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



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June 2024



Presentation to Jane Jones retiring after 15 years as Society Secretary with husband Meic

Our new Secretary, Penny Williams, chatting to visitors at The Family History Show, Three Counties Showground, Malvern



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Booklet: Society Financial Report and Accounts & Volunteer Questionnaire

Society's Objectives

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As a registered charity the main objectives of the Glamorgan Family History Society are to: encourage and stimulate research into genealogy and allied subjects with particular reference to the historic county of Glamorgan: to assist members in their private research; encourage the transcription and preservation of records of family history and the deposit of original documents of value in approved repositories; publish papers of genealogical value and interests; establish, to mutual advantage, relations with other organisations interested in genealogy and allied subjects; maintain a library and regularly publish a journal. The journal is the official publication of the Glamorgan Family History Society. Articles appearing in the journal may not be reproduced without the written permission of the Editor. Views expressed in articles and letters are not necessarily those of the GFHS.

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EDITORIAL

Croeso! Welcome, to our Summer edition of the Journal, with much of interest to entertain and inform. We asked for family stories about those who had left Wales to start life elsewhere, because there have been so many who have done that, and it's so good to know that families have kept or searched for the information that keeps these epic adventures alive. There are some unforgettable stories contained here: from people who have gone to America and beyond, to Australia and to Jamaica, encountering all kinds of adventures and misadventures and meeting notable characters along the way. Even the book featured in the Review Section tells of Joseph Jenkins, who went to Australia in the 19th century and then came back, becoming an Australian icon in the process.

As contrast we have some more local stories, with requests for help, and a reminder of the early days of the Society, when there was no home to go to! Trish Righton writes of these early days, and how the ARC came into being. We start with this, as it is a further acknowledgement that our society is 50 years in existence, and we will be collecting up all your reminiscences of those early days to be published in the near future.

John Lethbridge has sent a biography of David Williams, a Swansea man, later MP, with numerous connections to the people and places he lived and worked with, many we would still recognize.

We also include a useful article by Deborah Russell, who has written of her experiences of transcribing (or not) the gravestone inscriptions of St Michael's church in St Michael-y-Fedw - some very helpful hints for future recorders.

All in all, I hope that you will find something within that interests and excites you, and which will inspire you to make your own contribution to the records of this society over the next 50 years!

No special topic for September's issue, but please keep the stories coming, and meanwhile, I hope your Summer is pleasant, warm and sunny.

Jean Fowlds, editor@glamfhs.org.uk

Don't miss the 'Cut-Off Dates'

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

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

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru Stand – 3-10 August

The stand at Ynssynsgharad Park, Pontypridd has been booked. Volunteers are requested to help during the week. You do not need to be a fluent Welsh speaker. We are aiming to provide 50th anniversary merchandise/information about the Society to hand out to visitors as well as selling our publications, second hand and new books and providing a look up/research help service.

If volunteers would like a Society polo shirt please let us know your size as soon as possible so that we can order a supply.

Aberkenfig Resource Centre – Volunteers needed

Our Resource Centre at Aberkenfig also needs volunteers to help run its twice monthly sessions on a Wednesday and once a month on a Saturday morning. We need two volunteers minimum per session to open. We will be holding Awareness Days to help volunteers familiarise themselves with the resources at the ARC – keep a look out for the dates in the Newsletter, on our Website and Facebook Group.

Having enough volunteers to effectively run the Society is an ongoing issue. We have a number of new Trustees this year who are gradually learning their new roles and taking some of the 'hats' off current Trustees and Officers who have been covering more than one role for a few years.

Behind the scenes there are teams of volunteers undertaking administrative tasks such as processing the membership subscriptions, website and sale of publications. Each Branch also needs a group of volunteers to run their meetings and various local events.

We are focussing on the ARC volunteers as a priority this edition as that is currently being managed by a very small group of volunteers and if any of these are unavailable then we are not able to open.

See also Questionnaire on back page of the Report and Accounts booklet with this edition and page 7 for more information about how you can help at the Resource Centre. It does not need to be every month having a list of available volunteers we can call on if the usual volunteers are not available would help considerably. Please help us keep the Resource Centre functioning.

Sue Hamer, chairman@glamfhs.org.uk

FRONT COVER:

Tasmanian tombstones - see John Family Article

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

ABERKENFIG RESOURCE CENTRE
Hope Avenue, Aberkenfig, CF32 9PR

Second and Fourth Wednesday 10 am to 2 pm
Saturday once a month 10-12
See 2024 dates on inside back cover.

Information about the Resource Centre, its location and resources are also shown on our Website:

<https://www.glamfhs.org.uk/home/aberkenfig-resource-centre>

As you will read in Trish Righton's article on the next page the Resource Centre was set up in 2002 and contains the Society's resources which previously were stored in people's homes, under beds etc.

We have an **extensive library** of family history, genealogical and local history books including the **Gareth Hicks Collection** many of which are indexed on www.genuki.org.uk.

There are also **digital and paper copies of our Master Indexes** which cover the whole of Glamorgan including many **Non-Conformist records** as well as indexes compiled by other organisations including an index to some local civil registers. Our collection of members **family trees and pedigrees** is also indexed.

We shall be holding an **Awareness/Open Day in the Autumn** so that anyone interested in volunteering can learn what is available. Our ARC volunteers **do NOT need to be expert researchers** to help. We ask anyone booking to let us know their area of research as it may be that the query can be best answered by someone in one of our branches. We also have researchers available via Zoom. Being the **second volunteer** at the ARC and helping with some of the administrative tasks can mean the difference between the ARC opening on a certain day. The Awareness Day will also identify some of the admin tasks or projects that volunteers can support including scanning some of our paper resources into digital formats so that more than our members worldwide can share our ARC resources.

If you can help or need further information please contact us and help us to keep our Resource Centre open.

arc2@glamfhs.org.uk

THE ORIGINS OF THE ARC

(Aberkenfig Resource Centre)

#3588 Trish Righton

On retiring in 1997 one of my goals was “to do” the family history. Over the years I had had bits and pieces from my parents’ grandparents etc but how was I to progress? A flyer at my local library gave details of a 6-week course in Glamorgan Archives which were then situated in the Cardiff Civic Centre. Another flyer in the Archive advertised GFHS meeting in St Marks Church, Gabalfa.

I ventured there on the given night to a large hall with about 50 or more people in. There were various tables selling books, magazines, fiche CDs and one selling PR and MI booklets. What on earth were they?

A member, Maureen Bullows, was drumming up help for recording Memorial Inscriptions of the old parish churches in the Vale of Glamorgan. I volunteered and this started a weekly outing with other members to the appointed churchyard in various villages in Glamorganshire.

At this time the membership of the Society was growing, the resources were rapidly increasing and the storage and access to them were becoming problematic. They were kept in members’ homes, cupboards under beds etc and had to be taken each month to meetings.

The GFHS talked about the setting up of a resource centre as several other societies had done which would make access to these resources much easier for everyone. In due course two of us visited the resource centres of Bristol and Oxford Federation Societies and talked to their volunteers. We were encouraged to open a GFHS centre but needed to find a suitable building.

On one of the MI recording mornings Maureen Bullows announced she had heard of a room thought to be a possibility for the creation of a resource centre. We travelled back via this place and peered through the windows. It seemed to tick a lot of boxes. The room would be for the Society’s sole use. It was close to the M4, on a bus route, a train station nearby, and had free car parking. It was also roughly placed in the centre of the county. Ideal!

In due course a lease was taken out and the Aberkenfig Resource Centre (ARC) was born. The room was totally devoid of furniture but had its own toilet and access to a kitchen. Basic furniture, tables, chairs, shelving and drawers were needed. It was amazing how much unwanted furniture members had, together with several local schools which were getting rid of classroom furniture that was very acceptable. As time went by we were

able to purchase more appropriate furniture. Society money was allocated to buy a couple of computers, and a photocopier. Various members donated fiche readers. Books, Fiche, CDs, Parish Registers and Memorial Inscription booklets that had been kept in members' homes were brought to the ARC and would now be stored there and be accessible to members.

The ARC was officially opened by Lady Mary Teviot, President of the Federation of Family History Societies, in September 2002.

An extensive library was soon amassed largely from donations but also purchased when necessary.

At first the sale of booklets continued to be dispatched from a member's home, but was later transferred to the ARC.

The opening hours of the ARC were agreed by the volunteers initially on a trial basis. If my memory serves me correctly, we opened on a Monday evening for 2 hours and 10am to 4pm on Wednesday and one Saturday morning a month, to be manned by no less than 2 volunteers. This was later modified as the evening session was not popular.

The Executive Committee would also hold their meetings at the ARC and effectively it became the headquarters of GFHS.

The role of the ARC quickly grew. Family History had become a very popular and expanding pastime. More resources were coming online, and people were very keen to explore these. The Society took out a subscription to Ancestry which at that stage was a relatively new resource.

Open days and Fairs were growing in number and distance. GFHS attended 3-day events in London, Olympia, and weekends in places as far apart as York and Somerset, not to mention local fairs in Glamorgan and contiguous counties. Attendance at these events was big business for the promotion of family history and GFHS. The resources taken to these days had to be packed and accounted for. Lists were made and packing carried out and collected from the ARC. The sales of our booklets were huge at these fairs.

The ARC became well known for its helpfulness and available resources. The numbers of users increased rapidly, some came weekly or occasionally, others scheduled a visit in their holiday plans including from abroad, USA and Australia, just to name a couple.

The ARC had proved its necessity and has continued to evolve as the years go by. Nowadays people have easier access to family history resources at home but still come to the ARC for help and guidance and it continues to play a vital role in the Glamorgan Family History Society.

THE JOHN FAMILY: FROM WALES TO VAN DIEMEN'S LAND

Lee-Anne Simpson

My 4x great grandparents, Ann MATTHEW (1805-1848), and Richard JOHN (1802-1849) were married in the parish of Wick, in the County of Glamorgan on 6th September 1828. They made their home in the nearby village of Broughton where their children Ann (1829), Christopher (1830), Mary (1831 or 1832), William (1833), Sarah (1836) and Jennet (1838) were born.

Sadly, Mary died on 10th April 1835, aged 3, and Jennet died on 20th March 1839, aged 7 months. The girls' names are said to be inscribed on a headstone in the chapelyard of the Wick Unitarian Chapel.

