkable Architecture and Culture*.

David and Mary

David Evans a stonemason, that is a builder in stone as well as a cutter, was born in about 1792 somewhere around Pembroke in South Wales. His parentage is unknown. In 1819 he married Mary Stephens of the nearby parish of Monkton. Their first four children were boys, William (1819–1897), George (1821–1898), John (1824–1871) and Richard (1825–1857), all of whom were trained by their father to be stonemasons. In the 1841 census all four were still living at home in Brewery Street North, Pembroke Dock, three of them being described as masons. The youngest, Richard, was a mason apprentice and still learning his trade. In a small town like Pembroke, there may have been employment for one or two stonemasons from the family but not five. It was therefore important for some of them to make a living elsewhere.

George

George Evans was the second child of David and Mary, but he was in the vanguard of what follows, so is considered first. He was born and baptised in 1821 in Pembroke. After living at home for twenty years or more, he married Eliza Ormond in March 1844 in St Mary's Church. The following year their daughter Elizabeth Ann (1845–53) was born. She survived but her mother died a short time later. Following this tragedy, George must have heard that there was work available in Liverpool. At that time, for example, the monumental

St George's Hall was being built from 1841 to 1854 and that project alone would probably have consumed many of the stonemasons around. So he moved there and in November 1847 married Elizabeth Morrice, a local rigger's daughter.



EMIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA.
ASSISTED PASSAGES.
 The COLONIZATION ASSURANCE CORPORATION HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that they are prepared to GRANT a limited Number of ASSISTED PASSAGES to AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS, ARTIZANS, and others accustomed to Work with their own Hands. The next Ship will sail in January next, and, to secure Berths, early application is necessary.
 Passage-money £16, £18, and upwards, *One-half of which Sum will be Advanced to eligible Parties.*
 For further information apply personally, or by letter, to GIBSON, LESTON, and Co., No. 9, Great St. Helens, Bishopsgate-street, London; or to PILKINGTON and WILSON, 3, Commercial-buildings, Water-street, Liverpool.

Emigration to Australia, Assisted Passages

On 19 January 1852 the Liverpool Albion announced to its readers that new gold discoveries in Victoria, Australia, were so large they were likely to eclipse those in her sister colony of New South Wales. George, realising that great wealth led to much new building, and possibly having his attention drawn to a notice similar to the following (Ignore the crossing through.), decided to apply for assisted passage to the state of Victoria.

This was granted and he and his family set sail on 26 October 1852 from Liverpool on the ARABIAN, a new ship of 1000 tons. The journey typically took three months and indeed the ship arrived in Melbourne in February 1853. As many as 292 passengers disembarked, including wives and children, while 10 souls had died on the journey. Of those on board with a calling (occupation), 77 were domestic servants and 34 agricultural labourers. Otherwise, small numbers represented a number of occupations: five shepherds, three masons, three carpenters, two teachers, two weavers and one each of smith, sawyer, slater and bonnet maker. Some in this list may have been gold diggers in disguise!

During their five years in Liverpool George and Elizabeth had three children, Sarah (1848–50), who lived just two years, Mary (1850–1923) and David Morrice (1852–52), who was born just days before the ship sailed but died on the journey. Consequently, those making it to Australia, besides George and Elizabeth, were Mary, born in 1850, and Elizabeth Ann, George's daughter from his first marriage to Eliza.

On arrival, those on board the ship were usually allowed to stay for a few days while the breadwinners found work from the many potential employers who set their pitch on the quayside. George was hired by a William Davidson from Melbourne at £52 per year with rations (additionally), initially for three

months. In fact George lived, and presumably worked, in Collingwood, a suburb north-east of Melbourne. Images on the internet show some of the fine buildings constructed with the proceeds of the gold.

Elizabeth Ann, George's first born child, having survived the long journey to Australia, died in Collingwood the year after arrival aged eight. Two children were, however, born to George and Elizabeth during their time in Collingwood, namely Jessie (1854-1916) and George John (1857-1905). Before the birth of their next child in 1860 they moved to Ballarat, where George's brother Richard and his family were already ensconced. Here they lived for 25 years in at least three houses in Sturt Street, the main double street with gardens between. During that time, George and Elizabeth produced three further children, one, Elizabeth, living for just one day while Eva (1860-1947) and Florence (1865-1918) fared much better. Elizabeth senior died in 1885 aged 58 and, within a couple of years, George married Margery Ewart née Neish, a widow who had been born in Newcastle upon Tyne, England, in 1826. She outlived George by several years, he dying in 1898.

The evidence suggests George had a successful business as a builder. He left two houses in Sturt Street that were to be sold, if not done so already. Margery was to be gifted one third of the proceeds and his five surviving children the remaining two thirds. In addition Margery inherited his furniture and effects as well as his tools including his scaffolding! Several builders who did not have the space to keep their own must have been grateful to him whether they were borrowing or hiring.

Richard

Richard was the youngest of the four brothers considered here. He was born in Pembroke Dock in 1825 but not baptised until 6 March 1829 in the independent St Mary Tabernacle in Pembroke Dock. It seems that, after qualifying as a stonemason, Richard made his way to Lancashire where, in 1847, R. Evans was a witness at George's wedding in Liverpool. Later he moved, or even returned to, Accrington, also in Lancashire. It has been suggested that here he probably worked on the building of the railway including its 21-arch viaduct. Accrington Station opened in 1848 but building work continued into the early 1850s.

In November 1851, Richard married Louisa John (sometimes Johns) in the nearby Haslingden Register Office – on a Sunday so as not to lose a working

day. She was a member of another Pembrokeshire family but one tied largely to the sea, whether as sailors or shipwrights. At the time of the census that year – the end of March 1851 – Louisa had been at home in Queen Street East, Pembroke Dock, and nine months after marrying Richard she was at home again for the birth of their first child Caroline. Travelling between Pembroke and Accrington must have been particularly onerous. It was possible in the 1850s to travel from London to Manchester, and back, by train but not possible to travel by that method all the way west to Pembroke. A considerable amount of horse drawn road travel was necessary. At the end of the decade, it became possible to sail from Tenby, coastwise, to Liverpool via Bristol, but by then the railway was on the horizon. It arrived at Pembroke in 1863.

In 1854, Richard decided to join his brother George in Australia, having possibly received from George a recommendation about the never-ending amount of work available in view of the high yield from the local gold mines. In March 1854 Richard, his wife and daughter, boarded the ship Conway at Greenock on assisted passages to Geelong, Victoria. They arrived on 17 June 1854. Richard did not go ashore looking for work. The family probably made their way to stay with George and his family in Collingwood. From there Richard made his way to Ballarat. When Louisa and Caroline joined him there later, the Ballarat Times remarked that Ballarat was exhibiting signs of permanency, as ladies and children were coming on the new goldfield.

Richard was not only the youngest of the three brothers, he was also the most entrepreneurial. On the ship over he had met William Barker, a stonemason slightly younger than him and originally from Yorkshire, who was emigrating with his wife and young daughter. Either on the ship or when they met up again in Ballarat, they decided to form a partnership. It was known as Evans and Barker (in deference to the older man), and they became a byword for efficiency and reliability. They employed many workers, bid for numerous building projects and won many of the contracts, from the mundane metalling of local streets to the construction of grand edifices such as the Ballarat Benevolent Asylum, the Warden's Court House and the Hall of Commerce. They also built the branch of the New South Wales Bank in Lydiard Street, in blue stone - a material they had earlier introduced to the town – and a Wesleyan chapel, in brick. The range of services they offered can be seen in this newspaper advertisement.

Was the reference to Railway Contractors a result of Richard's experience in Accrington?

Ballarat Town Hall had a chequered history. It first appeared as a wooden building, which, in the inevitability of time, burnt down. Evans and Barker successfully bid £4900 to build a structure with a granite front to the design of Charles D. Cuthbert. The foundation stone was laid in August 1860 and the building opened on 1 February 1861, or rather only the police court part of the original plan opened. Several years of deliberation followed until it was decided that the town hall, incorporating the completed court, but refaced, would be the grand building that is still seen in Sturt Street today.

EVANS & BARKER,
Railway and General Contractors,
Mechanical Engineers,
MASONS AND CARPENTERS.

PUBLIC WORKS in any magnitude undertaken and perfected in the shortest possible period.

Every Description of Building Materials for Sale.
Monuments, Tombs,
 And all description of marble masonry, executed.

There are a few vacancies for articled apprentices at moderate premiums.
 Sturt street, Ballarat.

Alas, much of this came too late for Evans and Barker. The firm had a short life of only five or six years. Richard Evans died at 2.30am on Wednesday 11 May 1859 at home in Sturt Street. He was 33 years old and died from Delirium Tremens, the DTs, over three days, presumably in a bid to withdraw from alcoholism. He was buried the following day in Ballarat Old Cemetery, at which according to The Ballarat Star around 150 friends followed his coffin to the grave and Evans and Barker's workmen ceased work for the day and carried the coffin in relays.

Letters of Administration were granted to Richard's widow Louisa, who thereby inherited her husband's share of the Evans and Barker partnership. Not surprisingly her heart was not in the building trade so that in December, 1860, a notice appeared in The Star announcing that "the partnership hitherto existing between Louisa Evans and William Barker, trading under the style or firm of Evans and Barker, is this day dissolved by mutual consent". It was dated 10 December 1860 and witnessed by Richard's brother George. So ended the brief lived but immensely productive construction company. As a measure of its esteem, when William Barker himself died some 46 years after Richard, the newspaper reminded its readers that, among other things, William had been "a member of Evans and Barker, who carried out many important works years ago". A few months after the dissolution, the firm's yard together with a large house were sold off.

During their marriage, Richard and Louisa produced four children: Caroline (1852–1918), who was born in Wales but emigrated to Australia with her parents, Algina (1855–1930), David Williams (1857–1859) and Richard George (born 1858). The last three were born in Ballarat. In 1862 the widowed Louisa married the Livery Stable Keeper Richard Gibbings, but in July 1865 she died from TB. She was not quite 40. The informant at the registration of her death was her elder brother Thomas John. He had arrived in Victoria in 1841 and worked for a time as a boatman. In the 1850s he moved with his family to Ballarat as a gold miner.

