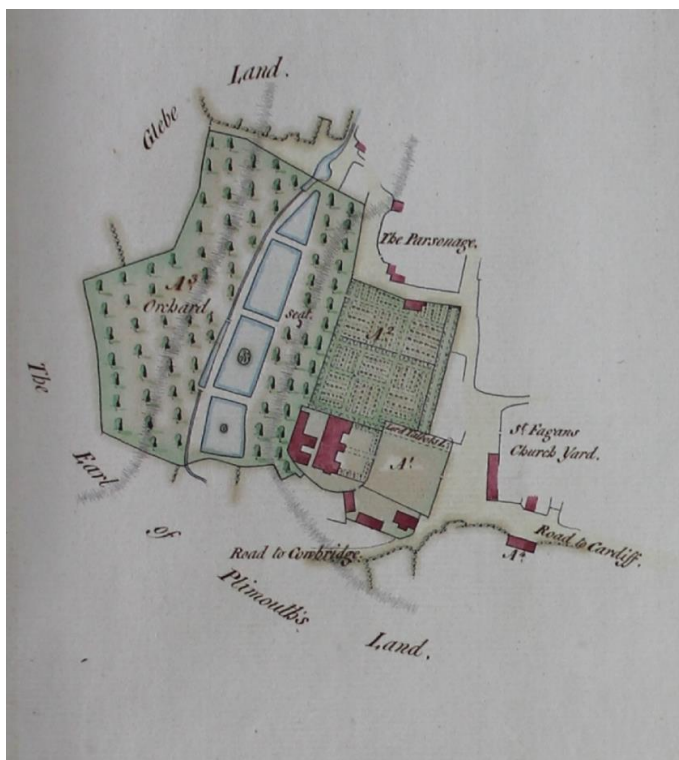




***Glamorgan Family
History Society***
*Cymdeithas Hanes
Teuluol Morgannwg*



© Glamorgan Archives
Plymouth Estate Maps

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 Plymouth Estate Maps (Map 2)

Map 2 is from Volume 2 of the survey showing a completely rural area in 1766, today the location of Gurnos, Merthyr Tydfil, with Prince Charles Hospital sited in field G5 'The Great Meadow'.

Map 1 (Front Cover) is from Volume 5 of the survey showing St Fagan's Castle and grounds

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Society's Objectives © Glamorgan Family History Society

As a registered charity the main objectives of the Glamorgan Family History Society are to: encourage and stimulate research into genealogy and allied subjects with particular reference to the historic county of Glamorgan: to assist members in their private research; encourage the transcription and preservation of records of family history and the deposit of original documents of value in approved repositories; publish papers of genealogical value and interests; establish, to mutual advantage, relations with other organisations interested in genealogy and allied subjects; maintain a library and regularly publish a journal.

The journal is the official publication of the Glamorgan Family History Society. Articles appearing in the journal may not be reproduced without the written permission of the Editor. Views expressed in articles and letters are not necessarily those of the GFHS.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Autumn edition of our Journal, and congratulations to all who have survived this Summer of chaotic travels, cancelled holidays and more health worries.

For this edition I was asking for some stories of families who have left their places of birth and upbringing and have come into the coalfields and steel and iron areas in search of work. I did not get many, but we did get an article about Kath Rees's family who were brought up on Caldey Island, a place we don't hear much about, and how her ancestors had left there for Dowlais - a fascinating account which I hope you will find interesting. Also included are some stories of tailors and jewellers, of clocks and watches, inn keepers, railway workers, all coming and settling in Glamorgan because of the lure of employment and trade. Also included is the account of Llewellyn Jones, a most remarkable man who amongst other achievements became Aneurin Bevan's consultant and adviser on setting up the Health Service, and who will be the subject of a talk soon to be held in Bridgend. Rhian Diggins of Glamorgan Archives has given us an account of how they have set about preserving the Survey documents of the Plymouth Estates, the land which is currently occupied by St Fagans museum, and there is an account of the early life of the grandmother of former member DJK Jones, who died last October and was remembered in our last edition. There's an inspiring story about Mrs Maxwell, some memories of Whitchurch in Cardiff, and an account of those who lived at Bryngarw House near Bridgend. I hope you enjoy reading all about them.

As for future topics, please keep digging for your family stories - it is so important that these records are made and kept for posterity. Tracing our family ancestors via all the websites now available, give us, hopefully, all the facts, but names and dates and numbers do not give the picture of what life was like, what choices they made, what made them go down one path and not another. It is these 'facts' that build the true story, so please keep the articles coming.

Many thanks must go to those who have already given us so much, and who continue to do so!

No particular topic for the next edition which will be out before Christmas, but perhaps you would like to write about memorable seasonal family events? All subjects welcomed however, and all will be acknowledged and received with interest.

Meanwhile, if there is an Indian Summer, let's enjoy it before the cold winds start up. Hwyl Fawr!

Jean Fowlds, editor@glamfhs.org.uk

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As I write this message our six week School Summer Holidays are just starting and we have just experienced a week of record breaking high temperatures here in the UK. The majority of our Branches have now returned to face to face meetings and our Autumn Programme includes Branch AGMs as well as interesting talks, research and project sessions. Volunteers are always needed in the Branches so do offer to help if you can. Our Online Branch (Ar Lein) has two sessions scheduled per month online via Zoom to continue the very successful meetings organised by Cardiff & Vale Branch during the past two years.

The Resource Centre at Aberkenfig has now also reopened, initially by appointment only, but further dates will be announced via our monthly Newsletter. Help Desks will also be available at Bridgend Libraries and at Glamorgan Archives on a monthly basis. Volunteers are needed at each of these venues so contact us if you are able to help.

Membership renewal forms are included in the Centre Insert of this journal. The quickest way to renew is via the website as this happens automatically. Payment via cheque, standing order or via Genfair may take up to 14 days to process during busy periods. Gift Aiding your subscription also helps the Society by providing additional income each year as we can claim 25p in the £1 back for each payment. You need to be a UK income tax payer to do so. Please tick the box if you pay via the website or complete and return the form included in the centre insert of this journal. You need to update your Gift Aid agreement if you have not done so for five years. Your Gift Aid date is shown above your address on the Journal envelope or by contacting membership@glamfhs.org.uk.

As mentioned in our last journal we are currently without a Membership Secretary/Data Manager and so this vital Society role is having to be covered by volunteers who already have other Society commitments. Information about this role is available on the website along with other Society volunteer vacancies. The development and availability of resources is affected if the same volunteers are covering more than one role, but more importantly, the Society's effectiveness will be in jeopardy if there is too much reliance on a small group of volunteers administering the Society.

Our elected Society Officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary), although re-elected each year, are only able to continue in post for a maximum of 5 consecutive years. The first Society Officer vacancies will occur in 2024 when the Chairman and Secretary roles will be vacant so new committee members to shadow these roles will be needed at the next AGM in March 2023.

Sue Hamer, Chairman, 1 August 2022
chairman@glamfhs.org.uk

THE PUSH & PULL OF IMMIGRATION/EMIGRATION -

from Caldey Island to Dowlais

#8872 Kath Rees

'Migration involves the permanent or semi-permanent movement of individuals, families or groups from one place to another' (p.5 *Studying Family and Community History 19th & 20th Centuries volume 2*, Cambridge University Press in association with the Open University).

Migration usually occurs at specific times in a life cycle. It could be at school leaving age or on a marriage, retirement, or even fleeing from a family dispute. While researching my own family history many of these reasons were applicable but for the purpose of this article I have chosen to consider the reasons why members of the ORIEL family left their childhood home on Caldey Island and sought employment elsewhere.

In 1838 Benjamin Oriel, his wife, Elizabeth and their two children, Mary and William left their home in Crunwre in Pembrokeshire and moved to Caldey Island. Benjamin was employed as a carpenter to Thomas KYNASTON who had bought the Island in 1798 from the Earl of Warwick.

Over the years eight more children were born to Benjamin and Elizabeth (known now as Betsy): John b.1839, David b1840, Anne b1841, Elizabeth b1843, Jane b1845, Thomas b1848, Benjamin b1849 and Sarah b1852. These children spent their childhood on this beautiful island while attending the Island's small school.

A report on the state of Education in Wales in 1847, (page 62 *Caldey* by Roscoe Howells states that there were 39 children on the island, 27 of them between the ages of 5 and 15 years).

From an article published in a newspaper following their father's death we discover that Benjamin *"taught the children to read and write, conducted Sunday School and Services and was looked up to by all as a kind of temporal as well as spiritual father. He gained the high regard of Mr Kynaston by moral character and integrity that never stooped to deceit or sham"* p.110, *Caldey* by Roscoe Howells)

As they were nearing the end of their childhood each child would have thoughts and ideas about the path they would like to follow with their own specific skills. But what opportunities were there on Caldey Island itself?

Of course there was the estate where their father Benjamin worked. One son, David, showed an interest in his father's work and under his father's tutelage he eventually became Farm Bailiff on Caldey. Together with his wife, Martha,

also an islander, he remained on the Island for many years and by 1891 together they were running a boarding house mainly for farm labourers.

Another son, William, began his career as a carpenter on Caldey working alongside his father and, having married a local girl, Ann PHILLIPS he began using his carpentry skills on the island. But with limited opportunities there they eventually set up a very successful business in Tenby.

Benjamin's daughters would have spent much of their childhood helping their mother with domestic duties. Both Elizabeth and Jane left Caldey to work in The Hope and Anchor Public House in Tenby.

The other place on Caldey in which their father was heavily involved was the school, which of course they all attended. From the census for 1871 we learn that daughter, Sarah, was teaching the children in the small school, housed in the church with a screen positioned in the middle making two classrooms. In her spare time Sarah also ran reading and writing classes for adults.

As there was limited employment both on Caldey Island and locally there was no alternative, particularly for the sons, but to seek employment further afield. In 1861, aged 22, son John was employed as a tailor and living with John and Mary JENKINS In Charlotte Street, Merthyr Tydfil - a long way from Caldey Island!

So what attracted John Oriel to Merthyr Tydfil? The 'pull' would have been an area where there would be plenty of work. During the mid-eighteenth century, due to the proximity of coal supplies and a river system there were four iron works in the area.

These workers required many services, including clothes and, for this reason possibly, John Oriel decided to learn the art of tailoring. By 1871 he was running his own tailoring business based at Berry Street, Dowlais. His success in the art of tailoring enabled John to help other members of his family to 'migrate' from Pembrokeshire including his younger brother Benjamin.

In 1891 Benjamin was living at this address as a journeyman/shoemaker but eventually became an apprentice tailor. Benjamin did not continue with the tailoring as in 1895 he was ordained as a Baptist Minister in Bath. It was thanks to his brother, John, that he was given the opportunity to make his own way in the world.

Over the years John Oriel provided accommodation and apprenticeships for other family members including a cousin William Oriel and two nephews, as well as James Williams, son of his sister Anne and Thomas Oriel.

This industrial area of South Wales became a magnet for the children of Benjamin and Betsy Oriel.

By 1891 their daughter, Sarah, who began her working life at the school on Caldey was also living in Dowlais with her husband John KING and their children. Sarah had met John King when he came to the island with James HAWKESLEY, the new owner of Caldey, in 1867. In order to earn enough money to support his family John and Sarah also relocated to Dowlais where John obtained work as coal Weigher Manager in the local colliery.

Another of Benjamin and Betsy's children to move from Caldey Island was their daughter, Anne, my great-grandmother. Anne often visited her relations on the mainland and at 19 years of age, the census tells us that she was living and working as a general servant with her brother, William, a carpenter and his family in Norton, Tenby.

However soon after this Anne must have sought work elsewhere as three years later she married Thomas WILLIAMS, who had left his home in Somerset to seek work in the Vale of Glamorgan. I am unsure where they actually met but I have been led to believe that Anne had come to the area and was working in a Public House belonging to a relation where Thomas delivered coal!!