At the end of 1839, the JOHN family would surely have heard of the infamous events of the night of 4th November when four thousand local chartists marched to Newport, to protest against the government. Zephaniah WILLIAMS was one of the leaders of the Chartist Rising. He, along with John FROST and William JONES, were arrested, found guilty of high treason, and were sentenced to transportation for life to Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania, Australia). Zephaniah's future endeavours in Van Diemen's Land would come to directly influence the future of some of the children in the JOHN family.

After Jennet's death, the JOHN family made the move fifteen miles northwest to Maesteg. Richard and Ann's third son, Thomas, was born in Maesteg on 28th January 1841.

Around June 1841 the census lists Richard, Ann and baby, Thomas, as being at Richard's parents' house in West St, Wick. Thomas John was now eighty-one and Ann John (nee GRIFFITH) was seventy-six. Ann (the elder) may have been unwell at this time as she died one month later on 21st July 1841. The other John children: Ann (11), Christopher (9), William (7) and Sarah (4) were listed on census day as living near the middle of the town of Maesteg. It is assumed that Richard, Ann and baby Thomas travelled back to their young family after Richard's mother's death. Richard's sister, Ann MORGAN (35), and her daughter Amelia (10) were living with Thomas JOHN and would have been able to care for him. In Maesteg, a year later, on 15th June, 1842, Richard and Ann welcomed their fourth son, David. Their fifth daughter and last child, Margaret, was also born in Maesteg on 27th July, 1845.

Tragically, Richard and Ann would soon lose another child. At fifteen years old, Christopher was working for the Llynvi Iron Company in Maesteg as a

haulier. On Monday 14th September 1846, he went to work as usual but was brought home after sustaining life threatening injuries after having an accident. He died from his injuries the next day. He was buried at the Wick Unitarian and Baptist Chapel graveyard near his little sisters.

Unfortunately, the family's hardships would continue, as at some point around this time the children's mother, Ann, contracted tuberculosis. She eventually passed away on 1st August, 1848. In August 1849, Richard and the family were living in John St, Maesteg when Richard contracted cholera. The children were finally made orphans when he died on 14th August. At age twenty, Ann was now the head of the family. A funeral was likely to have been arranged at the Wick Chapel where they are buried.



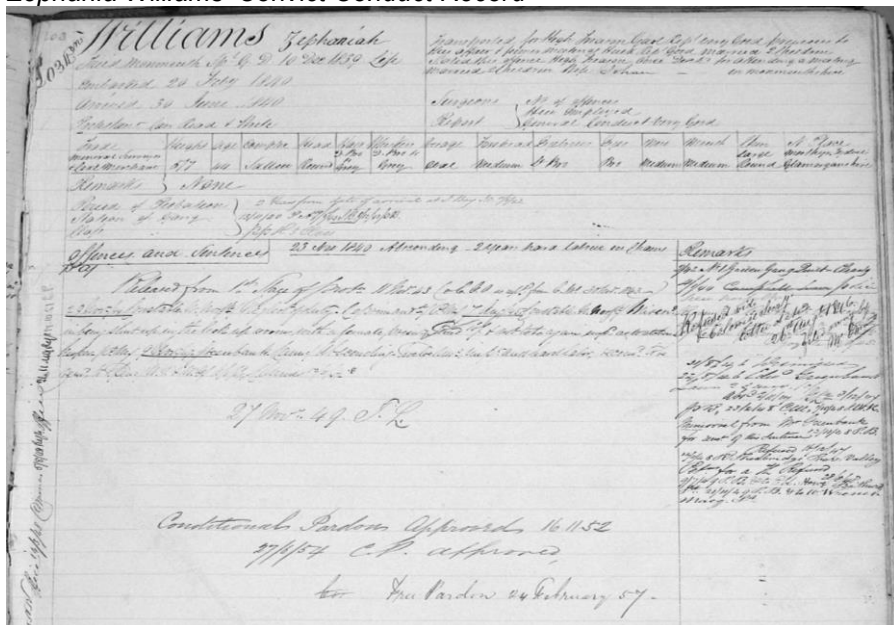
Two years later, the 1851 census records show that Ann (22), William (18), Sarah (14), David (8) and Margaret (6) were all still living together in Temple St, Maesteg. Ann was a housekeeper, William was a fireman, and Sarah, David and Margaret were at school. Thomas was not listed as being with them. Sometime after this census, Ann has met a sawyer named John JONES, and they were married on 24th September 1852 in the Carmel Chapel at Aberdare in the District of Methyr Tydfil.

Meanwhile, in 1849 in Van Diemen's Land, Zephaniah Williams (left) had finally gained his ticket-of-leave from prison, which allowed him to work anywhere in the new colony for wages. In Wales, Zephaniah had been a mineral surveyor and coal merchant and was interested in using these skills again. In early 1852, with an investor, he started a coal mine in New Town, just outside of Hobart, which was fairly successful. He was asked by the newly formed *Mersey Coal Company* to come to the remote north-west of Van Diemen's Land, to the river Don, to assess the potential value of the coalfield that had been discovered there in 1850. Zephaniah was impressed with what he saw, and after finding that the company did not want to have him involved in their venture, he decided to start one of his own. He sold his interest in his New Town mine and headed north to explore for more coal in the area.

He acquired 500 acres at Ballahoo Creek off the Mersey River and started sinking shafts by June 1852. He also gained his conditional pardon this month. He wasn't having much success and was finding it hard to retain workers to help him work the area. Many free settlers were heading to the gold fields in Ballarat, Victoria, and convict labour was unreliable. To

remedy this situation the Home Government offered assisted passages for free settlers, and the London Agency Association was formed at Launceston to recruit suitable colonists.

Zephaniah Williams' Convict Conduct Record



https://libriestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/names/search/results?qu=NI_NAME%3D%22Williams,%22&qu=NI_NAME%3D%22Zephaniah%22

In November 1853, Zephaniah wrote to his son, Llewellyn, in Nantyglo, Wales, and asked him to recruit skilled Welsh workmen to come and help him. The free passages were to be arranged by the London Agency Association agent in London. John Jones must have replied to the advertisement and managed to secure one of the sawyer positions within the group. He registered Ann as his wife and his young brother and sister-in-law, David and Margaret, as his children with the surname of 'Jones' so they were considered a family unit.

Zephaniah's competitors in the race for coal, the Mersey Coal Company, had the same idea that he had had, and they recruited some Yorkshire miners to come as assisted immigrants. This company chartered the newly built ship *Merrington* to leave from Newcastle Upon Tyne in 1854. The ship arrived in London to pick up Zephaniah's Welsh workers, as well as Zephaniah's wife and daughter, and left for Launceston, Van Diemen's Land, on 5th July 1854. The *Merrington* arrived in George Town on the Tamar River north of Launceston on 20th October 1854. The passenger list

includes John Jones (27), sawyer, Ann Jones (25), David Jones (13) and Margaret Jones (9). Zephaniah had instructed them not to travel overland to him but to transfer to the coastal barque, *Titania*. They all travelled around 50km west along the north coast on the steamer until they came to the Mersey River. The tide was out when the *Titania* arrived so the ship couldn't travel upstream. The travellers waded ashore with their luggage and were conveyed in a punt to Zephaniah's camp at Tarleton on the banks of the Ballahoo Creek.

Ann, John, David and Margaret would have seen a wild and mostly untouched land covered with dense forests of towering eucalyptus trees. However, Zephaniah had managed to build up a small settlement by Ballahoo Creek, Tarleton, in the previous two years. He had built a two-storey house for himself and his wife and daughter to live in, there was also a shop, a public house and he had started work on a row of wooden huts for the Welsh workers. These huts were being built from whatever materials could be found, including timber and flattened kerosene cans. This may have been less than what the Welsh families were expecting. The first thing the travellers did when they reached the settlement on Sunday 22nd October was to hold a prayer service to give thanks for their safe passage.

Despite Zephaniah's continuing endeavours and optimistic outlook on the eventual discovery of coal, and his promise of good fortune to all who would work for it, there were problems in the new settlement. Cash was scarce and employers were paying their workers in credit notes that could be cashed by publicans in return for a discount on alcohol. The consumption of liquor was a big problem amongst the settlers on the Mersey. It was also becoming clear to the new settlers that there was no coal of any quantity being found. By April 1855, most of the recruited Welsh workers decided to leave the area to seek better opportunities elsewhere.

Zephaniah did find coal in April 1855 (just after most of his workers had left him) and after mining it for four years, retired to become a publican in nearby Latrobe. He would stay in the area for the rest of his life.

Ann, John, David and Margaret moved to the far northwest of Van Diemen's Land to a new settlement called Duck River. There were only a handful of European families in there in the 1860s. Paling splitting was a profitable business at the time as Victoria's building and development flourished during the gold rush. Farmers also made a living from exporting potatoes to the mainland colonies. David John (now in his early twenties) was described as a splitter in early local records. However, in later records, he and John Jones would both be described as farmers.



Above: David JOHN and Emma WITHNALL

Below: A memorial to David and Emma on their original farm in Smithton, Tasmania.



David married Emma WITHNALL, the daughter of two English born ex-convicts. David and Emma had eleven children together in Duck River and eventually owned their own farm, located at what is now known as John St, Smithton, Tasmania. As well as securing his children's future through his farm, David also greatly contributed to the Duck River community. He, along with John Jones, James MALLEY and Charles INNES, organised and lead the first regular prayer meetings. David was said to have a beautiful singing voice. He was also entrusted by the local businessmen to act as a spokesperson for their Progress League. They would petition the Minister for Lands for improvements to the town. David also sent money to his sister-in-law, Ann, in Wales after the death of his brother, William, in a coal mining accident in 1869. In 1870, she wrote to him to thank him and this letter is still surviving here in Tasmania.

David and Emma would host, witness and register many of their own children's, and their neighbours', marriages, births, wills and deaths. They were highly respected and trusted residents of the district. David died on 16th July 1902, at sixty years of age. It is believed that he, and many of his relatives, were buried on his original farm (the headstones have now gone).



