



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



Coal and Carols, by Russell Farmer

**Journal No 148**

**December 2022**

Registered Charity No 1059537

[www.glamfhs.org.uk](http://www.glamfhs.org.uk)

ISSN 0264 5440



Cardiff & Vale Branch, Guided Walk around Cathays Cemetery 3 September 2022

# CONTENTS

Journal 148

December 2022

Title	Author	Page
Society Officers & Committee Members		4
Editorial	Jean Fowlds	5
Chairman's Message	Sue Hamer	6
My Family Christmas	Roy Davies	7
A Full House	Barrie Jones	9
Visiting Grandmother's Grave	Jill Morgan	13
The Rev Goronwy Talfan Davies	JP Lethbridge	16
A Hawker's Family in 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Wales	Barrie Jones	21
The Formation of the Glamorgan Constabulary in 1841	Tony Peters	25
Glamorgan Constabulary in later times	Gwenda Lanagan	28
Cadrawd's Apples	Jean Fowlds	30
Christmas Recipes from the Archives		31
Book Reviews	David Webb & Jean Fowlds	32
Letters/Emails to the Editor		35
Society News and Reports		36
Forthcoming Events		45

Centre Insert: AGM Notice, AGM Nomination Form,  
Membership Renewal Form,  
Gift Aid Form

## 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.

# SOCIETY OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**President: Gwyn Rhys**

**Vice President: Diane Brook**

## Executive Committee & Society Trustees

**Chairman**

chariman@glamfhs.org.uk

**Sue Hamer** 37 Sherbourne Close, Highlight Park,  
BARRY, CF62 8AQ

**Vice-Chair**

**Nancy Thomas**

**Secretary/Events Coordinator**

secretary@glamfhs.org.uk

**Jane Jones**

44 Hendrecafn Rd, Penygraig, RCT, CF40 1LL

**Treasurer**

**VACANT**

**Executive Committee Members:**

**Ian Black, Jean Fowlds, Meic Jones, Steve Reis  
(1 vacancy)**

**Branch Trustees:** *Pat Rees* (Aberdare & Cynon Valley), *Sue Tiller* (Bridgend),  
*Jeremy Konsbruck* (Cardiff & Vale), *Carolyn Jacob* (Merthyr), *Creighton Sims* (Pontypridd &  
Rhondda), *Jeff Coleman* (Swansea)

**Membership Secretary**

**Membership Team**

membership@glamfhs.org.uk

**VACANT**

c/o 63 Clos Pwll Clai, Tondu, Bridgend,  
CF32 9BZ

**Editor**

editor@glamfhs.org.uk

**Jean Fowlds**

c/o 10 David Street, Blaengarw, Bridgend, CF32 8AD

**Website** website@glamfhs.org.uk

**Sue Hamer**

## Branch Secretaries/Contacts

**Aberdare & Cynon Valley**

aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk

**Mrs Pat Rees** ☎ 01685 875528

**Bridgend Secretary**

bridgend@glamfhs.org.uk

**Vicky Salmon**, 4 Heol Mair, Litchard, Bridgend,  
CF31 1YL ☎ 01656 663940

**Cardiff**

cardiff@glamfhs.org.uk

**Ann Konsbruck**

**Merthyr Secretary**

merthyr@glamfhs.org.uk

**Suzanne Doolan**, 1 Park Terrace, The Walk, Merthyr Tydfil,  
CF47 8RF ☎ **01685 385818**

**Pontypridd & Rhondda**

rhondda@glamfhs.org.uk

**Jane Jones**, 44 Hendrecafn Rd, Penygraig, CF40 1LL  
☎ 01443 434547

**Swansea Secretary**

swansea@glamfhs.org.uk

**Cherry King**, 11 Northeron, West Cross, Swansea, SA3 5PJ  
☎ 01792 413229

Please only telephone for confirmation of meetings dates, venues and times - all other enquiries please write by email or snail mail

# EDITORIAL

Our December edition, at the end of another turbulent year in many aspects of our lives, has a truly eclectic range of articles which I hope will be of interest.

To set the tone for Christmas we start with an article about Roy Davies' family Christmas years ago - aspects which are sure to resonate with many older readers. Then we have Jill Morgan's account of the search for a grandmother's grave, followed by Barrie Jones' account of the very crowded living conditions his family and many like them had to put up with in Merthyr Tydfil's industrial heyday. Barrie also tells of the travelling salesmen in his family, up and down Merthyr's streets with horse and cart containing all manner of items for the household. Tony Peters from the Glamorgan Archives writes on the early days of the Glamorgan Constabulary, and Gwenda Lanagan tells of the Constabulary's recruitment poster, found in a desk recently but harking back to the 1960s, we think! It certainly would not be used today!

Away from the hustle of industry, JP Lethbridge gives a detailed account of an eminent churchman and his appointments to various churches in Wales, a subject not too well-known in the mainly non-conformist South Wales that many of us were brought up in. To end we have a catalogue of Glamorgan apples in times past and a seasonal recipe for a Christmas tipple.

The Book Reviews featured cover two very different characters who made their mark on the history of South Wales, both well worth a read.

For our next edition, due in March, we would like to hear of families who did not leave their rural lives to work in the industrialised areas, the farmers, their workers, those who stayed on the land, maybe working with animals and following occupations tied to the farming life. It would be good to know about women's lives in the countryside too, so please dig deep into your family memories and let us have your stories.

March has a number of notable dates: March 1st is the date commemorating our patron saint, David, and March 17th belongs to St Patrick and Ireland. In between these comes International Women's Day on March 8th, all mentioned here to see if your memories can be jogged for the writing of future articles.

At this date of writing, Halloween and Bonfire Night are on the horizon, followed of course by Christmas and the New Year celebrations, so wherever and however you celebrate these markers in the calendar, stay safe and at peace with family and friends.

Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i chi gyd.

*Jean Fowlds, [editor@glamfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@glamfhs.org.uk)*



# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

With British Summer Time ending last Sunday and a spate of stormy wet weather this week Winter is upon us here in South Wales so time to get out those family history files that have been left on the shelf over the Summer months when gardening and outdoor activities took precedence. All of our Branches have now returned to face to face meetings with both Cardiff and Swansea Branches meeting for the first time in November at Glamorgan Archives and Swansea Library, Discovery Room. The other four local branches meet face to face monthly and our online branch (Ar Lein) meets twice a month via Zoom – see Forthcoming Events on page 45 for more details.

The Resource Centre at Aberkenfig is now open 10-2 on the last Wednesday each month and at other times by appointment. The Society also provides help desks at two Bridgend Libraries on a Saturday morning once a month and also at Glamorgan Archives on the third Tuesday each month – see website for more details [www.glamfhs.org.uk](http://www.glamfhs.org.uk).

As you will have found I am sure many organisations are still not back to pre-pandemic staffing nor opening hours. It is sad to see the some businesses have disappeared from the high street and many services are still cut back to the bare minimum due to staffing or financial problems.

We are starting to think about when to hold our Annual Fair and are considering Autumn 2023 or Spring 2024. In 2024 we will be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and so may look to combine the two but this is still under discussion. Our Events Team will be contacting past exhibitors to see how many would attend but we will also need volunteers to help run the event on the day. Numbers at local face to face meetings are still quite small so it is difficult at the moment to predict whether the event would be viable in 2023. If anyone is willing to help with the event or would like a stall please contact our Events Team [events@glamfhs.org.uk](mailto:events@glamfhs.org.uk).

Our elected Society Officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary) are elected for one year at a time but are only able to continue in post for a maximum of 5 consecutive years. Nominations forms are included in the Centre Insert and must be returned to Hon Secretary, Jane Jones by 1 January 2023.

I am writing this on All Hallows Day which in some parts of the world is celebrated as the 'Ancestors' Day. And by the time you receive this journal of course Christmas preparations will be upon us so it only remains to wish you and your families a happy and healthy time with your families near and far, in your hearts and minds both physically and in your family history files.

*Sue Hamer, Chairman, 1 November 2022,*  
[chairman@glamfhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman@glamfhs.org.uk)

# MY FAMILY CHRISTMAS

Roy Davies

The big difference between now and then – the war years and just after – is that Christmas never lasted so long as it seems to these days.

Bonfire night took much longer and had much more going for it: the excitement of collecting and storage, the fear that rivals might steal your best stuff, the incredible tension of lying on top of mounds of combustible rubbish listening for sounds of approaching marauders while the valley winds whistled through the many cracks of wall and roof. And then came the construction of the fire itself and the ritual lighting once darkness fell. We were in charge of our own destiny from that moment until we kicked apart the still smoking embers before going to school the following morning with pockets stuffed with the carcasses of dead bangers and Catherine wheels which had had their brief moments of stardom the previous evening to various shouts of 'be careful' and 'you'll have someone's eye out' as fireworks flew back and forth over the flames. Health and safety legislation surely began with similar cries of women the world over.

Christmas, by contrast was tame. A carol service, a few bits of crepe trimming and last year's cards brought out yet again to augment the few that genuinely arrived each year and a depressing counting of pennies enough for two Wills Whiffs for my father after his demob and some Snowfire cold cream for my mother. Then Christmas Eve was on us without warning. No tree, no lights, just two nylon stockings hanging down from the high wooden mantelpiece either side of a roaring coal fire banked half-way up the chimney breast and throwing out so much heat that it bounced back off the combed varnish wall and door to the narrow passage some ten feet away.

How presents came I never knew. Money was extremely short but something we had wished for always turned up. My brother wanted a six-shooter and holster: they arrived in a bag, unwrapped. For some cricket mad reason, I had declared a need for a set of stumps and bails without which life would not be worth living. I had already – the previous year – asked for and received from Father Christmas a cricket bat with a Don Bradman autograph I had seen in a local shop. Now I wanted the rest of the gear. I had ambition. I knew there were few places in our valley to lay out a straight six feet wicket which didn't slope one way or another but I was obsessed. How could I ever play for Glamorgan if I didn't practice with the right gear?

And there, one year on Christmas morning was a brown paper parcel with not quite enough paper to cover all six full-size stumps. But we knew the score. Empty the stockings first – despite the fact that we could see everything inside them through the nylon mesh: in the toe a coke from a previous domestic fire, then a penny coin, then an orange, then a small brown packet with two ends

of cricket bails sticking out, then an apple, then another orange, a small bar of chocolate, a pine cone and another apple. My brother's was identical but where I had bails he had caps for his gun.

The whole ritual took less than a few minutes – stumps and all.

Then, before walking down to his club for his Christmas drink, my father would pull us closer to the fire for his annual chat to Father Christmas who, for some reason, had decided to stay in our chimney rather than that of someone further down the hill. And then despite the flames, the heat, the smoke and the regular falls of soot my father would pretend he was talking to Father Christmas. It was a conversation we felt was always extremely one-sided. We never heard a response from further up the chimney but we had no doubt he was up there, waiting, with his boots and his red suit about to combust into flames. My father would ask 'Do you have a present for this boy? And apparently he heard Father Christmas say that he did because my father would then stick his arm up the chimney close to the flames and heat to grab the small gift handed down to him from far above. We each had two goes and the smell of singed human hair decreased as the long hair on my father's arm quickly disappeared. The presents were always the same, a tiny wooden horse, a china dog, a small Spitfire aeroplane and a model of a field gun.

But it wasn't the fact that they appeared year after year via the same short, and what must have been a very painful, handover between a man in a red suit and black boots and a tattoo-ed ex-soldier. We accepted that as an annual ritual of wonder. No it was the fact that in that short, wonderful spell between daylight and Christmas dinner in our tiny house high above the waking valley our home, apparently, was the only place where magic constantly happened between two grown men and two small boys.

The yearly spell, though, was easily broken. Invariably when we sat down to Christmas dinner there were only three of us at the table. My father's dinner was in the oven keeping warm. He never called it that but apparently there was also a great deal of magic going on in his club.