After their marriage they continued to live in the Vale of Glamorgan eventually setting up a small shop in Llanblethian where they "catered well for the needs of the village". (*Llanblethian in 1895 - A Boyhood Walk* by Alderman Robert Thomas). In addition Thomas became a coal dealer (own account). Although they were not living in the industrial areas of Wales they were still providing a service for families of men who might have left the vale to seek work in the industrial areas of Glamorgan.

"The decision to migrate is not normally taken by an individual in isolation, usually it involves other members of the family", p.32 *From Family History to Community History* edited by WTR Pryce.

I think we can rightly maintain that the migration of the Oriel Family from Caldey Island to Dowlais falls into this category.

References:

1. *From Family History to Community History*, edited by WTR Pryce, volume 2, Studying Family & Community History, Cambridge University Press for The Open University
2. *Caldey*, Roscoe Howells (1984), Gomer Press.
3. *Llanblethian in 1895, A Boyhood Walk* by Alderman Robert Thomas
4. Ancestry.com

CONSERVING THE PLYMOUTH ESTATE SURVEYS

Rhian Diggins, Glamorgan Archives

The Plymouth Estate Records form one of the largest and most significant collections at Glamorgan Archives. The Estate Surveys of 1766 comprise 158 plans and accompanying information housed within 5 volumes. The land surveyed covers a large part of the historic county of Glamorgan, including the Vale of Glamorgan; Bridgend; the Rhondda, Cynon and Taff valleys; Merthyr Tydfil; Caerphilly and the Rhymney valley; outlying areas of Cardiff, including Llandaff, Llanishen, Lisvane, Radyr, and in particular St Fagan's, the location of the Glamorgan seat of the Earls of Plymouth (now part of the National History Museum at St Fagan's). Together, they provide a rare and valuable overview of land ownership and use in pre-industrial South Wales.

The surveys are regularly requested by researchers in the searchroom, including family historians, local historians, academics and students. Not only do they feature maps, but they also include tables listing the tenants of each piece of land, along with details of land use. The inclusion of bilingual English/Welsh field names is of particular note.

Due to their poor condition, they could previously only be accessed in facsimile format. Black and white photocopies were made available but did not reflect the hand-coloured original pages. It was therefore decided to undertake conservation work on the volumes in order to ensure their future stability and accessibility to a diverse range of researchers.

Funding from the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust allowed us to employ a project conservator to work on the surveys, alongside student interns from Cardiff University's conservation course, and our own conservation team. Some of the volumes had suffered mould damage, and all had problematic inks, including degrading iron gall ink and inks that weren't water soluble. The volumes were disbound, dry cleaning was undertaken, old repairs removed, and inks fixed. Our suction table was used for a great deal of this work. Tears were repaired and missing areas infilled. The volumes were then rebound into their original bindings and housed in bespoke boxes.

Students from Cardiff University's history department then used the volumes, and the digital images taken prior to rebinding the volumes, in order to highlight the information they contain and encourage their future use by researchers. They found that notes and amendments show that the volumes continued to be used by the estate into the 20th century. Landmarks such as rivers, bridges and roads were used to align the surveys with modern day maps, showing just how much the uplands of Glamorgan have changed since the surveys were undertaken in 1766. And the artistry of the maps – the use of colour and the decorative flourishes – were emphasised.

You can find out more about the maps by searching for the @PlymouthMaps account on Twitter and Instagram.

And of course, you can visit and see the maps themselves in our searchroom. Contact us to book a seat by email at glamro@cardiff.gov.uk or by phone on 029 2087 2299.



A TALE OF THREE DRAPERS

#10189 David Barnard

Introduction

This family history tale arose out of the FACHRS (Family & Community Historical Research Society) 2022 annual project on Victorian Milliners. My allocated milliner, Rosa DUGMORE, was employed by Evan Lloyd in 1879. As project participants we are encouraged to explore tangents

Evan LLOYD

Evan LLOYD was a draper, a successful businessman, and with a commitment to his community. The impression one receives is of a life cut short. Evan's drapery business was located at London House, Aberaman, on the southern outskirts of Aberdare, although from the one census entry we have Evan was born in Radnorshire. Our first confirmed sighting of Evan is on the occasion of his first marriage. Caroline THOMAS was a Swansea girl, and the couple were married at St James, Swansea, on 19 August 1868⁽¹⁾. Unfortunately, Caroline died in November 1870.

However, from the marriage entry we know that Evan was already a draper and that his father was a farmer, Richard Lloyd. At the time of the 1871 census Evan had his shop at 166 Cardiff Road, away from the commercial centre of Aberaman⁽²⁾ and it was not until he married Margaret Lucy MORGAN in March 1874 that his business began to flourish. Evan and Margaret were married at the Parish Church of Llandeilo Graban which is a parish of mainly farms on the east side of the River Wye in the same way that Gwenddwr is on the west. Margaret's place of birth was Gwenddwr. They were married by John LLOYD, the Perpetual Curate of Llandeilo Graban⁽³⁾. They were to return there for each of their three children's baptisms.

In the same month as the marriage, Evan was elected to the Aberdare School Board⁽⁴⁾ and in the following year he was elected on to the Aberdare Board of Health⁽⁵⁾. Evan now starts to advertise his business on the front page of the Aberdare Times as well as the Welsh language Tarian Y Gweithiwr. We learn from the adverts that Evan has relocated to Lewis Street which was the main commercial street of Aberaman. Another advert informed his customers that

he had just returned from London with a grand selection of dress goods, costumes, skirts and millinery. In 1879 Evan was advertising for a milliner and saleswoman, and the following May for a young man for general drapery, Welsh indispensable. However, that same month Evan died suddenly.

This leaves Margaret as the draper in 1881 with a family of three small children and a drapery staff of eight, including two apprentices⁽⁶⁾. One member of staff, Joseph POWELL, had been with the business for some time. Margaret sold the business to Joseph and retired to Brecon. Under Joseph's leadership the business continued to flourish and in 1891 he was employing a dozen staff.

Thomas ROACH

Thomas ROACH had opened his drapers shop in Merthyr Tydfil by 1858. In the Autumn of that year, he had several large advertisements in the Merthyr Telegraph. This informed readers that his was a wholesale and retail drapery establishment and that he was able to supply country shops and the trade⁽⁷⁾. He also had a 21-day sale in September. His establishment initially was located at No 5 High Street (opposite the Bush Hotel); although by the time of the 1861 census Thomas had relocated to a more central location at 131 High Street. In October 1859 Thomas Roach married Eliza Lloyd MORGAN at the parish church in Merthyr⁽⁸⁾ and at the 1861 census they were the proud parents of a two-month-old daughter, Catherine Eliza⁽⁹⁾.

At this time Thomas had acquired three apprentices: one female and two males aged 14 and 15. Apprentices were quite common in the drapery trade. Apprentices generally received bed and board but no cash wages. By this time apprenticeships tended to be a private affair between apprentice and master. Stamp duty had been payable between 1710 and 1811 so those are the records that have been deposited. At this time the apprenticeship paperwork would generally remain with the apprentice's family⁽¹⁰⁾.

By 1871, Thomas and Eliza's family had grown so large – five children – that they no longer had room for live-in staff or apprentices. It had become an established custom of the drapery trade that the staff should be housed and fed at the shop. "Living in" was also a means of keeping the portion of the wages paid in cash to a minimum. However, the 1871 census for Thomas's business reveals no staff⁽¹¹⁾. It could be that Thomas retired shortly after and moved to Brynhyfrid, Llanblethian on the outskirts of Cowbridge.

The Connection

At this point the reader may be wondering what the connection is between Evan Lloyd of Aberaman and Thomas Roach of Merthyr Tydfil. That there was a connection is hinted at by the following advertisement that appeared in the Western Mail in May 1877⁽¹²⁾.

1005001

To be Let or Sold, Rose and Castle Inn, Cefn, near Merthyr (one minute's walk from Cefn Railway Station), that commodious double-licensed Public-house, on account of the death of the proprietor.—Apply to Thomas Roach, Draper, Merthyr, or Evan Lloyd, Aberaman, executors.

This advert poses three questions: firstly, why was Evan Lloyd an executor for an innkeeper in the next valley; secondly, why did the innkeeper choose two drapers as executors; and, thirdly, who was this unknown innkeeper?

A newspaper search for “Rose and Castle” reveals the following headline from 1875⁽¹³⁾.

**ACTION AGAINST THE GREAT
WESTERN RAILWAY.
DAMAGES £2,000**

Apparently, Mrs Elizabeth Morgan, wife of Thomas Morgan of the Rose and Castle, was travelling by train between Cefn (Coed y Cwmmwr) and Merthyr on May 16th, 1874 when a coupling snapped on a train of wagons on the incline to Abernant tunnel. The wagons careered down and smashed into the passenger train injuring several people. Mrs Morgan, being severely injured, was removed to the house of her brother-in-law (Richard Lloyd, draper) where she died a few days later. Thomas Morgan was left with four small children but successfully sued the Great Western Railway on their behalf. The jury awarded them £2000. Two years later, Thomas himself became unwell and made a will entrusting the estate to Evan Lloyd and Thomas Roach to provide for his three remaining children until they each reached maturity. The three children were William Henry, Catherine Lloyd and Mary Ann Lloyd⁽¹⁴⁾.

At the 1881 census of Aberaman, Margaret Lloyd's family, in addition to three small children, also included a nephew, William H Morgan, aged thirteen, and born Cefn Coed y Cymmer⁽⁶⁾. This was clearly Thomas Morgan's son. By this time Thomas Roach and Eliza had retired to Llanblethian and Thomas had died there. Eliza's family, as well as her own, now included nieces Catherine and Mary Ann, again the two daughters of Thomas Morgan⁽¹⁵⁾, so we conclude that Thomas Morgan was the brother of both Margaret Lucy Morgan and Eliza Lloyd Morgan.

Richard LLOYD

Richard LLOYD, draper number three, had been a draper in Merthyr Tydfil since the 1850s. His establishment, at 138 High Street, was known as Emporium House. However, this name first appears in February 1856 under the names of R & T Lloyd⁽¹⁶⁾. The ‘T’ referring to Richard's younger brother

Thomas, but then in July 1859 Thomas died of consumption. Richard gives his place of birth as Llandeilo Graban whereas Thomas gives his as Llanbeder Painscastle but the two parishes are adjoining.

On 11th June 1857, at Gwenddwr Parish Church, Richard Lloyd, aged 27, draper of Merthyr, married Mary Ann Morgan, aged 29, draper of Gwenddwr Village⁽¹⁷⁾. Richard's father is given as Richard Lloyd, farmer. The 1841 household of Richard Lloyd, farmer at Llanyravon includes both a Richard and a Thomas of the right ages⁽¹⁸⁾. In 1851 Mary Ann Morgan is running the village shop and her sister, Margaret Lucy, is her nine-year-old assistant. This household includes a dressmaking lodger, which may account for the 'draper' at Mary Ann's marriage⁽¹⁹⁾.

The 1861 census shows Richard and his wife, Mary Ann, with an apprentice draper's assistant and Thomas Morgan, brother-in-law, also working as a draper's assistant⁽²⁰⁾. Thomas, brother to Mary Ann, married Elizabeth BLACK in October 1866 and by this time he was already an innkeeper⁽²¹⁾.

So the connection between these three drapers is that they all married sisters of Thomas Morgan, Innkeeper. Evan Lloyd died 25 May 1880; Thomas Roach died 14 February 1881; Richard Lloyd died of diabetes in June 1880, so all three died within a year leaving the three sisters, Margaret Lucy, Eliza Lloyd and Mary Ann as widows.