(To be continued in August issue)

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My Grandmother's Grandfather

There is a strong likelihood that a “John Jones” exists in the family trees of most members of the Dyfed Family History Society. This ubiquitous name provides a cloak of semi-institutionalised anonymity to those who bear it. Fortunately, coping mechanisms are available; the most frequently employed being the addition of a further indentifying epithet such as a reference to the bearer’s occupation, residence or physical attributes.

This essay deals with my grandmother’s paternal grandfather from Llanybydder, known to his grandchildren as “*Tadcu Noyadd*”, but officially he was John Jones. He was tenant of a 54 acres farm known as Neuadd, situated on the lane leading from the Gwrdd Mawr crossroads, to St. Peter’s Church at Llanybydder. According to the Tithe Apportionment return of February 1843, the landowner was a Thomas Wood who also owned two further properties at Llanybydder – the Black Lion plus “houses and lands” (33 acres) and Felinisaf with “house and lands” (4 acres). However, according to the 1861 Census, John Jones Neuadd farmed 38 acres, by 1871 his acreage had reduced to 30 acres and by 1881, the acreage stated was 28 acres. In 1887, the landowner – identified as Captain Wood – placed all his properties in Llanybydder for sale. According to my grandmother, *Tadcu Noyadd* was offered the farm for £200 – a price he could not meet. Neuadd farm comprising 13 acres, was sold. John Jones’s son David (No. ii) living at Neuadd Cottage was more fortunate, he was able to buy

the freehold of his property for £11, This is when Tadcu Noyadd left the farm where (according to the Cambrian News of 25 October 1895) his ancestors had lived for close on two hundred years and went to live in a small extension built specially for him at Neuadd Cottage.

Turning to the records of St. Peter's Church at Llanybydder we learn that John Jones – *Tadcu Noyadd* – born on 14 April 1801, the son of a John and Sara Jones (also of Neuadd, Llanybydder) married an Eleanor Davies on 21 July 1827 “by Banns and with the consent of Parents”. Both John and Eleanor were able to sign their names. However, *Tadcu Noyadd* was not baptised until 9th September 1833, some six years after his marriage to Eleanor Davies. The Baptism Register of St. Peter's also reveals that *Tadcu Noyadd* had two siblings, namely David and Mary who were born in 1809 and 1812 and both baptised on 18 September 1826. I have made no attempt to obtain any further information regarding David and Mary, or regarding their parents, John and Sara Jones. The reason for the delay in baptism is not known, and speculation is fruitless.

The 1841 Census shows the following inhabitants of Noyadd¹ (*sic*):

<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Born in county</i>
JOHN JONES	40	Farmer	Y
ELEANOR JONES	35		Y
HENDRY [<i>sic</i>] JONES	12		Y
JOHN	10		Y
ANN	5		Y
MARGARET	3		Y
ENOC (<i>sic</i>)	3 mths		Y

The birth dates of these children are – Henry, 7 July 1829, John, 11 June 1831; Ann 3 April 1836; Margaret, 13 December 1838. They were all baptised on 29 March 1839. There is no record of the baptism of Enoch. In addition to the five children recorded at the Census, there were two who had predeceased their parents – these were David (No. 1) died 14 June 1832 aged five and his sister Sarah (No. 1) died 26 December 1836 aged three. They are buried next to their parents but curiously, neither features in the Baptism or Burial Registers of Llanybydder.

At the Census of 1851 the entry for Noyadd reads as follows:²

¹ HO 107 1380 22, f. 22, p. 8.

² HO 107 2488, f. 68, p. 34.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Parish of birth</i>
JOHN JONES ³	50	Farmer 40 acres	Llanybydder
ELEANOR JONES	43		Llanllwni
JOHN	21		Llanybydder
ANN	15		Do
ENOCH	10		Do
MARGARET	13		Do
SARAH (No. 2)	8		Do
ELENNA [<i>siz</i>]	6		Do
HANNAH	4		Do
DAVID (No. 2)	2		Do

The following children born to John and Eleanor following the 1841 Census, survived: Margaret, Sarah (No. 2), Elinor, Hannah and David. Their baptisms are not recorded in Llanybydder Church and the actual Register reveals a curious situation. Entry No. 256 in the Llanybydder Baptism Register was made on 5 November 1849; but the following entry – No. 257 – was not made until April 1857! This hiatus of nearly eight years is curious. Resort to the Bishop's Transcripts of Llanybydder Registers held at our National Library in Aberystwyth, revealed significant gaps in the Llanybydder BT's of baptisms; for the period 1845 to 1857 only the returns of 1851 and 1854 exist, and in neither of these years is there any record of the baptism of children of John and Eleanor, Neuadd.

Eleanor Jones (Neuadd) died on 30 December 1878, aged 72, and her husband John Jones died on 18 October 1895, aged 94. Both are buried at St. Peter's, Llanybydder.

As indicated earlier, following his retirement from farming and departure from Neuadd, *Tadcu Noyadd* went to live in the small extension which had been added on to his son David's dwelling known as Neuadd Cottage. Living with him was his daughter Hannah (aged 42) and a granddaughter named Mary. Next door lived his youngest son David, his wife Hannah and their youngest children – my grandmother Eleanor (10) and her siblings, Enoch (7) and Evan (4). It sounds quite agreeable, but the Carmarthen Journal of

³ John Jones appears in the Electoral Register of 1878 as an "Occupier of Land"; he owed his enfranchisement to the Representation of the People Act of 1867.

7 March 1890 carries report of the Petty Sessions held at Lampeter where the Collector of the Lampeter Union sought an order upon John Jones of Llwyn Ceiliog, Llanpumsaint to contribute to the maintenance of his father John Jones who was chargeable to the Lampeter Union; his sons John and David were ordered to contribute to their father's maintenance one shilling and sixpence respectively. This report surely refers to *Tadcu Noyadd* and is rather sad that after eight decades of farming, he had to rely on the Lampeter Union for financial support.

Reverting now to the descendents of *Tadcu Noyadd* and his wife, here follows a brief summary of the facts gleaned for a variety of sources:

1. **David.** (No. 1) B. 1828 – D. 1832. Buried at S. Peter's Churchyard, Llanybydder.

2. **Henry.** B. 1829. At the 1851 Census he was a farm servant at Abercwm, Llanllwni. On 10 November 1858 he married Pencarreg born Gwenllïan Jones of Ffinant Arms, Alltyblaca, at St. Peter's, Llanybydder and at the 1861 Census they were living at "Llanybydder Village"; his occupation was that of Tinker and Cutler. His address and occupation at subsequent Census returns is chequered. In 1871 at Powel Castle, Llanllwni; he was a Stone Mason, with seven children were living at home – John (12), Eliza (10), Richard (8), Evan (6), David (4), Henry (2) and Eleanor aged one month. In 1881 at Pencnwc, Llanllwni; he was a "Gelder" (by way of annotation, a census official had written the word "Farrier" above the word "Gelder"). In 1891, at Pencnwc, Henry was an Agricultural Labourer and Gwenllïan was a housekeeper. All the children had left home. Henry died in 1895 and was buried at Llanllwni Parish Church, where Gwenllïan joined him in June 1914.

3. **John.** B. 1831. He was at Neuadd in 1851. He married Hannah Price of Fronfelen on 8 March 1854 at St. Peter's, Llanybydder. So far I have not been able to trace him at the 1861 Census. In 1871 a Llanybydder born John Jones and Hannah his wife were farming the 192 acre farm at Tŷ Llwyd, Cynwyl Gaeo. They had several children, many of whom bore "Noyadd" family Christian names – Caturah (14), Enoch (8), Eleanor (10) Hannah (6), Evan (4) and Sarah (2). The children were Pencarreg born – apart from the two youngest who were born at Cynwyl Gaeo. By 1891, the family was living at Llwyn Ceiliog, Cynwyl Gaeo; Caturah was no longer at home but there weretwo granddaughters Elen (10) and Elizabeth (2). John and Hannah were still at Llwyn Ceiliog in 1901, but I have gone no further in investigating this family.

4. **Sarah.** (No. 1) B. 1833 – D. 1836. Buried at St. Peter's Churchyard, Llanybydder.

5. **Ann.** B. 1836. At home for 1851 Census. In 1861 she was a farm servant at Neuadd Fawr, near Llanwnnen. She married David Morgans at St. Peter's Llanybydder on 8 November 1861. At the 1871 Census, David and Ann were at Rhydlas, Llanwenog with five children – all Llanwenog born, Mary (8), Eleanor (7), Margaret (5), Hannah (2) and David (2 months). None of these children are recorded in Llanwenog baptism records. In 1881, the family was living at Tŷ Newydd, Llanybydder with the following children Hannah (9), David (7), Sarah (6), John (4) and Benjamin (4 months). I have been unable to trace David and Ann at subsequent Censuses.

6. **Margaret.** B. 1838. At home in 1851, but at 1861 she was a dairymaid at Rhydybont. She married Thomas Williams of Llwynmadyn on 9 August 1861 at St. Peter's, Llanybydder. At the 1871 Census they had four children John (8), Eleanor (6), Mary A. (3) and David (5 months). By 1881 John had left home, and other children had been born Hannah (7), Margaret (5), Thomas (3) and Enoch (1). By the 1891 Census another boy had arrived – Henry (8). I have not investigated this family.

7. **Enoch.** B. 1841. At home 1851–1871. He married Margaret Jones of Glanrhyd. on 5 July 1875 at St. Peter's, Llanybydder. They were living at 2 Bridgend, Llanybydder in 1881, Enoch was a general labourer and he died in 1887 and was buried at St. Peter's on 7 April 1887 aged 46, his widow Margaret was buried with him on 6 January 1908. They had no children.