David's sister, Margaret, (left) married William CHAPMAN and had thirteen children. They went into business as bakers and eventually moved their family to the mining towns of Waratah and Zeehan. She died on 30th January 1917 in Zeehan, Tasmania. The newspaper reported that:

"She was a lady of a quiet retiring disposition, and much beloved by all who were favoured with her acquaintance".

Her great-granddaughter is currently in possession of some ceramic dolls which Margaret reportedly brought with her from Wales.

Ann and John Jones eventually became successful landlords, storekeepers and innkeepers in Duck River/Smithton and adopted Margaret's first child, Annie, to raise as their own daughter. Ann died there on 30th October 1897 and John died on 17th October 1904.

David and Margaret now have hundreds of Australian born descendants.

Editor's note: Lee-Anne Simpson has done extensive research into her family's fascinating history, and this is a shortened version of a longer article. This longer version can be passed to any interested readers by contacting the editor: editor@glamfhs.org.uk.

Zephaniah's family's memorial in Latrobe, Tasmania, Australia – see also front cover.



EVAN JOHN DAVID - FROM LLWYNYPIA TO MUSSOLINI

#1801 Clive Davies

Evan John DAVID was born on 11th April 1877 at 2 Rhondda Terrace, Llwynypia, Rhondda, the third of nine children. His parents, Rees Leyshon David (1843-1917) and Jane David (1848-93), were both born in Cwmavon. They had married in 1871 at Neath.

His maternal grandfather, great grandfather and great-great grandfather also bore his name. The great grandfather, Evan John David (1784-1846), from whom I am also descended, was Portreeve of Aberavon*. In the annals of the Aberavon and Margam Historical Society, he is described as "*much more competent than his popular namesake, succeeded Evan Jones as parish clerk in 1814, and later in life was portreeve of the town for many years*". He was also publican of the Angel Inn in Aberavon at his death from typhus in 1846.

The Portreeves of Aberavon were chosen at a borough court each Michaelmas, when the Constable of Aberavon Castle selected a name from a list of three submitted to him by the jury of burgesses. The burgesses were the civil dignitaries who virtually ruled the town. They were able to share out the best lands between themselves and direct the town's income towards themselves. These practices were much abused. For example in 1821 the Aberavon burgesses spent 12 pounds out of a total income of 40 pounds on their own entertainment. Burgess rights could only be perpetuated by the son or daughter of a burgess marrying the son or daughter of another burgess. This led to much intermarriage, both within the borough itself and with burgesses of neighbouring boroughs.

In later years, when the castle became ruinous, the office of Constable was merely a nominal one. In 1861, as a result of municipal reforms, the post of portreeve was abolished, the chief citizen of the borough being subsequently known as mayor. He continued to be elected annually until the Borough of Aberavon lost its identity when it was absorbed into the newly created Borough of Port Talbot in 1921.

Each portreeve received all the tolls of an annual fair for his own use in addition to every animal passing through the town - a penny for each horse, a halfpenny for each cow and a farthing for each sheep or pig. The Municipal Corporations Report of 1835 indicates that the total receipts were 40 pounds for the borough with a population not yet 1,000. £6 10 shillings of this amount was granted to the burgesses who attended the borough courts, most of this being spent on ale. On official business, the Portreeve always had the Sergeant at Mace in attendance. The other borough officials were the Recorder, Common Attorney, Hayward, Poundkeeper and Ale Taster. The

latter was probably a sought after position. Traditionally, the Portreeve and the Aldermen were regarded as the town elite, a special pew being reserved for them at the parish church.

Despite the grandiose title and trappings of office, most of the early portreeves were of humble stock, among them being farmers, labourers, butchers, innkeepers and carpenters. They had little or no knowledge of English and many were illiterate, signing their name with a cross. In the 1840s when the population rose rapidly to over two thousand, the portreeve and burgesses resorted to the indiscriminate issuing of licences for public houses in order to raise revenue. Alarmed that 38 such licences were granted in 1843, many to applicants who had been refused elsewhere in the county, the Justices of Neath unsuccessfully tried to curb the practice. In the ensuing litigation, the portreeve and corporation were alleged to be 'of low situation in life'.

Evan's paternal great-grandmother was Susanna John David (1787-1876), the sister of our esteemed portreeve, Evan John David (1784-1846). Her 1814 Aberavon marriage confirms this relationship despite her surname recorded as Jones.

*Rees LEWIS of this Parish, Widower and Susanna JONES of this Parish, Spinster, were married in the Church by Banns with **Consent of EVAN JOHN DAVID HER BROTHER** this Fifth Day of July in the Year One thousand eight hundred and fourteen, By Me John THOMAS, Curate. This Marriage was solemnized between Us: Rees Lewis X by mark; Susanna Jones x by mark.*

1851 census at Pant Du, Cwmavon

Susannah Lewis	Head	Widow 64		born	Aberavon
Leyshon David	Son-in-law	Widower 39	Collier	born	Pyle
Rees Davies (sic)		Grandson 7		born	Cwmavon

plus seven other grandchildren and a lodger

1861 census Kenfig Hill

Leyshon David*	Head	Marr 49	Hawker Tea	born	Tythegston
Hannah David*	Wife	Marr 36		born	Anglesey
Rees David	Son	Unm 17	Coal Miner	born	Cwmavon

plus seven other children of Leyshon David.

1871 Rees Davies married Hannah EVANS at Neath Registry Office

*'Davies' was frequently changed from 'David' on official records.

In 1880 Rees Leyshon David and his family migrated to Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, where many Welshmen were employed in the nearby mines.

The **1900** census finds the family at 54 Custer Street, Wilkes-Barre

Reese (sic) L David Head Born Oct 1843. Arrived USA 1880 Not employed. Can read & write

Mary Ann David Dau Born Jun 1872 Arrived USA 1880 Dressmaker. Can read & write

Sarah Jane David Dau Born Feb 1875 Arrived USA 1880 At home Can read & write

Evan J David Son Born Apr 1877 Arrived USA 1880 Reporter (Newspaper) Can Read & write

Other children: William David b. Feb 1882 Elevator Operator & Arthur David B. Jun 1889 Scholar Both born Pennsylvania. The other family members were born in Wales

**Mary David Mother-in-law b. Sep 1815 Arrived USA 1880 Cannot Read & Write*.*

Mary Thomas (1816-1902) (right) married Evan John David (1811-1848) at Aberavon in 1840.

On 17th December 1908 Evan J David, 25, **Cattleman**, arrived in Boston from Liverpool aboard SS Sachen. His address was given as 89 Egmont Street, Brookline, Boston. There were several cattlemen on the ship.

On April 28, 1911, he married Emma Sophia CLAUS (1887-1923) in Durham, New Hampshire. On the wedding certificate his given age was 29 and occupation, Professor.



During this period he published several books and articles on the burgeoning aviation industry including: *Aircraft: its development in war and peace and its commercial future*, by Evan John David, 1919.

By 1919 he had also become a supporter of the Republican Party despite his humble origins. He co-authored a book with Major General Leonard WOOD* bearing the ponderous title: *Leonard Wood on national issues, the many-sided mind of a great executive shown by his public utterances, comp. by Evan J David, with a foreword by Edward S. VAN ZILE*. Authors: Wood, Leonard, 1860, David, Evan J, 1881.

*After Theodore ROOSEVELT's death in 1919, many of Roosevelt's former supporters backed Wood for the presidential nomination at the 1920 Republican National Convention. Wood received the most votes on the

first four ballots of the convention, but the Republicans nominated Warren G HARDING who became the 29th president. Wood retired from the army in 1921 and was appointed Governor-General of the Philippines later that year. He held that position until his death in 1927.

1920 census for 119 Lincoln Street, Passaic City, New Jersey, showed:

Evan J David (34), author, living with his wife, Emma (32), brother Arthur David (32) and sister-in-law, Helen David (30). On 26 December 1923 Emma Sophia died at her birthplace, Lowell, Massachusetts. She was aged 36.

In 1926 he achieved a major scoop for his newspaper by gaining an interview with Benito MUSSOLINI, the Italian dictator. The US Ambassador, Henry FLETCHER, an avowed Republican and an admirer of Mussolini, would have been influential in facilitating such an interview.

From the New York Times 19 July 1929:

ROME, July. 18, Ambassador Henry P Fletcher's withdrawal from a diplomatic career has given rise to an exchange of cordial letters with Premier Mussolini in which each not only spoke of his regret at losing a friend in the other but spoke also of the work done for strengthening the ties which unite America and Italy.

Photograph right: 1926 Rome, Italy

Left to right: Courtney Ryley COOPER (1886-1940), Ambassador HP FLETCHER (1873-1959), Octavus Roy Cohen (1891-1959), Evan J. David. Cooper & Cohen were American writers.



Evan John David made great use of his literary skills to fashion a most diverse working life. On the back jacket cover of his 1940 romantic novel, 'As Runs The Glass', 312 pages, first published in 1940 by Harper and Brothers at \$2.50, was this description of his life:

The son of Welsh parents who migrated from the coal fields of South Wales to the mines of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Evan never saw more

than a few months of grammar school. His parents spoke Welsh at home and the boy went to Welsh church two nights a week and three times on Sunday, learning yards of the Bible in Welsh so that the only place I got English was in the streets.

At the age of ten he was paid forty-eight cents for a ten-hour day as a coal breaker and by the time he was twelve he was a full-fledged miner with a magnificent raise of twenty cents a day. He taught himself to read English from the library books he smuggled in the mines and smudged with coal-dust. He won prizes for two essays and eventually was employed as a cub reporter on the local newspaper. He also attended high school for a few hours a day. With the help of his meagre [sic] savings and a benefactor he was able to further his education at Exeter, Pennsylvania. He entered Harvard at last as a Freshman. He received his A.B. in 1907. Since then he has taught school and became head of the English Department at New Hampshire State College. He worked on a cattle boat going to England and spent four months bumming through Europe. He took his M.A. at Harvard and has worked as special correspondent on the Boston Herald and the New York Herald Tribune. He became the first Aviation Editor on the latter paper. He has written for magazines and dabbled in politics and publicity, and has published two non-fictional books.

A review of the book indicates that this was to be one of several potboilers that were his primary source of income in his later years. On Thursday February 10th 1944 the DAILY KENNEBEC JOURNAL of AUGUSTA, MAINE, described it as “*one of those rip-roaring, action-packed stories of love, villain, international intrigue and lurking death that women readers take into the kitchen and sewing room and to bed with them and pass it on smeared with flour and lint*”.