Areas for further research:

1. Evan Lloyd's early life before he married Caroline Thomas in 1868. Richard Lloyd also came from Radnorshire and his father was also a farmer, Richard; however, there is no suggestion that they were brothers.
2. The use of 'Lloyd' as a middle name for Thomas Morgan's girls and for Eliza Lloyd Morgan. I believe Eliza is the one who was baptised: *Eliza the Daughter of William Morgan of Aber Gwenddwr in the Parish of Gwenddwr in the County of Brecon by Catherine his wife, who was the Daughter of Thomas Loyd VRON in the said parish. Was born June 13th 1830, Baptised June 25th 1830.*
3. I have not found a baptism for Margaret Lucy Morgan. In 1871 she was with her grandmother, Mary Lloyd; in 1861 she was housekeeper to John Lloyd, Perpetual Curate at Llandeilo Graban, described as niece. John Lloyd was born in Gwenddwr in 1810 and is believed to be a brother to the Catherine mentioned above. When The Welshman announced John's appointment in 1847 he was referred to as John V Lloyd and I believe the 'V' refers to the same 'Vron' as above (probably Fron Farm today).
4. The Richard Lloyd, senior, who appears in the 1841 census aged 35 and born outside the county (of Radnorshire) may well be the Richard

baptised to Thomas Lloyd and Mary in 1808 and so a sibling of John Lloyd, curate, and Catherine.

5. The Thomas Lloyd who I've suggested is brother to Richard Lloyd (junior) has an interesting 1851 census entry. Head of the household is a John Lloyd who has married an Eliza from Gwenddwr. There is a visitor Catherine Morgan, also from Gwenddwr and two nephews Thomas Lloyd and William Griffiths. This is clearly a different John from the curate but who is he?
6. In Margaret Lloyd's household at the 1881 census there were two others from Gwenddwr – Margaret Morgans and John L Morgan.

References

- (1) Glamorganshire Marriages: Parish Church of Swansea, St James, p. 46, 19 Aug 1868
- (2) Census 1871 Aberdare RG10/5409, f141, p26
- (3) Radnorshire Marriages: Parish Church of Llandeilo Graban, p. 32, 19 March 1874
- (4) *The Western Mail*. 26 March 1874, p. 7
- (5) *The Western Mail*. 19 April 1875, p. 6
- (6) Census 1881 Aberdare RG11/5323, f88, p22
- (7) *The Merthyr Telegraph*. 30 Oct 1858, p.1
- (8) Glamorganshire Marriages: Parish Church of Merthyr Tydfil, p. 222, 5 Oct 1859
- (9) Census 1861 Merthyr Tydfil RG9/4053, f40, p2
- (10) [NationalArchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/apprentices-and-masters](https://nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/apprentices-and-masters), accessed 1 May 2022
- (11) Census 1871 Merthyr Tydfil RG10/5396, f41, p35
- (12) *The Western Mail*. 30 May 1877, p.1
- (13) *South Wales Daily News*. 3 April 1875, p.3
- (14) Copy Will in the author's possession from probatesearch website.
- (15) Eliza Lloyd 1881: Census 1881 Llanblethian RG11/5329, f37, p10
- (16) *The Merthyr Telegraph*. 16 Feb 1856, p.1
- (17) Breconshire Marriages: Parish Church of Gwenddwr, Page 25
- (18) Census 1841 Llanbeder Painscastle HO107/1456, f3, p1
- (19) Census 1851 Gwenddwr South HO107/2488, f364, p11
- (20) Census 1861 Merthyr Tydfil RG9/4053, f40, p1
- (21) GRO Marriages Merthyr Tydfil 11a 548



Don't miss the 'Cut-Off Dates'

Material for possible publication should reach the Editor before the following dates:

March Issue	20 January	June Issue	20 April
September issue	20 July	December Issue	20 October

LLEWELLYN JONES

An Extraordinary Man of Many Achievements.

Alan Jones

Llewellyn JONES, my great-grandfather, was born in Llantwit Fadre in 1868. His parents, Elias and Mary, moved to Pontycymmer when he was just 12 years old. Elias Jones was following his trade as a coal miner/shaft sinker, and this was the period of this valley's history when coal mining was coming to the fore. At the age of 13 Llewellyn is shown as a class monitor/teacher's aide at an unofficial school set up in the vestry of Bethel Chapel: this was paid for in part by miners' contributions.

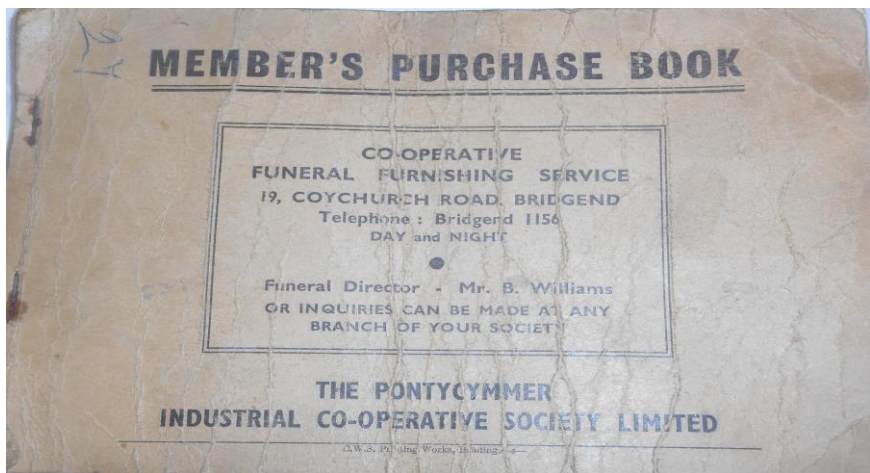
He stayed at school until he was 16 and left to work at the Garw Fechan pit before becoming an apprentice to the Ffaldau Colliery blacksmith. After qualifying from this apprenticeship Llewellyn went on to be a blacksmith for a further 30 years. In 1886 he applied for membership of the Rose of Garw lodge of the Oddfellows Society. This organisation was a benevolent society and provided at the time the only source of health and unemployment insurance amongst other things for their members.

By all accounts Llewellyn was a most active and resourceful member because he was voted to be the Lodge Secretary shortly after joining, and indeed after many years of service to the Oddfellows went on to become a National Grand Master in 1916.

In 1889 aged 21 he married 22 year-old Anne WILLIAMS. She was originally from Brynamman, but her family was now living in Lluest. The newly weds moved in with his recently widowed mother in 18 Alexandra Road. While Llewellyn was working as a Blacksmith an incident occurred when it is reported that "One of the cages got caught up with an obstruction in the shaft". The story goes that Llewellyn climbed down the shaft and while holding on with one hand freed the blockage with a sledgehammer and then climbed back up.

Anne Jones gave birth to their first child, Elias John, in 1892. The couple went on to have Arthur Llewellyn in 1895, Brinley William in 1898, and Towyn David in 1900. Unfortunately Towyn was to die 11 months later.

In 1902 Llewellyn became a founder member of the Pontycymmer Co-operative Society. He spent the next 30 years as a Director of the Society helping to make it one of the richest co-operatives in the UK with an annual turnover of £1,000,000!



These were a way for people to buy whatever groceries they required from the Co-op, with the amount spent entered and added up each week. One elderly Garw resident remembers how, when she told her parents that she'd arranged her wedding date some 60 years ago, for September 14th, their reaction was not what she expected! "You can't have it then!" said her outraged mother, "The Co-op money doesn't come until the week after!"

In 1905 Llewellyn entered the world of local politics by being the first representative for Pontycymmer on the Garw Urban District Council. He went on to become the Chairman of this body 3 times in his 30 years of service.

In 1911 there were great changes throughout this country's industry. When the National Insurance Act was introduced, because the government were basing their calculations on the Oddfellows actuarial tables, Llewellyn Jones was very involved in ensuring the smooth running of this enterprise. Around this time he and Anne adopted a baby girl whose mother had died in childbirth, a child they called Nancy.

In 1913 Llewellyn became Secretary of the newly formed Garw Medical Aid Society and he stayed in this role until it was adopted into the National Health Service in 1948. However it was not all 'plain sailing' for the GMAS. The British Medical Council were anxious to prevent any of their members working for such organisations, and at one time Llewellyn had toured the Welsh coalfields in a hired car to search for doctors willing to work for the Garw Medical Aid Society without fear of being struck off!

It is considered that ANEURIN BEVAN was the undisputed 'father' of the National Health Service in this country, but what is not so well known is that he had many meetings with Llewellyn Jones both in Pontycymmer and in Bevan's suite at the Seabank Hotel in Porthcawl. Bevan arranged these

meetings so that he could draw on the advice of the man with over 30 years of practical knowledge in the field of public welfare.

1914-1918 were of course the years of the Great War and it was during this time that Llewellyn gave up his job as a colliery blacksmith and put all of his efforts into his growing number of positions in local government, and in doing so raising funds for the war effort.



Llewellyn Jones (centre) and Family

In 1917 like many other families at this time they suffered a sad blow: the news came that their second son, Arthur, had been killed in action in Palestine on 7th May 1917, while serving with the RAMC, and had been buried out there.

During the Employers Lock-Out of 1926, which lasted for 8 months Llewellyn Jones helped with others to set up soup kitchens in the valley so that the poorer families, and single men in particular, could get at least one decent meal a day. At one time there were as many as 8 of these 'canteens' in the Garw: 3 in Blaengarw, 3 in Pontycymmer, 1 in Pontrhyl, and 1 in Llangeinor. They made it possible to feed upwards of 2,000 people with at least one meal a day. One of the 'soup kitchens' was for schoolchildren only and was run from the Ambulance Hall by one of Llewellyn's sons. Over this period it is calculated that the combined effort of all of these soup kitchens served up a total of 67,445 meals. The Lock-Out had a devastating effect on the Garw valley, and many people moved away to try and find work elsewhere. Small businesses went bankrupt, the owners committing suicide because of debts incurred trying to support the local people.

Anne died aged 71 in July 1938. As a highly respected member of the community her funeral was attended by many people of the Garw. Her death was a great loss to Llewellyn and he retired from his position as a member of the Ogmere and Garw Urban Council but still busied himself with public works. He was a governor of the University College, Cardiff, as well as the local secondary schools; he became a trustee and secretary of the Memorial Hall, Pontycymmer, and he was also a magistrate and Deacon of Tabernacle Chapel.

When the 1939-45 war broke out he busied himself with raising funds once again for the war effort by travelling around the South Wales coalfields giving speeches.

In 1948 at the launch of the National Health Service all of Llewellyn Jones's help and advice was rewarded by awarding him the post of Chairman of the first Glamorgan NHS Executive. He was also offered a knighthood, but turned it down. This great man died at the age of 85, in February 1953. His funeral was not only attended by the great and the good, but also crowds of working class people who came to pay their respects to a man who had devoted his life to their welfare.

Editor's note: This remarkable man of many talents and achievements will be the subject of a forthcoming talk at the Bridgend Heritage Society - details to be announced.

VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

Membership Secretary/Data Manager

This role does not necessarily need to be based in South Wales. There is already a Membership Team of four other volunteers that undertake parts of this vital Society administration. The Data Manager maintains the Society 'Membership Database' on Access, the ability to use Microsoft Access and Excel are essential requirements.

Training will be undertaken during June to August –
to commence in role by 1 September 2022

For further information please contact: membership@glamfhs.org.uk

MRS MAXWELL,
War Widow, Mother and Midwife
#8431 Angela Hughes

During the first lockdown I became involved in the Western Front Association's 'Project Hometown'. Several years ago, the Western Front Association saved over a million record cards relating to World War 1 (WW1) pension claims covering both those who died and those who survived military service in WW1. Ancestry.com indexed the cards but only one address from each card was listed and that might have been later than the one the soldier knew due to the claimant moving. The aim was to ensure that all 'hometowns' listed on a pension card relating to soldiers who died during WW1 were listed making the cards easier to search. The pension cards are available on the Fold3 arm of Ancestry. The cards sometimes contained fascinating information, including details of widows training as midwives. One of these women was Mrs Elizabeth Anne MAXWELL of Porthcawl, Glamorgan, the widow of Henry James Eglinton Maxwell. I should say here I have no connection with the Maxwell family, just curiosity over how she, and other widows like her, were able to train as midwives.