8. **Sarah.** (No. 2) The second child to bear this name. B. 1843. At the 1861 Census she was a farm servant at Bwlchgwyn, Llanllwni. She married Joseph Jones a farm servant at Llygadenwyn at St. Peter's Llanybydder on 29 July 1870. At the 1871 Census Sarah (No. 2) and her 5-month-old daughter Sarah (No. 3) was at Neuadd. This 5-month-old Sarah does not appear at subsequent Census returns, and as another Sarah (No. 4) appears in 1891 Census, we can but assume that here was an infant death. At the 1881 Census Joseph and Sarah (No. 2) were living at 1 Wernfach, Llanybydder, near the Gwrddy Mawr Inn. Their children were – Elizabeth (10), David (8), Rees (6), Eleanor (3) and Margaret (8 months). Joseph was a general labourer. Sarah (No. 2) died in 1883, but her place of burial has not been identified. A report carried in *Baner ac Amserau Cymru* of 14 December 1887 notes that Joseph Jones of Wernfach, Llanybydder married a Miss Sarah Evans of Llanybydder on 2 December 1887

at the Registrar's Office in Lampeter. The 1891 Census reveals that Sarah Evans was about five years older than Joseph; the only children at home were Margaret (10), Sarah (No. 4) (8) and a one-year-old foster child named Hannah Evans. At this Census Joseph was a boarding housekeeper with damaged eyesight. In December 1903, Joseph's request to Llanybydder Rural District Council that his property be registered as a Common Lodging House was granted. Joseph died in 1916, leaving a widow, four daughters and one son who was "Serving King and Country". The funeral was ecumenical, for the Rev. J. Morris, Vicar of Llanybydder took a service at the house and the Revs., Spenser Jones (Baptist Minister at Aberduar) and John Davies (Unitarian Minister at Alltbyblaca) took the service at the graveside. Unfortunately, the location of the grave was not specified in the newspaper report. This family requires further investigation.

9. **Eleanor.** B. 1845. Living with her sister and brother-in-law at Llwynmadyn at the Census of 1871. She married Williams Davies a labourer of Glanduar at St. Peter's Church on 24 April 1872. The name and occupation of the groom's father is not specified. At the 1881 Census a William and Eleanor Davies are recorded at Tŷ Newydd Chapel House, Llanedi. William's occupation was recorded as "Engine driver at Works." William was born in Llansawel and Eleanor at Llanybydder. They had four children – Elizabeth (7), Hannah (5), Mary (3) and Isabella (11 months). Also living with them was Llansawel born Elizabeth Price, aged 70, unmarried, but her relationship to the head of the household was given as "Mother". By 1891 Eleanor was a widow and at the 1901 census, only Isabella was living at home. Further investigation is required.

10. **Hannah.** B. 1847. She was at home at every census from 1851–1891. On 5 March 1892, aged 45, Hannah married Lewis Evans a 63 year old widower and farmer from Llanllwni at St. Peter's Church, Llanybydder. Both she and Lewis signed the register with their marks (X). Lewis was living with two young grandchildren at Clawddarch (?) Llanllwni at the 1891 Census. Lewis died at Ivy Cottage, Llanllwni and was buried at Llanllwni Church on 7 April 1900. At the 1901 Census Hannah Evans a 53 year old Llanybydder born stocking knitter was living at Ivy Cottage. At the 1921 Census, Hannah was aged 78 and living at Pentalardd, Llanllwni; the head of house was Tom Evans, a GWR plate layer, probably a grandson of Lewis Evans, but no research has been undertaken on this family.

11. **David.** (No. 2) the second to bear this name – was born in 1849. His mother was aged about 43. David, my mother's grandfather and being the youngest son of *Tadcu Noyadd* had remained at home to assist his father on the

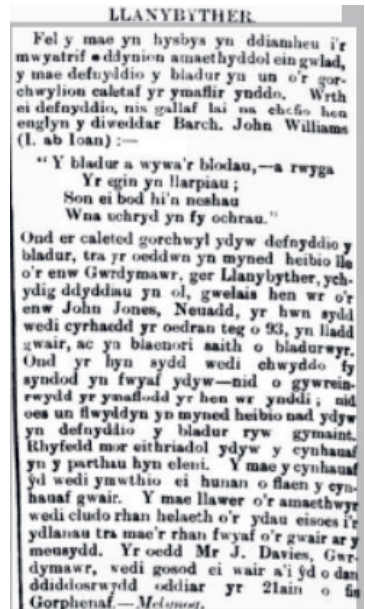
farm. Following the retirement of *Tadcu Noyadd*, David was a grocer for a short time, but he reverted to being a labourer. He married Hannah Evans on 17 July 1871 at St. Peter's Llanybydder but it was at Capel Aberduar that she was buried when she died in 1906. David and Hannah had seven children – five boys and two girls. The youngest daughter Eleanor (my grandmother) was born in 1881 and married Evan Jones in 1909; they set up home in Glanamau where my mother was born in 1911. I do not know when David went to live with his daughter Eleanor in Glanamau, but he was there at the Censuses of 1911 and 1921 and it was at Glanamau that he died in 1926. He was buried at Capel Aberduar, the final resting place of six of his children.

Without the records of Llanybydder Parish Church, identification of the children of *Tadcu Noyadd* and his wife would have been difficult; the census returns have made possible the identification of their grandchildren. Further research however, will be more difficult, especially for those families who adhered to Nonconformist congregations. The records of rites of passage – Birth, Marriage and Death are in the care of the General Register Office – it requires considerable background information to identify which John, David, Enoch, Eleanor, Hannah or Sarah Jones born, married or died in the Lampeter (or any other) Registration District is of “*Noyadd*” descent.

I end this paper with a question. Am I the only member of the Dyfed Family History Society who is descended from John Jones, *Tadcu Noyadd*, of Llanybydder?

P.S. The following is a copy of an article in the South Wales Daily Post of 8 August 1893 (Page 2 “The Post Bag”) A Welsh Language version of this report was published in the Carmarthen Journal 4 August 1893 (Page 2, “Llanybyther” (*sic*):

“Those who have wielded a scythe will tell you that the operation of mowing hay, an operation which often commences in Dyfed at three or four in the morning, and is followed up to a late hour in the day, is by no means an easy task. In the neighbourhood of Llanybyther (*sic*) in



Cardiganshire there is a veteran who has been engaged in this particular work for 80 summers. He is John Jones of Neuadd, his age is 93, and this year you might have seen him swinging his brawny arms at the head of a number of sturdy youths on a meadow belonging to Gwrddy Mawr in that neighbourhood. The fact is probably unique in the history of agriculture in this country and is worthy of record among the short and simple annals of the poor.”

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Anthony Reid 1816–1900

An unfinished story of a migrant from Southwest Scotland to Southwest Wales

I’ve been somewhat nervous about submitting this article as it is nowhere near as erudite and well-researched as many I’ve read in the Dyfed FHS magazine. However, I don’t think I’m the only family historian who has a brick wall that has defeated me for so many years and meant that I put it this branch of the tree to one side and got on with other research that was more satisfying. Now that I have more time, I’ve started revisiting all the documentation and correspondence I already have, joined many online and in-person events, and persuaded my son to take a DNA test, so as to glean more information about Anthony Reid.

Anthony Reid was the great grandfather of my late husband, also Anthony Reid, who inherited this amazing photograph that we always understood to be of his great grandfather, a reputedly very tall red-headed Scotsman in a kilt with size 13 feet. Though we know there were no standard shoe sizes in the mid/late 1800s, it’s clear from the proportions in the photo that the boots were very big. One can only imagine the impact he would have had on the family of his wife, a farmer’s daughter from Eglwys Cymyn, Carmarthenshire. However, we know nothing else about the photograph.

On the night of the 1851 census, Anthony is shown as being a policeman on duty at the Royal Dockyard in Pembroke Dock. He was age 35 and married, and his birthplace is shown as Scotland. Immediately two questions arose: where was his wife and what brought him from Scotland to Wales? It was relatively easy to find his wife on that census date as she was with her parents on their farm in

Eglwys Cymyn, albeit with her surname misspelt as Read.

From the certificate of Anthony's marriage to Jane Reynolds on 24 February 1851, I know that his father was Alexander Reid whose occupation was shown as Labourer. This should have been shown as an agricultural labourer because further research points to his being a tenant farmer on land belonging to the Earl of Selkirk up till his death in 1848 (and so should have been shown as deceased on the marriage certificate). I learned recently that this death coincided with an outbreak of cholera in the area and it's likely that the family would have been forced to leave the farm, but it doesn't help to establish when Anthony actually left Scotland or whether he travelled directly to South Wales.



The surname Reid is very common in Scotland and BMD registration only came into force in 1855. Fortunately, we have a Family Bible recording Anthony's birth date and there are Old Parish Registers online at the National Records of Scotland/Scotland's People so I've been able to confirm the parish where he was born, even though only his father was named in the register. Knowing the name of his father helped me identify the family in the 1841 Scottish census at Blackhills, Kirkcudbright. I've since been able to [partially] reconstruct this family and the previous generation, but unable to discover what happened to Anthony in the 10 years between the two census dates.

On the birth certificate of Anthony's son William born on 15 April 1860, his occupation is shown as Policeman, Dockyard and by the 1861 Census taken on 7 April, Anthony is shown as living at 8 Church Street, Pembroke Dock; married with wife Jane, daughter Jane, son William; age 44; occupation Pensioner (Dockyard Police); born Scotland.

After learning that Royal Dockyards were policed by the Metropolitan Police of London, with Pembroke Dock being the 5th Division, I discovered two things that complicate my research. Firstly, the Metropolitan Police did not take over responsibility for Pembroke Dock until 1860. This may explain why Anthony was a pensioner by the time of the 1861 census if the Metropolitan Police brought in new rules on suitability, age etc.

Secondly – and I’m indebted to Lawrie Phillips’ book ‘Pembroke Dockyard and the Old Navy’ – I learned that the Royal Dockyard in Pembroke was the responsibility of the Admiralty not the Royal Navy. The National Archives at Kew holds records of former Dockyard police, in particular their service and pension records and this might be a route to establish when, why and how Anthony Reid travelled from Kirkcudbright in southwest Scotland to Pembroke Dock in south west Wales to become a policeman when he had been an Ag Lab on his father’s tenanted farm in Kirkcudbright on the 1841 census.