South Wales Echo 24 August 1894

An Old Lady's Curious Will

*The provisions of a remarkable will have just been made known at Greenock, where a very wealthy lady has bequeathed a large sum for benevolent purposes. It is provided that on 'Halloween', October 31<sup>st</sup>, the trustees and executors are to have a good dinner every year in the Tontine Hotel, where they are "to consult with pleasure on the good this bequest will bring about". The persons to be benefited are boys, dressmakers, seamstresses, and domestic servants. The lady specifies that no "lazy person" is to come under the will, nor any person given to dress.*



# A FULL HOUSE

#8653 Barrie Jones

My paternal grandparents lived in number 12 Union Street, Thomastown, Merthyr Tydfil. My grandfather Caradog JONES (1896-1971) was born in Troedyrhiw and was one of five brothers who were coal miners, as was their father, grandfather and great-grandfather before them. Crad's great-grandfather, John Evan JONES (1814-1881), was born in Abergwili, Carmarthenshire, moving to Duffryn, Pentrebach, sometime in the 1840s to work in the local Plymouth Work's mines. By contrast, my grandmother, Margaret Ann JONES, nee BAILEY (1898-1979), was born in Merthyr Tydfil, her great-grandfather, Abraham BAILEY (1804-1881), was born in Bristol, Gloucestershire, arriving in Merthyr town with his extended family sometime in the 1860s. Abraham was a street hawker of earthenware goods, and for a while in the 1860s, ran a china and earthenware shop in number 6 Victoria Street, Merthyr Tydfil. For the most part, he and his sons, Abraham and Thomas, and his sons-in-law were street traders.

My grandmother must have inherited the Bailey entrepreneurial gene, as to augment the family income and help purchase number 12 Union Street; she took in boarders, mainly 'travellers' and 'theatricals'. My father once commented that coming home from school each day, he was never sure where in the house he would be sleeping!

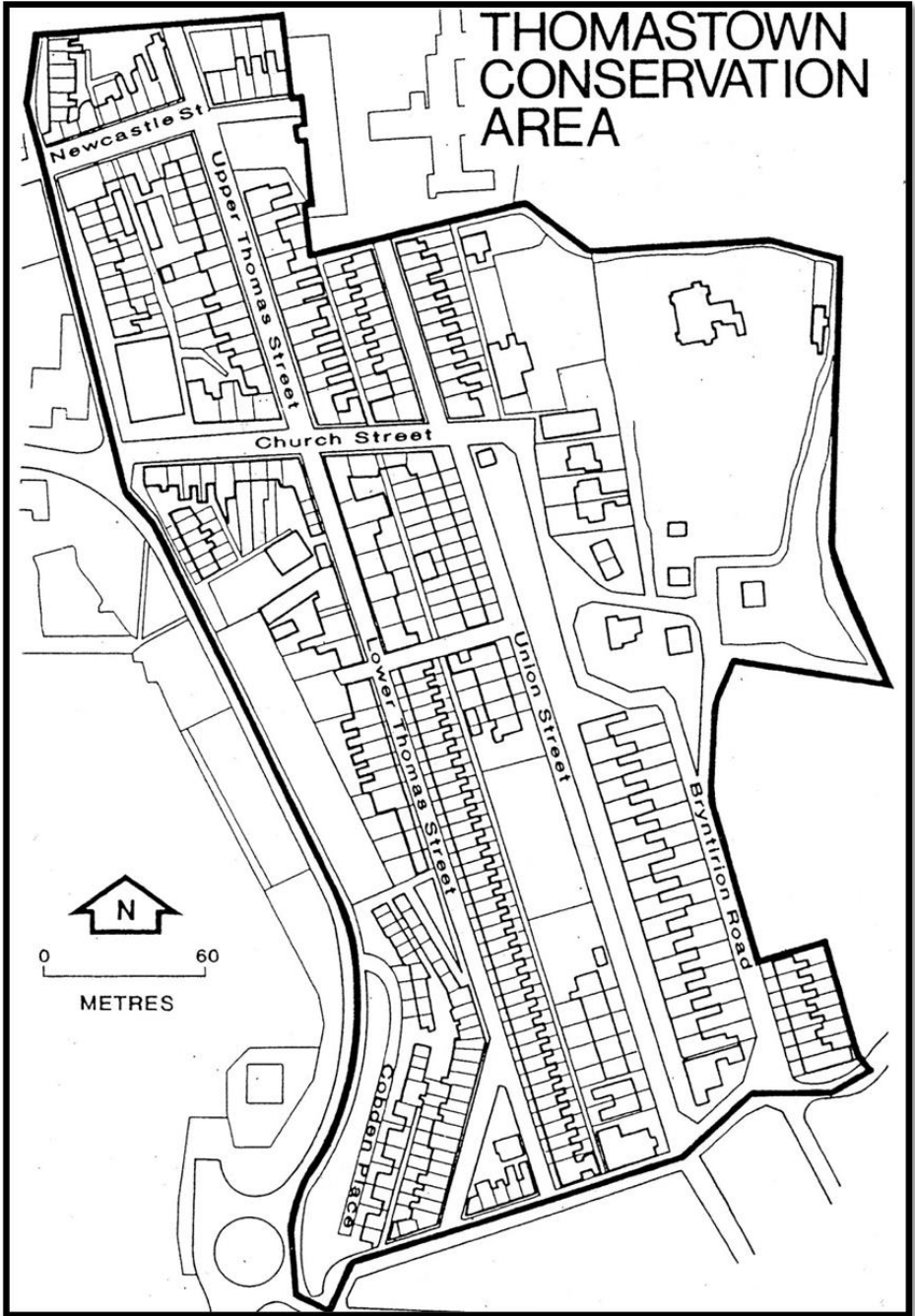
Number 12 Union Street is one of twenty-three terraced properties in the northern portion of the long street that runs at right angles to the top of Church Street. The southern portion of the street contains the imposing Courtland Terrace. The dual terraces of Union Street lead off Church Street up to the boundary wall of the now derelict St Tydfil's Hospital, formally the Merthyr Tydfil Union building, the 'Workhouse'. A terrace numbered 1 to 11 on the left-hand side and 12 to 23 on the right-hand side. All the houses were three bedroomed apart from numbers 1 and 23 which had extended frontages on Church Street and were much bigger properties. Number 12 being an end of terrace property was flanked by the lane leading up to Thomastown Park and thence on to Queen's Road.

Union Street is in the Thomastown Conservation Area, the first area to be designated in Merthyr Tydfil. Built from the 1850s onwards on a grid-iron pattern, Thomastown has the largest group of early Victorian buildings in Wales. Built for the middle classes, the professional and commercial people of the town, its best examples are Church Street, Thomas Street, Union Street (Courtland Terrace) and Newcastle Street.<sup>1</sup> This area (Thomastown) striking

---

<sup>1</sup> Joseph Gross, History of Housing in Merthyr Tydfil, Merthyr Historian, Volume Four, p. 155, Gomer Press, 1989.

# THOMASTOWN CONSERVATION AREA



toward the higher and open ground of the 'Court Estate' was the first exclusively residential area to be created by those in the top stratum of Merthyr's population.<sup>2</sup> Thomastown was the forerunner of what was to occur at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the northern part of the town between the parklands of Cyfarthfa Castle and Penydarren House<sup>3</sup>. These later developments contained even larger and more prestigious properties.

The two terraces of Union Street must have been one of the later developments. The 1876 Ordnance Survey Map shows only the single terrace of numbers 1 to 11. The 1881 census records both terraces but seven of the twenty-three properties were uninhabited, (numbers 3, 6, 7, 15, 16, 17 and 18), indicating that the development of the street was barely finished in 1881.

The census returns for number twelve clearly shows that the occupiers in the early years were part of Merthyr's 'middle' class:

3<sup>rd</sup> April 1881 – Margaret PRICE, retired publican

5<sup>th</sup> April 1891 – James JONES, decorator

31<sup>st</sup> March 1901 – Thomas GUNTER, boot and shoe dealer

2<sup>nd</sup> April 1911 – Thomas GUNTER, boot and shoe dealer

(Thomas GUNTER was the manager of the Leeds Boot Warehouse, no 33 Victoria Street<sup>4</sup> and was a leading figure in both the Merthyr Chamber of Trade and St David's parish church.)

The ground floor of my Grandparent's house comprised of the traditional front parlour, a back room with window looking onto the garden and a back extension of kitchen/scullery. All three rooms were heated by coal fires, the one in the kitchen having the traditional Victorian cooking range and were connected by a wide hallway, from which the staircase lead up to the three upstairs bedrooms. The bathroom was in the extension over the kitchen/scullery comprising of a bath and wash hand basin, although, quite spacious there was no toilet. The WC was outside at the far end of the garden, a novelty for me as I lived in a council house on the Keir Hardie Estate, Twynrodyn, which had two toilets! As a small child staying overnight at my grandparent's house, use of the chamber pot kept under the bed took some getting used to.

---

<sup>2</sup> H. Carter and S. Wheatley, Merthyr Tydfil in 1851, Social Science Monographs, Number 7, p. 34, University of Wales Press, 1982.

<sup>3</sup> H Carter and C. R. Lewis, An Urban Geography of England and Wales in the Nineteenth Century, p.133, Hodder and Stoughton, 1990.

<sup>4</sup> Weekly Mail, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1906 – 'Bankruptcy, T. Gunter'.

My father's comment on not knowing where he would be resting his head each evening had some resonance with me when studying the 1939 Census. On the Census night of 29<sup>th</sup> September there were a total of eleven people residing in number twelve:

Caradog JONES

Margaret JONES

Jack Bailey JONES (my father)

Betty Bailey JONES (my aunt), and

Stanley HENDON, Journeyman baker, aged 20 years

Albert WHITLEY, Music Hall artist, aged 28 years

Thomas BONNY, Music Hall artist, aged 36 years

Eric RYAN, Music Hall artist, aged 28 years

George WILDER, Music Hall artist, aged 32 years

Thomas KEITH, Music Hall artist, aged 28 years

Charles SMYTHE, travelling stage manager, aged 29 years.

One of my grandparent's boarders that night, Albert WHITLEY, was the lead singer with the Teddy Joyce Orchestra. WHITLEY performed under the stage name of Tony LOMBARDO and was born in Wrexham in 1910; he died in his 'home' town in 1991.

For all that week from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September to Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September the Joyce Jamboree was appearing at the Theatre Royal, Merthyr Tydfil.<sup>5</sup> The 'Jamboree' comprised the Teddy Joyce Orchestra and several variety acts. Teddy JOYCE, real name Edmund CUTHBERTSON, was born in Toronto, Canada and came to Britain in the 1930s after a short career in the USA. Part of the pre-war 'Big Band' era, Joyce was known as "Hollywood's Dancing Bachelor" and the "Stick of Dynamite". However, Joyce's career was cut short, dying in Glasgow, February 1941, aged 36 years.

One can only guess where all these men slept at night, both downstairs rooms must have been jam-packed and some must have slept on the floor. The census does give us some insight into the kind of life these young men spent, with late night performances, makeshift accommodation, and constant travelling to contend with for weeks/months on end.

---

<sup>5</sup> - Merthyr Express, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1939.

# VISITING GRANDMOTHER'S GRAVE

Jill Morgan



I recently came across this photograph, probably taken in 1908, which is so clearly focused that the inscriptions on the gravestones can easily be read.