Elizabeth's husband, Henry James Eglinton Maxwell, had joined up in 1915 aged 36 years. His enlistment papers give details of his family. He married Elizabeth Annie MATTHEWS in 1904 in Windsor, Berks, and they had five children together and lived in New Malden, Surrey. Their youngest child, Victor, was born 3 months after his father's death. At the time of Henry's death on 9 January 1916 his service record shows that the family were still living in New Malden. Henry JE Maxwell was a Motor Cyclist Corporal with 33rd Company Royal Engineers. His service record shows that he died as the result of a road accident while on duty in France. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records show that Henry was buried in Bethune Town Cemetery, France.

The newly widowed Elizabeth was pregnant with their youngest child Victor. Sometime between Henry's death in January and Victor's birth in April 1916 Elizabeth moved her family to her parents' home in Porthcawl. Her financial situation after Henry's death could have been difficult. Her husband's pay would have stopped the day he died, and she would have to wait for a pension so taking the family to Wales was a sensible option. The Register of Soldiers' Effects shows that Elizabeth received 3 shillings and 8 pence on 12 June 1916. There was a widows' pension for her, with an allowance for each child, until they reached their sixteenth birthday. The pension was linked to the length of Henry's military service. The total awarded to Elizabeth was 25 shillings a week from 24 July 1916, payable at a named Post Office. The pension, administered by the newly formed Ministry of Pensions, was aimed to be sufficient to support widows and children but not so generous as to

leave them well off. It was the first non-contributory state pension scheme and judgements were made by officials as to whether or not a woman was 'worthy' to receive a pension. Pensions were granted to 'unmarried wives' but could be stopped if, for example, a woman was drunken, imprisoned, cohabited with another man or had an illegitimate child. Aware that many war widows would find themselves in financial difficulties the Ministry of Pensions instituted a scheme during WW1 to enable war widows to receive training in subjects such as midwifery, sick nursing, massage, health visiting, dressmaking and cookery (The Times 10 September 1919). Elizabeth Maxwell chose midwifery.

At the time there was a shortage of midwives so not all pregnant women could have a trained midwife to deliver their baby. Both maternal and infant death rates were high. The Midwives Act 1902 applied to England and Wales. It required women to undertake and successfully complete a recognised training programme before they could be accepted onto the Roll of Midwives, which it maintained. It also made it illegal, in theory at least, for a woman to practice as a midwife unless she was on the Roll. Candidates had to pay for their own training, uniform, equipment and board and lodging at a recognised training hospital. The Daily Telegraph, Wednesday 10 September 1919, reported the transfer of existing training schemes from the Ministry of Pensions to the Ministry of Labour. The article states that there were separate arrangements for the widows of officers and men. In either case the widow had to prove that she needed to be able to earn money to support herself and her children and that the occupation would provide a reasonable prospect of her doing so after training.

Under the heading 'Training of Widows' the clerk recorded on the pension card that the Ministry of Pensions informed Glamorgan County Hall on 31 December 1917 that Mrs Maxwell's application for midwifery training had been accepted. She was to train at the City of London Lying-in Hospital, Finsbury. The Ministry of Pensions authorised a payment of £33 to Elizabeth; £30 for the fees, including board and lodging and £3 for the train fare. A request from Elizabeth for help to pay for the uniform was refused, that was her responsibility. She also had to buy any equipment she needed. The hospital had to inform the Ministry of the start and end of the course, provide monthly reports of Elizabeth's progress and a copy of the Central Midwives Board Certificate 'in due course'. Elizabeth would have had to leave her children with her parents in Porthcawl and live at the hospital while training.

It is possible that Elizabeth had an education that went above Standard 6, the point at which most youngsters left school. Without it she would have found it difficult to complete the required training which included lectures on such subjects as anatomy and physiology, care of a woman through pregnancy, birth and immediately afterwards, as well as care of the new-born baby. Practical midwifery, under supervision of experienced midwife, both in the

hospital and women's own homes, was a major part of the training. Midwives were expected only to deal with 'normal' pregnancies and births, but had to be able to recognise when problems were occurring, which would need the attention of a doctor. At the end of the course Elizabeth and her colleagues faced a practical examination, an oral examination, and a written examination to test their knowledge.

A note on the pension card, dated 29 January 1918, reveals that the City of London Lying-In Hospital had asked for an extra £6 15s to continue training Elizabeth, as they were no longer able to take the Ministry's candidates at a reduced rate. The Ministry agreed to pay the extra and Elizabeth successfully completed her training. She was enrolled as midwife on 9 November 1918. Elizabeth returned to her family in Porthcawl where she practised as a midwife and continued to do so until at least 1935, when her name was on the Roll of Midwives, but is described as retired on the 1939 Register. Elizabeth could have worked in a hospital or workhouse or, like most midwives, cared for women in their own homes as a district midwife. In pre-NHS days women had to pay for midwifery services unless they or their husband had medical insurance. A midwife's income could be variable, she would earn more in wealthier areas than poorer. As a midwife Elizabeth would have been financially able to support herself and her children giving them, hopefully, a better start in a life without their father. Among the pension cards I checked there were very few where the widow trained as a midwife, and I have not yet found any official figures stating how many eventually took up the Ministry of Pensions offer.

***Editor's note:** There must have been many more stories of women forced to re-think their futures once widowed from the World Wars - please let us have your family experiences.*

For up to date news and links to useful online resources -
don't forget to join our **Facebook** group.

www.facebook.com/groups/glamorganfhs.

You can also follow us on **www.twitter.com** –
@GlamorganFHS or @Cardiff_GFHS

GLADYS MAY GEORGE, (1908-1997)

Prolific Writer and Diary Keeper

David JK Jones

Gladys May GEORGE was my Grandmother, and kept a diary for most of her life. Her memories make interesting reading of a life and times now long past. She was born in 1908 on 21st July at 19 Chapel Row Llanharan, the middle child of five. Her parents were an Ystrad Mynach couple, Lucy FROWEN (1885-1929) and Ed George (1868-1937), and had moved temporarily to Llanharan where Ed had worked on the sinking of the new coal mine there. Her siblings were Violet (1903), Wilfred (1905), Roy (1918) and Owen (1923), all four born in Ystrad Mynach.

Gladys wrote: "I remember Ystrad Mynach School being built, and being on my father's shoulders watching them build the 'Cong' chapel - this would be about 1910. Every Sunday afternoon after chapel we would gather in the parlour and sing hymns and songs whilst my sister, Violet, played the piano, (she went on to become a music teacher), and every Sunday evening after chapel during the Summer my family always went for lovely long walks. People don't seem to do anything like that these days. I had a very happy childhood; I don't think we shall see such times again.

I used to spend a long period of the school holidays at the house in Dingestow of my Aunt Louise, who was my Grandmother's sister. My mother would take me to Pontypool Road station and place me with the train guard until I got to Dingestow, where Aunt Louise's husband, a Mr EWERS, who worked on the Railways, would be waiting for me. I would sit on my suitcase on the train; I was about five years old, in about 1913.

At Dingestow every week we would go by horse and trap into Monmouth town for provisions. In one of the houses we passed lived two Quakers. They wore Quaker dress and looked lovely and were very polite. At the end of the holiday Aunt Louise's daughter, also called Louise, took me home in the sidecar of her motor bike.

The war broke out in 1914 and I remember my mother buying dark blue roller blinds to put up. Everyone had to do this. I remember seeing a soldier on guard duty on the Maescymer Viaduct on one of our family walks and much excitement and consternation was displayed when an actual Zeppelin flew over the Rhymney Valley.

On 10th January 1918 my brother Roy was born. There was a battle going on in France at this time in a place called Warneton, so they got out a map in order to spell it correctly and christened the new baby Roy Warneton George. Why this particular battle I don't know. Perhaps we had an uncle fighting there? I also gave this name to my son Barrie.

My Grandmother would forage in the woods for herbs and berries and make the most amazing jams, wines and medicines, a natural talent from the Forest of Dean that I would never dare to undertake. She read one book a week from the Library; she had lovely handwriting. Sadly Grancha could neither read nor write and would sign a cross for his name and could only look at the pictures in the newspaper.

Every morning I had certain jobs to do before going to school. On Mondays, washing day, I had to fill a large boiler in the back kitchen with cold water, under which was a small sort of fire grate which I would light with sticks and coal. I would leave a shovel there for my mother to keep the fire going to boil the white clothes.

Other mornings I had to go to go around Bedllwyn Road to see if there was any horse manure about as my father needed it for his allotment over by the church. Violet never did any of this, only me.

As soon as I came home from school I had to go and see if my Gran wanted anything done for her: It was always 'Our Glad, your Gran wants you to get her medicines from the Doctor for her, or go to the Co-op, or take her Library book back, and so on and so on.....' Violet never went anywhere for anyone, only 'Our Glad'.

Other mornings I would scrub my Grandmother's house too, and on Saturdays I would scrub our own kitchen, clean the brass candlesticks and scrub the lavatory. Wilfred used to help me with these chores; Violet had to practise her music.

I was still in school when I went to help my Aunt Florrie who had a shop on the Square. She sold cigarettes, tobacco, sweets, chocolate, biscuits and fountain drinks. She also had a small dining room where the same travellers came every week for a light meal of bread and butter, cold ham, tea and cakes. She paid me five shillings a week for helping her and I eventually moved in with her. Aunt Florrie cooked her own hams which she did to perfection. There was a Bank opposite and she would cook the Manager a meal, which I took over on a large tray and then it was back to school for me.

I had just passed the 'Labour Exam' at nearly thirteen years of age; the 1921 strike was on and my father was out of work. Aunt Florrie regularly supplied us with meat provisions and essentials. She even kept my father in tobacco. She kept employing me, but she was doing enough for us as a family so I left.

There was a lovely lady nearby, Mrs THOMAS, a Dressmaker, and she took me on. My mother had to pay her 12 shillings and sixpence a quarter for her to teach me, but at the end of three months I wished to leave as I couldn't sit

down all day sewing buttons and button holes. Mrs Thomas wanted me to stay for free but I said no.

I then child minded for a local shopkeeper. Her sister wanted me to work for her childminding in Penarth but it meant living in. I did this for several months but one day I met my mother in Cardiff as she wanted to buy me a Winter coat and I saw my two little brothers with her. I felt homesick and broke down crying and wanted to go back to Ystrad with them. Nevertheless I did go back to Penarth to work my month's notice and then I left. I returned to the shop and washing and cleaning, sometimes until 9 pm at night. I stuck it for two years then left. I was then offered a job by a lovely family to work at a big house at Park Road, Hengoed. I walked to work every day and stayed most evenings until 6.30pm. They were a lovely family to work for and I stayed until I was nearly 18.

I then entered into nursing at the Bolton Royal Infirmary, Greater Manchester. It was 1926 and the General Strike was on.

My mother and Roy came to Pontypool Road train station to see me off. I remember it so well. The train was full so I had to stand in the corridor all the way to Manchester. I met some lovely people in Bolton, a Mrs SHARPLES who I met in church there and where I spent my days off. I nursed there for two and a half years then left to start my training in the Royal Northern Hospital at Holloway, London.

I only lasted six months there as my mother was seriously ill and I was called home. I got home on the Saturday and my mother died the following Thursday. Violet had left home so now I had to look after my father and two brothers. I needed a new job.

I heard that Colonel LINDSAY's daughter, Nesta STONEHAM, was looking for a cook. I had an interview with her at Ystrad Fawr and got the job. Colonel Lindsay still lived at Ystrad Fawr but his daughter lived in the London area. He was an eminent man and a sports lover. He was the first Welshman to play in the FA Cup Final when he played for the Royal Engineers against Wanderers in 1878. Furthermore his three sons died in WW1 in three separate battles: Archibald (20), Claud (26), and George (26).