Evan's journalistic triumph was celebrated with his return to New York on 11th May 1926 as a first class passenger aboard the 'Leviathan', the world's largest liner. His address in Great Britain was given as Ritz Hotel, London and his age as 41. No occupation was shown.

On the **1930** census at *Lexington Avenue, New York*:
Evan J David, 43, Widower, Writer newspaper. Born Pennsylvania.
Father born Pennsylvania, Mother born Wales.

The 1940 census at *West 44th Street, New York* shows:
Evan J David, 52, lodger, Married, Writer freelance. Born Pennsylvania

Evan had a propensity to reduce his age on official documents and WAS inaccurate with his and his parents' places of birth.

His second wife was Shirley Mabel COLE (1915-1992). They were living in Westport, Connecticut from 1941 to 1946. No marriage date has been found.



c1953 The three David brothers and their wives: Left to right: Shirley & Evan John David, Alice & Arthur David (1888-1973), Bill David (1884-1972) & Dona May.

Evan John David died on June 10, 1961, in Castine, Maine, at the age of 84, and was buried there. He had no known children. In 1967 his widow, Shirley Mabel, married Paul Elliott ATWOOD (1903-1992) in Maine.

NOTE: I am indebted to my distant cousin, Mary SUTTON of New Jersey, for her research in the USA, and grateful to Port Talbot Historical Society, Aberavon and Margam Society, and for family records and photographs.

JENKIN COLLIER OF WERNDEW

#3661 Trevor Muir

Jenkin COLLIER was probably born in early 1829 and was baptised at St Brides Minor on 1 February 1829. His parents were Stephen Collier and Gwenllian POWELL and he was one of eleven children. Between 1841 and 1851 he lived at Werndew Farm in St Brides Minor. (Werndew is also recorded as Wern-dew and Wern Ddu).

In 1852 he left Wales, settling in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. In 1864 he married Alice Elizabeth BROWN and the couple eventually moved to a house he named Werndew in Irving Road, Toorak where he died in 1921. The house was designed in 1887 by Alfred DUNN, an architect based in Melbourne, and built for Jenkin Collier. Toorak has been described as

similar to the Park Street and Mayfair areas of London but more exclusive and expensive.

In May 1954 the Melbourne Argus described the house as one of the city's oldest "stately homes" with 30 rooms and many outbuildings. The furniture was to be offered at auction in July, and under the terms of the late Mr Collier's will, the National Museum may select some items for its furniture collection. Demolition will follow immediately.

A brother, William Collier, baptised at St Brides Minor on 3 April 1831, also went to Australia, marrying Anna Maria WILSON in Geelong before moving to Lisardagh, County Cork, Ireland. He died in Manchester, England in 1874.

Another brother, John was baptised on 29 March 1835 at St Brides Minor. I know nothing further about him other than that he died in January 1885 and is buried at Orange in New South Wales.

The other children all stayed in the United Kingdom.

To return to Jenkin Collier: he was a "pioneer railway constructor and pastoralist" who joined the Australian goldrush in 1852. Before leaving home he had studied engineering, and had also done some contract work, so not meeting with success on the goldfields, he started railway contracting and building large bridges. The principal lines he was connected with were the Bendigo-Echuca line in Victoria, and the Deniliquin-Moama and Orange-Molong in New South Wales.

For many years he was a director of the Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company. He also took an active part in the management of the Silverton Tramway Company, and for a number of years was a director, as well as holding a similar office on the Deniliquin-Moama railway and many other boards.

On the pastoral side he was a director of the Squatting Investment Company, owning Thurulgoona Station, in Queensland, soon after its formation in 1882. He was also a director of the Rocklands Pastoral Company, owning Rocklands Station, Camooweal, partly in Queensland and partly in the Northern Territory. The company went into liquidation, but was re-established as the Rocklands Station Proprietary Limited, of which he was again a director.

Another of his many interests is shown in what is probably the biggest concern of its kind in Australia, the Hoffman Brick and Pottery Works, Melbourne, which he established in about 1871.

Alice died in 1920 and Jenkin left his fortune to his four children. They

were Herbert (6 September 1866 – 27 September 1924), Alice (c 1863– 6 September 1950), Annette (1865 – 1947) and Edith (1869 – 1954).

I know little about Herbert's life. He married Alice TOLSON in Toorak on 29 March 1901. The couple had no children. The Melbourne Argus for Saturday 8 November 1924, page 32 has a short report on the director's report for the Hoffman Brick and Potteries Ltd. It refers to the death of Herbert Collier and states that he had been a member of the board for 25 years and chairman for 20 years.

The three daughters never married or had children. They all lived at Werndew and were all educated at Melbourne's Presbyterian Ladies' College.

They travelled extensively but lived an otherwise unpretentious existence, attending St John's Church regularly and spending very little of the substantial annual income that they received from the Collier estate. They gave generously to charity, but always insisted on anonymity.

The wills of Annette, Alice and Edith Collier - who died in 1947, 1950 and 1954 respectively - held that two-fourteenths of the Collier Charitable Fund's annual income be given to the Lord Mayor's Fund. By 2006, the Lord Mayor's Fund alone had distributed over \$30 million to various hospitals and charities using its share of the Collier money.

The Lord Mayor's Fund for Metropolitan Hospitals and Charities was officially launched at Melbourne Town Hall by Acting Premier Sir William MCPHERSON and Lord Mayor Sir John SWANSON on 14 June 1923.

Following Edith's death the house was sold at for £65000 and was demolished in 1955. The house was described as having 18-20 main rooms sitting in 3¼ acres of land. The area was split into 17 subdivisions for redevelopment. Some of the stained glass panels in the windows were designed by William MONTGOMERY; only one is believed to have been saved. William Montgomery was a British born designer who trained in the art of stained glass between 1864 and 1871.

There had been growing unease about the demolition of older buildings in the state of Victoria and in Melbourne in particular. The demolition of Werndew appears to have resulted in action to preserve buildings of architectural interest and a general interest in the state's heritage. It led to the establishment of The National Trust of Australia in 1956.

While there are no descendants from this branch of the family their legacy must be the change in Australian law and the establishment of their National Trust organisation.

Sources:

The information about Jenkin Collier is taken from the Pastoral Review, 16 September 1921 (Pages 703-4) published in Australia. The original can be downloaded from <https://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/collier-jenkin-236/text237>

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Melbourne Argus 12 May 1954

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<https://williammontgomeryartist.com/>

CORRECTION - point of clarification.- J153 March edition

My previous editorial in the March issue made reference to the article about James Hurley being lost and injured in the Rhondda Tunnel - in fact the tunnel referred to in the article is the tunnel carrying water from the Llyn Fawr reservoir near Hirwaun into the Rhondda through the Rhigos mountain, which was constructed by the Rhondda District Council from 1907. The Rhondda Tunnel, which is in the same head of the valleys area and which has plans to re-open, was the railway tunnel between Blaencwm and Blaengwynfi, opened in 1890 by the Rhondda and Swansea Bay Railway and run under the Bwlch mountain.

My thanks to Creighton Sims for pointing this out.

MY TREHARRIS MEMORIES

Charles Peter Howells

I have had sight of your magazine “Glamorgan Family History Society – March 2024” and on page 39 you have indicated that you would like to hear from anyone with a connection with TREHARRIS,

I and my 4 siblings were raised in Treharris, and whilst we do not live there any more we all have fond memories.

Our grandmother, Mrs Elizabeth LOCKE, lived in Fell Street and had many siblings, one of which was our mother, Frances Elizabeth Locke. Gran was a well-known person in Treharris and appeared many times on the TV show “Life begins at 80”.

My mother (born 4th December 1916) was one of many siblings and whilst the others moved away she stayed in the area, and on 10th July 1937 she married my father, David Henry HOWELLS, in St John's Church, in nearby Nelson.

They had 5 children, Valerie, Michael, Frances, Charles and David, all born between 1939 and 1945.

We lived in Penn Street, Treharris until my mother died, aged 28, and then we all moved to Webster Street, until my father died as a result of a coal mining accident at the deep Navigation Pit in June 1951, aged 34, so I was orphaned at 8 years of age.

Photograph not shown: *My father and mother with sister, Valerie, and brother, Michael, standing; my sister Frances is kneeling, and the boy shielding his eyes is me. My younger brother, David, is on my mother's lap; she died 2 months after this was taken, and my father died 6 years later.*

On losing both our parents we were then taken in by our auntie and uncle, Mr George and Mrs Phyllis WILLIAMS, at 15a Bargoed terrace, Treharris. Because we were so many and my auntie was a semi-invalid, we were all shipped off to a Boarding School in Surrey, where we stayed until leaving school.

I took up a job with the then Merthyr Tydfil Council, and in 1974 I transferred to Weymouth, where I am still resident after 50 years,

In 1966 I married Susan Margaret Diana ROBERTS, daughter of Huw and Kathleen Roberts of 7 Cilhaul, Treharris. Susan sadly passed away in Oct 2022, aged 77yrs. We had two boys, one born in Edwards Street, Treharris and the other in Weymouth, Dorset.

Despite losing our parents at a young age I have many fond memories of Treharris, and if anyone can remember our family I would be very pleased to hear from them.

Editors Note: If you can help please contact: editor@glamfhs.org.uk who will pass all information to Mr Howells.

Letters to the Editor

My name is Dr Matthew Kidd and I am Project Manager for [*Their Finest Hour*](#), a Second World War digital archive project based at the University of Oxford and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

We would like to invite you to the launch of the **Their Finest Hour Online Archive**, a unique collection of never-before-seen stories and artefacts from the Second World War.

Since 2022, we have worked with hundreds of volunteers across the UK to record and digitize over **25,000 newly uncovered stories and artefacts** from the war. These memories had previously been inaccessible to the public, and the objects were hidden away in people's lofts, cupboards and garages.

All the materials and stories associated with them have now been digitally recorded and preserved and will be available to view for free at theirfinesthour.org on **Thursday 6 June 2024**.

At our online launch event on **6 June 2024 (1pm-2pm)**, you will be guided through some of the highlights of the archive and discover the most unexpected, unique and significant memories and keepsakes passed on by the wartime generation.