The left-hand headstone reads:

SACRED  
To the memory of John  
Son of Elias and Mary JONES  
Who died at Port Tennant Nov the 23 1838  
Aged 2 years & 10 weeks  
Also the above Mary JONES who died  
July 16<sup>th</sup> 1854  
Aged 37 years

These are not my family members, but I was drawn in by the reference to Port Tennant (in Swansea, where I live), and the fact that this didn't look like Danygraig, which would have been the local cemetery. I couldn't resist following it up! In the 1841 census Elias and Mary JONES are in Burrows Row on the east side of the Tawe with their young daughter Mary. They can then be seen in the 1851 census in Fabians Bay, St Thomas, with six children: Mary, John (obviously the second of that name), Llewlin, Ann, Elias and Ruth. Although the children were all born in Swansea, and Elias and

Mary (nee WILLIAMS) were married in St Mary's, the burials took place in St Catwg's, Cadoxton juxta Neath. This is where both Elias and Mary were born, and the headstone to the right of the photograph is for Elias' parents, John and Ann Jones. The one between is for Elias' brother Thomas who died as a young man.

According to stories posted on Family Search, around 1849 Elias and his brother John had converted to the 'Mormon' church – the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. They planned on emigrating, as new converts were encouraged to do, but Mary was reluctant as her health was poor. When she died in 1854 she left Elias with eight children, the youngest just weeks old. But about 18 months later Elias married Mary's widowed sister, Hannah, and in May 1856 the family left Liverpool aboard the *Samuel Curling*; Elias, Hannah, the eight children plus a daughter from Hannah's first marriage, and Elias' brother John. After the typical hazards of the journey across the American continent to the Salt Lake valley (sadly including the death of Elias' youngest daughter in Ohio), the family eventually settled in Spanish Fork, Utah Territory, with many other Welsh converts.

So much for the family whose graves appear in the photograph, but who were the young men pictured with them? The Family Search record of baby John provided the answer as the photograph appears in the *Memories* section of his record. They were William Albert JONES and David John EVANS.

William Albert Jones was the son of Elias and Mary's second son named John, and was born in Spanish Fork in 1878. From November 1906 to January 1909 he was in Britain as a missionary for the LDS church. He had been asked to go to the Eastern States, but in a letter dated 17 October 1906<sup>1</sup> he requests a change of assignment to serve in the British Isles. The reason for his request is his family connection: not only that his father would be pleased to hear news of relatives he hadn't seen for more than twenty years, but also so that he can gather genealogical information from the family. The LDS church encouraged missionaries to do this if they returned to their family's homeland, and they were generally allowed to travel some distance to do it. William Albert Jones wasn't assigned to work in South Wales so he was evidently following the church's advice when he was photographed next to his grandmother's grave in Cadoxton churchyard.

---

<sup>1</sup> W.A. Jones letter, Spanish Fork, Utah, to George Reynolds. Online at: <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/>



David John Evans, the young gentleman on the right in the photograph, was born in Ystalyfera to John Benjamin and Ann (nee LEWIS) Evans, both originally from Carmarthenshire. His parents had also converted to the LDS church and emigrated when he was a child. They too settled in Spanish Fork. David J Evans served as a missionary in Britain from October 1907 to February 1910, and may also have been visiting family to strengthen or renew family ties and gather his genealogy.



The full value of the 1908 photograph can be appreciated when it is compared with this recent shot taken from approximately the same spot. The Jones family headstones can no longer be seen, but their location was identified using two of the headstones pictured here – which appear in the background in 1908 (the one to the right was erected later).

Presumably the three Jones headstones have fallen in the intervening years and sunk into the grass. All the more reason to be glad that a young man not only visited his

grandmother's grave, but also left pictorial evidence of his visit.

*Editor's note: Member Terry Jones has offered to help with any member's research into relatives who emigrated to the US in the 19<sup>th</sup> century - contact editor for his details.*

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

**[www.facebook.com/groups/glamorganfhs](http://www.facebook.com/groups/glamorganfhs)**.

You can also follow us on **[www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)** –  
**@GlamorganFHS** or **@Cardiff\_GFHS**

# THE REVEREND GORONWY TALFAN DAVIES

#11208 JP Lethbridge

**Introduction.** My previous article was about Sir Alun Talfan DAVIES QC. Here I look at one of his older brothers the Reverend Goronwy Talfan Davies.

**Early Years.** Goronwy Talfan Davies was born on 22 December 1910 at Newcastle Emlyn, Carmarthenshire, the third son of William Talfan Davies a Calvinistic Methodist minister, and Alys/Alice Davies nee JONES. I looked at them in more detail in my previous article.

Goronwy was privately educated at St Michael's School in Bryn in Llanelli and studied at the University of Wales, Swansea, from 1929, graduating in 1932 with passes in Welsh, History and Philosophy. Whilst there he was its Plaid Cymru branch secretary: on Tuesday 9 December 1930 the *Western Mail* published a letter by him condemning the BBC's banning of a radio talk by Saunders Lewis, the *brilliant and worthy* Plaid Cymru leader.

In 1932-1933 Goronwy studied at the University of Wales in Aberystwyth and obtained a lower second-class honours philosophy degree. He then attended Chichester Theological College in Sussex in 1934-1935. This was an Anglo-Catholic High Church institution founded in 1838 by the Tractarian Charles Marriott. What Goronwy's Calvinistic Methodist father thought of him studying there is not recorded.

The Chichester Theological College Principal from 1933 to 1946 was Canon Charles Scott GILLETT (1880-1957) a Queen's College, Oxford, graduate and a classicist. He had replaced at Chichester Canon Herman Leonard PASS (1875-1938) who was appointed principal when it reopened in 1919 after the First World War. Canon Pass had converted from Judaism to Anglicanism and was a distinguished Hebrew scholar.

**Rhyl.** Rhyl, a parish in a seaside resort with many summer visitors, had four Church-of-Wales churches<sup>1</sup> - Holy Trinity the Welsh language church built in 1835; St Thomas's the English church consecrated in 1869; St John's built in 1895; and St Ann's consecrated in 1896. (St John's closed as a church in 1999 and is now a guest-house called Churchill House).

It was in Rhyl that Goronwy was ordained deacon in 1935 and became assistant curate at Rhyl from 1935 to 1939. He and five other men were ordained priests at St Thomas's Church on Sunday 22 December 1935 by Dr William Thomas HAVARD the Bishop of St Asaph. John Clement DU BUISSON, the Dean of St Asaph, was Presenting Chaplain. A sermon was preached by the Reverend William Glyn SIMON (1903-1972) the Warden of

---

<sup>1</sup> The Church of Wales was disestablished in 1920 under the Welsh Churches Act, and has since been known as the Church In Wales

Bangor Church Hostel who rose to be Bishop of Llandaff and Archbishop of Wales.

The Vicar of Rhyl from 1935 to 1954 was the Reverend Richard Henry ROBERTS (1884-1970), of Keble College, Oxford, who had been ordained a priest in 1909. He was a curate at Llandeilo Fawr from 1908-1914, Vicar of Llangennech 1914-1920, Vicar of Bettws with Ammanford 1920-1935, and Archdeacon of St Asaph 1942-1959. At Rhyl he had replaced the Reverend David EDWARDES-DAVIES (1897-1950), a Durham University graduate, who was appointed Vicar of St Mary's Swansea in 1934, and rose to be Bishop of Bangor.

Goronwy's fellow curates at Rhyl were: Thomas Brynmor DAVIES (1910-1981); William Arthur DAVIES (1911-2006), a Lampeter graduate who rose to be Rural Dean of Denbigh; John Thomas JAMES (1909-1980) a Lampeter graduate; Arthur Edward JONES (1902-1985) a Lampeter graduate; Edward Harries JONES (1916-2007) a Lampeter graduate; and Gruffydd Layton JONES (1910-1947) who later worked in India and died of liver cancer in London on 25 June 1947 aged thirty seven.

The Reverend Griffith John Roberts (1912-1969) was a notable assistant of the Reverend Richard Henry Roberts: he had studied first at Pwllheli Grammar School, then at Bangor University where he studied Hebrew, and where he converted from Calvinistic Methodism to the Church in Wales, and at Lichfield Theological College. He was a Welsh language poet and broadcaster and won the Crown at the 1947 Colwyn Bay National Eisteddfod.

On 20 April 1938 Goronwy Talfan Davies, twenty-seven, had married Elsie TAYLOR, thirty-two, at Holy Trinity Church in Rhyl. Her parents were John Taylor a gardener and Catherine Taylor nee LAMB. On Wednesday 1 May 1940 Goronwy and Elsie's first child, Kathleen Ruth Davies, was born. The *Western Mail* reported this on Saturday 4 May 1940 but it was not registered until 1 August 1940, possibly because of war-time disruption.

**King's Norton.** On 17 June 1939 the *Birmingham Post* reported that the Reverend Goronwy Talfan Davies, a Rhyl curate, had been appointed a curate of the medieval church of St Nicolas in King's Norton in Birmingham. On Sunday 29 October 1939 at a ceremony in Birmingham Cathedral the Bishop of Birmingham licensed Goronwy and seven other priests to serve in the diocese. Goronwy did much work in the Longbridge and West Heath areas of his parish, Longbridge getting its own church in 1958.

St Nicolas King's Norton is a medieval church in what was once a Worcestershire village. By 1939 it was a Birmingham suburb and due to be heavily bombed during the war because of the Longbridge aircraft and military vehicle factories. Its vicar from 1924 to 1948, Canon Thomas Shelton DUNN, was born in 1875, studied at Keble College, Oxford, was Rural Dean of King's

Norton 1925-1933, and was then appointed a Canon Emeritus of Birmingham Cathedral. He retired in 1948 and died in 1949 aged seventy three.

The Reverend Davies's fellow King's Norton curate the Reverend Wilbert Vere AWDRY was born in 1911; he obtained a third-class modern history degree from St Peter's College, Oxford, in 1932 followed by a diploma in theology from Wycliffe Hall, Oxford in 1933. He then taught at St George's School in Jerusalem; was ordained in 1939; and was a King's Norton curate from 1939 to 1946. He was married with a son Christopher and two daughters.

In 1943 Christopher Awdry had measles. To amuse him his father told stories about three locomotives, one of which was Thomas the Tank Engine. In 1945 the Reverend Awdry's children's book *The Three Railway Engines* was published. It sold well and became a series. He wrote other railway interest books, and was a railway preservation and model railway enthusiast. After King's Norton he held other livings but retired from full time church work in 1965 aged fifty-four to devote himself to writing. He died in 1997 aged eighty five.

**Wimbledon.** Between 1944 and 1946 Goronwy became curate at St Mary's in Wimbledon in South London. The Vicar of St Mary's, Wimbledon, and Rural Dean of Wimbledon from 1932 to 1945 was Canon Arthur Henry PHELIPS, a graduate of Hertford College, Oxford, who had held various livings including a curacy at King's Norton in 1902-1903. He died in hospital in Worcester on Monday 21 November 1960 aged eighty-five of pneumonia fifteen days after he broke a leg in a fall en-route to a service in Pershore Abbey in Worcestershire, and was replaced by Norman HOOK (1898-1976) who studied at Durham and was Vicar and Rural Dean of Wimbledon, and a canon of Southwark Cathedral from 1945 to 1953. Canon Hook was Dean of Norwich Cathedral from 1953 to 1969. He had several theological books published including *Holy is his name – Studies in the Problem of Evil* (1957).

The Reverend Davies's fellow Wimbledon curates included its curate-in-chief from 1942 to 1948 Edward George ASHFORD (1907-1976), a Wadham College, Oxford, graduate, who in 1948 was appointed Vicar of St Nicolas, King's Norton, a living he held until 1965; William Charles DEW (1876-1950) who had been a missionary in South Africa; Harold Barnett JOHNSON (1910-2001) an Exeter College, Oxford graduate; and John Gaston Cornell THISTLE (1916-1988).

**Palestine.** On 1 October 1946 the Reverend Davies was commissioned a British Army Chaplain to the Forces, just before the birth of his son, Peter Francis Talfan Davies, on 31<sup>st</sup> October in Wimbledon. On 2 January 1947 he left for Palestine, arriving on 8 January 1947. He was attached to the British Army East Palestine Headquarters, where he suffered a bone fracture from which he was medically discharged on 2 March 1948. He was then appointed an Honorary Chaplain to the Forces.