My father assured me he could cope and I said I'd send regular money. I worked in London first then Boreham Wood, Hertfordshire. I remember travelling one evening from St Pancras to Boreham Wood and seeing a lady in my compartment with three legs. Her third leg started at her knee and she had a shoe on each, three shoes in total.

In the old days of the 1930s young wealthy ladies were presented at court. In other words they would be presented to the Queen and then be able to enter 'Society'. Nesta Stoneham (nee Lindsay) was always invited to these

functions and I would accompany her. She had an aunt who lived in Park Lane next door to the MOUNTBATTENS. Her name was Lady G and she had a husband who was a Captain in the Army so he was presenting the ladies in his red uniform and busby. I enjoyed working for the Colonel's daughter (now Mrs Stoneham) and I stayed for over two years then I returned to nursing at Long Grove Mental Hospital, Epsom. The money was very good but I didn't like it at all. This wasn't nursing as I knew it and I saw some cruel things. I left and returned home again.

I had been courting James for two years and we got married and lived at Central Street. My daughter Sylvia was born there in 1934. Later that year Nesta came looking for me again, but with a husband and daughter, working for her again was out of the question.

James worked at the Penallta Pit in Ystrad Mynach until the outbreak of WW2. He joined the AckAck and was sent to Singapore. Just two days before docking there Singapore fell to the Japanese and James' ship was ordered to Burma where he spent the rest of the war.

Nesta received the MBE for being a Commander of the East End of London Fire Service during the bombing blitz of 1943.

In peacetime we kept many pubs and clubs. They were the Railway Club, Wind Street, Swansea, the Ex-Servicemen's Club, Morrision, Swansea, Pontycymer Working Men's Club (where my daughter Sylvia met her husband), the Green Meadow, Graig, Pontypridd, and the Cross Keys at Llantrisant. We left the Cross Keys in 1960 and I re-entered nursing at Rhyd Larfar Hospital at Pentyrch. Both my daughters, Sylvia and Kathryn, became nurses too.

Notes in conclusion:

Gladys had five children and outlived four: Sylvia (my mother) died in 1991 aged 57, Reg died in 1972 aged 37, Kathryn died in 1996 aged 48, and Keith was killed by a coal lorry while leaving the local school, aged 7, in 1946. I am named after him. She led a pretty tragic life but never lost her Christian faith.

Her brother Wilfred also died young, and she lost touch with Owen her youngest brother after he left the Navy in 1960. She searched high and low and I have lots of her correspondence with Australia House, the Salvation Army, and even Cilla Black. She got a knock on the door one day and there was Owen, who had traced her!

She died 10 days later peacefully in her chair in Talbot Green, on 26th January 1997, after she had said to me: "David, it's all come right in the end".

MEMORIES OF WHITCHURCH COMMON

#4833 RJ Harry

In September 1939 Britain declared war on Germany, and World War Two began. I began life shortly afterwards in November at Beatrice Road, Whitchurch, Glamorgan, (Whitchurch was not incorporated into Cardiff until later). Soon afterwards we moved to "Elferdan" a house on the edge of Whitchurch Common.

As a baby I slept under the front bedroom window, but my mother moved me to a room at the back of the house. Soon afterwards a bomb exploded across the road showering where I had slept with glass.

My first memories are of being bombed by the Luftwaffe. I remember huddling under the stairs at 'Elferdan', and listening to the sound of falling bombs. The sound of the exploding bombs was nothing like that heard on film or television today. It is impossible to convey that sound in words. When a bomb exploded on contact with the ground the shock wave travelled through the ground as well as air. As sound travels faster through the earth than the air the effect on the ear was that of a reverberating rumble followed by a sharper air-borne bang.

Sometime later we were issued with a Morrison shelter: this was an iron table with mesh sides and replaced our wooden kitchen table for 'the duration' as people used to say. The idea of the iron table was that it offered protection from falling debris, but not a direct hit. The fit was so tight that the kitchen door to the scullery became scuffed. Other families were issued with Anderson shelters made of curved corrugated iron and put up in back gardens. After the war many were kept as garden sheds. Our shelter was taken away.

Digging up gardens to produce food was encouraged, hence the saying 'dig for victory'. All the back gardens were devoted to growing vegetables and sometimes keeping chickens. My contribution at the age of eighteen months, was pictured in the South Wales Echo, my only claim to fame (see below).

A consequence of the war was food rationing, and limited imports of fruit. I knew what a banana looked like - there was a wax model in the greengrocer's window - but I was about seven before I ate one.

We came home from shopping one day to find a note on the dresser. It said 'DOODLEBUG'. "What's that?" said my mother. When this was I do not know, but the first V1 fell on England on June 13th 1944: none fell on Cardiff. It was the nickname for the world's first cruise missile - the V1- courtesy of the Luftwaffe.

Sometime during the period the American army arrived and camped on the Common. I remember an American soldier (GI) laying with his back against the beech tree in Plas Treoda. He was filing a three penny piece in the shape of a heart. The GI is long gone but the tree is still there (2020). They were very friendly to us children and gave us sweets. "Got any gum chum?" was our childish refrain when encountering a GI. The war was a period of strict rationing for the British and sweets were in very limited supply. The Americans appeared to be better supplied. Even today if I meet an American I have to stop my self saying: "Got any gum chum?"

After they had left they donated an avenue of trees, which still today lines the road across Whitchurch common. A plaque at each end of the common commemorates the event with the following inscription:-

"THIS AVENUE OF TREES
WAS PLANTED ON BEHALF OF
THE 2ND EVACUATION UNIT
OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY
AS A TOKEN OF GRATITUDE
FOR THE HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO THEM
BY THE PARISHIONERS OF WHITCHURCH
DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR
1939 -1945"

One night my mother woke me up and told me the war was over. "Over?" I thought. "Doesn't it go on for ever?"



South Wales Echo, August 14,1941

BRYNGARW HOUSE and ESTATE, AND THE FAMILIES WHO LIVED THERE

Garw Valley Archives



The first recorded mention of Bryngarw, near Bridgend, appears on April 1st 1569, in land records pertaining to the Coytrahen Estate:

1st April 1569: Phillip DAVID of St Brides Super Ogwr, yeoman (i) John Ap leun ap MADOCKE of St Brides Super Ogwr, yeoman (ii). The land was called Brin rian? (Bryngarw) in the parish of Bettws and the Manor of Tir Iarll, bounded by the river Garowe (Garw) on the East, the Kings Highway from or to Bergend (Bridgend) to the West, Bryn y menin (Brynmenyn) to the South and land held by David Ap JOHN by right of his wife to the North.

The building timeline of Bryngarw House itself is rather vague, but some evidence appears to show that it was possibly a farmhouse, called Ty Lludd circa late 15th century, and it is not recorded again until 1743.

Its story starts with the Coytrahen estate which originally was two separate holdings, one being the Llwydarth Estate in the parish of Llangynwyd, the property of the POWELL family, and the other being the Coytrahen estate in the parishes of Bettws and Llangynwyd, the property of another Powell family, unrelated to the Powells of Llwydarth. The two estates were united after Hannah, daughter of Thomas Powell of Coytrahen, married Anthony Powell of Llwydarth. Because all of Hannah's brothers had died childless it was Hannah's son, Anthony, who inherited both the estates.

Unfortunately Anthony Powell also died without a natural heir, so his estates passed to Morgan POPKIN, the son of Anthony's sister Mary. She had married John Popkin, heir to the Cnap-coch estate in the parish of Llansamlet. Due to mismanagement this estate was subject to a number of mortgages, and the Popkin family owed a considerable amount of money to the powerful MANSEL family of Briton Ferry. In 1736, In order to pay off this particular debt in full, Morgan Popkin sold off the mortgaged lands to the Mansels, thus adding considerably to the Mansels' estate in the central and southern part of Llansamlet parish. Because the Popkins were now deprived of these estates, the Popkin family made their home in Coytrahen House.

Morgan Popkin went on to marry Mary MATHEWS of Nydfuwch and, when their sons also died without issue, the Coytrahen estate was inherited once again through the female side of the family. Frances, daughter of Morgan and Mary Popkin, married Edmund TRAHERNE of Castellau, and that estate ultimately went to their third son, Morgan Popkin Traherne. Morgan also inherited his mother's estate at Nydfuwch but those lands had to be sold off to pay the debts of his father.

By this time the Coytrahen Estate had at its core the mansion and demesne of Coytrahen House, in the parish of Bettws, near Maesteg, and later on Llwydardh in the parish of Llangynwyd. The majority of the estate lay nearby in the parishes of Llangynwyd and Bettws, but there were also scattered holdings in the parishes of Newcastle, Llangeinor and St Brides Minor, and others even further afield. Much of this estate had been amassed by the ancestors of the Powell family, and had been added to by marriage and inheritance.

In 1775 John Popkin Esq gave Bryngarw House and its grounds to his sister Frances as a wedding present on the occasion of her marriage to Edmund Traherne of Castellau; the building was extensively modified during their residence.

By 1830, a descendant, Morgan Popkin Traherne, who was at that time living in Isenhurst Manor, Nr Heathfield, Sussex, took it over and it was he who contracted further building work on the house in 1833, turning it into a virtual copy of his Isenhurst home to please his wife.

Bryngarw next passed to John Popkin Traherne in 1859. He had obtained a commission as an Ensign in the 39th (Dorset) Regiment of Foot and served with that regiment for nearly six years, selling his commission in 1851. He then served as a Major in the Glamorganshire Militia, retiring in 1865. This resignation may have been forced by the circumstances of his affair with Helen, the wife of his friend and close neighbour, James BROGDEN of Tondud House which caused a very public scandal at the time.

Major Traherne was very active in the county as a JP, Deputy Lieutenant of the County, and finally High Sheriff, but his leisure activities were taken up with his love of salmon fishing, and he became something of an angling 'celebrity'. He designed his own rods and invented and tied his own flies, and even published several articles about the subject. He caught his first salmon in 1850, and from then until the time of his death in 1901 fished all of the major salmon rivers of Great Britain and Ireland. He also took leases on several rivers in Norway, and in 1889 he wrote the book "The Habits of the Salmon". He was a consummate and dedicated fisherman and consequently spent very little time actually at Bryngarw.

Major Anthony Powell Traherne, JP, born 1834, was also a military man; he served in the 1st Battallion of the Leicestershire Regiment from 1853 as an Ensign, saw action in the Crimean War and fought at the siege of Sebastopol, leaving the regiment as a Captain in 1862. He became Adjutant to the Glamorgan Volunteer Rifles from 1863 until 1879 and was described as "A gallant soldier and a keen sportsman". In 1865 he had married Lucy LOCKWOOD. In 1910 he took over the job of Master of the Glamorgan Foxhounds at the age of 76. He died in 1917.

The last member of the Traherne family to actually live in Bryngarw was Captain Onslow Powell Traherne; privately educated at Kings School, Dorset. Onslow went on to make his money as a stockbroker and industrialist.

He married Muriel Ellen HARVEY in 1896. In the 1901 census he is shown as living in a very desirable area of London with his wife and baby son, Jack Onslow Traherne, and a household staff of 10 people. He also used some of his wealth to further extend the house, and hire the very prestigious and highly regarded firm of PARSONS, PARTRIDGE and TUDWAY as landscape designers to design a Japanese garden in Bryngarw's grounds. He personally involved himself in much of this project, such as the laying out of the existing formal gardens and the lakes between 1910 and 1920, and it was he who introduced many exotic plants and trees such as the Tulip tree, the Handkerchief tree, Magnolias and Sequoias which were brought back from his extensive travels around the world.