By the 1871 census, Anthony was living in Tenby and his occupation was shown as Gardener, Superannuated Police Officer. His wife Jane was shown as a Lodging Housekeeper. The 1881 and 1891 censuses both also show his occupation as Gardener. Jane continued as a lodging housekeeper until her death in June 1901, outliving Anthony by 15 months. This branch of the Reid family stayed in and around Tenby until the death of Anthony’s only grandson in 1984.

In memory of my late husband and for our son who is the last male in this branch of the tree, my research plan is to tackle the unfinished story from both ends of the gap to find evidence of Anthony’s journey between leaving Scotland and arriving in Pembroke Dock. This is, of course, where family history widens into social history and I’ll need to learn, inter alia, a lot about travel options and routes. As a member of Dyfed FHS and Dumfries & Galloway FHS, and the Society of Genealogists, I know I have access to amazing resources and knowledge. All I need is more than 24 hours in a day!

Penny Reid (4295)

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New or updated Memorial Inscriptions

Glandwr Chapel, Llanfyrnach; St James Church, Manorbier;
St Dingat Church Llandovery (updated);
Capel Treffynnon Chapel, Mathry Index from pdf;
Bethel Baptist Chapel, Treterio; St John’s Church, Slebech;
Rehoboth Independent Chapel;
Rhydwylym Baptist Chapel Old Burial Ground, Llandissilio (updated);
St James Church Walwyn’s Castle;
St Andrews Church Robeston West (near completion).

William Mortimer: East India Company ship's surgeon Voyage to India 1803 on the *Devignes*

In 1803 William Mortimer aged 21 on arrival in Madeira is writing a letter to his parents at home in Trewellwell, St David's, Pembrokeshire. His parents are Mr Thomas Mortimer 1747–1838 and Catherine Maurice 1757–1837.

William tells us in the family letter that he has been 23 days at sea since setting off on board ship the East India Company ship bound for Madras from Portsmouth on a very tedious journey, though one on which he has proudly not been seasick.

He says, 'from unfair winds the equatorial gales we have been tossing around in the Atlantic ocean ever since, for the first four days after our sailing there was but a light breeze and that against us from the south west on the 9th we were off Lands End the wind obliging to edge off towards Ireland but a strong breeze came from the North West which enabled us to get fair out of the channel'.

Then on the 11th 'two strange sails appeared in sight which bore down upon us till nearly in reach of our cannon and then made off again were ready and clear for action and hoisted the English colours and fired a gun upon which they likewise hoisted English colours'.

Sailing closer it was discovered that the ships were one English one and one from Lisbon bound to London. 'From the 11th to the 14th the wind blew fresher till at last a gale in the Bay of Biscay listed us most dreadfully'. William goes on to describe the sea as being quite literally as high as a mountain during which time they spent three days being tossed about.

However, the calm that followed was almost worse than the gale as the sea had not subsided. A fresh breeze enabled the ship to go at 9 knots an hour and the high hills of Madeira came into sight the next morning. The ship anchored at noon on the 27th.

William found Madeira to be 'a really romantic place' being taken with the high hills and rocks. He reports that the island abounds with all kinds of delicious fruits – grapes, nectars, oranges, lemons, walnuts, figs etc. Wine of course being the main produce of the land. He seems happy that he also now has time to practice and study his medicine and reports to his parents that he is making good use of the books his uncle has given him. He expects to be on

Madeira about a week and is excited to be going ashore with the Captain to dine at a merchant's house the following day. Apparently, the meal was good and was followed up with rabbit shooting 'a considerable diversion but nothing equal to the sport I have enjoyed with you at Trewellwell and St Eloy'.

William then describes how he has sold some items in exchange for wine hoping to gain profit twice when he sells it on arrival in India. The items were ham and cheeses, perishable goods which would not complete the journey.

Sadly, William goes on to say that some men have deserted the ship, several of them drowning in the process whilst attempting to access the shore and two are to be court martialled the following day. As ship's surgeon William is unhappily going to be forced to attend the flogging.

He seems understandably very homesick for his family at this point. He finishes his letter's go from here to Bombay where we will probably remain a month and then to Madras for perhaps three months and then home. He sends his love to all the family back home in Wales and his uncle in Bristol.

William Mortimer's life

William was born in 1782 the son of Thomas Mortimer and Catherine Maurice at Trewellwell, near St David's in Pembrokeshire. He was firstly apprenticed to his uncle Joseph Maurice the Bristol apothecary in 1798 for four years becoming a pupil to Mr Richard Smith in 1802 at the London hospital. This was at the same time as his relative and contemporary John Howell of Abernant was training in London and then also joined the E.I.C as a surgeon.

In 1806 he arrived back in England and in 1807 joined a partnership in Bristol after his uncle Joseph Maurice loaned him the £1000 required to buy in.

In 1832 he was living in Richmond Terrace, Clifton and in 1833 he was finally aged 50 able to marry Sophia Ann Mansell in London. They had been together a while with a daughter Charlotte born in 1820 but had been unable to marry because Sophia's first husband was still alive. He was also in the E.I.C and had deserted her for another woman. William Mortimer died in 1842 and is buried in St Andrew's Church, Clifton.

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Where are you Priscilla Davies from Wales?

This name is all the information I had of my 2x great grandmother from the death certificate of my great grandmother Amelia BRYANT who died in Temuka, NZ in 1937.

Consequently, I started searching for Priscilla but it was extremely difficult and frustrating as there were huge numbers of DAVIES in Wales, I didn't know her date of birth or even know which part of Wales from which she hailed. The only other clue I had was from my mother who said that her great grandfather was a farmer who used to go out in his buggy to neighbouring farms to tend to sick animals.

Our grandmother was notoriously secretive about her family and, up to her death in 1978 I, as a budding genealogist from the age of 16, could never draw any information from her. Coupled with this were empty spaces in photograph albums where she had removed photos after attending a Deceased Estate sale in Temuka in the 1930s where the people walking through the house tramped over family photos which were strewn all over the floor. She returned home and destroyed hers saying that she didn't want that happening to her family.

So over fifteen or so plus years I would pick up the search then put it down again. I exhausted every Welsh Priscilla DAVIES I could find born in the early 1820s whose father was a farmer. I felt it was harder than trying to find the proverbial needle in a haystack.

When I retired from education at the end of 2019, I was doubly determined to find Priscilla, it was a perpetual itch that I could not scratch. So, I methodically began again starting from my grandmother Ada Annie BRYANT who was born, bred and lived in Bath, Somerset until she emigrated to NZ in 1922 after meeting my Australian grandfather in Bath during World War 1. Walter Bede SUTCLIFFE had returned back to his position in the Bank of Australasia in Victoria but was transferred to Christchurch NZ in early 1922.

Amelia was the daughter of Joseph and Priscilla JELLY of Wraxall in Somerset. I searched through census records etc which stated Priscilla was born in Wales, still nothing new, until in the 1861 Census (she died in 1903), when it stated she was born in Pembroke, Wales. I was unable to locate the 1871 Census, but all others stated only Wales as the place of birth. At least, if that were true, it narrowed it down to Pembrokeshire. Still no marriage record of Joseph JELLY to Priscilla DAVIES anywhere despite a long and painstaking search. I proceeded

to follow up their children, then Joseph's ancestry until quite by accident I found a marriage record of a Joseph JELLY to a Priscilla EVANS in 1853 in Clifton, Gloucester when the bride was 35. It also stated that her father was George EVANS a farmer. To my delight, and many backward somersaults, it turned out to be my very elusive 2x great grandmother!

All along I had been chasing a Priscilla DAVIES due to an error recorded on my great grandmother Amelia's death certificate in 1937. My grandfather Walter SUTCLIFFE had registered her death in Temuka. Both Amelia and her husband Albert Joseph BRYANT had emigrated from England in 1923 and spent the next few years between Australia and NZ as their younger daughter had also married an Australian serviceman in 1919. They both died in 1937.

From there it still took me time to fathom it all out especially as George EVANS was a corn grist miller before census records in Minwear and before he became a full time farmer of Dinniston at Loveston in Pembrokeshire in approx. 1833 at the age of 62.

Every find was one of victory until I sorted it out, a really rewarding labour of love and dogged persistence. It can be done!

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What happens to your genealogy research when you die?

Will anyone in the family continue with it or will it just be thrown out? Is it in a state for someone to be able to continue or is it all bits and pieces of scribbled notes and boxes of dusty old photos and documents? Unfortunately, we hear so many times that this is the outcome for many whose years of research are just lost to the world.

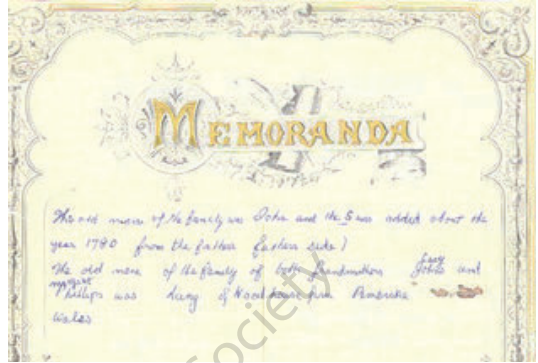
Now is the time to act – leave something in your will or make sure your family know what you want to happen. If no one wants to take it on, donate it to the local archives pertinent to the area your ancestors lived. To do this, it needs to be in a presentable format. Perhaps members who have done something about this can advise the rest of us, please let us know your thoughts and actions taken.

Help Needed

Notations from the Johns Family Bible

MY JOHN/JOHNS family research began with my Great Grandfather Robert Kimber Johns born in 1835 at 56 Redcross Street London to Welsh parents Gelly Johns and Margaret (nee Phillips).

This Robert Kimber Johns made notations in a Family Bible mostly pertaining to ancestry in Pembroke & Haverfordwest Pembrokeshire. Other surnames mentioned are Lang and Phillips.