**Reigate.** In 1948 the Reverend Davies was briefly curate in charge of St Philip's Church in Reigate in Surrey which opened in 1863. A local benefactor George PHILLIPS paid for its building and endowed it. He reported to the Vicar of St Mark's, William James Henry FENTON (1901-1979), an Exeter College, Oxford, Modern History graduate who was vicar of St Mark's from 1946 to 1950. In 1957 the Custodial Trusteeship of St Philip's was transferred to Rochester and Southwark Diocesan Church Trust; and the St Philip's Parochial Church Council became its Managing Trustees. St Mark's is still officially the local parish church.

The Reverend Davies was followed at St Philip's by the Reverend George Arthur GRENIER who was born in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 1888, ordained in 1916, and spent most of his church career in India, coming to Britain in 1946 when Indian independence had been agreed. He was at St Philip's until 1954 when he was appointed Vicar of Outwood in the Surrey Weald. He died in 1973 aged eighty-four.

**Ambleston and St Dogwells, Pembrokeshire.** Later in 1948 Goronwy was appointed Vicar of St Mary's in Ambleston and St Dogfael's in St Dogwells in central Pembrokeshire. Both churches are medieval and lie near the border between Welsh North Pembrokeshire and the 'Little England beyond Wales' of South Pembrokeshire. He replaced the Reverend William George MORGAN (1913-1975) a Lampeter and Selwyn College, Cambridge, graduate who had been appointed Chaplain of Pentonville Prison until 1961 and had been on duty at several hangings including those of Timothy Evans and John Christie.

On Wednesday 4 February 1953 the *Western Mail* reported that the Reverend Davies had accepted his nomination by the Church in Wales Provincial Patronage Board to the benefice of Miskin in Llandaff Diocese. He was replaced by the Reverend Gwilym Ivor THOMAS (1920-2005), a Lampeter graduate, who held this appointment until 1962 when he moved to Llansantffraed where he stayed until he retired in 1985. From 1978 to 1985 he was Rural Dean of Glyn Aeron in Cardiganshire which includes Aberaeron.

Ambleston church has closed as a church and is now a private residence. St Dogwells church and the nearby Spittal and Tregaron churches are now in a three-church parish.

**Miskin.** Goronwy Talfan Davies was Vicar of St David's, Miskin, Glamorganshire, from 1953 to 1957. It opened in 1907 replacing a corrugated iron church that opened in 1878.

In 1957 he was appointed Vicar of St Beuno's, Bettws Cedewain. He was replaced at Miskin by the Reverend William Glyn LEWIS (1915-1987) a Lampeter graduate who remained at Miskin until 1963.

St David's, Miskin, is now in the three-church parish of Llantrisant, where the Royal Mint is based. Its main church St Illtyd in Llantrisant is early medieval and a seat of learning for early Christianity.

**Bettws Cedewain.** From 1957 to 1976, when he retired, Goronwy Talfan Davies was Vicar of Bettws Cedewain, a Montgomeryshire village in Powys. The parish included two hamlets, Highgate and Brooks. St Beuno's church was probably founded about AD 600 by St Beuno.

The Reverend Davies replaced at Bettws Cedewain Canon Archibald BADGER (1884-1963) a Lampeter graduate who was Vicar of Bettws Cedewain from 1928 to 1957, Rural Dean of Cedewain from 1941 to 1957, and was appointed a Cursal Canon of St Asaph's Cathedral in 1952. A cursal canon had no specific responsibilities but was a voting member of the cathedral chapter.

The Reverend Davies was in 1976 replaced by the Reverend Robin Harry FAIRBROTHER who was born in 1944. He had studied at Wells Theological College, was ordained a priest in 1970, and died in the Haute Garonne in France in 2018 aged seventy three.

**The End.** The Reverend Goronwy Talfan Davies died aged sixty-six, on 13 January 1977 at his Rose Hill, Oxford home. The authorities were told of his death by his son Peter Francis Talfan Davies, a radio broadcaster. The funeral was held on Saturday 29 January 1977 at St Beuno's, Bettws Cedewain. The Reverend Davies left £12,828. His widow Elsie died aged a hundred, on 28 September 2005 at her Bridport, Dorset home.

**Acknowledgements and thanks.** *For the above information I must thank Lambeth Palace Library in London; Birmingham Central Library; Surrey History Centre; Swansea and Aberystwyth University archives; Nia Morris at St Asaph; Michael McEvoy at Rhyl; Ruth Hockly at Bettws Cedewain; Margaret Trafford of the Golden Cap Team; the Royal Army Chaplain Corp.*



### **Dead Dobbins Dirge**

The Cambria Daily Leader, 23 December 1914

*'Mumbles Men Abandon "Marie Llwyd" this year – They've Joined the Army'*

*The boys that have hitherto provided the bodyguard and those who in the natural course of things would have succeeded them, are no longer in the village.*

*Mumbles has yielded its quota to the King and Country – 250 of its sons are now with the colours. And among these are nearly the whole of the party who helped in the song. Nor is it impossible that in some training camp or base the old song will echo this Yuletide, to astound the ears of strangers with the song which tells the lifestory of poor Dobbins.*



# A HAWKER'S FAMILY IN 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY WALES

#8653 Barrie Jones

For many of us with South Wales ancestry it is almost inevitable that we will have some non-Welsh forebears. From the 1880s the expanding South Wales coalfield was a strong focal point of internal migration within Britain. Such was the influx of immigrants to the Welsh coalfields, that next to the United States of America, Wales can boast the second highest rate of immigration in the decade before the First World War. Over the previous centuries internal migration was not unusual, for example, during the 1850s and 1860s some one and a half million people left the rural areas in Wales and England, with two thirds moving into the expanding towns and industrial districts, the balance emigrating overseas<sup>1</sup>. The census of 1851 recorded that more than fifty percent of England's population were residing in its towns or cities, making it the first industrial urban nation.<sup>2</sup>

Migration tended to suit single young men and women seeking employment opportunities away from their family home. However, an example of someone much older who was willing to seek better prospects elsewhere from the busy city of Bristol, for him and his expanding family was Abraham BAILEY (1804-1881). The following is the story of the Baileys journey into South Wales, extracted from the census returns.

Abraham was a hawker of earthenware and at first may not have been interested in migrating from his home city. In October 1826 he married Hannah BARRETT (1808-1827) in the parish of Saint George's, Bristol. Sadly, the marriage was short lived with Hannah's death in February 1827 following the birth of twin daughters; Hannah (1827-1909) and Sarah (1827-1849). Abraham was soon to marry Mary Ann SWEET (1805-1880) in the parish church of Saint Peter and Paul's, Bristol on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1829. Three more children followed over the next twelve years: Abraham (1836-1913), Eliza (1837-1916) and Elizabeth (b 1841).

Sometime after 1841 Abraham made the trek to South Wales, following the traditional route across North Monmouthshire and North Glamorgan, now the 'Heads of the Valleys' route. I assume that the attraction was the expanding market arising from the numerous iron manufacturing sites along the northern rim of the south Wales coalfield. His first stop was Brynmawr, Breconshire, where two more children were born: Thomas (1847-1901) and Harriet (1850-1925). In 1851 Abraham and Mary with four of their children; Abraham junior, Eliza, Thomas, and Harriet, were living at Beaufort Street, Brynmawr.

---

<sup>1</sup> - Gwyn A. Williams, *When Was Wales?* Penguin Books 1985, p.178.

<sup>2</sup> - Tristram Hunt, *Building Jerusalem, the Rise and Fall of the Victorian City*, Phoenix, 2005, p. 4.

Whilst at Brynmawr Abraham's two eldest children were married: Eliza married Benjamin SAINT (1830-1881), at Llanelli parish church, Breconshire, on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1857, whilst Abraham junior married a local girl, Margaret HARRISON (1841-1912) also at Llanelli parish church, on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1858. Benjamin was from Charterhouse, Somerset, and joined the Bailey 'firm' as a hawker also. Both couples quickly started a family. Eliza and Benjamin having daughters Hannah (1858-1873) and Mary Ann (1860-1863), and Abraham and Margaret having a son Abraham (1859-1861).



Sometime in 1860 Abraham senior and his entire family made their final move into South Wales, establishing a china shop at number 6 Victoria Street, Merthyr Tydfil. The shop was in the heart of Merthyr's

shopping centre and was large enough to house all of Abraham's extended family. The overcrowded premises may have been the reason Abraham junior's second son, Thomas Henry (1864-1938), was born at Beaufort Hill, Llangattock, Breconshire, on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1864, perhaps, this was Margaret's family home. Abraham senior's family was to increase further with the marriages of his other children; Thomas marrying Jane BURNS (1844-1909) from Swansea on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1867 at Merthyr Registry Office, and Harriet marrying Frederick WILSON (1843-1905) from Bristol on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1872 at Vaynor parish church, Breconshire.

Despite running the shop, Abraham continued hawking together with his two sons and two sons-in-law. A better term for 'hawker' would be 'costermonger' with a variety of goods sold from horse drawn carts. The census returns show that over the years they sold fruit and fish as well as earthenware. Abraham senior must have been a determined businessperson as highlighted when he fell a foul of the Dowlais Market Act 1838.<sup>3</sup>

Abraham was charged by James EDWARDS, lessee of the Dowlais Market, with selling earthenware in the public streets of Dowlais. The case came before Mr J FOWLER, magistrate at the Merthyr Police Court, on 21<sup>st</sup>

<sup>3</sup> The Dowlais Market Act allowed the building of a central market with restrictions on street selling in the neighbourhood of the market.

December 1863. Abraham maintained that he had a right to sell when and where he liked, as he held a hawker's license to take goods about by horse and cart. If not allowed, then a hawker's license was a sham. Mr FOWLER believed possession of a license was not an exemption from the act, Hawkers are licensed to hawk for door to door. Thus, the question of whether they can stand in the street and sell, is open to doubt. However, he would consider Abraham's defence and deliver his decision in a week.<sup>4</sup> After several adjournments, the case came before Mr FOWLER once more on 11<sup>th</sup> January 1864 when he judged that the law was against Abraham, and fined him 1s and costs, though he did not agree with it, and would represent the case to a higher power.<sup>5</sup>

The china shop venture could not have lasted long as in 1871 we find Abraham senior living nearby at 19 Upper Picton Street, Caedraw, with his son, Thomas, and daughter Eliza living next door at 17 and 18 Upper Picton Street, respectively. Indicating that the 'firm' was still a family affair. Abraham

junior was living at 6 Isle of Wight, Caedraw, with his occupation listed as peddler. By 1881 the 'firm' were still together but had moved a short distance away; Abraham senior, now a widower, was living with Harriet and Frederick at 27 Bridge Street,



while Eliza and Benjamin, and Thomas and Jane were living at 26 and 25 Bridge Street, respectively. In the meantime, Abraham junior was living at 7 Picton Square, Caedraw, but had changed his occupation to haulier.

Following Abraham senior's death in August 1881 the 'firm' began to split, for in 1891 they are no longer living in proximity of each other. Only his two sons remained employed as hawkers. Abraham junior was living at 32 Bridge Street selling fish, while Thomas was still at 25 Bridge Street selling fruit. Thomas died in February 1901 and Jane continued to live at 25 Bridge Street until her death in February 1909. Thus, only Abraham junior continued with the family trade of hawker with none of his sons: Thomas Henry (1864-1938),

---

<sup>4</sup> The Cardiff Times, 25 December 1863, p.8, and The Merthyr Telegraph and General Advertiser for the Iron Districts of Wales, 26 December 1863, p.3.

<sup>5</sup> The Cardiff Times, 15 January 1864, p.6.

Stephen (1870-1951) and Charles Henry (1877-1954) following in the family trade.

Harriet and Frederick WILSON had moved further away to the other side of the river Taff at 40 Iron Lane, Georgetown, operating as a cab proprietor. In November 1905 Frederick died and left the business to his sons; John Frederick (b 1873), Abraham (1884-1914) and Charles (b 1888-1941), while Harriet stayed at 40 Iron Lane using the premises as a livery stable.