His marriage to Muriel unfortunately ended in divorce citing her adultery, and he re-married very quickly in 1901, to a widow, Elizabeth GOODWIN, who died in 1917.

Captain Traherne's rank came from serving in the Great War of 1914-1918 where he was an honorary Captain in the Labour Corps. Little is known of his army career, but the Labour Corps of that period would have consisted of mostly men from the British Empire's many colonies in Africa, India and Asia.

Whilst Onslow was living at Bryngarw he was joined by his daughter, Florence 'Olga', and her husband Major Charles Lionel Atkins WARD-JACKSON, a Conservative MP. It was Mrs Ward-Jackson who brought back from a trip to Australia, a particular breed of chicken called an Austral-orp. These birds were prolific egg layers and even had their own purpose-built hen house in the grounds. When Major Ward-Jackson died in 1930 of heart failure, Olga continued to live at the house with her father for a time.

Onslow Powell Traherne died in 1950 aged 61. He did not spend his last days at Bryngarw but was listed as living at 6 Bryn Cottage, Tondy, the house and grounds having already been sold to a local businessman Mr RS HAYES in 1944. He lived in the house with his family until 1959.

In 1961 the then Ogmere and District Council bought the Bryngarw estate with the plan to use it for council tenant accommodation. The house was converted into nine flats and 32 residential caravans were sited in the grounds. After a time the house began showing signs of distress, with dry rot and neglect all too evident, so the flat dwellers were rehomed and the caravans, where possible, were moved to other sites.

By 1980 owing to a bout of Local Government re-organisation Ogwr Borough Council was now in charge of Bryngarw and they designated it as a future Country Park. The once beautiful grounds were completely overgrown, ponds silted up and the walkways impassable. Manpower Services were called in by the Council to restore the gardens, improve the access, and create new paths to display the amazing features. After 5 years' hard work restoration was complete. In early 1986, Bryngarw as a Country Park was formally opened to the public, complete with Car Park, Toilets, Cafeteria and Children's Play Area. It would be another year before Bryngarw House itself could be made weatherproof, although it was used as living quarters for the assistant warden; the senior warden lived in the gatehouse at the park's entrance.

European funding was granted to the project in 1993 and Bryngarw House was transformed into a hotel with 19 bedrooms and, with the addition of the conservatory, a fine restaurant. Downstairs hospitality suites were made available for conferences and seminars, and it was subsequently granted a licence to hold weddings in the grounds, making it a popular local venue.

Bryngarw, like every where else has had its financial problems, but now it is constantly undergoing restructure and ground improvement. New greenhouses have been added for horticultural societies such as the B-Leaf project. In 2010 the historic gardens were designated a Green Flag Park. Recently the visitors' area has been completely re-vamped to improve the cafe facilities, and to add on a new Warden's office and an education room for school visits. The country park has all year round attractions to offer

everyone; wildlife walks, arts and craft shows, live music, outdoor theatre, bushcraft courses, to name but a few.

What may have started out as a Georgian country gentleman's private house and estate has been transformed into a facility for the general public. I think If the Trahernes could see it now they would be justly proud, and not a little pleased that the landscaping of yesteryear is still very much part of the country park of today.




SOCIETY PUBLICATION
SOMERSET TRAIL INTO WALES
Booklet Ref GLA-Z044 Price £6.49

Transcripts of the talks

**THE SOMERSET AND DORSET
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

President: Sir MERVYN MEDLYCOTT B.F.S.O. Registered Charity No. 1011051



"SOMERSET TRAIL INTO WALES"

A DAY SEMINAR

HOSTED BY
SOMERSET AND DORSET FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
in partnership with
Glamorgan Family History Society
Gwent Family History Society

SATURDAY 28th MARCH 1998

UNIVERSITY OF WALES COLLEGE,
NEWPORT. CAERLEON CAMPUS.

TRANSCRIPTS OF TALKS

HOWELL MORGAN, Clocks, Watches and Jewellery David Dimmick

A little while ago I purchased a book called 'Cardiff Clocks' by William LINNARD, which is described as 'a comprehensive account of watch and clock makers in Cardiff, the Valleys, and the Vale of Glamorgan'. I had bought the book because my great-great-grandfather appeared in a 19th century census as a Watchmaker and I wanted to find out more about him. I did not find anything more about my ancestor, but I found in the book a facsimile copy of the catalogue and price-list issued by Howell MORGAN, 'Jeweller of Blaengarw, c1900', known apparently for his engagement rings sporting two diamonds. (People were to say later that 'A double diamond works wonders!' but of course the slogan referred to a more liquid type of commodity!).

Howard Morgan became established in the Garw around 1890, at a time when the coal mines provided a great deal of employment all over the South Wales Valleys, not only in the mines themselves but in all kinds of support services, from butchers to drapers and furniture shops. Adverts such as '*We sell everything from telescopes and teapots to tureens and tricycles*' was one quaint advertising slogan, with '*prices rarely beaten*' underneath, and a promise to deliver '*goods to any part of the United Kingdom with the promptest attention!*'

Howell Morgan's shop in the Strand, Blaengarw sold not only jewellery but also watches and clocks. One of his 'bestsellers' was a sturdy pocket watch described as '*H Morgan's workman's watch, keyless, and made expressly for underground and rough wear - 16/6 in nickel case, 35/- in real silver*'.

The Strand today, no sign of Howell Morgan's shop.



The Park, complete with bandstand, in front of the Strand, Blaengarw, about 1915, The Blaengarw Hotel is on the corner at the junction with Katie Street

Pocket watches were often sold with a fob chain in gold or silver, known as an 'Albert', along with the pendant fob. They were the standard time pieces for both men and women before World War 1, but then watches that could be strapped to the wrist became a much more convenient way to tell the time. Sometimes fob watches were encased in leather pouches and straps; lithographs and photographs of trench action in WW1 show troops waiting for the whistle to come from the officer studying his watch before sending his men 'over the top'.

Eventually, after the war, manufacturers began to produce purpose-made watches for the military with companies such as Services, founded in 1927, being a popular choice. These types of watches found favour with the public at large, leading to the highly accurate timepieces we have today.

SERVICES wrist watch, author's own, not original strap



Howell Morgan also sold a considerable array of clocks, with the ornate mantel clocks fashionable at that time finding homes on many a mantelpiece. These could be bought in white marble with a glass cover at 30/- or in walnut with an eight-day 'cathedral' gong at 44/-. Wall clocks and grandfather clocks were also sold, although fewer of these appear in the catalogue; alarm clocks were becoming very popular as so many men had to get up early for their shifts in the mines. Other essential items sold at his shop were pieces of cutlery, sometimes sold individually such as when a soup ladle was needed for a special occasion, or by the dozen, such as the tablespoons in Nevada silver, sold at 13/- per dozen. Miscellaneous items, from barometers to bicycles, organs to opera glasses, were also said to be available!

Readers or their families might remember Howell Morgan's shop in the Strand, and they might also like to hear of two other clock and watchmakers in the Garw: Anthony MORGAN of Llangeinor, of whom nothing is known other than he was buried on September 18th 1767, and Robert CARNE, who was buried in 1887 in Pontycymer, again no further details of his enterprise. One other notable clockmaker, William HARRIS of Cardiff, was recorded as being in Gaol in 1734, obviously 'doing time' for his misdeeds!

Howell Morgan and others of his trade who found their way into the Garw Valley have undisputedly brought vibrancy and glamour at a time when everything must have appeared quite the opposite!

SOCIETY PROJECT

PLACES OF WORSHIP SURVEY

Since 2005 the Cardiff Places of Worship compiled by the Cardiff branch has been hosted by Roots Web, linked to the Glamorgan pages via GENUKI. However, the information has not been updated since that date and we now have the opportunity to edit the original and use it in an exciting new project while increasing its coverage to encompass the whole of Glamorgan. The website team are creating an online resource that will enable users to click on a location (PIN) on a map and link to information about the site such as the following for St Mary the Virgin & St Stephen the Martyr Cardiff:

NAME & DENOMINATION: St Mary the Virgin and St Stephen the Martyr, Church in Wales

ADDRESS / LOCATION: Bute Street, Butetown, Cardiff.

DATE OPENED: 1843

HISTORY: The first parish church of Cardiff, which was dedicated to St Mary, was founded by Robert Fitzhammon and situated on the banks of the river Taff in the late 11th century. The church was badly damaged by floods in 1607, the parish being attached to St John in the centre of the town, until its re-establishment as a separate parish in 1849 after a new site in Bute Street for St Mary's Church was donated by Lord Bute.

BURIAL GROUND: Not of their own, prior to 1848 the churchyard of St John's was used, then the joint cemetery in Adamsdown, Moira Terrace/Moira Place, Cardiff was used. After 1859 Cathays Municipal Cemetery, Fair oak Road, Cathays.

TYPES OF RECORDS AND THEIR LOCATION:

GLAMORGAN ARCHIVES CATALOGUE: P133CW Registers of baptisms, 1843-1993; Marriages, 1855-1971; Banns, 1902-1910; Burials, 1848-1918; Services, 1884-1922; Miscellaneous and civil records, 1903-1914.

Civil Parish Records. Cardiff Borough Records: BC/C/2/3. 1711-1777 This volume also contains accounts of officers of the parishes of St John and St Mary, Cardiff, 1711-1731; accounts of the common attorneys of the borough 1712-1722, 1737-1740; rental of the corporation of Cardiff, c.1730, 1738 and 1739; and a list of poor law certificates brought into Cardiff c.1750. Transcriptions also in Cardiff Records Vol 1-6, published by the Corporation of Cardiff.

GLAMORGAN FHS PUBLICATIONS: GLA-CO317 Booklet: Baptisms 1843-1925, Burials 1848 1918, no marriages.

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS: *Some monumental Inscriptions of Adamsdown cemetery relate to parishioners of St Mary buried there.*

Note: The 19th century parish of St Mary had no burials ground of its own. These registers record parishioners of St Mary buried either at Adamsdown Cemetery or Cathays Cemetery. Where grave numbers are quoted, burials are at Adamsdown. This small burial ground known also as Cardiff Old Cemetery to distinguish it from the large municipal cemetery at Cathays, was opened in 1848 to serve the parishes of St John and St Mary. It was gradually superseded by Cathays Cemetery although burials continued in purchased plots. The Memorial Inscriptions at Adamsdown were recorded c1949 by officers of the City Councils Parks Department when the ground was levelled and converted into a Garden of Rest. Their manuscript recordings were transcribed and indexed in 1992 by the Glamorgan family History Society and are now in typed copy or microfiche. They can be purchased from the Society or consulted in the Glamorgan Archives search room.

We are aware of the Mid Glamorgan chapel survey and the excellent publication on the Cynon Valley chapels and we will be approaching the various copyright holders regarding using parts of their publications. But there are areas of the Glamorgan that we have very little information about their chapels apart from what is found in trade/street directories. So we are looking for members of the Society who may already have such information to share it with us and other members who may have relevant information that will help us compile the information required.

The information for Cardiff and some Vale of Glamorgan places of worship is currently held in a spreadsheet. If you are able to assist in compiling the information for your branch/local area please contact Nick Davey email njdavey@gmail.com.



Letters/Emails to the Editor

I have received a message from Mr Hugh Stott of Chicago, Illinois, USA, asking if anyone can help in finding others with the surname Stott. I am presuming he has tried the usual sources, but if anyone has additional information, please let me know and I will forward it to him.