Of the earliest members of our family, the most conspicuous were Grandfather and Grandmother Lang, farmer of Woodhouse near Fishguard Wales. They were very far from a place of worship so the old gentleman caused a stone pulpit to be built in his farmyard, in which any clergyman or preacher was asked to conduct religious services, or if none present the dame would do so. Both Wesleys, Wycliffe, R. Hill and others made Lang's farm a place of regular call.

They were the father and mother of both the Phillips and John/Johns Family, Lucy Lang (a daughter) married Mark John the son of the Blacksmith at Pembroke. This Mark died and was buried at Spa Fields Burial ground early in 1800. Lucy lived as housekeeper to Dean Smith of Christ Church Oxford and upon his death retired to Petersham, Surrey and died there and was buried in Petersham Churchyard.

Of the Phillips, Margaret Lang (also a daughter) was married to Edward Phillips.

These above notations were used as a guide to my research, specifically in quest of my Welsh Ancestry. I should mention, other notes mention an ancestor added the letter "S" to the John surname around 1780. So, my search has expanded to John/Johns.

I have been able to ascertain the following: The father of Mark John (1766–1803) was Gelly John Blacksmith at Pembroke Haverfordwest, no birth

or death but he wed Margaret Evan at St. Mary's Pembroke in 1760. Their children were: Mary John (1761-); Mark John (1762-1763); Martha John (1763-?) (she wed David Williams at St. Mary's Pembroke in 1786); Mark John (1766-1803) (he was my 4x Great Grandfather, he wed Lucy Lang in 1791 at St Mary's Pembroke); Lettuce John (1768-?); Gelly John(1770-?); William John (1773-?); Margaret John (1774-?) and George John (1774-?).

As for farmer "Lang" I found him to be Richard Lang, of Woodhouse Farm (no birth date, however he died in 1800 leaving a Will naming his wife Elizabeth and children. They are Charles Lang (1764-1765); Margaret Lang 1766-1808) (she wed Edward Phillips at St. Mary's in 1788); Lucy Lang (1770 1855) (interestingly she was wed as Lucy John but her death is shown as Lucy John). Three other Lang daughter's (no dates as yet) are Anna Lang; Sarah Lang; and Susannah Lang.

Edgar Johns (71127)

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Caunt family at Cruglas, Llandysul

I AM TRACING my wife's family history – her grandfather William Lomas Caunt's death certificate (vol 08a Page 192) showed he lived at Cruglas farm, Synod Inn, Llandysul SA446JW.

I am wondering if the farm was a soldiers settlement from WW1 and then it was either sold to his wife or son Hubert, and who it was sold to once his wife died? Any help is much appreciated as its difficult to get that sort of information from here in Australia.

My wife was born in Cardigan in 1943 and as the family were in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire up till her birth, I assume they moved to Cruglas for the birth while her father was overseas in the war. This would mean William Caunt would have had Cruglas prior to 1943.

I can see from the 1939 register William Lomas Caunt was still in Mansfield and as my wife was born in Cardigan in 1943, I assume the purchase or lease was put into place within that time frame?

Not sure where to look for information regarding land transfers in Wales. I have a title register WA949645 for the current owners, Andrew and Nancy

Leaney but don't know where to source information about ownership from 1939 to 1943, can anyone help me?

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Richards Family

RETIREMENT brings time to peer into the various rabbit holes of the family history and attempt to reveal or dismiss a myth of longstanding. Did our family travel recorded as 'Goods' from the village of Llanfrynach to Aberdare sometime in the mid 1870's in a cattle truck/goods wagon to reduce the cost of That Great Adventure?

I am making Dyfed friends through trying to answer this question but would like to put out the background details to all this in the hope that, through the Journal, I can spend time this Spring visiting and gathering.

Samuel Richards (1750–1829) farmed from Pantygwyddel a mile or so south of the village, with his son Daniel who married Maria George on 17th July 1823 in the village church.

I have found out through the Tithe Map of Llanfrynach that Maria George's father David was the occupier farmer at the time 1840ish but in a similar named farm (Pantygwndwn) in the far west of the parish beside what is now the A478 a mile or so south of Crymych. Daniel was written in as farmer in this farm.

Daniel and Maria's son, Thomas (1833–1902), married Hannah Phillips (1835–1914), daughter of John Phillips a slater employed in the Glogue quarries, 19th April 1859, and began to live in a cottage called Penybont Henfeddau (on the drovers road which ran alongside the Pembs/Carms boundary) about four miles East of Llanfrynach. Six children born between 1861 and 1872/3 filled the small rooms and a move from the poverty of mid-Victorian Agricultural Pembs to the developing Steam coal mining area of Aberdare took place. Now the mists of myth begin to gather – did the family hire a truck to take them and their chattels on the Cardi Bach line through Whitland and on to Aberdare?

Does anyone have a linking family to those above and can you help me fill in details ready for a Spring visit week? Thomas and Maria's first son David

(1861–1919) ended up as chairman of a dozen gold mines scattered throughout the Empire and their second son John Thomas (1865–1943) became Lord Mayor of Cardiff (1914/15) and was a founding father of the Welsh Guards with Lloyd George, Kitchener, and Francis Lloyd. You can imagine how proud and amazed we are of that discovery made only in the past few years.

John (Jerry) Spear (68663)

Email: jakespearo8@gmail.com

Morris family from Carmarthen

I AM TRYING to find my GGG Grandfather, David Morris and his father, I believe David was born around 1784 to 1789, he married a Margaret Richard in 1808, they had one son (the Joshua Morris mentioned below). I am assured that David Morris and parents were all from Carmarthen. There are several David Morris's of similar age married to a Margaret Richard, around that era, but the only marriage was at Llanon (I have found a marriage 9/02/1808 which sort of matches with ages and birth of my GG Grandfather b 1810?).

My GG Grandfather Joshua Morris b 15/10/1810 Blacksmith of Carmarthen, married to Elizabeth Thomas (b 1810), they married in 1834. They had 6 sons:

David b 1/07/1838, who later emigrated to USA and settled in Colorado
d 29/07/1919 Santa Clara Huerfano, Colorado USA

Joshua Lewis (my G Grandfather) b 01 01/1842 who emigrated to Australia
around 1878, died Lithgow NSW

Thomas Morris b 27/03/1844, d 16/05/1874

James or John b 26/05/1848, d 19/12/1848

Aneurin Morris b 05/05/1850, d 27/01/1851

James Butler Morris b 08/01/1857.

Joshua lived in Carmarthen (1841 1851 census) at 40 Lammas St, then at Victoria Place in the 1861 census with sons Thomas, John/James and James B. He later lived at Woods Row where he died 13/12/1880.

Has anyone any links to this family that could help with my further research.

Trevor Gerard (28417)

Email: tmgerard94@outlook.com

Members Interests

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

Member	Surname	Forenames	Occupation	Place	County	Country	Event	From	To
1748	Payne	Elizabeth	Housemaid	Llandoverly	Carma	Wales		1910	1930
3793	James	Naomi		Llanpumsaint	Carma	Wales	Lived	1753	1840
6425	Jones	William Hopkin		Kidwelly	Carma	Wales	Any	1800	1933
14633	Green	Frederick	Smallholder	Llansadwrn	Carma			1880	1935
22941	John	William	Shoemaker	Cilgerran	Pembr				1820
22941	Evans	Margaret		Cilgerran?	Pembr				1820
22941	Evans	Margaret		Llandello?	Carma				1820
22941	Griffiths	John	Miner	Gwnnws	Cardi			1820	1860
22941	Steadman			Strata Florida				1700	1850
25762	Rees	James	Farmer/ butcher	Cynghordy	Carma	Wales		1831	1904
25762	Rees Harman	Esther	Farmer	Cynghordy	Carma	Wales		1868	1944
27745	Francis	Thomas	Ships Carpenter	Letterston	Pembr	Wales	1848 m clydai	1823	1875
29251	Evans			Cilycwm	Carms				
29251	Morgans			Cilycwm	Carms				
29251	Peter			Llanfyrnach	Pembr				
29251	Peter			Cenarth					

29251	Peter				Llanboidy								
29251	Jones		Shoemaker		Brongwynn								
29251	Jones				Cenarth								
29251	James				Cenarth								
29251	James				Llandywydd								
34349	Boyns	Robert	Yeoman cavalry		Llandeilo	Cardma	Wales	Marriage	1772			1800	
36314	Morris	Evan	Farmer		Llanddeiniol, Cilfache farm	Cardi	Wales		Abt 1796			9/5/1863	
36314	Morris	John	Farmer		Llanddeiniol, Cilfachefarm	Cardi	Wales		abt 1756			8/5/1830	
36314	Jones	Letitia			Llanbadarn Odwyn	Cardi	Wales	Birth	Oct 1845				
42443	Thomas	William Richard			Abergwynff		Wales	School	1921			1935	
45612	Jones	Josiah	Shoemaker		Penboyr	Cardma	Wales	Birth	1800			1890	
45612	Roberts	Thomas	Collier		Gellifellen	Monmo	Wales						
45612	Pritchard	Richard	Carpenter		Cilycwm	Cardma	Wales						
45612	Jones	William	Collier		Blaengwrach	Glamo	Wales	1796	1850				
54445	Scourfield	Ann			Narberth				1806			1888	
54445	Hay	William			Bosherston	Pembr			1810			1876	
56312	George	Thomas	Blacksmith		Llandilo	Cardma	Wales		1802			1874	
65866	Jones	David John Henry	Farmer		Bynea	Cardma	Wales	Marriage	1905			1975	

65866					Bryncearnarfonn Farm	Bynea	Carma			1940
86538	Edwards	William Henry 'Harry'	Horse Breaker				Holland		1908	1960
98128	Lloyd	Frederick				Carma	Wales		1895	
98128	Griffiths	William				Pembr	Wales		1876	
98913	Tregerthen	Anthony	Harbour Master		Llanelli	Carma			1781	1844
98913	Chalinder	Joseph	Farmer		Llanelli	Carma			1751	1838
98913	Tucker	John	Carpenter		St Dogmaels	Cardi			1796	1869
98913	Harries	Phoebe			Cardigan	Cardi			1826	1879

Obituaries

<i>Membership No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Joined</i>
461	Rev. John F Hopkins	1985
866	Mr Alan Griffiths	1988
2162	Dr Ruth E Chilcott	1996
2259	Mr Merlyn B Gully	1997
2643	Dr Simon Phillips	1999
12327	Mrs Delwen E Wilkinson	2022

Sadly, Delwen died in June 2023 prior to her two articles being publishes, appearing in the August 2023 (page 16) and December 2023 (page 51) issues.