Benjamin SAINT had died in November 1881. Eliza must have been imbued with her father's business gene as by 1901 we find her running a news agency from 17 Wellington Street. Even in 1911 at the age of seventy-three she is still in business with the assistance of her granddaughter Margaret Jane DENOVA, nee PRICE, and Margaret's husband Reginald DENOVA (1877-1947)

Abraham junior's eldest son, Thomas Henry BAILEY, is my great-grandfather and the Bailey business gene seemed to have passed over him, spending most of his working life as a labourer. However, Thomas's daughter Margaret Ann JONES, nee Bailey (1898-1979), my grandmother, must have inherited the Bailey entrepreneurial gene instead. To augment the family income and help purchase the family home, 12 Union Street, Thomastown, Merthyr Tydfil; she took in boarders, mainly 'travellers' and 'theatricals'. (*Ed: See Article 'Full House' page 9*).

As a small boy in the 1950s I can still recall seeing costermongers selling fruit and vegetables from horse drawn carts, but soon afterwards this kind of business was replaced by the motor van. It is interesting to note that during Covid lockdowns street selling motor van services returned, albeit for a brief time.



## THE FORMATION OF THE GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY IN 1841

Tony Peters, Glamorgan Archives

*"I will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lady the Queen and the office of the Constable for the County of Glamorgan".*

It is a moot point as to when the Glamorgan Constabulary was first formed. Arguably it dates from the appointment of the first Chief Constable, Charles Frederick NAPIER, on 11 August 1841. More realistically the force was formed with the swearing in of the initial batch of recruits at Bridgend Town Hall on the 23 October 1841. The original documentation used at the swearing in ceremony is held at Glamorgan Archives. It was used to both administer the oath and to record the signatures of the recruits. The

ceremony was overseen by the Chief Constable, Capt Charles Napier, the four recently appointed Superintendents and local magistrates. The document would have been handed to each man who was then required to take the oath, inserting his name in the first line.

*"I ... do swear that I will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lady the Queen and the office of the Constable for the County of Glamorgan according to the best of my skill and knowledge. So keep me God."*

Each man then signed the record. Although Napier had secured funding for 34 Sergeants and Constables only 30 were present on that day and the force was brought up to strength through further recruits sworn in and recorded on the same document over the following weeks. Recruitment drew, primarily, from ex-servicemen well versed in military drill.

Glamorgan Archives holds a number of photographs of members of the Glamorgan Constabulary in this period and it is possible that one of the photographs, of Police Constable Thomas THOMAS, may well be the same Thomas Thomas who took the oath and signed his name on 23 October. The photograph shows Thomas wearing a blue, belted, swallow tail jacket with silver embossed buttons. The jacket also had a high collar, embroidered with constable's number in silver. Thomas is pictured holding the standard issue stove pipe top hat reinforced with metal stays to provide protection. Although not shown in the photograph,



he would have worn navy blue trousers and boots in winter and white trousers in the summer. This uniform was the standard issue for the Glamorgan Constabulary for the next decade until the swallow tail coat, which provided a useful concealed pocket in the tail for the constable's truncheon, was replaced by a frock coat.

In one sense the decision to create a county force was a natural development of the powers provided in the County Police Act 1839 to set up and fund such a force. However, the decision also needs to be set against the rapid

increase in population in parts of south Wales, driven by the expanding iron and coal industries. At the time, policing was the overall responsibility of the local magistrates. They appreciated that a police force was needed to keep basic law and order in areas such as Merthyr, where the population was increasing at an unprecedented rate. They were also deeply concerned by the potential for unrest and challenge to the established order posed by new movements and, in particular, the Chartists, seeking basic rights for the working man.

By the mid-1830s many areas, including Merthyr, Bridgend and Aberavon had begun to appoint their own police forces. This was a recognition that the traditional patterns of policing based on the annual appointment of a man from each parish as an unpaid local constable were no longer sufficient to deal with the strains on society brought about by industrialisation and the movement of labour. To fund the new force the County Magistrates had agreed that:

*“... a Police Rate of £800 be raised within the several Districts of the County for the purpose of the Police.*

Nevertheless, despite the recognised need for a dedicated police force, this would have been quite a contentious issue given the general reluctance to impose new taxes. In particular, the rural areas saw this as a tax imposed on them to fund the policing of the new and rapidly expanding towns.

After conducting a tour of the county, Chief Constable Napier proposed that Glamorgan be divided into four districts – Merthyr, Newbridge, Swansea and Ogmore. There is no doubt that he was very aware of where his force faced its greatest challenge and the Merthyr district was allocated 12 of his 34 men, leaving the other districts thinly policed. He also underlined the poor state and, in some cases, complete absence of suitable accommodation for his men. A central part of his proposals dealt, therefore, with the need for the construction of a station house and cells in each district.

The fact that his proposals were accepted without amendment underlined the extent to which the magistrates saw the new force as essential in a period of rapid industrialisation. After the swearing in ceremony was complete the new force was housed at the Bridgend Workhouse and provided with a period of basic training. It was, therefore, not until the latter half of November 1841 that the new Glamorgan Constabulary took up its district responsibilities, no doubt operating from existing or temporary premises while the new buildings were put in place. However, all in all, it was a remarkable achievement to create and deploy the new force in a matter of months, and the Glamorgan Constabulary was soon attracting national attention for its success in solving several high profile cases.



*Ed: For further information including a list of those swearing the oath at the Old Town Hall, Bridgend on 23 October 1841 see Baker, ER 'The Beginnings of the Glamorgan County Police' in Glamorgan Historian, Vol 2 p.40-52. Copies available in most local libraries and at Aberkenfig Resource Centre.*

*Because we all love lists of names we have added the names of those swearing the oath below.*

*By 6<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> November those listed 31 to 35 were also sworn in to replace those that had already fallen by the wayside or had not come up to scratch.*

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. William COLLIS   | 19. William JAMES      |
| 2. John LOOSEMORE   | 20. John JAMES         |
| 3. Philip BANNER    | 21. John PRICE         |
| 4. John MILLWARD    | 22. Peter BEST         |
| 5. Evan DAVIES      | 23. William FAIR       |
| 6. Hopkin HOPKINS   | 24. William THOMAS     |
| 7. James HUME       | 25. Blyth HUME         |
| 8. John JONES       | 26. George JONES       |
| 9. William JENKINS  | 27. Thomas JONES       |
| 10. William BOWYER  | 28. Thomas THOMAS      |
| 11. Thomas DAWKINS  | 29. Edmund PHILLIPS    |
| 12. William EDWARDS | 30. Peter WRIGHT       |
| 13. James JARRETT   |                        |
| 14. George PIM      | 31. Valentine SHERVEY  |
| 15. Richard REES    | 32. Thomas MAJOR       |
| 16. Henry WRENN*    | 33. John KING          |
| 17. Robert ROBERTS  | 34. David LEWIS        |
| 18. John THOMAS     | 35. Alexander ANDERSON |

*\*By 1851 Henry Wrenn (aged 33) was Superintendent of Police at Merthyr Tydfil where he remained in 1861 living with his wife, Emma, and young family. By 1871, aged 52, he is the Governor of Cardiff Gaol, Emma is Matron and one of his children, is a Clerk, his other four children are Scholars all living at the Gaol.*

# THE GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY IN LATER TIMES

#2124 Gwenda Lanagan

The Home Office formed the Glamorgan Constabulary in 1841 absorbing the Neath Borough police in 1947. By 1965 the Force had an establishment of 1153, making it the largest police force in Wales.

Its first Chief Constable, Captain Charles NAPIER, who held the office from 1841 until 1867, was followed by Henry Gore LINDSAY (1867 to 1891), Lionel Arthur LINDSAY (1891-1936), Joseph JONES (1936-1951), and Cecil Haydn WATKINS from 1951).

In 1969 the Constabulary amalgamated with Cardiff City Police, Swansea Borough Police, and Merthyr Tydfil Borough Police to form the South Wales Police.

In the early 1990s my husband was Staff Officer to Chief Constable LAWRENCE, and he came across this recruitment poster which he thinks was found when the Chief's secretary retired and her desk was cleared.

We are not sure of its date, but it must be before the amalgamation, and of course the differing payscales offered to men and women is an echo of the past, hopefully!

## 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](mailto:info@genealogyprinters.com)



OFFERS AN ATTRACTIVE CAREER IN THE POLICE FORCE TO YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN OF GOOD CHARACTER AND EDUCATION AND OF SOUND PHYSIQUE. POLICE WORK COVERS A VARIETY OF INTERESTING DUTIES & AFFORDS OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL, SPORTING & RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.



CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR CONSTABLES INCLUDE

POLICEMEN

£6.6.6. RISING TO £7.13.4. AFTER 10 YEARS WITH FURTHER ADVANCES AFTER 15 & 22 YEARS TO £8. 1. 0.

POLICEWOMEN

£5.11.2. RISING TO £6.18.0. AFTER 10 YEARS WITH FURTHER ADVANCES AFTER 15 & 22 YEARS TO £7. 5. 8.

WEEKLY PAY

ACCOMMODATION

FREE QUARTERS, OR HOUSES, OR A GOOD RENT ALLOWANCE.

UNIFORM

PROVIDED; AND A BOOT ALLOWANCE OF 2/6 PER WEEK.

LEAVE

18 DAYS ANNUAL LEAVE ON FULL PAY; COMPENSATORY LEAVE IN LIEU OF DUTY ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

PENSION

HALF PAY AFTER 25 YEARS SERVICE INCREASING TO TWO THIRDS OF PAY AFTER 30 YEARS.

QUALIFICATIONS

POLICEMEN

OVER 19 AND UNDER 30 YEARS.

AGE

POLICEWOMEN

OVER 22 AND UNDER 35 YEARS.

5FT 9INS WITH PROPORTIONATE WEIGHT AND CHEST MEASUREMENTS.

MINIMUM HEIGHT WITHOUT SHOES

5FT 4INS.

THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROMOTION WITH SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN PAY IN THE UNIFORM BRANCH AND IN SPECIALIST BRANCHES SUCH AS C.I.D., TRAFFIC PATROL, ETC;

# CADRAWD'S APPLES

#10573 Jean Fowlds

Thomas Christopher EVANS, known as CADRAWD, was born in 1846 in the Parish of Llangynwyd, near Maesteg, the son of the Parish Clerk, Thomas Evans. He later adopted, or was given, the pseudonym 'Cadrawd', meaning 'battle force', which was probably his bardic name - Cadrawd himself was the king of the little-known 6<sup>th</sup> century Brythonic Kingdom of Calchfynydd.

He achieved many accolades at Eisteddfodau and for his prolific writings on local history, perhaps the most well-known being the *History of Llangynwyd* in 1887, and his support of the traditional story of the Maid of Cefn Ydfa. His many publications can be found in the National Library of Wales, Swansea University, in Cardiff Central Library, and in the Museum of Welsh Life at St Fagans. As an antiquarian he filled his house, Ty Cynwyd, near the church in Llangynwyd, with artefacts from older times - also now in the National Museum of Wales.

He died in 1918 and is buried in Llangynwyd churchyard.

His collection of local folklore includes an enormous directory of apple species, so here are a few varieties that we never hear of today; no mention of a Granny Smith, Pink Lady, or Golden Delicious! (Afal = apple).

Afal Llwyd Morgannwg - Royal russet

Afal Madoc - a summer pearmain, possible named after Madog Fychain of Ty Iarll, from whom there are several 'cadets'.

Afal Coch Grynog yr Haf - a rounded red Summer apple.

Afal Coch Grynog y Gaeaf - a rounded red Winter apple.

Pipin Glas, or Pipin Herbert, known in England as the Kentish pippin.

Yr Hen Gymro, or Pipin Morgannwg, a speckled pippin - 'excellent apple'.