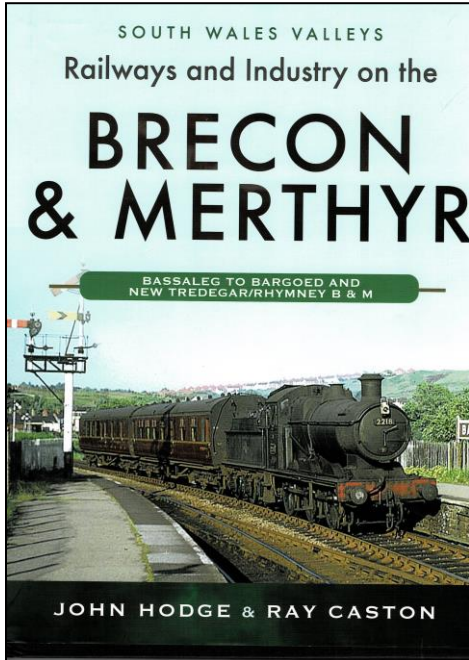
Jean Fowlds, editor@glamfhs.org.uk

BOOK REVIEWS

RAILWAYS AND INDUSTRIES ON THE BRECON & MERTHYR LINES

By John Hodge & Ray Caston

This book is one for readers who have Railway ancestry in their blood. It is



the first of three volumes that will cover the Brecon and Merthyr Railway and covers the section that runs from Bassaleg which is north of Newport to New Tredegar/Rhymney B & M. This 248 page book is a good quality product which has over 400 excellent photographs included in it. Even old black and white photographs are very clear. They are well spaced out which is not always the case in books. The book has been very well researched by the authors John Hodge, who worked on the railways for most of his life and now in retirement has written books on the Welsh railways, and Ray Caston, a retired chemist who is a lifelong railway enthusiast whose father and grandfather worked on this railway.

The first chapter gives you the history of the Brecon and Merthyr Railway Line from the application to build the railway in the 1850s to Transport for Wales' present plans to reopen part of the line to Caerphilly. The book then goes on to cover passenger services, coal and freight services and motive power. A significant part of the book deals with location analysis where a station or industrial site history is examined as part of the railway. Quite a lot of local knowledge is included in the written text in this section plus extracts from old ordnance service maps which I think enhanced the book. The last chapter looks at former Brecon and Merthyr 0-6-2TS GW421-426 tank engines. There are also appendices showing old timetables and 'Special Instructions for Using the Line'.

I would have liked to have had an index included for researchers but I found the book well produced, enjoyable and interesting, but the beautiful photographs were the main attraction for me.

Volunteers Needed

To help with a range of Society Administration and Projects.

If you are interested in finding out more about our projects or helping to run the Society please contact the following direct.

Membership: membership@glamfhs.org.uk

Finance: finance@glamfhs.org.uk

Online Branch/Events: arlein@glamfhs.org.uk

Website: website@glamfhs.org.uk

Projects: projects@glamfhs.org.uk

Aberkenfig Resource Centre: arc2@glamfhs.org.uk

Your Society NEEDS You!

ONLINE EVENTS – HANDOUTS

We have had some fascinating talks over the past year and where speakers have provided handouts these are uploaded to our website and can be accessed via the following link:

www.glamfhs.org.uk/online-events

SOCIETY NEWS & REPORTS

ABERDARE/CYNON VALLEY BRANCH

Face to face meetings are continuing to go well. Unfortunately, we had to make changes to our previously advertised programme as follows.

May: Martin Ashford was our guest speaker, Martin had contacted the Society requesting help with his family research. He had already arranged a visit to Aberffwyd cemetery as he had approx 36 family members buried there and offered to give us a talk on his research around his great grand-uncle David ASHFORD. David was a miner, quite outspoken in his political views, a person who was not afraid to challenge individuals, writing numerous articles in local newspapers. A meeting between Martin and a local historian was arranged, and a branch member translated the Welsh memorial inscriptions for him. Martin said the trip from Hampshire proved to be very successful.

June: This was a research and project session, we are currently working on Aberdare Leader obituaries 1951-1960.

July: Rob Jones returned to give us a talk on the ELLIS family and WW1. Rob is a very informative speaker and happy to support our group by giving free talks on his family research, his findings and the resources he used to for which we are very grateful. It was lovely to welcome some of the Ellis family members who came along for Rob's talk.

Pat Rees, aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk



ABERKENFIG RESOURCE CENTRE

We are pleased to report that the ARC has been opened again for visitors from 1st June 2022. Interest at the time of writing has been slow, but it is hoped more people will return to visit us soon. The difference now from our pre-Covid-19 days is that we are offering a booking system to allow visitors more flexibility of day or time of when they visit, so provided we can arrange two volunteers to be available they can be accommodated. It is hoped that this will prove a better use for both the resources and of volunteer time.

To book a visit contact arc2@glamfhs.org.uk. Information on this can be viewed on the website and the Society Facebook page.

When visiting the ARC you will have access to FMP, however our subscription does not at present include access to the 1921 census as this is currently only available via pay per view.

By the time this journal reaches you it is possible that we may be opening the ARC for free access on a once-a-month basis to measure the level of interest for drop-in visitors. Keep an eye on the website and Society newsletters to find out more.

The recent acquisition of books from Gareth Hicks is now in place and have been indexed to allow quick and easy searching for titles. Another new acquisition is of four card index boxes from St Dyforwg's Church Glynogwr. This is a very interesting record set and will be cross referenced to our publications in due course.

Creating downloads of our monumental inscriptions publications are continuing, check our Genfair page to discover which are currently available: www.genfair.co.uk.



BRIDGEND BRANCH

The Bridgend Branch started face to face meetings from May 2022. Attendance has been rather slow but we are hoping it is just the summer period and that things pick up as the year progresses. The May meeting included a very interesting talk from Mr Malcolm Cowper, on people's experiences on National Service, this covered service in many countries and stories for life in all the services.

Bridgend branch members continue to receive a monthly newsletter with information of meetings. If you are a Bridgend member and have not been having one, contact the branch to let them know.

Meetings remain on the third Monday of the month at the Len Evans Hall, Aberkenfig, it is next door to the ARC, so check the Society website for directions.

The monthly library sessions continue to be popular and the committee members who were involved enjoyed the experience. They have offered to help with ARC research bookings, which will be a great help. We hope to have more dates available by the time this journal is released, so once again check the website, newsletters and Society Facebook page for news on this.

Nancy Thomas, bridgend@glamfhs.org.uk

CARDIFF & VALE BRANCH REPORT

It was a real scoop to secure Peter Higginbotham to join us online in May to speak about workhouses in Wales, as it was the first time he had given this talk. It follows the publishing of his book "Workhouses of Wales and the Welsh Borders", in February this year.

His eagerly anticipated lecture took us through the history of poor relief from Tudor times through the Old and New Poor Laws, the establishment of the Poor Law Unions and their evolution until they were abolished in 1948 and former workhouse buildings were converted into hospitals for the new National Health Service, as for example, the former St. David's hospital in Cowbridge Road, Canton.

We learnt about the common cross like structure of the four-winged buildings, the timetable and the daily menu of the residents, and the types of records available and where to find them. Peter also highlighted how some areas of Wales took many years to provide workhouses, with Rhayader not completing theirs until 1870. Resistance to the idea was also shown when Chartists attacked the newly built workhouse in Caersws in 1839. Numerous questions were asked at the end showing the wide interest in this subject. Peter's website www.workhouses.org.uk has pages of information on it and links to inmates in 1861 and 1881.

Jenni Phillips started our coffee and chat session in May by sharing some examples of her ancestors found in the 1921 census. Topics covered included poor handwriting, interesting house-guests, unemployment and putting the information gleaned from the census into a wider context. This was followed by a group discussion sharing our discoveries, surprises and research progress arising from the 1921 census.

In June, Natalie Bodle, professional genealogist, gave us an excellent, thorough and detailed "Introduction to Irish family history research". She explained that not all records were destroyed in the Four Courts fire in Dublin in 1922 as is often believed. Indeed, she drew our attention to the 'Beyond 2022' project, the virtual treasury of reconstructed documents now newly available online: www.beyond2022.ie and www.virtualtreasury.ie

As a starting point she recommended understanding the terminology used in the administration of localities: townlands, baronies and parishes, the use of Gaelic and naming patterns, all specific to Ireland.

The generous amount of information given during the talk resulted in a four page handout full of useful sources and hyperlinks. It is interesting that one of the most valued sources is still John Grenham's book "Tracing your Irish

Ancestors” now in its 5th edition. The coffee and chat this month was a further opportunity to discuss this topic and focus on members’ Irish families.

In July the branch welcomed back Rebecca Probert, Professor of Law at Exeter University. She is a legal historian and a leading authority on marriage and its relevance to family historians and genealogists. This time her fascinating talk was entitled “Divorced, Bigamist, Bereaved - second and subsequent marriages”. Divorces were often difficult for people to obtain because of the legalities involved and hence the crime of bigamy was sometimes committed. She also illustrated the social and legal factors affecting decision to remarry after a bereavement. There were many cases presented to Rebecca in the questions session afterwards where she ably unravelled the trickier parts of legal history to explain different circumstances.

For the final Coffee and Chat session we welcomed back Gill Thomas, Chairman of AGRA (Association of Genealogical Researchers in Archives) www.agra.org.uk who provided us with a wealth of information about becoming a Professional Genealogist. Gill described the requirements of such a profession including postgraduate courses and the development of a professional development log as well as the production of a business plan and website. She explained that as well as providing research packages professional researchers write articles, provide talks and courses. Some researchers specialize in particular areas such as house history or work on probate queries. She explained how to write a client report and also what software and subscriptions were practical requirements. An extremely interesting talk about good practice even if becoming a professional genealogist is not something you are considering.

In June, Cardiff and Vale branch members were finally able to meet up in person for the first time since March 2020 and enjoy a guided walk “Plus ça change: traces of old Cardiff” which was led by Geraint Denison-Kurg. The gentle amble traced some of the remnants of the rich and varied history, starting at the reconstructed West Gate of the borough by the castle. Broadly tracking the old town walls, as they were at the time of John Speed’s map in 1610, different aspects from Cardiff’s Viking, medieval, early modern, Georgian and Victorian past were revealed and discussed. The fabulous handout beautifully illustrated the heritage that has been lost within the city.

July saw Cardiff and Vale branch members finally have the opportunity to visit the Cardiff Reform Synagogue. We are very grateful to David Cohen and Stanley Soffa for hosting such an informative evening about their faith, religion and the history of the Jewish people. Information about members of the congregation have been researched and are available on the Jewish Historical Association of South Wales website: <https://www.jhasw.com/>

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to/and/or attended the 20 online events we have organised since September 2021. We have certainly enjoyed meeting members from near and far and learning from fellow researchers. The coffee and chat sessions have provided an informal sharing opportunity and our themed sessions in particular have been well attended.

With the creation of the Online branch, Cardiff and Vale will cease to organise and host the online sessions (apart from the AGM, information below) and we plan to return to face-to-face meetings as from November. The first face to face meetings will be held in November and December at Glamorgan Archives.

Returning to face-to-face sessions – your view

The branch committee has spent some considerable time discussing the return to face-to-face sessions at Insole Court and at other venues and indeed should the meetings run during the afternoon or early evening, rather than be at 7:30 pm? We have received suggestions from branch members and are looking into their viability as regards cost, parking, access etc. There a number of options and we will be sharing those with branch members and would appreciate your response.

BRANCH AGM – Tuesday 4th October 2022 – Online via Zoom

One of the tasks at the AGM is to elect branch committee members and a Branch Trustee to serve on the Society Executive Committee. Nominations are requested for the following:

Chair:

Vice Chair:

Treasurer:

Secretary:

Programme Coordinator(s):

Committee member/s:

Cardiff and Vale Branch Trustee

Nominations can be accepted until Tuesday 13 September.

The process to nominate a committee member is via emailing:

cardiffandvale@glamfhs.org.uk

First obtain agreement from the member that they are prepared to be nominated, an email giving their agreement will be accepted.

The nominator should email stating

I (nominator's name) nominate (nominee's name) for the position of (Chair/Vice-Chair/Secretary/Treasurer/Committee Member/Branch Trustee (as appropriate) for the GFHS Cardiff & Vale Branch Committee 2022-2023

Alternatively nominations can be made via post to the address shown in the inside front cover of the journal to be received by Tuesday 13 September.