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.



UPPER TOWY VALLEY

OUR SPEAKER for October was Dr. Christian Williams of Penclawdd who works for the Baptist Union of Wales.

Christian told the story of Non-conformist Chapels, linked in our history spiritually, socially, culturally and politically. The transition of Wales from an agricultural society to the hotbed of the industrial revolution saw social upheaval with most people attending a place of worship.

Chapels, the architecture of the nation, are at crisis point spiritually and culturally. In the 1890s one chapel a week was opening; by the 1990s one a week was closing. This trend continues and the need to protect and preserve their heritage is growing.

Christian spoke of individual chapels of our area, showing us pictures and photographs of them through the centuries.

The Welsh chapels of Morryston, the largest and most expensive, Castle Street, London, William Williams, Llandoverly, Salem and Soar ar y Mynydd were referred to as “essays in slate and stone”.

Early chapels were meeting houses, *tai cwrdd*, in farms, homes, even public houses. The founding fathers were resourceful, using whatever was available, often in the face of persecution. Ilston, the first Baptist chapel, was well hidden in a Gower valley. Maesyronnen, begun in 1696, was part of an Elizabethan longhouse. Others were Mynyddbach in the Weigfach area of Swansea, begun in 1640 and Tycoch, Morryston, a cottage where the congregation met for a century before the first chapel was built by William Edwards, a bridge builder who mapped out the town of Morryston.

At Yr Hen Gwm, Llansamlet, the Methodists converted two cottages into their meeting place, with William Williams, Pantycelyn’s signature on the deed of transfer. Mynyddbach in 1762 followed the established blueprint –

the long side wall facade with two entrance doors and the pulpit between two windows. Most Swansea chapels between 1800 and 1840 followed this plan. In Carmarthenshire many survive from this early period, for example Tabernacle, Llandovery, 1836.

Members built these chapels themselves, with little financial backing. Women and children collected stones for the men to dress and build with, as with Siloh, 1822. At Bethel, Sketty, Elizabeth Rosser, Hearty Bet, spent every evening carting stones.

In the 1820s and '30s the long wall facade gave way to the square plan with a pyramid roof, having better acoustics. Next came the gable end facade, the design most associated with non-conformist chapels, with the pulpit at the opposite end – y cynllun talcen, a gallery, two sets of staircases to the pulpit and curved seating, as at Ebenezer, Llandovery, 1844.

This was the era of “Chapel Mania”. In Swansea in 1860, 32 were built; in 1880, 52, symbols of a new-found confidence and of the status of non-conformity. Architects included Thomas Thomas, Landore, John Humphrey and Thomas Freeman. Thomas Thomas, from Ffairfach, Llandeilo, moved to Clydach as a minister. From 1840 to 1875 he designed chapels to supplement his income, and was known as the first national architect of Wales, designing a thousand chapels including Siloam, Pentre Estyll; Salem, Caio and Providence, Llangadog. John Humphrey was a carpenter and architect of Tabernacle, Morryston and designed Llansadwrn and Ffaldybrenin in the 1870s.

Following the 1904 Revival, there was a massive surge in chapel building with “show chapels” such as Libanus, Cwmbwrla. In Tabernacle, Penclawdd in 1911 the Methodists added a spire – this was Carl Jenkins’ church: his father was the organist with one of the best organs in Swansea.

Mr. Watkins, architect of Capel Newydd, Llandeilo, was from Ammanford. He designed many chapels, including Gellimanwydd – Christian Temple.

Swansea today displays a sad story, having lost so much of its heritage in the Blitz. It didn’t protect its heritage and many chapels of character were demolished. From five in 1800 to fifty-six in 1914 the number is now down to twelve.

Our grateful thanks to Christian for his very interesting and thought-provoking talk.

In January we held our AGM when Mr. Elwyn Baynham joined the Committee as Vice Chairman.

Our meeting took the form of a Members' Interests Evening, when Elwyn told us about two men who went from Llandovery to the gold mines of Australia in 1853, William Evans of Maestwynog and his friend John Manuel. William sent letters home telling his family how they fared. The first described how they sailed on the Lady Flora and William was sea-sick for nine days.

On arriving in Australia, he was employed as a carter in Melbourne, earning £2 a week. John Manuel worked as a haberdasher. Sixty thousand people arrived in one year, making for the gold mines of Bendigo and Ballarat. William was saving up as he planned to look for gold.

His father Morgan died in 1856 and William returned to Maestwynog in 1861. There was no Welsh in his letters, though he spoke Welsh to others in Melbourne. The letters, a beautiful record of the journey and the family history were in a box on the dresser for a hundred years, brought to Cwm Cynwyl with William's brother David Evans.

Mary spoke about her great-grandmother, Mari Dafydd, who had nineteen children, twelve of whom survived. She would ride in a donkey cart to Pantyffynnon Station. The donkey went home on his own and when the train was heard on its return from Swansea where Mari had gone to sell china, the donkey would go to fetch her. She made yeast buns and sewed – at a great age she could see to thread a needle without glasses and possessed all her faculties.

She died at the age of a hundred years. A newspaper cutting shows a photograph of five generations. She had eighty grandchildren and two hundred great-grandchildren. The funeral was held in Saron, the coffin being carried on a bier from Tycroes, changing bearers on the way; the procession said to have been like a black river.

Mary's mother passed away in 1995. She told Mary that her Mamgu, Mari Dafydd, had said that her grandmother had walked with Jemima Nicholas to deter the French soldiers in 1797.

Mary's grandfather was one of the Hall family from Ledbury where he was a gamekeeper and his wife a housekeeper. He was awarded a good conduct medal but lost it the next month!

Moira spoke of her great-grandmother, Richenda Pearson, daughter of

Richard and Jane Pearson from Storth in Westmorland, who moved to Swansea in 1862 where Richard, a master clog manufacturer, established his business. Richenda married Ebenezer Herbert Morgan in 1874 and they moved to live at The Evergreens and farm at Bryn Farm in Waunarlyydd.

A booklet kept by the family was said to be from Richenda's visit to the Great Exhibition in London – not the 1851 Exhibition as she was not born until 1855. Searches for other great exhibitions led to nothing.

However, the photographers, A.J. Campbell and Eustace Gray were based at Edgware Road in London. One reference showed their various photographs, including one from the booklet, and this was taken at the Festival of Empire in May 1911, held to mark the Coronation of George V.

This, the biggest event at the Crystal Palace since the Great Exhibition in 1851, had a grand opening concert with a choir of 4,500 and the London Symphony Orchestra with music by Vaughan Williams and Gustav Holst. A huge pageant dramatised the history of Britain and the Empire and ran for four months showing its cultural, industrial, and military achievements with displays of landscapes, products and exhibits from around the world.

Huge buildings of timber and plaster represented the countries, linked by an electric tramway with cars taking visitors on a circular tour of the dominions. Scenes included a South African diamond mine, an Indian tea plantation, an Australian sheep farm and a jungle with wild beasts. There was also an Inter-Empire Sports Championship, the precursor of the Commonwealth Games. Over five million had visited by October 1911.

Denise told of her grandmother's sister, Mary Ann Davies, who was a servant girl at Pentwyn Farm, Llanedi. On 29th September 1910 she was shot dead at the farm. Reports of the time give her age as 25, but in fact she was only fifteen.

It was said that the nephew of the farmer, Mr. David James, was attempting to shoot a magpie and the gun went off, striking her jaw. Death was instantaneous. There was an inquest, which ruled Mary Ann's death was accidental. No blame was attached to the young man and he was not arrested.

Mary Ann was buried at Tabernacle, Cefneithin. Also buried there is Mary Ann's sister, Lydia, who died of appendicitis at the age of sixteen.

We had an interesting and enjoyable evening.

Moirá C. L. Evans (39)

ONLINE DISCUSSION GROUP

THE NUMBER of new people registering for our Online Discussion Group continues to grow steadily and now tops 170 members.

In January, Beryl Evans showed us how to negotiate the National Library of Wales website and gave us an overview of the resources available to family historians. She will be returning in September to talk about wills and marriage settlements.

In February Dr Iwan Griffiths took us on an armchair journey following his wife's family from the slate quarries of Clydach to the zinc mines of Wisconsin via Princeton University. It was a very engaging talk about humble beginnings leading to socialising with American Presidents as well as giving back to the community through generous philanthropic support.

We are looking forward to Margaret Cross talking about her Griffiths family from Narberth on March 25th and Anona Morgan's research into her family's link with their local chapels on April 29th. I'm searching for contributors for May onwards if anyone would like to give a talk about their family research or local village/parish?

The talks are being recorded (with permission) and made available to the Discussion Group Members so that those who cannot attend do not miss out. These are available to view for a limited time and are not downloadable.

We have begun highlighting a brick wall at the end of each of our meetings. These have been submitted by group members via the Brick Wall Form to online@dyfedfhs.org.uk. We don't promise to solve your query but can often offer local knowledge and local resources to aid you in your research.

If you want to be part of the group, then please tick the Online Discussion Group box on your Membership Profile on the DFHS website. If you are having trouble with the link for our monthly Zoom meetings, please use the meeting ID and passcode and that will get you into the waiting room from where we can admit you to the session.

Rosaleen Boardman (6495)

LONDON

November Meeting

DEBBIE KENNETT, internationally recognised expert on genetic genealogy, spoke to the Branch on 11 November on the subject of “DNA testing for family history”. This was a very comprehensive talk covering all aspects of DNA testing.