A celebrated apple for cooking was 'Twm Fawr', (Big Tom), which came from the famous apple tree in Llantrisant - a very sweet taste.

Afal Coed Helyg, and 'Afal Melus Bach, a small flattish early sweetening peculiar to Glamorgan.

There are many more that Cadrawd has listed, so for those interested in more information, please check the sites named above.

*Ed: By coincidence I am writing this on 22 October which is Apple Day and on Twitter there is an announcement about the new South Wales Record Society publication for 2022 due out by Christmas "The Commonplace Book of John Gwim of Llangwm (c1615-c1680)", Edited by Madeline Gray, Tony Hopkins and Alun Withey. A description of the propagation of apples and pears at Llangwm is included.*

# FROM THE ARCHIVES

(With the festive season in mind)

A recipe from the 1930s for those who like a tippie.

## Parsnip Wine

Wash 3½ lbs of parsnips (no metric then) but do not peel them. Put them into a large pan with 5 quarts of water. Bruise 2 oz of ginger and add to the pan, together with 2 lemons, sliced. Let it stand for 24 hours then boil the mixture until the parsnips are soft but not pulped. Stir in 2 lbs of sugar and let the mixture cool. Put 1 oz of yeast on a piece of toast and float it on the liquid, letting it work for 12 hours. Skim, and pour the liquid into a stone jar with ½ lb of raisins and allow it to work over before corking up. Let it stand for 3 months and then put into glass bottles.

This makes a splendid wine (we are assured), at little cost.

And to eat with this, a recipe for fig pudding, also from the 1930s.

## Fig Pudding

Ingredients:

4 oz suet, 5 oz breadcrumbs, 1 oz flour, 3 oz caster sugar, a little salt, 1 egg, ¼ lb figs, a little milk, 1 teaspoon baking powder.

Method:

Mix dry ingredients together. Add egg and enough milk to make the mixture fairly wet, and lastly add the baking powder.

Steam for 2 hours.

### PHOTOS: Inside Front and Back Cover:

Cardiff & Vale Branch - guided historic walk around Cathays Cemetery  
3 September 2022 with John Farnhill, Friends of Cathays Cemetery.

Inside Front Cover: Top: Catholic section including graves of boxer Jim  
Driscoll and Bishop Hedley

Bottom: One of the conservation areas which are cut back only once a year.

Back Cover: Top Left Edward Savage – Rorke's Drift Defender

Top Right: Mossford (Monumental Masons) Memorial which showcases the  
skills of their Masons to produce this perfect orb

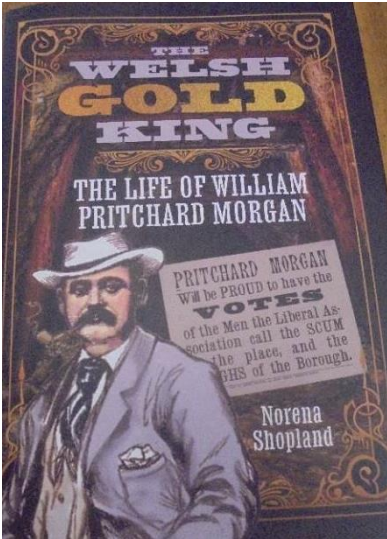
Bottom Left: John Henry Harding, a survivor of the Charge of the Light  
Brigade

Bottom Right: Major Jacques Vaillant de Guelis, MBE, MC,  
Croix de Guerres, d 7 Aug 1945, aged 38

## BOOK REVIEWS

### THE WELSH GOLD KING: THE LIFE OF WILLIAM PRITCHARD MORGAN Norena Shopland

Now largely forgotten, the name of William Pritchard Morgan was once known across much of the world – and particularly so in parts of Wales. Born in Usk and growing up in Newport, Morgan left Wales in his early twenties to begin a new life in Australia, where he qualified as a solicitor. His legal practice brought him into contact with Queensland's gold prospectors which led him to invest in several mines and mining equipment businesses, with varying degrees of success. Returning to Wales, he endeavoured to develop the exploitation of gold reserves in Merionethshire and, from 1888, he served as one of the two Members of Parliament for the then borough constituency of Merthyr Tydfil.



The author acknowledges that primary sources for Morgan's life are limited. But she has found a mass of material in contemporary newspapers, both here and in Australia. Quotes have also been sourced from Hansard, during Morgan's Parliamentary career. Indeed, Shopland tells us that, so myriad were his activities, a full biography would require several volumes. Detailed though it is, she describes the present book merely as an introduction to his life.

After a brief mention of his childhood, the first two chapters focus on Morgan's time in Australia. Then, and throughout his life, he appears to have been something of a 'Marmite' character, attracting support and friendship from some, while provoking animosity among others. And it was in Queensland that he first sought election (albeit unsuccessfully) to political office. He was clearly a master of self-promotion. When describing his activities, whether in the law courts or the gold mines, he invariably presented them with a positive spin.

The remainder of the book – with the exception of the final chapter – tells us of Morgan's activities after coming back to Wales. While there were ups and downs, he was bullish enough about the prospects for Welsh gold to forecast that he would pay off the National Debt! His election as a Liberal MP occurred against the background of a somewhat disorganised local party machine, but he retained sufficient local support to be re-elected twice. He was finally



defeated by Keir Hardie in 1900. As a Parliamentarian, Morgan argued strongly for a reduction in the royalties paid by gold miners, which was, of course, a matter of self-interest. He was, however, also to the fore in advocating Home Rule and Church disestablishment in Wales.

Alongside representing the electors of Merthyr, Aberdare and Mountain Ash, Morgan had retained his mining interests in Wales and Australia. He also expanded into China and Korea and it was particularly these concessions which occupied him following the loss of his Parliamentary seat – though he continued to involve himself in UK politics. After 1914, Morgan – who was now seventy - appears to have drifted into relative obscurity. He died in 1924.

Gold mining in Wales has, of course, always been on a relatively small scale and the book's final chapter tells us something of its more recent history, noting especially the Welsh Gold wedding rings which have graced the fingers of several members of our Royal Family.

This is a book which will appeal to several different interest groups. Firstly, it is invaluable to anyone seeking the story of William Pritchard Morgan himself. But it will also be useful to those wishing to research nineteenth century gold mining in Wales. And it offers a wealth of material for those interested in political history – particularly of the Merthyr and Cynon Valleys. As well as the usual index and bibliography, there are sixteen pages of source notes which should provide the serious student with plenty of pointers for broadening their understanding of the subject matter.

240 pages hardback, ISBN 9781399090605, £20.

Pen & Sword Books, [www.pen-and-sword.co.uk](http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk) 01266 734222,

47 Church Street, Barnsley, S70 2AS

*David Webb*



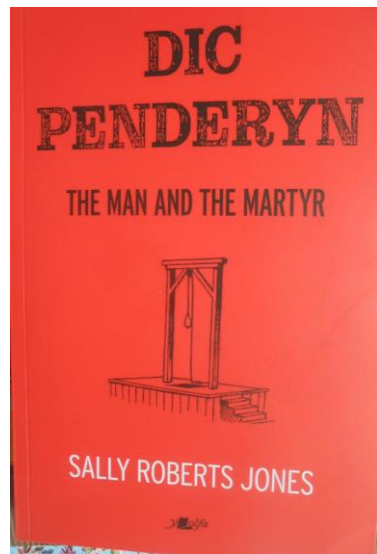
## DIC PENDERYN, THE MAN AND THE MARTYR

Sally Roberts Thomas

This book examines Dic Penderyn's life and history and how he came to be tried and sentenced to death after being accused of wounding one of the troops who had been sent to quell the Merthyr riots in 1831, the culmination of much unrest over the wage cuts and other bad working practices. The soldier died, and Dic was hanged in Cardiff gaol, protesting his innocence to the last. Forty three years after his death, in 1874, it was reported that a minister travelling to America had heard the deathbed confession of the man who had really carried out the killing.

Sally Roberts Jones has spent four decades researching the life and times of Richard Lewis, more well-known as Dic Pnderyn, who has been labelled the first martyr of the labour movement, the iconic figure of Welsh working class history.

Not much is known about Dic himself, other than he was married at a young age to Elizabeth who was older than he was, and had two children who died early. He was intelligent and knowledgeable, his education coming from his attendance at the Sunday Schools of the various non-conformist chapels he attended, and from the debating societies he joined when he was working in the mines, which gave him his political awareness.



The main strength of the book however is in the very detailed description and analysis of the working life and conditions of the period in Merthyr, Newport and Dowlais, which nurtured Dic's political development.

The author's description of the judicial system in place at the time is also particularly interesting: prosecution witnesses for example could be paid for court attendance whereas defence witnesses were not; judges and home secretaries had to placate great men, and juries were often timid and unwilling to show mercy or grant pardons.

For anyone interested in the early Labour movement or in Dic's life and times, this is very worthwhile book to explore.

There have been many attempts to right the wrongs of Dic's trial and sentence via letters to the press and campaigns to grant him a pardon, with the latest petition to the Home Office failing in 2016 because not enough signatures had been obtained. A new play, *Iniquity/Camwedd*, by the actor Stuart Broad was put on in Aberafan in 2021 and then taken to the Edinburgh festival this summer, all in the hopes of reviving the interest in Dic Penderyn and starting a new petition.

Paperback, 190 pages, Y Lolfa Cyf, Talybont, Ceredigion, SY24 5HE.  
ISBN 978 1 80099 184 2, £9.99

*Jean Fowlds*

## LETTERS/EMAILS TO THE EDITOR

### #732 *Christine Clark*

Mrs Rosa Jane JAMES, née WELLMAN, widow of Mr William Henry James, was my paternal great-aunt - her sister was my grandmother. I used to be in touch with Rosa's daughter Thelma but since she has passed away I have been wondering about the rest of the family. I know some family members are scattered far and wide but I would like to hear from anyone in the family so that we can perhaps share family history and photographs.

Rosa's father-in-law was a man gifted with his ability to write poetry. I never met Rosa or her husband as I did not know about them at that time.

### *Judy Turner*

I am a member of the Gwent Family History Society and have just written a short article for our magazine about the Usk Mile Swimming Competition in the 1890s in which my grandfather won a few medals. There are plenty of newspaper accounts of it, but my cousin remembers being told that our grandfather also swam in the Taff Mile competitions of the same period about which I have so far failed to find any details. I am wondering if any members of your Society could help.

**Son of Trefinfab**  
**MR. WILLIAM HENRY JAMES,**  
**ABERCYNON**

THE funeral took place at Abercynon Cemetery on Wednesday last week of Mr. William Henry James, husband of Mrs. Rosa J. James, West Street, Abercynon.

Aged 77, and a native of Aberdare, Mr. James came to Abercynon many years ago from Ynysybwl. He had suffered long periods of ill health and had not worked since 1925.

He was of a quiet nature but was well liked and respected.

He was a son of Trefinfab (the late Mr. Henry James), a well-known character at Aberaman and Ynysybwl, who was the first chairman of the Lady Windsor Lodge of the S.W.M.F., a position he held for many years.

A born leader of men he negotiated many important agreements between the workmen and the Ocean Coal Company.

Possessing much ability as a bard, Trefinfab contributed extensively to Welsh periodicals and was successful in many eisteddfodau.

Although his son William Henry, was deeply interested in local affairs, continued ill-health prevented him from taking an active part.

General sympathy is extended to Mrs. James, who is very well respected in the locality and other members of the family.

Officiating minister at the funeral was the Rev. G. E. Breese (Carmel Welsh Wesleyan Methodist Church), and the bearers were Messrs. C. Pulford, C. Williams, H. Price and G. Davies.