To attend this free online event, please register at <https://theirfinesthour.english.ox.ac.uk/launch>.

I would be grateful if you could help us promote the launch of the archive by sharing this message with colleagues, friends and others in your personal and professional networks.

Many thanks, Matthew

Dr Matthew Kidd | Project Manager - 'Their Finest Hour'
Member of English Faculty, University of Oxford
E: matthew.kidd@ell.ox.ac.uk | **W:** theirfinesthour.org

FORTESQUE BROADBER: A MAN WITH A NAME

#169 Martyn J Griffiths

(Part 2)

Part 1 looked at the influential Neath families containing the unusual names of Broadber and Fortesque, and how they came to be linked and passed down. This part picks up with Fortesque, William Broadber's oldest son.

William's oldest son, Fortesque, was baptised in St Thomas's church, Neath in 1692, the first Broadber name to be found in any parish register. His father's success enabled him to be sent to the 'Welsh University' at Jesus College, Oxford, where he matriculated in 1710 and obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree four years later.

He was on the road to success. He was moderately wealthy, a man of property, and had an excellent education.

Shortly after his father's death he married and a steady production line of children ensued. He is described in some litigation of 1723 as 'merchant' but what that entailed is not clear, but possibly it was in relation to the iron trade.

In 1726 he appeared before the Court Leet. The record showed that he had "an open penthouse adjoining to the house where he lives". This was the former blacksmith's forge. Broadber had, over a period of two years, enclosed the penthouse (lean-to) with bricks and added it to the dwelling house, his actions making the street narrower.

He became involved in a number of legal tussles, but by 1729 he appears to have secured himself a position as agent for the Gnoll estate. In Glamorgan Archives there are five leases for the estate between 1729 and 1735, all witnessed by Broadber. This might seem rather odd considering his father's battles, but Sir Humphrey had died in 1727 and his son Herbert was more of a peace-maker.

When St Thomas's church was re-opened in 1731 Broadber was a signatory to the new seating plan and his family had three seats allocated. A list drawn up in connection with this shows that Broadber owned his own house in Wind Street and another in Water Street.

The rise and rise of Fortesque Broadber came to a juddering halt with his sudden death in late 1736. Normally when anyone of this period was seriously ill or expecting death a will would be rapidly put together, but Broadber did not make a will in spite of the fact that he had a wife and five young daughters, which suggests that he either died due to an accident or a seizure of some sort.

We are fortunate that an inventory was drawn up of his possessions. In there we note that his library of books was his most valuable possession at over £29 (worth nearly £3500 today). From another source we even have the title of one of his books, "*Theologia speculative: or, the first part of a body of divinity under that title. Wherein are explained the principles of natural and reveal'd religion.*" Not really bed-time reading! The man drawing up the inventory, George HUTTON, also explains that a spinet (small harpsichord) was not included as it belonged to Broadber's widow, was old and of little value, and was for her diversion.

With Fortesque's death the male line of Broadbers in Neath was extinguished.

JAMAICA

Having exhausted local archives, as a last resort I thought to contact the family history fraternity and a Fortesque Broadber turned up totally unexpectedly in Jamaica.

At the time of the alderman's death in Neath in 1722 only two sons, John and Fortesque, appeared in his will. There was however another son, William. He does not appear in the burial registers and nothing more is heard of him. The Jamaican descendants believe that by this time he had already settled in Jamaica. In 1721 a William Broadber, merchant, appears on his father-in-law's will, made on the island. There is no indication what kind of merchandise he is dealing in but given the dearth of iron-manufactured goods on the island, it is quite probable that he was using his family's expertise to establish himself as a trader.

The island had been taken from the Spanish in 1655. Charles II issued a proclamation six years later, advertising the island as "*being a pleasant and most fertile soyl, and scituate commodiously for Trade and Commerce*", and calling for people willing to "*Reside and Plant there*". As an incentive he offered 30 acres to any man or woman over twelve years of age.

In 1755 four brothers, William, John, David and Fortesque Broadber, almost certainly sons of the aforementioned William, took out land patents on the island. The patents were each for 300 acres in the north of the island. There were of course strings attached. They had to turn out if there was insurrection or invasion; they had to start a settlement on the land within six months and open ten acres every year for four years; keep four negroes for every 100 acres; and keep a sufficient number of white men proportionate to the number of slaves.

Life there must have been hard with many facing early death through diseases unknown in Britain. The Broadbers were not successful land-owners on the same scale as the PENNANT family from North Wales who had about a

thousand slaves on their four plantations. From Jamaican records the most that any Broadber held were sixteen slaves. They do not appear to have pursued plantation life and possibly they used their land for rearing cattle or cutting timber.

The Fortesque name continued to be handed down in Jamaica into the 20th century. The link with Neath may be seen as tenuous but given a Welsh DNA and the extreme rarity of the name it seems an almost foolproof connection to make.

If you are one of the thousands of Welsh people with a surname like JONES, EVANS, WILLIAMS or DAVIES, tracing your family tree can become a nightmare and I am sure you will agree that Fortesque Broadber was a man with a name! I wish he was part of my family.

My thanks to Alicia Hall (New York) and Erna Brodber (Jamaica) for enlightening me as to their Jamaican heritage.

RECORDING HISTORY – NOT EASY BUT WORTH THE EFFORT

#8442 Deborah Russell

I recently completed my first transcription project – monumental inscriptions for St Michael's Church in Michaelston y Fedw. What a learning exercise this was!

Firstly I had not considered that the original document which I was "updating" did not exist in an updateable digital format. (Being 64 years old, 1994 seems like yesterday!)

This led to online research to find:

- a) a tool that could transform a PDF file into an editable Word file and
- b) the best tool to draw the churchyard and monuments (which would be updateable in future).

For reference I chose Scanner Pro for a) and Powerpoint for b).

Glamorgan FHS provides guidelines for transcription projects which were very useful but I still learned a lot *on the job* which I thought might be useful to pass on:

- Draw/check the map first as you will refer to it constantly. I did not change the original grave IDs but did find that new graves had been added into a line of old graves. (I added letters to the ID so a grave inserted between C2 and C3 became C2a).

- Do Monumental Inscriptions in the summer! I did it in December and January when I had more time – but it was very cold and wet!
- What looks like an “f” could well be an “s” if on an old monument. Polish up on your old English.
- Is it necessary to transcribe the poems and bible quotes? I did because I felt they added meaning but it does extend the time and length of the document.
- It is not just the new headstones that need to be checked – people get added to old headstones, headstones get replaced, and just occasionally local knowledge can correct an error from the past.
- Headstones can be really hard to read, even some of the newer ones. You will need to make decisions. Do you record what you think it says (noting the uncertainty), or leave it blank but indicate there is something there?

I was driven by a desire to preserve history. The exercise made me realise how important this work is to genealogists and local historians because many of the inscriptions recorded in the existing Glamorgan FHS booklet in 1988 and 1994 are now unreadable.

Get involved! You will get a great sense of satisfaction when the transcription is complete, but don't expect it to be a quick exercise.

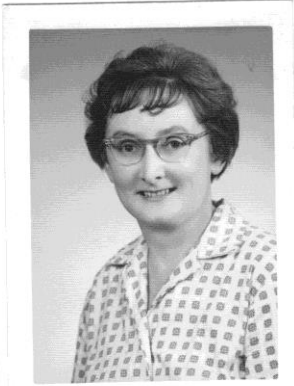
JOHN MORGAN AND FAMILY

#9843 David Bolton

John was one of 6 children born 1881 to Morgan Morgan. The 1891 census shows the family living in Hopkinstown but place of birth as Ystradyfodwg. So I assume he was actually born, as with his siblings, in Treherbert. The 1901 Census does not show him to be resident at the family home at Mount Libanus, Treherbert, whereas his father and my grand-mother were resident at the Corner House Inn, Treherbert, a public house that Morgan Morgan was landlord of at that time.

From the Ellis Island database, I have determined that John Morgan emigrated to the USA in 1910 on the Cedric sailing from Liverpool, although there are close matches for both 1903 and 1906. It is mere conjecture on my part as to the reason he decided to emigrate. But I believe the loss of his brother, Noah, in a mining accident in 1906, which was avoidable - he went back to the face to recover his forgotten watch, an event his mother never truly got over (she died in 1909), and that did influence him.

What my mother did relate to me that on arrival in the USA he did not find the 'Land of Milk and Honey', and wandered for many years seeking permanent



employment, finally settling in Illinois at one of the Steel Plants. He actually adopted a middle-name of 'Vaughan' due to the multitude of 'John Morgans' present there.

In 1918 he married one Alice A HYDE of St Louis, Missouri in Edwardsville, Illinois. Their only child, Dorothy Mae, was born in 1919. I offer two

photographs. One shows John and Alice with the other a quite young Dorothy.

On a side-note, my own mother was christened Dorothy Mae in direct remembrance by her mother to her brother John and her niece.

John and Alice were determined to give Dorothy the best education possible and she repaid that handsomely, being in the education field all her working life. I had the pleasure of meeting Dorothy several times both in Wales and the USA. She always kept in touch and no Christmas went by without a parcel of some kind. Late in life she married one Joseph RAMSAY, a retired army major, and they relocated from 'cold' Chicago to the somewhat warmer pastures of Alabama. Dorothy and Joseph even travelled over to attend my own sister's wedding.

John Morgan died in 1953. Alice would live for a further 16 years. Dorothy passed away in 2009 which ended our family's link to the US, but memories never die.

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DAVID WILLIAMS MP

#11208 John P Lethbridge

Early Life. David WILLIAMS was born on 8 September 1865 in St Thomas in Swansea Registration District. His parents were David Williams, a forge-man at Kilvey Copper Works; and Mary Williams, née BOWEN, who registered the birth on 7 October 1865. She made her mark rather than sign the register. This was before the passing of the 1870 Education Act. David Williams senior and his wife had at least nine other children.

David Williams junior studied at Kilvey Copper Works School. Its building was paid for by the GRENFELLS who owned Kilvey Copper Works. Its headmaster from 1841 to 1892, Richard GWYNNE, was born in 1822; he married Charlotte LLOYD in 1857, had four sons and a daughter, and died in 1907 aged eighty five.