After a brief introduction to testing Y-chromosome and mitochondrial DNA, the talk concentrated on autosomal DNA. Debbie outlined the merits of each of the main testing companies. She discussed the many tools that Ancestry provides to analyse matches and demonstrated how to research mystery clusters of people who match each other but cannot be linked to known branches of a family tree. There was also a demonstration of the facilities provided by My Heritage, which a good site for people who have mainland European ancestry.

Debbie introduced us to WATO (What are the Odds?), a tool that uses probability theory to provide possible answers to specific questions, by comparing and ranking possible alternative relationships. Finally, Debbie suggested strategies which could be used by people like me, who have problems with endogamy among our Welsh hill-farmer ancestors. All in all, a brilliant talk, which gave even seasoned users of DNA ideas to take their research in new directions. Many thanks to Brian Swann for kindly arranging the meeting.

Anna Brueton (1806)

LLANELLI

November 20th

AT LAST, we have held a meeting. Llanelli House is still closed so we have had our meeting in the Library. Our speaker today was Debra John who gave us a wonderful talk on the First World War. Her speciality is that she dresses up to give her talk. Today she was dressed in black and of Edwardian Style. This was a good subject for the month of November.

Her first subject was George Butterworth who was an English composer and not a typical soldier. He joined up before he was conscripted and amazingly became an excellent Second Lieutenant who was worshipped by his men. He was awarded the Military Cross which even amazed his father. Sadly, George was shot by a sniper and his body was never found.

The next subject was John Campbell, a Scottish miner. John was a victim of Shell shock and was sent to Porthcawl to be treated. He was about to be sent back to the Front when he went for a swim in the sea and never swam back. His body was found later.

Nurse Betty Clement from Swansea was the Matron at Llanelli Workhouse. She decided that she would be a greater help during the war. When she and the other nurses were being shipped out to the Front, they saw many dead sailors floating in the water. Their ship had been torpedoed shortly before. At a later stage the nurses became prisoners of war.

Ellis Evans, a shepherd from Trawsfynydd was called up to go to war. His parents said they needed their sons to help on the farm and were told they could keep one son at home. Ellis said he would be the one to go to save his younger brother. Ellis was actually a poet known as Hedd Wyn, and would win prizes at Eisteddfodau. His hope was to win the Chair at the National Eisteddfod and in 1917 when it was held in England the winner was Ellis Evans. Sadly, he had died a few months previously. When his name was called out in the Eisteddfod, nobody stood up. Eventually they announced that the winning poet was Hedd Wyn who had sadly died. The chair was covered in a black cloth. The chair was sent to his parents in Trawsfynydd and a statue was erected to the. Poet Everyone said how much they had enjoyed the presentation

Chris Davies (79)

January 15th – Elizabeth Evans speaking on Welsh Folklore

ELIZABETH gave us a thought-provoking talk on the links between what are described as folk tales and events which occurred in history, sometimes in the very distant past. Elizabeth's talk focussed on the legend of Llyn y Fan Fach.

In the folktale, during the 13th century, a young farmer named Gwyn, who lived with his widowed mother at Blaensawdde Farm, spotted the most beautiful girl he'd ever seen emerge from the lake, she was a princess from the kingdom of fairies. He courted the fairy princess by baking her bread and after three attempts he succeeded in winning her hand in marriage on the condition that if he hit her three times, she would leave him. He was enchanted and agreed. They were happy for years bringing up a family at his farm, Esgair Llaethdy, near Myddfai, together with her magic dowry of farm animals. In time the inevitable happened he hit his wife, mainly because of misunderstandings, and she disappeared back into the lake taking her prized animals with her, leaving

the farmer with her sons. The sons met secretly with their mother at three locations, Pant y Meddygon – The Physicians Dell, Lliadiad y Meddygon – The Physician’s Gate and lastly Cwm Meddygon – The Physician’s Glen. At these meetings she taught them all she knew about the local herbs. The sons once grown became known as the “Physicians of Myddfai” who became physicians to the English royal court.

Interestingly there are many “threes” in the story. Gwyn sees her three times at the lake, he gives her three types of bread, she tells him that if he hits her three times, she will leave him, and they have three sons. The number three plays a significant role in Irish and Welsh cultures. The link with Lord Rhys of Deheubarth mirrors the number three again. Rhiwallon a personal physician to Lord Rhys at Dinefwr was assisted by his three sons, the sons were rewarded with land around Myddfai and became The Physicians of Myddfai.

The Bible also focuses on the number three. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Jesus was raised on the third day, the three wise men who attended the birth of Jesus.

Elizabeth also linked the story to events which happened involving Irish tribes and their journeys to Wales and their links and interactions, not all friendly, with Welsh tribes. Elizabeth belongs to Cwmdeithas Meddygon Myddfai, in June there is a meeting at Myddfai where speakers talk on subjects relating to the past and present in the world of medicine.

Linda Martin (5468)

CARMARTHEN

THERE WAS no December meeting for the branch, as our usual date fell on Christmas week. Our AGM took place on January 31st, Chairman Eric welcomed Colin Potter (DFHS General Secretary) and Cate Hobbs (DFHS Editor) to our meeting.

Eric gave an account of speakers over the past year, these included Bruce Wallace, Peter Stopp, Chris Harte, Mary Thorley, and Jeremy John, a variety of very interesting topics.

We had two visits, to the Carmarthen Archives, a conducted tour, which was of great interest. Richard Goodridge took us on a tour of the war graves at St David’s Church, Carmarthen. A great deal of information to absorb!

Election of Officers

Eric had told members at the last AGM that he would be stepping down as chairman at this meeting. As there were no volunteers for this post, it was decided to carry on with myself as secretary, and Janice as treasurer. Eric has given 11 years of service in his role as chairman and will be greatly missed. He has been a great help to the branch, always going “the extra mile”. We wish him well in his retirement and look forward to having him join us for our future meetings.

Colin spoke generally about DFHS, about the zoom meetings, and to say that there are other societies without a chairperson, but still carrying on, all positive comments. Cate spoke about keeping in touch via the journal, sharing names or associates who may be able to help with talks etc.

Our Febuary meeting was held in the afternoon and was well attended – there was no speaker, but Colin and Cate joined us again and shared a lot of information about the Society and the content of the website, agreeing to come back and run through it in more detail for the branch at another meeting. All the members that attended shared their research interests and stories, one lapsed member even said they were going to re-join now they knew what was available on the website! An enjoyable afternoon.

We have decided to hold the meetings at 2.00pm in future, instead of in the evening, and although we have no speakers arranged, this is “work in progress” and will be confirmed as soon as possible.

Janet Slate (6020)

CARDIGAN

6th November 2023 – The Slate Quarries of Cilgerran

OUR SPEAKER this evening, was Emyr Phillips who grew up learning about the Cilgerran quarries and the men and machines who worked them. Emyr’s own father worked in Gilfach Quarry, so it was very much in his blood. Cilgerran stone was used throughout the area: Carmarthen Town Hall was slated from Gilfach quarry and Pantyfedwen Hall at Aberystwyth University is roofed with Cilgerran slate.

The people of Cilgerran owned the quarries except for Forest Quarry which was owned by the Coedmore Estate. Three different bodies oversaw the rules of

running the Cilgerran quarries. If someone wanted to build a house using stone from the quarry they could apply to the burgers to dig for stone free of charge but they were not allowed to sell it.

Forest quarry is situated at the edge of what is now Cilgerran Wildlife Park and the first evidence of its existence is in a lease dated 1621. The last lease finished in 1910. Cilgerran castle was probably built from stone quarried nearby. The quarries were spread along the river from Cilgerran to Llechryd where there were the tin works of Castell Maelgwyn. When the tin works closed so many men were put out of work that they started quarrying further downriver. Emyr showed us the maps detailing the sites of the various quarries.

Tom Matthias, the well-known local photographer, took pictures of the steam crane in Forest Quarry and of a Lighter, a flat boat used for carrying stone, submerged in the river. Emyr also showed Tom's photograph of workers in tin hats on the rock face using bars to release the rock. The photograph is carefully managed to showcase the height of the stone pillars, the shed and the workmen and what they could produce. The shed is still in existence but is now a factory outlet shop.

Quarried stone had to be kept moist during the night otherwise the slabs wouldn't split. The workmen used a mallet and chisel to split the stone then a knife to trim it. These tools were later superseded by machines. A tram suspended by a wire rope, known as a Blondin after the famous tightrope walker, carried the stone across the quarry.

The quarries were incredibly important to the area as employers. Forest quarry was the main source of income for the Port of Cardigan but also contributed to the ports decline because of silting. The quarrymen dumped silt into the river and the silt worked its way into the harbour which then became too shallow for ships to pass through. In 1968 it was decided to take the silt out of the river and put it back in the quarry pits, it filled all the pits.

The last invoice from any quarry was from Dolbaddau quarry in 1938. It was for stone used for tombstones and they were sold all over the country. The stone was also used to make pig troughs, billiard tables and slabs. Many examples of how the stone from the quarries was used can be seen at Ffynone mansion where columns, steps, balustrades, pedestals and decorative stonework can be seen. Although the quarries now lie silent and deserted evidence of the scale of the work done there by local people can still be seen by the river at Cilgerran Wildlife Park and if you follow the path down past Cilgerran castle you can still see the old quarry on the right-hand side.

8 January 2024 – Conscientious Objectors During World War 1

We were pleased to welcome Heather Tomos, our first speaker of the New Year. Heather gave a very in-depth talk on the reasons why men refused to enlist to fight despite considerable social and governmental pressure, the different categories of objectors, and the conditions under which many of them suffered for their beliefs.

At the beginning of WW1 Britain had 25,000 regular soldiers and Germany had 700,000 therefore there was an urgent need to recruit men quickly. 1914 and 1915 saw so many large battles fought with the consequent loss of many men that increasing efforts needed to be made to replace them. In 1916 the Military Service Act came into being and military service became compulsory for the first time in the history of Britain. Initially only unmarried men between the ages of 18–41 years were called up and some essential workers such as farmers and agricultural workers were exempt from service but as the war progressed and soldiers had to be replaced men had to attend tribunals if they felt that they were needed at home more than at the Front. There were cases of farmers having to choose between their sons if one were allowed to stay and one had to go. In one tragic case a farmer shot himself rather than see his son go to war.