Mourners: Mrs. Rosa Jane James, widow; Major and Mrs. Islwyn James and Mr. Emyln James, sons; and daughter-in-law; Mr and Mrs. Richard Martin, Mr. and Mrs. E. Lloyd and Miss Thelma James, daughters and sons-in-law; Mrs. Dan Thomas and Mr. and Mrs. W. Jones, sisters and brother-in-law; Mr. and Mrs. Terence James, grandson; Mr. Tom Loweridge (senior), brother-in-law; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Mason; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Loweridge, Mr. Dan Cottrell, nephews and nieces; Mr. David Davies, uncle.

Mr. Mervyn Evans, Mr. Aneurin Evans, and other relatives and friends.

**Acknowledgment**

Mrs. James and family thank sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for kind sympathy, letters of condolence and floral tributes received. They also thank Doctors Anthony and Thomas and Nurse Wenna Morgan for faithful attendance during illness.

# SOCIETY NEWS & REPORTS

## ABERDARE/CYNON VALLEY BRANCH

There was no Branch Meeting held during August.

September we held our bi-monthly research and projects meeting. Projects are ongoing if any member wishes to join us in this work please contact me on e-mail address below.

Our AGM was held on October 13<sup>th</sup> where the following branch members were elected as Branch Officers and Society Branch Trustee for the next twelve months.

### Aberdare Branch Committee

Chairman:	Mervyn Pugh
Vice chair:	Robert Lake
Treasurer:	Martine Williams
Secretary:	Pat Rees
Programme Co-ordinator:	Haydn Williams.
Librarian:	Martine Williams
Membership:	Pat Rees

Pat Rees was nominated to represent our Aberdare Branch on the Executive Committee.

Following the AGM a very interesting talk was given by Mervyn Pugh on his "Family History Journey"

Pat Rees, [aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk](mailto:aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk)



## ABERKENFIG RESOURCE CENTRE

The ARC has continued to be available for bookings throughout the summer, and from September it has been opened as *open access for all* on the last Wednesday of each month between 10am and 2pm. So, please come visit us we would love to see you. Just a gentle reminder that there is now a £5 charge for research sessions of 1½ hour duration.

We now have the ability to Zoom from the ARC, by advance booking, so if a member is looking for a little local information or would just like to see/chat to some of our volunteers, we would love to set this up for you. Just contact us in advance - contact: [arc2@glamfhs.org.uk](mailto:arc2@glamfhs.org.uk).

We have once again had a sizable donation of books from two sources. These have not yet been catalogued but once they are some will be added to the library shelves and the remainder will be stored and offered for sale at our next Family History Fair.

The creating downloads of the monumental inscriptions are continuing, check our Genfair page to discover current availability: [www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk)

The publications library is in the process of being sorted and may be functional by the time you receive this journal. Many thanks for a small dedicated group of volunteers who have been helping with this, with over 500 publications it is no small task.



## BRIDGEND BRANCH

The September meeting for the Bridgend branch was cancelled at short notice as it was due to be held on the same evening as the Queen's funeral. The October meeting was also the branch AGM. This was followed by a very interesting talk from Processor Jeffrey Jones. The talk was about the history of Tondy Methodist Church. Jeff has been a member of the church for over 50 years and was able to outline the history from its beginning in the mid-19th century through to the present day.

As many branches are finding, it is becoming increasingly difficult to source good speakers. We continue to search for them but to relieve the pressure on our programme manager we will be offering research evenings on alternate months. A great opportunity for local members to advance their research. We also now have the facility to Zoom during these research meetings so if one of our members from further afield would like to get in touch in advance of a meeting we may be able to include you and source a little local information for you, just get in touch to discuss your needs.

As is our usual practice there will not be a December meeting and we ask that you check the website for information on meetings in the next year as with low numbers of members joining us, we may need to re-consider how/when we meet.

We wish you all a very merry festive season and a happy and healthy 2023.

Nadolig Llawen!

*Nancy Thomas, [bridgend@glamfhs.org.uk](mailto:bridgend@glamfhs.org.uk)*

# CARDIFF & VALE BRANCH REPORT

The Cardiff branch held their AGM on Tuesday 4 October 2022 online via Zoom. The Treasurer (Stephen Fairhurst) and Trustee (Jeremy Konsbruck) agreed to continue in post for another year. There were no nominations for other officer roles on the committee. Two committee members – Sue Hamer and Jane Graves – have stood down and one new member – Judith Thomas – agreed to join the committee following the AGM. There are currently eight committee members (including the branch treasurer and trustee).

After the AGM meeting there was a talk by Jeff Childs, a member of our Society, and an historian with dual interests, in South Wales and in Manchester. His topic, “The Peterloo Massacre August 1819”, had been researched in depth with many sources quoted. He introduced us to the characters involved in leading the intended peaceful gathering for electoral reform at St Peter’s Field, and those determined to prevent any outbreak of riotous behaviour. The ordering of a mounted armed charge into the crowd to arrest the platform speakers and disperse the 60,000 strong crowd resulted in 18 deaths and hundreds of injured innocent men, women and children leaving the nation shocked and horrified. Jeff gave us a virtual tour of Manchester and the key locations involved. Several members listening to the talk believed that their ancestors may have played a part in the ensuing trials as important witnesses. Thus the talk was a very insightful explanation concerning family and social history.

The branch will be resuming face-to-face meetings in November on a monthly basis on Tuesday afternoons at Glamorgan Archives. Dates and topics have been agreed for meetings up to March 2023. Some branch members – including some committee members – are unable to attend afternoon meetings so we will be asking members who attend the meeting in November to volunteer to help with organising future meetings if they wish these to continue. It is hoped that branch members who are unable to attend in person will continue to benefit from the talks offered by the new online branch.

We are considering the possibility of organising trips in the local area to places of historical interest and/or libraries and archives. This may include some venues within Cardiff, but also potentially further afield in Glamorgan.

The committee would like to express our immense gratitude to Jane and Sue for everything they have contributed to the branch, particularly over the past few years with setting up the online meetings that kept things going through the pandemic.

*Jenni Phillips & Karen Prior, [cardiff@glamfhs.org.uk](mailto:cardiff@glamfhs.org.uk)*

## MERTHYR TYDFIL BRANCH

After a break in August, the branch went back to Soar for an excellent talk in September.

Steve Brewer gave an informative and well-illustrated talk on non-conformity and the chapels of Merthyr Tydfil. Sadly, he had to limit himself to the town as covering all the chapels in Dowlais and the lower part of the valley would have taken all day!

On the second Tuesday of October (11<sup>th</sup>) we had our AGM, unfortunately, this was not as well attended. It was decided that we will have a good speaker after our AGM next year to attract members to the meeting. There was no change to our committee.

We had a surprising enquiry in the summer from an American whose ancestors were born as early as the 1680s in Merthyr Tydfil. Walter Mathew and his son visited Merthyr Tydfil and Glamorgan at the beginning of October to do research. If any members have a 17th century Charles Mathew in their family tree we would like to hear from them.

At last, we have discovered the identity of the Angus Lewis who took wonderful photographs of the railways in Merthyr Tydfil in 1921/22. He evaded us as he was in fact a Robert Patrick Angus Lewis from Hertfordshire! We were mistaken in thinking that he must be local.

Carolyn Jacob, [merthyr@glamfhs.org.uk](mailto:merthyr@glamfhs.org.uk)



## PONTYPRIDD & RHONDDA BRANCH

We are so glad to be able to meet again at the Pontypridd Museum. However, attendance has been poor, no doubt some members are still a bit nervous about getting together with others, owing to the remaining presence of Covid. Hopefully 2023 may be better. Fingers crossed.

We have had excellent speakers who have been well received. At our first meeting in June, David Maddox spoke on working women during both world wars, Keith Jones spoke on the Glamorgan Canal in July, then in September Dean Powell spoke on the history of Llantrisant. We have Alan James coming in October to talk about his grandmother's memories. He came to us a number of years ago and his talk was excellent.

Our AGM is to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> October and we are hoping for a better attendance than usual.



Lots of changes have been made to the Museum since the floods and the closure during Covid. This has meant a change of room and a more expensive charge for the use of the room and a storage cupboard. But we will survive.

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



## SWANSEA BRANCH

During the past year there have been no face-to-face meetings held. Our usual meeting place at Swansea Civic Centre remained unavailable and our meetings have been held via Zoom. A search for a new meeting venue which meets our requirements has proved difficult. Some progress has been made with the kind offer of accommodation at the Church of the Latter Day Saint's Church in Cockett. We have yet to make a decision on this matter. Before the Covid lockdown attendance was dwindling at speaker meetings. It seems to be the feeling amongst members that they are reluctant to attend meetings in the evening and that afternoon meetings might prove more popular.

We do not have a Programme Secretary at the moment and if speaker meetings are to restart this post needs to be filled. During the year we have held several meetings via Zoom. Sue Hamer inspired us to extend our research when she spoke to us about using online newspapers. A resource which is probably under used by many of us. Janet gave us a comprehensive talk in February on the History of Judaism in the Swansea Hebrew community.

Janet Neilson initiated a new idea for our branch by arranging two history walks in the spring which unfortunately were very poorly attended.

The Discovery Room at the Library in the Civic Centre is now available and we will be holding a Research and Help session on Tuesday Nov 1st between 2 and 4 pm. This meeting will be open to all. We will be able to use the Library's computers with access to online history sites including 'Ancestry' and 'Find My Past'. Beginners will be welcome. If it proves to be successful it is hoped to make it a regular event.

This year due to lack of volunteers, we have been unable to man a table at The History Day at the Maritime Museum or at the coming Book Fair at the Royal Institution. These events are important in promoting the activities of GFHS to the general public and are opportunities missed.

Once again we must appeal for members to come forward who are prepared to serve as post holders and committee members. For some time now we have been reliant on a few people, all of whom have been supporting the



branch for a good number of years. We must have new volunteers to secure the future for the branch.

At our AGM Janet Neilson resigned as Chair. No member was prepared to stand for election in this role, therefore the position of Chairperson remains unfilled. Julie Edmunds continues as Branch Treasurer and the other Committee members were re-elected including one new member. Janet has agreed to replace Jeff Coleman as the Branch Representative to the EC.

*C King, J Coleman & J Neilson, swansea@glamfhs.org.uk*



## ONLINE BRANCH

The Online Branch (Ar Lein) took over the organisation of the online events from Cardiff & Vale Branch from 1 September and the first two online events took place that month with talks by Jackie Depelle on Non-Conformity and Billie McNamara on the Community Trees on Family Search.

The Committee, which includes members from the USA as well as non-local members in the UK, meets online every other month and is currently planning two online events a month (a talk and a less formal Coffee and Chat) to take place on Thursday evenings. Further information about these events can be found on the Society's website, in the monthly Mailchimp Newsletters and on Eventbrite.

**September Talk:** Unable to find your ancestor in parish records? Well, don't despair - they were probably non-conformists, was the message from our speaker, Jackie Depelle at September's inaugural meeting of the newly launched online branch. She gave many ideas for researching the range of different denominations all included in her comprehensive handout. One top tip was using maps for looking at the location of chapels in the area in which they lived, some of which would have their own burial grounds. Jackie noted key dates in laws affecting religious worship, marriages and burials. Eighty five people joined this popular presentation with its colourful slides, including members from Philadelphia, East Tennessee and Kansas.

**September Coffee and Chat:** Billie McNamara took us through the advantages and some of the pitfalls of using Community Trees on Family Search. By sharing her 'trees' she highlighted the importance of always including sources for all events especially where they may be other online trees with incorrect connections which have been copied by others. Billie also showed how to find other useful material on Family Search and how to contact individuals that have 'gone astray' in their research.

**October talk:** Johnny Perl is a Swansea based website maker, self-confessed geek and genealogy enthusiast who has created a site called DNA Painter. He gave us a whistle-stop tour of the site demonstrating the different tools that you can use after uploading your DNA data. It has taken him 5 years to develop the site. It is free to use with no log-in required unless more than one tree is wanted in which case there is a subscription fee. There is a tool for visualising ancestral trees, text based or as a fan chart and it can be searched by criteria you choose eg occupation, city etc. (Ed: See example of some of the charts available inside back cover). There is also chromosome mapping facility and colour coding available. Already some members are trying it out and enjoying using it. Some of the useful charts that can be found on the website including a new tool called Dimensions are illustrated on the inside back cover.