Three of Richard and Charlotte Gwynne's sons became priests, including Llewellyn Henry Glynne the Anglican Bishop of Egypt and the Sudan. Another son, Howell Arthur Glynne, was *Morning Post* editor, until it merged with the *Daily Telegraph* in 1937.

David Williams left school in 1876, aged eleven, and after briefly being an apprentice stone-mason became, aged twelve, a Page Boy at Maesteg House the Grenfell family seat. This family included Field Marshal Francis Wallace Grenfell the 1st Baron Grenfell. He served in the Zulu, Egyptian and Sudanese Wars and died in 1925 aged eighty-three.

Another Grenfell, the war poet, Lieutenant Julian Henry Francis Grenfell, of the Royal Dragoons was killed in action on the Western Front in May 1915 aged twenty-seven. His younger brother Second Lieutenant Gerald William Grenfell was killed there in July 1915 aged twenty-five. Their twin cousins, Lieutenant Riversdale Nonus Grenfell and Captain Francis Octavius Grenfell, Victoria Cross, both of the 9th Lancers, were also killed in action on the Western Front early in the war. They were thirty-four.

David Williams left Maesteg House aged fourteen and started work at Kilvey Copper Works. A story that he had tried to start a servants' strike at Maesteg House is apocryphal. The Kilvey Middle Bank Copper Works laid boys off on Saturday afternoons in slack periods, and deducted a day's pay from their wages. The boys struck, and asked the management to only deduct a half-day's pay if this happened. David Williams at sixteen was the boys' spokesman. He, his older brother and their father were sacked.

David Williams became an apprentice boilermaker in Swansea ship repair yards, and was a boilermaker until he was elected to Parliament in 1922. He

attended evening classes for three years and joined the Boilermakers Society a Trade Union. For twenty years he was its Swansea Branch President and represented it on Swansea Trades Council. The 1887 Trades Union Congress (the TUC) was held in Swansea, and he heard James Keir HARDIE speak there of the need for an Independent Labour Party to represent the working class so he joined the new party.

Unlike many other early South Wales Labour supporters David Williams was a Church of Wales member, ie Church not Chapel. He was a Sunday-School teacher; an All Saints Kilvey Church chorister and for seven years conductor there; and a Temperance Society Branch Secretary. Kilvey Church of Wales/Church in Wales Church was built in 1842.

Marriage and Children. On 30 November 1889 David Williams, twenty four, a boilermaker, married Elizabeth COLWELL (or Colwill) twenty six, at All Saints Church, Kilvey. Her parents George Colwell a copper worker and Hannah Colwell, née ROBERTS, had six other children (two died in infancy). One of her brothers, Alderman George Henry Colwell, a Labour Party member, was Mayor of Swansea in 1923-1924, and died in 1925 aged sixty one.

David and Elizabeth Williams produced five children. They were:

1. David George Williams born on 9 December 1891. By 1939 he was a schoolmaster at Bingley in Yorkshire.
2. Winifred May Williams was born in 1894 at Swansea; married Thomas Jeremiah CRIMMINGS in 1917; had one son; and died at Built Wells on 8 June 1973 aged seventy nine. Her husband died there on 1 November 1979 aged eighty-two.
3. Frederick Colwill Williams was born on 27 February 1896; served in the 1st Welsh Howitzer Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery in the First World War; married Katherine Williams in 1922 and had a daughter; was an Executive Officer in the Post Office; and died in 1968 aged seventy two.
4. Arthur Williams was born on 6 November 1896; married and had a child; and in 1939 was a newspaper printer and packer. Some sources call him a journalist and he may have done some freelance journalism, or changed jobs.
5. Llewelyn Williams was born on 7 October 1900 at Swansea. He was a Swansea Corporation motor car mechanic; married and had at least one child, and died on 6 April 1966 aged sixty five at East Glamorgan Hospital.

The 1890s were difficult times. David Williams travelled across Glamorgan looking for work, but as a trade unionist he was blacklisted.

Swansea Borough Council. On 3 November 1898 David Williams was Labour candidate for Swansea Borough Council East Ward. He stood against the sitting councillor, an engineering employer and Baptist, William EVANS. To quote the 5 November 1898 *Herald of Wales*, *Mr Williams was practically unknown when he entered upon the campaign, but he displayed considerable energy in ingratiating himself with the electors.*

William Evans got 618 votes and David Williams 566 losing by fifty two votes. After the count William Evans went with close supporters to the *Ivy Bush* pub, and addressed a cheering crowd from an upstairs window. William Evans was promoted Alderman later that month and an East Ward council by election was held on Monday 21 November 1898.

David Williams got 742 votes and William TARR, a licensed victualler, 723, so David Williams became Swansea's first Labour councillor. What probably swung this by-election were the Nonconformists who had backed a Baptist against a Church of Wales man, switching votes, as David Williams was a temperance advocate, and William Tarr a licensed victualler, selling alcohol.

Alderman William Evans died in 1933 aged eighty-eight and William Tarr died in 1941 aged seventy two.

David Williams sat on Swansea Council for forty-two years, being made an Alderman in 1904 and chaired its Health Committee from 1911 to 1935. He was Vice Chair of its Parliamentary Committee, sat on Swansea Harbour Trust, was the first Labour Mayor of Swansea in 1912-1913, and became a magistrate in 1914. He stood down from the council in 1940 when he was dying. Throughout this time from 1900 he was also appointed President of Swansea and District Co-operative Society.

He continually faced financial problems. At the ship repair yards he was the first man to be laid off and the last to be taken back on. Council meetings were held in daytime. He made a determined effort to have evening meetings; five other councillors, supported him, but most were against the idea.

Parliamentary Ambitions. David Williams had parliamentary ambitions. However in 1909 the House of Lords ruled, in the Osborne case, that Trade Unions could not lawfully use union funds for political purposes. MPs were then unpaid so he could not stand in the January and December 1910 General Elections.

At the January 1910 General Election there were three candidates for Swansea Town. Alfred Moritz MOND a Liberal industrialist, of ICI fame, received 6,620 votes. The Conservative John WRIGHT, who owned a Swansea steel works, received 4,379 votes, and the Labour candidate Benjamin TILLET received 1,451 votes.

Alfred Mond held Swansea Town in December 1910, getting 6,563 votes. His Conservative opponent, David Villiers MEAGER, a barrister, had 4,257 votes. Alfred Mond represented Swansea Town and then Swansea West until 1923 and then from 1924 to 1928. In 1928 he was created the 1st Lord MELCHETT. He died in 1930 aged sixty two.

The other Swansea constituency was Swansea District. From 1895 to 1915 it was held by David Brynmor JONES KC, a barrister and historian. In early 1915 he was appointed a judge. A Swansea District by-election was held on 6 February 1915. Thomas Jeremiah WILLIAMS, a Liberal, was returned unopposed. He was a barrister, had studied at University College, London and Sheffield Technical College, and was a director of tinsplate, mining and railway companies.

The problems created for Labour MPs by the Osborne Judgement was partly reversed in 1911 when MPs voted themselves a £400 a year salary. This was then a good income. In 1913 the Liberal Government, which needed the forty-two Labour MPs, passed a Trade Union Act. It legalised unions making a political levy on their members provided they could opt out.

A General Election due in 1915 was postponed because of the First World War. The Labour Representation Committee had selected David Williams as its prospective Swansea District parliamentary candidate.

The First World War. On Sunday 4 November 1917 Alderman David Williams chaired a Union for Democratic Control, Swansea, meeting. It wanted a clear statement of allied war aims to show moderate Germans that we were not out to destroy Germany, and isolate the German militarists. The main speaker was to be Charles Roden BUXTON. Many National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Sailors members turned up, locally known as the Bit Badge League. They broke up the meeting and it closed with the police refusing to intervene.

1918. The 1918 Representation of the People Act created Swansea East constituency which replaced Swansea District. Swansea West replaced Swansea Borough seat. From 1918 to 1949 Swansea East contained the Swansea County Borough Wards of East, Landore, Morriston and St John's.

The First World War ended on 11 November 1918. At the request of the wartime coalition government, King George V dissolved parliament and called a 6 December 1918 General Election, ten years after the previous one. The Conservatives won 379 seats, the Lloyd George Coalition Liberals 127, the Asquith Liberals 36, Labour 57 and Sinn Fein 73 seats.

Sinn Fein would not swear the Oath of Allegiance and take their seats and instead declared an Irish Republic. The rest is history.

At Swansea East at this election the Liberal, Thomas Jeremiah Williams, (see above), received 11,871 votes. The Labour candidate David Williams gained 6,341 votes, at his first parliamentary election.

David versus David 1919. Thomas Jeremiah Williams MP died of colitis on 12 June 1919 aged forty seven leaving a widow and a daughter. At the 10 July 1919 Swansea by-election the Liberal David MATTHEWS held the seat getting 9,250 votes; David Williams got 8,158 votes.

David Matthews born in 1868, owned the Park Tinplate Company, and was a South Wales Fuel Company director. In February 1921 he introduced a bill for the creation of a Secretary of State for Wales, but it was defeated. In 1922 he stood down from parliament. He was a prominent Nonconformist, became a Swansea Alderman and Magistrate, and died in 1960 aged ninety- one.

Conclusion. Part Two of this article will look at David Williams's career from his election as MP in the 1922 General Election to his death in 1941. It will also look at his remarkable wife Elizabeth Williams JP.

Was your ancestor one of the
400,000 Welsh women who signed
the 1923 Peace Petition to the women of America?

**National Library of Wales
Crowd Sourcing Transcription Project
Women's Peace Petition signatories**

**Exhibition 9 March – 15 September 2024
at St Fagans National Museum of History**

For further information:

<https://museum.wales/stfagans/whatson/12152/Petitioning-for-Peace/>

Womens Peace Petition Partnership Appeal
<https://www.wcia.org.uk/peace-heritage/womens-peace-petition/>

**See also talk on this project at
Bridgend Branch Meeting – Monday 17th June
Contact: bridgend@glamfhs.org.uk**

FARMING FAMILIES IN THE VALE

#11132 John Cullwick

Many many years ago my wife was expecting our first baby. That “baby” is now 42 and has family of her own. I was vaguely interested in family history in late 1981, and an article in the Sunday Times colour supplement drew my attention and fired my interest. The article showed a “wheel diagram” of Lady Diana Spencer – her parents, grandparents, great grandparents etc. And round the outside of the wheel was all her 128 5 x great grandparents – and where they were born and what jobs they did. There were lots of American ancestors, lots of noble and regal British ancestors, and quite a few ancestors who were surprisingly low in the societal “pecking order”.