In response Fenner Brockway and Clifford Allen set up the No Conscription Fellowship campaign as many men had political, moral, or religious reasons for refusing to fight. There were just over 16000 men recorded as COs during the war but there may have been many more who would have been COs but were exempt from military service for other reasons, for example clergymen.

Although many churches and chapels supported the war others did not. Jerusalem Chapel in Britton Ferry was one of those against conscription and was visited by well-known and respected people such as Ramsay Macdonald, Bertrand Russell, and Sylvia Pankhurst.

The Pelham Committee was formed in March 1916 to co-ordinate the organisation of work for COs who had been given exemption from military combat. Men in the Non-Combatant Corps wore uniform and took part in marching but did not carry weapons or take part in fighting. They were given work deemed to be of national importance, but which was often far away from home, either on the Home Front or in Europe, and could also be seen to be a form of punishment.

Other conscientious objectors were:

Alternativists: men who would agree to help the war effort by becoming stretcher bearers or doing other non-combatant roles which did not require carrying weapons. They were also willing to work in agriculture and food production although this could be seen by some as aiding the war effort.

Absolutists: these were men who refused to take part in any action which would contribute to the war in any way. They were often imprisoned and kept in poor conditions, overcrowded, cold and malnourished. Many had their physical and mental health wrecked due to their mistreatment. Some were kept in prison up to a year after the war ended.

In 1994 a memorial was erected in Tavistock Square to recognise all those who have established and are maintaining the right to refuse to kill. Also in the same square is another memorial dedicated to the people who lost their lives in a suicide bomb attack on a double decker bus on 7th July 2005.

Heather gave us a lot to think about during her talk including the nature of courage – were men braver to fight in a war or braver to refuse to compromise their beliefs?

Fiona Thomas (34437)

HAVERFORDWEST

History of Pembroke Dock

WE ARE grateful to Gareth Mills, who enthusiastically presented a detailed and illustrated account of Pembroke Dock's history last November. At the start he emphasised that although being close to the historic town of Pembroke, Pembroke Dock has a character and history all its own.

There were 263 ships built for the Navy over the years together with five royal yachts. Here also were the origins of the Japanese Navy (an ally in World War I).

After the Defensible Barracks were built, the 41st Regiment came to Pembroke Dock in June 1844. The military presence was evident with the erection of the Cambridge (or Martello) Towers and the Llanion Barracks. There were 57 regiments in Pembroke Dock.

Following the closure of the Dockyard in 1926, and the Depression years, in 1930 an RAF base was established and the Sunderland flying boats came

in 1938. The numbers increased: in 1943 there were 99 Sunderland and Catalan flying boats in the Haven. On convoy patrol, the flight time was 11 hours, and each plane had 11 crew members. In 1940, the oil storage tanks were bombed, and the fire raged for 18 days. On 12th May 1941, the town was again bombed, the railway station was hit.

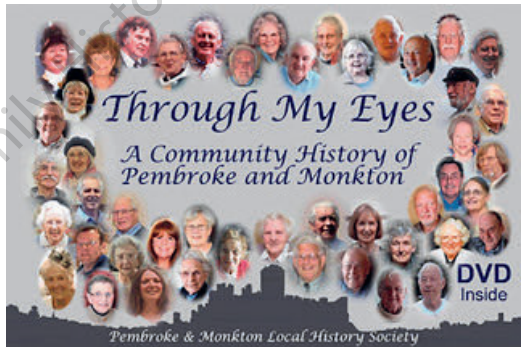
The Garrison Chapel in the Dockyard was renovated as a museum with military exhibits, mainly featuring the Sunderland flying boats. In 1979 the Millennium Falcon was built for the Star Wars film ‘The Empire Strikes Back’. It was 70 feet in diameter and weighed 23 tons, another attraction of the museum.

William Haggar, Pioneer of the British Cinema

In December, we were fortunate in having Linda Asman, Chair of Pembroke and Monkton Local History Society, whose presentation of the life and work of William Haggar (1851–1925) and his family was most entertaining, containing several short films. Linda Asman referred to the books: ‘Through My Eyes’, a Community History of Pembroke and Monkton by Roy Haggar; and Vicky Haggar’s book ‘From Mummer’s Booth to Silver Screen: The Life and Times of the Haggar Family’.

William Haggar, born in Essex, had an unhappy childhood. He trained as a shipwright and later as a watchmaker and being a musician joined a local band and toured with a travelling theatre company and became a comic actor. In 1870 he married Sarah Walton, the daughter of the company’s proprietor. They had 11 children, all of whom were entertainers.

William was also interested in photography and moving pictures. The cinematograph (projector) used limelight produced with hydrogen and oxygen, with some danger. He turned over the theatre



to his eldest son Will. In 1898 he made a portable show: 'The Windsor Castle' Bioscope and toured fairs in South Wales and the Borders. In 1902 he became a filmmaker, the most successful film being 'The Maid of Cefn Ydfa', acted by Will's theatrical company. Other films included 'The Poacher'; 'The Bather's Revenge' and 'The Life of Charles Peace' acted by family members. He made some 60 films, 34 documented. 'The Sheep Stealer, 'Revenge' and 'Chased by Dogs' were rediscovered more recently. A drama called 'A Penny for your Dreams', the lives of William and Sarah Haggar starred Dafydd Hywel and Sue Roderick.

In 1909 Sarah died, and William settled in Aderdare, the Bioscope was transformed into the Shanty Cinema. Permanent cinemas were replacing the travelling shows and William bought a chain of cinemas in Llanelli, Pontardulais, Mountain Ash and Merthyr. The Pembroke Cinema opened later. In 1912 his daughters Violet and Lily were both married, and William married his second wife, May in March of that year. Luckily, they failed to secure tickets for the Titanic's tragic voyage but sailed to New York for their honeymoon on another ship. They returned to Aderdare and lived in 'Kinema House'. In 1915 he built a luxury 900-seat cinema called Kosy Kinema. Sadly, his wife May died in 1924 and he died a year later.

The Assembly Rooms in Pembroke built in 1866, were bought by Rees Phillips. Around 1920, he installed a cine projector on the ground floor, and advertised it as Pembroke Cinema. Will Haggar leased the cinema around 1927 and named it Haggars. The family business lasted 50 years through three generations. There was a mixture of live entertainment and films. In 1984 the cinema closed but the memories of it and the Haggar family live on.

Pembrokeshire Archives Afternoon

On 10th January we visited Pembrokeshire Archives for a research session. The staff were welcoming and helpful as always. It was nice to see both new members and non-members in attendance.

The Ferries and Ferryman of Pembrokeshire

In February we had an informative and illustrated talk by Keith Johnson. By way of introduction, he took us through myth and early history, referring to the ferryman on the River Styx, the Romans and the Vikings, the crossings on the River Severn until more recently the GWR rail link through the Severn Tunnel, and the Beachley car ferry.

In the Swansea area there was Briton Ferry across the Tawe, and on the Towy ferries connecting Llansteffan and Ferryside. There was the Pilgrims' Ferry with chapels at each end. On the Cleddau, the Slebech ferry was owned by the Knights of St John. Monasteries and Monks owned rights of ferries such as Tintern Abbey on the Wye; the Bishop of Bangor had rights of the Menai Straits, and the Bishop of St. David's had the rights to Ramsey Island. Pembroke Ferry goes back to 1164 at least. In Burton there is a 15th century ferry house-inn and the Owen family ran Landshipping Ferry.

Following the dissolution of the monasteries, Lloyd's of London had an interest in ferries. In 1791 John Wesley crossed Pembroke Ferry. James Hussey successfully took his rivals to court over ferry-crossing rights. The Neyland to Pembroke Dock crossings increased with the coming of the railway to Neyland. Brunel's Great Eastern sailed from Neyland Pier. There was a ferry from Hazel Beach to the Dockyard and Pembroke Dock Market. The Jackson family ran the Irish ferry to Hobbs Point. Later on, Pembrokeshire County Council took over the Cleddau crossing. We remember the 'Cleddau King' and 'Cleddau Queen'.

The Llangwm Ferry to Coedcanlas ran from 1693 to the 1930's. Another ferry ran from Monkton across the Pembroke River and lower down to the Dockyard. Tragically, a horse panicked on the small ferry-boat which tipped over: the ferryman was drowned on the crossing from Cosheston to Houghton. In 1889 a ferry disaster occurred when the boat from Pembroke Dock Market tipped over and all were drowned. Rules about over-loading came into force later. A murder case in 1812 involved James Dean who tried to escape crossing from Milford Point to Bullwell. He was captured, tried in London, and hanged in Wapping. More ferries were at Blackbridge, Sandy Haven, Milford Pill and Priory Pill.

In the north of the County, there were crossings over the Teifi Estuary and Cilgerran Gorge Ferry. At Abercych Coracle Ferry, the ferryman towed a passenger in another coracle, and sadly in an accident a lady drowned. At Nevern Estuary the bridge was demolished in an attempt to stop the spread of the Black Death. There was a ferry from Newport to Traeth Mawr. Here the ferryman, Jack 'No change' profited. What a wealth of history!

Geraint Davies (4553)

New Members

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

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Branch Meetings

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

Cardigan Aberteifi

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

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

Carmarthen CAERFYRDDIN

The last Wednesday in each month at 2.00pm
Spilman Hotel, Spilman Street, Carmarthen.

Contact Mrs. Janet Slate - Tel. 01267 782099. Email: carmarthen@dyfedfhs.org.uk

Haverfordwest Hwlfordd

The second Wednesday in each month 6.00pm until 8.00pm
Pembrokeshire Archives, Back Lane, Prendergast, Haverfordwest SA61 2PE
Contact Ms Cate Hobbs - Tel. 07777 695865.

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 by Zoom or in person at
The Kwanglim Room, Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 4AU.
Contact Mrs. Anna Brueton - Tel. 0207 9230302. Email: london@dyfedfhs.org.uk

Upper Towy Valley Cwm Tywi Uchaf

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

Email: uppertowyvalley@dyfedfhs.org.uk

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