The Coffee and Chat in October continued the theme of non-conformity exploring non-conformity specifically in Wales. We were very fortunate to have Darris Williams from Family Search with us who gave a clear talk on the practicalities of searching the online sites. "Don't take no for an answer " was his advice when searching indexes. If you don't find your relative try another site or database. He recommended the use the first series of Ordnance Survey maps to locate the chapels and emphasised the need to expand the search into adjacent parishes up to a 15 mile radius from the place of residence. Then you can locate any surviving chapel records in the relevant county archives or The National Library of Wales. Alongside this he mentioned Google Books and the Welsh Newspapers and Journals online sites for finding denominational news.

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](http://www.glamfhs.org.uk/online-events)

*Karen Prior, Jane Graves & Sue Hamer, arlein@glamfhs.org.uk*



## Society Treasurer – VACANCY

This is an important role being one of the four Society Officers and a Trustee.

For further information please contact: [chairman@glamfhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman@glamfhs.org.uk)

# LONDON BRANCH OF THE WELSH FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES

Firstly an apology that it is some time since our previous update. I hope you all had an enjoyable summer period and we look forward to hearing the feedback from those fortunate enough to visit the National Library in Aberystwyth in August. (*Ed: see also Glamorgan FHS member Karen Prior's account, below*).

## **AGM & Committee Roles**

At our AGM in May the existing committee members were appointed again for 2022/23. As previously indicated Anna Brueton intends to stand down as Chairman at the next AGM and we particularly asked for a volunteer to shadow this role over the next year to take over this role from the next AGM. Please would a volunteer step forward for this role. Anna advises that this is not an onerous role.

## **Future Talks - 2022**

You may recall we had planned to hold a London Walk at the end of last month/early this month but unfortunately for a variety of reasons this was not practical and time constraints meant we have been unable to arrange an alternative zoom meeting.

Our final meeting of 2022 will therefore take place via Zoom on 26 November at 2pm and I hope to circulate further details shortly.

If you are willing to give a future talk to the branch (either for part or a whole meeting) or would like to suggest future talks/ speakers, please contact me.

## **Publications**

Our Zoom meeting in November 2020 was a talk by Professor Steven King on "The contested New Poor Law in Wales". He mentioned a book was planned and I am pleased to advise that his book "In Their Own Write" is due out in December.

*Ed: Available from McGill-Queens University Press – [www.mqup.ca](http://www.mqup.ca).*

*Order direct to receive 30% discount by quoting MQF2 from Marston Book Services, [direct.orders@marston.co.uk](mailto:direct.orders@marston.co.uk).*

A reminder also that we have the following CDs available please contact Bill on [billgj@aol.com](mailto:billgj@aol.com) should you wish to purchase copies or access to the Welsh Debtors database.

- Jewin Welsh Chapel (Calvinistic Methodist) – baptisms 1837 to 1920
- Welsh contributors to the rebuilding of St Paul's

*Anne Jones, Secretary of the London Branch of the Welsh Family History Societies: email: [annee.jones@ntlworld.com](mailto:annee.jones@ntlworld.com)*

## **London Branch Visit to the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth – August 2022**

Although visits by the London Branch have not been possible for the past few years due to Covid 19 the week long visit to Aberystwyth staying in self catering accommodation is normally part of their annual programme and they are already planning next year's visit to take place mid-August. If anyone is interested in joining them please contact the Secretary, Anne Jones, above who will pass your details on to the organisers.

Comment from Glamorgan FHS Member #10808 Karen Prior who took part in the London Branch visit to the NLW this year.

*"It was a fantastic opportunity to visit the NLW last summer.*

*Being part of this group for a week, spending every day in the Reading Room working through my list of wants from the catalogue: chapel records, chapel histories, various society records and out of print books, was fascinating and fruitful for progressing my family history story. The library staff were helpful and supportive in tracking down an important but elusive photograph for me and producing a digital scan of it for my records. Evenings were spent in the amazing university student accommodation chatting over our findings and listening to each other's experiences. Of course, a stroll along the promenade in the summer sunshine to "kick the bar" was mandatory – can't wait for next year!"*

**Cardiff & Vale Branch Tuesday 7 March 2pm  
at Glamorgan Archives**

### **Tales from My Family**

Three Branch Members share their family history research.

If anyone would like to contribute please  
contact [cardiff@glamfhs.org.uk](mailto:cardiff@glamfhs.org.uk)

**Online Branch – Ar Lein – February 2023  
Armed Forces Stories**

A chance to share tales of your ancestors in WW1 or WW2.  
contact [arlein@glamfhs.org.uk](mailto:arlein@glamfhs.org.uk)

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

## **ABERDARE BRANCH**

[aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk](mailto:aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk)

Cynon Valley Museum at 2pm on the third Thursday each month  
8 December – A Christmas lunch  
12 January - Guest speaker: Hugh Williams, Merthyr Historian.  
'Rivalry between Merthyr and Aberdare'.  
9 February - Project and Research session.  
9 March – Guest speaker: Ann Watts topic TBC

## **BRIDGEND BRANCH**

[bridgend@glamfhs.org.uk](mailto:bridgend@glamfhs.org.uk)

Len Evans Hall (next to the ARC) at 7.30 pm third Monday each month  
December – No Meeting – Nadolig Llawen!  
Monday 16 Jan  
Monday 20 Feb  
Monday 20 Mar  
Saturday Library Help Sessions – 2023 Dates TBC

## **CARDIFF & VALE BRANCH**

[cardiffandvale@glamfhs.org.uk](mailto:cardiffandvale@glamfhs.org.uk)

2 pm at Glamorgan Archives  
Tuesday 6 December: HJB Mills Cardiff Photographer - Steven Rowson  
Tuesday 10 January – 'You're new to family history' How to begin plus latest updates online – Nick Davey  
Tuesday 7 February – Non-Conformist Records  
Tuesday 7 March – Tales from my Family\* - see page 44  
members to bring brick walls to meeting and collaborate on ideas for further research.

## **MERTHYR BRANCH**

[merthyr@glamfhs.org.uk](mailto:merthyr@glamfhs.org.uk)

Soar, Welsh Centre, Pontmorlais on the 2nd Tuesday of each month  
Tuesday 13 December, Xmas Talk: Carl Llewellyn – Title TBC  
10 January, Nick Heuvel, Hieroglyphics  
14 February, St Valentine's. We will have a meeting dedicated to love and marriage in Glamorgan, TBC  
14 March, John Harry Hammond Spencer (1807-1870)  
and the mysterious case of identity fraud – Barrie Jones

## **PONTYPRIDD & RHONDDA BRANCH**

[rhondda@glamfhs.org.uk](mailto:rhondda@glamfhs.org.uk)

7 pm at Pontypridd Museum  
December – No Meeting – Nadolig Llawen!  
Tuesday 17 Jan  
Tuesday 20 Feb  
Tuesday 20 Mar

## **SWANSEA BRANCH**

[swansea@glamfhs.org.uk](mailto:swansea@glamfhs.org.uk)

2pm at Discovery Room, Swansea Central Library,  
Oystermouth Road, Swansea, SA1 3SN  
Tuesday 6 December  
Tuesday 3 January  
Tuesday 7 February  
Tuesday 7 March

Open to the Public. Swansea Branch volunteers will try to help with Family History queries. Queries may be emailed to [research@glamfhs.org.uk](mailto:research@glamfhs.org.uk) a week or so before the session to give volunteers something to work on, even for those unable to attend in person. Contact [swansea@glamfhs.org.uk](mailto:swansea@glamfhs.org.uk) or [research@glamfhs.org.uk](mailto:research@glamfhs.org.uk) for further information about the venue, facilities etc.

## **ONLINE BRANCH (Ar Lein)**

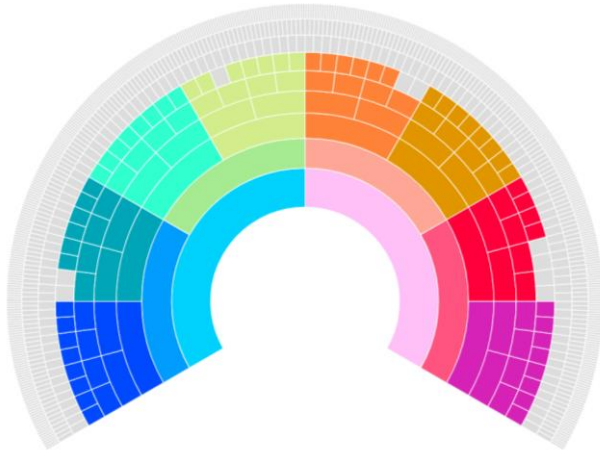
[arlein@glamfhs.org.uk](mailto:arlein@glamfhs.org.uk)

Online Via Zoom

7.30 pm Thursday 15 December – Family Search Update - Darris Williams  
7.30 pm Thursday 19 January – Education and Ragged Schools Records  
at the SOG – Else Churchill  
February – CWGC Archives - date TBC  
Coffee & Chat – Armed Forces Stories - date TBC  
7.30 pm Thursday 9 March: Putting your Ancestors in their Place –  
10 steps to a One Place Study – Dr Janet Few  
7 pm Thursday 23 March – Coffee & Chat 'One Place Studies' – Darris G  
Williams\* & one other

**For more information and register for our online talks on Eventbrite:**

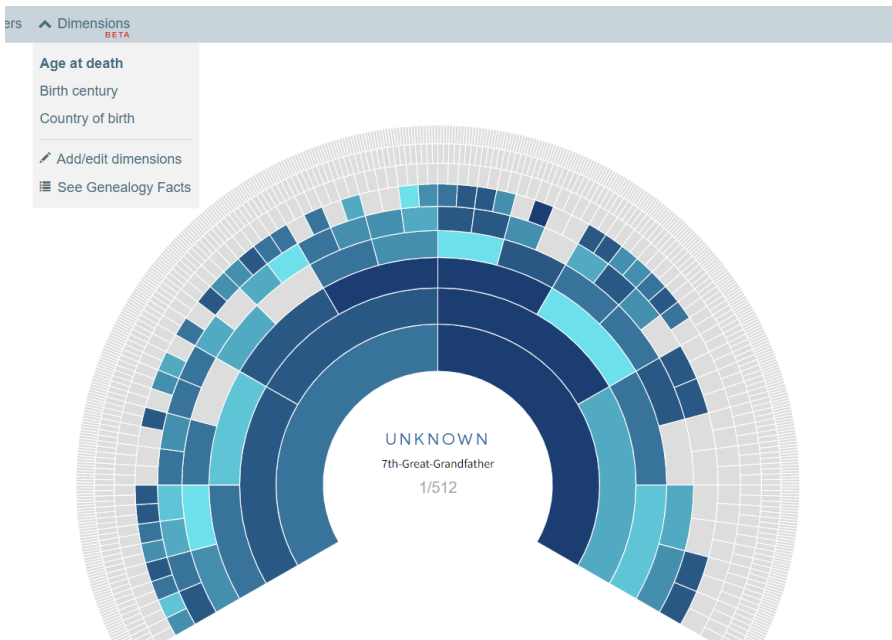
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/online/glamorgan-family-history-society>



### DNA PAINTER – Online Talk October 2022

Above: interactive and downloadable fan chart showing 9 possible generations including where there are gaps. Produced from an uploaded Ged Com file. Colours can be used for identification of matches/chromosome mapping etc. Other colour palettes are available.

Below one of the Dimensions criteria – Fan Chart produced from uploaded Ged Com using Age at Death as the criteria. Gaps focus subsequent research. Images with kind permission of Jonny Per/DNA Painter







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