My paternal “Cullwick tree” had been researched by my father’s uncle Geoffrey CULLWICK (1903-1981) – a brilliant man who had become a Professor of Physics in 1927 aged just 24 and was a Naval Captain during WW2 and received the OBE shortly after the war. So there was no real need to research my surname – and, incidentally, my strange surname comes from Cola’s Wyck (Cola’s dairy farm), a hamlet in the parish of St John Bedwardine in the City of Worcester, mentioned in the 1172 Red Book of Worcestershire.

Because my paternal line had been researched so thoroughly, I decided to tackle the formidable task of finding all 128 5 x great grandparents of my children and, after 42 years of wading round churchyards in Liverpool, Eifionydd, Flintshire, the Vale of Glamorgan, the Lake District, Shropshire, Cheshire, the Isle of Man and Ireland, I am nearly there.

But I would so much like your help to finish the Vale of Glamorgan bit – the 32 gt gt gt grandparents of my mother-in-law, Margaret WATTS, (1918–2015) of Llantrithyd near Cowbridge. She was born into the family known as the “Watts of Plas Llanmihangel”. Her father was the eldest of 12 children who were raised in the 14-bedroomed Plas Llanmihangel farmhouse – where each child had their own bedroom. My mother-in-law was raised between the wars on Ty Ucha farm in Llantrithyd – a farm that had been lived in by her MORGAN antecedents for over 600 years. In fact, most of her 32 gt gt gt grandparents appear to have been born within about 10 miles of Cowbridge.

The 16 x gt gt grandparents of my mother-in-law were as follows:

Thomas WATTS (1794-1860) – born Welsh St Donats, farmer.

Margaret THOMAS (1791-1874) – born Penllyn.

Thomas HOWE (1790-1838) – born St Hilary.

Hannah WILLIAMS (1794-1871) – born Eglwysilan.

Christopher MORGAN (1765-1859) – born Ty Ucha, Llantrithyd and father of bard “Ioan Trithyd”.

Margaret DAVID (1791-1870) – born Llanblethian.
William MATHEW (1789-1846) – born Coychurch, Butcher.
Mary JENKINS (1799-1842) – born Llanharry.
Thomas REES (1781-1860) of Craigfatha Farm, Peterstone super Montem, born Coychurch.
Margaret ?DAVID? (1785-1860) – born ?Llandeilo Fawr in Camarthenshire?
Richard TREHARNE (c1790 - ?????) – born Ystradowen, farmer.
Jenet HUGH (c1794 - ?????) – born Llantrisant.
John WILKINS (1797-1871) – born Llanmaes, road keeper
Elizabeth HARRY (1804-1875) – born St Athan.
Thomas MILES (1793 – 1882) – born Bonvilston, thatcher.
Mary HOWELL (1793-1876) – born Llanblethian.

So I am hoping that you wonderful members of the Glamorgan Family History Society will come up “trumps” and help me find any missing details of the above 16 ancestors and to also find both parents of each of these 16. I am living in the Rhondda Fawr now, and have quite a lot of information about some of the families which I am very happy to share, but next to nothing about others.

In the 1901 census, every family had “Welsh” or “both” as their language. Most seem to have been chapel goers in the 19th century – and 2 chapels occur quite often (Bethlehem in Llanharan/Peterstone-super-Montem and Maendy in Llanblethian/Ystradowen). They often travelled over 10 miles for baptisms, marriages and burials in those two chapels.

Back in the 18th century, these ceremonies often tended to be in the local Parish Church until these Methodist and Independent/Congregational chapels were firmly established.

If you can help Mr Cullwick, please contact the editor (editor@glamfhs.org) and all information will be passed on to him.

Articles for inclusion in the journal should be sent **via email** to editor@glamfhs.org.uk . It is useful if you can quote the sources used so that other members can benefit from your research findings. **Articles should be approximately 1000-1500 words in length.** We reserve the right to serialise articles which are over a certain length.

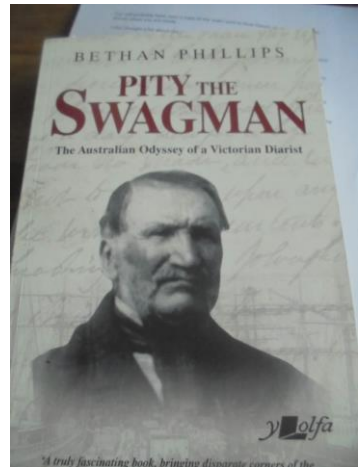
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BOOK REVIEW

Jean Fowlds

I first heard of the subject of this book, Joseph Jenkins, when an Australian friend wrote to me to say what an interesting talk he'd been to the night previously in Melbourne, entitled 'The Welsh Swagman', and did I know anything about him?

On looking into him, I found out that he was a Victorian farmer living in rural south-west Wales, who had left his fairly comfortable life and his family to scratch out a living as an itinerant farm labourer during the Australian goldrush. Throughout his life, for over 75 years, he kept a detailed diary, in which he recorded his surroundings and what his life was like as well as his innermost thoughts and fears.



This book by Bethan Phillips has been many years in research and preparation, with the help of Joseph's family, who had kept most of the diaries in an attic in Ceredigion, where he ended his days in 1898.

It tells the story of a remarkable man, a complex character whose motives are not always clear; he was a talented writer and poet in both English and Welsh - the English he learned whilst constantly carrying a dictionary with him around the farm, and by sending to London for Dickens' latest works.

The author's device is to tell his story in her words but to interweave it with extracts from his diaries, a very effective way of communicating his thoughts and feelings whilst setting them in the background of the extreme rural poverty that existed at the time. From the Welsh part of his story, the reader is left with more understanding of why so many families from rural areas flocked to the coalfields and iron foundries of the newly-industrialised valleys, looking for 'gold'. Joseph Jenkins went to Australia after the real gold, but was to encounter the same poverty and hardship there.

He never lost his longing for home over the many years he was to stay, and his journey back, by steamship fired by Welsh coal, is a particularly poignant account from his diary.

My Australian friend tells me that Joseph's diaries appear regularly on the curricula of various high schools, so that students can gain knowledge of Australia's 19th century past - it would seem he is more famous there than he is here! An enthralling read.

Published by Y Lolfa, www.ylolfa.com, ISBN 978-1-80099-502-4
Large paperback, 438 pages, many illustrations and photos, £16.99.

LETTERS/EMAILS TO THE EDITOR

I am pleased to say that after Barbara Gold's plea in the last edition of the Journal, that something should appear about Treharris, Charles Peter Howells has written of his early childhood there. As he was orphaned at an early age, he and his siblings were moved about, living in several streets in Treharris before being sent to boarding school in Surrey. He would like to be in touch with anyone who could tell him more about his family - please read his article above.

Another request has come in, from John Cullwick, who wants to know more about his 18th and 19th century forbears, many of whom lived and worked in the Vale of Glamorgan. He has given a lot of background in his article above, entitled 'Farming Families in the Vale'.

If anyone has information that can help in either of these cases, please contact the editor who will put the parties in touch with each other.

editor@glamfhs.org.uk.

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

NEWS FROM GLAMORGAN ARCHIVES (JANUARY-MARCH 2024)

Staff

- Our Administrative Officer, Jenny Christie, retired in March after 29 years with the Archives. You may remember her in her previous role as searchroom supervisor.

Access and Community Engagement

- Our events programme continues. In January we held an online event on the Welsh Women's Peace Petition, and the new volunteer project to transcribe the names and addresses of the women who signed it. You can find out more about the project at <https://www.wcia.org.uk/peace-heritage/womens-peace-petition/>.
- In February we were joined by Thomas Husøy-Ciaccia from the Norwegian Church for a talk on the Norwegian Seamen's Mission in Glamorgan.
- Our April event looks at our current conservation project on the William Burges drawings and plans of Cardiff Castle. There will be visits to the studio to view work in progress and a talk by Matthew Williams on William Burges. The talk is fully booked but keep an eye on our social media for any last minute cancellations.
- In March we launched a new Research Guide to Sources for the Study of Minority Ethnic History. Funded by Welsh Government's Anti-Racist Wales Culture, Heritage and Sport Fund, the guide was produced by a team of researchers and volunteers. It can be accessed on our website at <https://glamarchives.gov.uk/collection/research-guides/minority-ethnic-history-research-guide/>.
- Our Ask the Experts family history sessions continue with support from members of the GFHS Cardiff Branch.
- School classes have visited from Grangetown Primary, Ysgol Glan Ceubal in Gabalfa, and Gabalfa Primary, along with teachers from Ysgol Hamadryad in Butetown.
- We're pleased to continue to welcome members of the Cardiff Branch of GFHS to the Archives. The February visit focussed on records of crime and punishment. And in March we were pleased to welcome members of the Aberdare Branch of GFHS for a tour and an introduction to the collection.
- We continue to work with Invisible Cardiff, a programme supported by The Wallich which trains people who have experienced homelessness to become tour guides. One tour of Cardiff is already up and running and two more will be launching soon.
- Group visits to the Archives have included the Jewish History Association of South Wales, Tiger Bay and the World, Cwmaman Historical Society,

Senghenydd Youth Drop-in Centre, Peculiar Productions, Radyr and Morganstown WI, Tonyrefail U3A, and Cwm Taf People First.

Conservation

- Work continues on the second stage of conservation of William Burges' drawings and plans of Cardiff Castle and Castell Coch.

Collections

- An additional collections week was held in February, in order to allow us to progress work on the records of Associated British Ports. A total of 677 items were catalogued during the week including a very large number of plans. This included records from Barry Docks, Penarth Harbour, Newport Docks, Port Talbot Docks and Swansea Harbour.
- Notable accessions received recently include:

Cardiff Medical Society, Records (DCMS)

An additional donation has been made by Cardiff Medical Society. The Society was established in 1871 in Cardiff, to encourage the advancement of medical knowledge, and to promote the welfare of the medical profession. The Society holds monthly meetings during the academic year and invites prominent speakers from the UK. Records received from the Society Treasurer include an Attendance book, 1965-1996; Roll of Members; minutes books, 1988-2011 and accounts, 1963-1977.