If you are a branch member but not a computer user, you will receive a copy of the branch reports in the post in September.

You do not need a Zoom account to attend the online AGM, but you do need to be able to 'Join' a meeting <https://zoom.us/join>. Registration will be via Eventbrite and the booking link is posted on the Society website events page <https://www.glamfhs.org.uk/events> and circulated via the Society's monthly newsletter.

You can follow the branch via Twitter: @Cardiff_GFHS

Karen Prior & Jane Graves,
cardiffandvale@glamfhs.org.uk



MERTHYR TYDFIL BRANCH

Soar, the Welsh Centre, continues to be the popular venue for the Merthyr Tydfil Branch to hold afternoon meetings. We have continued to have well attended talks of a very high standard. In May Barrie Jones gave an excellent talk on the nature of the Black Death which made us glad that we did not live through that pandemic. In June we had a guided walk around an historical area of central Merthyr Tydfil. Our July meeting consisted of Lisa Powell giving a very informative talk on 'Social Unrest in Wales prior to WWI'. Originally, she was to give this talk in July 2020 and I am glad that we didn't miss out on it.

There is a great deal of interest in the Jewish Community of Merthyr Tydfil and our talks on the subject have always been extremely well attended. The Merthyr Tydfil Branch is delighted that the plans to turn the former Victorian synagogue here into a Jewish Heritage Centre have moved a step closer. The building, once even a Christian Centre and then a Gym, was bought by the Foundation for Jewish Heritage in 2019. It is the oldest surviving synagogue in Wales and one of only three Gothic synagogues in Europe. This unique building was identified as among the most important 16 synagogues at risk in Europe. In July 2022, the Foundation for Jewish Heritage successfully secured funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Welsh Government's Transforming Towns programme to bring this important grade II listed building back to life and the aim is to open a Jewish Heritage Centre by 2025.

We are still looking for any information on an Angus Lewis, who took excellent photographs of the Merthyr Tydfil railways in 1922.

Carolyn Jacob, merthyr@glamfhs.org.uk

PONTYPRIDD & RHONDDA BRANCH

Well, we are very happy to report that we had our first meeting since the closure of the Pontypridd Museum in January 2020, due to the floods and then the Covid pandemic. Of course we are downstairs in the Museum, as before, but in the back room. We have the use of the kettle, cups etc to make tea and coffee for the members. We also have a cupboard where we can keep our books.

In June David Maddox spoke to us about the lives of Valley women at the time of WW1. It was extremely interesting and he produced many slides which showed a variety of women in their different roles, both at home and in their working lives. Many took over the work previously carried out by men, who were now taking part in the War. He also showed photographs of the Suffragettes who braved their freedom to ensure that women could get the vote.

Next month Keith Jones will come to us to tell us about the Glamorganshire Canal on 19th July.

Meic & Jane Jones, rhondda@glamfhs.org.uk



SWANSEA BRANCH

To try to attract more participants in the activities of the Swansea branch, three walk and talk sessions were arranged. The first one was looking at some famous women of Swansea. One branch member attended. The second walk was to visit places of interest in old Sketty. Again only one branch member attended and I was not prepared to lead the walk for only one person, so the walk did not take place. The third walk was a guided tour, by one of the volunteers of Penlleger Valley Woods, in conjunction with another walking group. No one came from the Swansea branch. Therefore I have resigned as chairman of the branch, for obvious reasons. There seems to be a total lack of interest by members in the Swansea area.

We have been offered a meeting room, with all the technology we would need, plus car parking, free of charge, probably meeting in the afternoon rather than the evening, but I feel it would be embarrassing to invite speakers and for them to speak to a virtually empty room.

So, members of the Swansea branch, it is now up to you to decide the future of the branch. At the moment it seems to have no future. The branch needs a new chair and, more importantly, a speaker's secretary, to invite speakers and liaise with them.

If you wish to contact me, my details are in the last GFHS journal. The

officers of the branch would really like to know why people are not attending, now and pre Covid, and, are there any suggestions you wish to make?

*Janet M Neilson & Cherry King,
swansea@glamfhs.org.uk*



ONLINE BRANCH

The Team organising the Online Branch is currently finalizing a programme of talks for the Autumn. Talks and Coffee and Chat sessions will be held on a Thursday evening. Members of the team comprise some of our long term and very experienced members who live in the UK and the USA.

The Branch is also investigating setting up a Webinar with the possibility of holding an event day perhaps to accompany next year's AGM and looking further forwards as part of the Society's 50th anniversary in 2024.

Sue Hamer, arlein@glamfhs.org.uk

JOURNAL ARCHIVE

Journals 1-60 (Glamorgan Family History Society: April 1983+) have now been scanned and are currently in the process of being uploaded to the website. Personal details have been removed to comply with data protection regulations. Members need to log in to view.

<https://www.glamfhs.org.uk/journal-archive>

These are the first journals published after the Society changed its name (previously South Wales Family History Society) and boundary to comprise the historic county of Glamorgan, following the formation of other county Societies such as Dyfed and Gwent FHS. At the time the Society comprised only two branches at Cardiff and Bridgend.

An Index to the articles in each edition is available on the website.

<https://www.glamfhs.org.uk/images/5-Document-JournalIndex1-20.pdf>

HOW TO BOOK AND LOG ON TO ONLINE ZOOM MEETINGS

If you have not yet joined one of our Zoom Online Sessions here are instructions explaining how to book a free ticket and download Zoom.

How to Book a Free Ticket:

1. Free Tickets for our Online Meetings are made available via the Eventbrite Website. www.eventbrite.com.
2. Links to each individual event are provided on our website - www.glamfhs.org.uk/events AND in our monthly MailChimp Newsletters.
4. Click on the link on the website/newsletter to go to the event on Eventbrite.
5. On the Event Page click on the green 'Register' button and follow the instructions to book a free ticket.
6. You will be emailed a registration confirmation.
7. A few days before the event you will be emailed a 'reminder email' about the event.
8. A day or so before the event you will be emailed a Zoom link.

You cannot access the event without this Zoom link so keep a look out for an email from Eventbrite in your inbox and spam folder.

The day of the meeting: Check you have received the Zoom link a few hours before the meeting as the meeting administrators are not usually able to resend Zoom links within 20-30 minutes of the meeting starting.

How to Download Zoom

www.zoom.us

1. **Download the Zoom program/App:** It is a good idea to download the Zoom program from the Zoom website before the day of the meeting.
2. **To Join the Meeting:** Click on the Zoom Link in your Eventbrite email.
3. **Check your camera and microphone:** You will be asked to check your microphone and camera are working.
4. **Waiting Room:** You will be placed in a Waiting Room until the Administrators are ready to start the event. Some events have a large number of attendees so it may take a while to let everyone in.
5. **Turning off microphones/cameras:** We will ask you to mute your microphone once you have joined the meeting. Also turning off your camera once the event starts can save bandwidth and help if you have an intermittent internet signal or are using Wifi.

We hope to see you at our Online Meetings - Enjoy!

Or if you have further questions contact: onlineevents@glamfhs.org.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Please contact the Branches for up to date information about all meetings.

ABERDARE BRANCH

aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk

Cynon Valley Museum at 2pm on the third Thursday each month

8th September - Research and Project Session.

13th October - AGM followed by a talk from Mervyn Pugh on his family history research.

10th November - Rob Jones will be our guest speaker his topic will be on DNA & fingerprints.

8th December – A Christmas lunch

BRIDGEND BRANCH

bridgend@glamfhs.org.uk

Len Evans Hall (next to the ARC) at 7 pm third Monday each month

19th September TBC

17th October AGM & TBC

21st November - TBC

December – No Meeting

Saturday Library Help Sessions – Dates TBC

CARDIFF & VALE BRANCH

cardiffandvale@glamfhs.org.uk

3 September (Saturday afternoon)

Guided walk around Cathays Cemetery with John Farnhill (Friends of Cathays Cemetery).

Cathays Cemetery is one of Britain's largest Victorian Cemeteries. The tour will touch on the history of the cemetery, which reflects the history of Cardiff, and will introduce some of the famous (and sometimes infamous) personalities for whom Cathays is their final resting place.

To book you place please email cardiffandvale@glamfhs.org.uk, register via Eventbrite or ring Jane Graves (07952 098181)

Tuesday 4 October 7 pm – Online via Zoom Branch AGM followed at 7.30 pm by TALK Jeff Childs 'Peterloo' Register on Eventbrite

Tuesday 1 November, 2 pm - at Glamorgan Archives: Introduction to Plymouth Estate Maps

Tuesday 6 December, 2 pm – at Glamorgan Archives: Talk TBC

MERTHYR BRANCH

merthyr@glamfhs.org.uk

Soar, Welsh Centre, Pontmorlais at 2 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month

September, Tuesday 13th, Steve Brewer 'Chapels of Merthyr Tydfil'

October, Tuesday 11th, Annual General Meeting/

Discussion of Family History Problems/Short Film on Merthyr Tydfil

November, Tuesday 8th, Chris Parry, 'The Artistic Jones Family of Merthyr Tydfil'

December, Tuesday 13th, Carl Llewellyn, Xmas Talk -Title to be decided

PONTYPRIDD & RHONDDA BRANCH

rhondda@glamfhs.org.uk

7 pm at Pontypridd Museum

20th September -TBC

18th October - AGM

15th November - TBC

December – No Meeting

SWANSEA BRANCH

swansea@glamfhs.org.uk

See Report (Page 46) on Future of Swansea Branch!

ONLINE BRANCH (Ar Lein)

arlein@glamfhs.org.uk

Book via Eventbrite – links in monthly Newsletters and on Website

7.30 pm Thursday 15 September

Ideas for Researching Non-Conformist Ancestors – Jackie Depelle

7 pm Thursday 22 Sept Coffee & Chat – Community Trees - Billie McNamara

7.30 pm Thursday 13 October Talk – DNA Painter – Jonny Perl

7 pm Thursday 20 October Coffee & Chat – Welsh Non-Conformity - Darris Williams

17 November Talk - TBC

24 November Coffee & Chat – TBC

7.30 pm Thursday 15 December Talk – Family Search Update - Darris Williams

Register for our online talks on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/online/glamorgan-family-history-society>

Printed Family Trees and Charts

Do you want your Family Tree printed for you on one sheet of paper? We can print your tree from your own computer genealogy program files no matter what program you use.

FREE tree design service, FREE colour printing. FREE preview service.

See your tree before you buy or pay a penny. Every customer previews their tree on their own dedicated website before deciding to buy or pay a penny. Prices start from as little as £25 for a 500 person tree. We also produce a wide range of other Family History charts, books and gifts for the genealogist. FULL MONEY BACK GUARANTEE if you are not satisfied with any of our products. Please visit our website for further details or e-mail us your phone number and we'll call you to answer any questions you may have, you don't even pay for the call.

email: info@genealogyprinters.com

Cardiff & Vale Branch: Summer 2022

Historic Walk around Cardiff City Centre

Images back cover:

Top Left – Jones Court the only remaining Court in Cardiff entered via an arch from Womanby Street.

Top Right – Entrance to Jones Court from Womanby Steet can be seen just above the heads of the Cardiff Branch members.

Middle Left: Womanby Street looking towards the Castle with entrance to Jones Court on the right. Origin of the name Womanby is thought to be Viking.

Middle Left: The walk started at the West Gate near Cardiff Castle and followed the route of the old walls to North Gate near the moat of the Castle and the Glamorgan Canal.

Bottom Left: St Mary's Church which was eroded by the River Taff is commemorated on the side of what was the Prince of Wales pub near the site of the South Gate.

Bottom Right: St Johns Church

Visit to the Cardiff Reform Synagogue





If undelivered please return to:
63 Clos Pwll Clai, Tondy, Bridgend, CF32 9BZ