Goleulong 2000 Lightship Project Records (D1993)

The concept of the Lightship was developed by Cardiff Churches Forum. The Helwick Lightship was bought in 1993 and opened to the public in Cardiff Bay as Goleulong 2000 Lightship in 1994. The project was an ecumenical partnership between several Christian denominations, including the United Reformed Church, the Church in Wales, the Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church of Wales, the Baptist Church, the Roman Catholic Church and the Salvation Army. Records donated by the Property Officer, United Reformed Church (Wales) Trust Company Limited, include leaflets, Chaplaincy profiles, Project constitution, postcards, photographs, meeting agendas, minutes, reports, correspondence, and orders of service.

Cardiff and County Club Records (D2006)

Cardiff and County Club was founded in 1866 in premises adjacent to the Royal Hotel. The Club subsequently moved to its existing premises on Westgate Street in 1892. Records deposited include minutes, accounts, subscription books, correspondence, visitor books and photographs.

Radyr and Morganstown Women's Institute (DXNO9)

Records of a local branch of the Women's Institute have been deposited by its Secretary. Formed in 1957 the Radyr and Morganstown Women's Institute

meet monthly. Their aim is to give women the opportunity to 'make new friends, learn new skills and become more involved in the local community'. In addition to the monthly meetings the organisation also arranges special interest get-togethers, such as walking and book groups, socials and outings. Items received include photographs, scrapbooks and programmes of events.

Penarth Town Council Records (P46)

An additional transfer has been received from a local council. Penarth Town Council was created in 1974, taking over some of the more localised functions of Penarth Urban District Council which was dissolved at that time. Items transferred include minutes of the Town Council meetings, and records of the Town Mayors Civic arrangements, engagements, and invitations throughout the years. In addition, records of Penarth Cemetery including records of interments, purchase of graves, permits, and grants for memorial works and changes of ownership have also been received.

SOCIETY NEWS & REPORTS

ARC/Publications Report – Penny Williams

The donated books continue to be sorted and catalogued for fairs, sale or to be added to our library. Thanks to the volunteer who is doing this task. Some books were taken to the Malvern Fair and they were very popular.

The card index digitalising project is almost complete and this will eventually be uploaded onto the website.

Volunteers are looking into accessing possible grants for various projects, including updating the technology in the ARC. We will be meeting with 'Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations' who may be able to offer advice and support on applying for grants.

Research requests are continuing to come in steadily and these are either being dealt with on the Wednesday opening days or the monthly Saturday session. Some are directed to the other Branches who have more extensive local knowledge. We also received several queries following the Malvern Fair.

Visitor bookings are still at a low level and we are discussing possible changes to the schedule to see if this has an effect on numbers. It might work better if we offered an evening or a Saturday session during the summer months. It would also be a great help if we had more volunteers available because we are relying on the small group of regular volunteers. It might help if we 'advertised' for help with specific projects/tasks for people who might find helping with research a bit daunting.

Aberdare Report – Pat Rees

In January, we had Izzy Parker from Genes Park Wales who gave us a talk on DNA and how it relates to family history research. It was an excellent talk. We had an exceptionally good turnout for this event.

February, we had a research session, this was poorly attended.

March, we had our second outing, we visited Glamorgan Archives. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the visit. A few members have already returned to make use of the resources. We were grateful for the welcoming tour, meeting the volunteers and people working there and the work being undertaken.

Our guest speaker for March was Ben Price. Ben was a new speaker to our branch, his talk was on “Voices of 1842”, Child labour in the South Wales coalfield. This was very well received. Ben is an excellent speaker who no doubt will be returning at a future date.

April, we had a research session again attendance was poor.

The past six months we have been trialling our research sessions in Aberdare Library. We used to use this venue before the Covid epidemic hit and changed our lives, we are finding attendance levels are a lot better there.

Bridgend Report – Penny Williams

The Branch continues to hold the regular meetings every month, alternating research evenings and Speakers. In March we had an excellent talk by Charles Smith on his family's history in the Spanish Civil War. It was a topic which many of those attending knew little about and everyone learned a great deal. As with other branches it is difficult to find speakers, but we do have some possibles for the next few months. We have also been able to share contact details of our speakers with other societies in the area.

Volunteers seem keen to build up a programme of local visits during the summer months and this is something we are looking into. It might be possible to arrange for Speaker to visit us with a follow up trip to their location.

The Branch library been sorted ready for reopening so the books are available for a monthly loan. Thanks to the volunteers for doing this. The Branch cupboard is also due to be sorted and re-organised to maximise the available space and to make resources more readily available.

Two volunteers joined others from the Cardiff Branch to attend the Malvern Family History Fair in March and it was really enjoyable to meet some current Society members, to chat to people researching their Glamorgan families and

to sign up some new members.

Monthly Saturday research sessions are continuing but with mixed success.

Cardiff & Vale Branch Report – Jenni Phillips

Thirteen members attended the meeting in February at Glamorgan Archives, which focused on crime and punishment records. Rhian Diggins provided the group with an overview of court records, police records, and prison records, followed by time for members to consult these records.

There was a similar level of attendance for our evening talk in March, given by Jenni Phillips at Cathays Cemetery Chapel, about the Rule family, a trio of seafaring brothers and their descendants, who lived in Cardiff from the late nineteenth century onwards.

April's meeting at the archives was entitled "House, Land and Building research. The documents discussed and viewed illustrated a wealth of material in the collections of the Archives and included: ordnance survey maps, tithe maps and the apportionments, building regulation plans, sales particulars, pictorial collections, art works, estate records, electoral registers and the 1910 Finance Act valuation books.

We are planning to have a presence at Open Doors events at Cathays Cemetery and Glamorgan Archives in September.

The branch is still without a branch trustee, and also needs more volunteers to come forward to join the committee if we are to continue to offer a full programme next year. Our branch AGM is in October, and will be held online.

Merthyr Tydfil Branch – Carolyn Jacob

We had excellent talks from local historians. In February we looked at documents relating to deaths, burials and wills. In March Janet Karn kept well within the topic of family history by giving a talk on Emigration and Immigration which looked at many local Merthyr Tydfil examples. Janet was previously the local history librarian in Tredegar and organised family history days. We also heard Daryl Leeworthy talk about the Spanish Community of Merthyr Tydfil in a Soar WEA Class. It was special as he was ably assisted by Maria Williams, who interrupted with her own personal knowledge as she was born in Dowlais of Spanish parents in 1925!

Many members of the Merthyr Tydfil Branch attended the Gelligaer Historical Conference in March, as we have done so for many years. Yet again it was an excellent day and we all thoroughly enjoyed the four varied and interesting talks; the tasty home-cooked lunch was an added bonus.

Swansea Branch – Janet Neilson

The Swansea Branch continues to meet monthly in the West Glamorgan Archives. We have had talks on a wide range of subjects including Estate Records, Rolls of Honour and War Memorials. These meetings will continue on the second Tuesday of each month at 2pm, followed by time to help anyone who is “stuck” with their research or is starting from scratch. We will not be meeting in August.

The transcribing team has started work again, with some new volunteers, to complete records already begun some time ago.

London Branch of the Welsh Family History Societies

Members’ Discussion

Our final meeting of 2023 was on Saturday 11th November and given by UK-based editor, writer, genealogist and genetic genealogist Debbie Kennett entitled “DNA testing for family history”. We look forward to hearing what steps you have taken (if any) following Debbie’s talk. Any discoveries or DNA queries you would like to discuss?

Forthcoming meetings:

Date	Meeting Type
15 June 2024	In person in the Kwanglim Room, Wesley’s Chapel, City Road, London (we hope to offer a zoom link to this meeting subject to the Wesley’s Chapel wifi bandwidth being sufficient)
11-18 August 2024	Visit to Aberystwyth
21 September 2024	Online meeting via zoom
9 November 2024	Online meeting via zoom

Annual Visit to the National Library of Wales (NLW) Aberystwyth

As you can see we are planning a visit to the NLW in the Summer to once again enjoy the fantastic genealogical resources of the National Library of Wales. In the evenings we can share our discoveries and disappointments, eat, drink, socialise, discuss and plan for the next day!

Based on the responses received, Ros has booked two flats of 8 but the actual flat allocation (may be three flats of 5/6) is subject to confirmation

by the Conference Office in Aberystwyth. Please would everyone that has previously expressed an interest now pay their deposits directly to Ros. Deposits are £75 per person please. Please contact Ros if you do not already have her bank account details.

Please let Ros know as soon as possible if you wish to be included in our group. It may be possible to join the group for part of the week.

WARNING: The accommodation at Penglais Farm is 15-20 minutes' walk from the National Library, up a steep hill. If this would present problems, you would need to arrange your own transport - there is plenty of parking both at NLW and on campus.

Anne Jones,

Secretary of the London Branch of the Welsh Family History Societies

email: annee.jones@ntlworld.com

<https://www.facebook.com/lbwfhs> ;

NEW DOWNLOAD PUBLICATIONS

MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS

B0301 Bedwas, Mon, St Barrwg, MIs £15

B0503 Bettws, Bridgend - St David MIs £10

B0602 Bishopston - St Teilo & Murton Methodist MIs £10

S0702 Brynmenin, Bridgend - Bethan Congregational MIs £5

B0206 Cadoxton-juxta-Barry, St Cadoc &
Philadelphia Baptist Chapel Mis £10

Downloads may be purchased via

www.genfair.co.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ABERDARE BRANCH

aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk

2pm Second Thursday in the month at **Cynon Valley Museum**

13th June: Research Session 2-4pm

11th July: Guest speaker TBC

Aberdare Library Research Sessions

11th June 2-4 pm

9th July 2-4 pm

August – No meetings

BRIDGEND BRANCH

bridgend@glamfhs.org.uk

Aberkenfig Resource Centre

7.30 pm third Monday each month

For further information contact the Branch

20th May - How to organise your research Part 1

17th June - Welsh Women's Peace Petition Appeal

Centenary Campaign - Jennifer Evans

15th July - speaker TBC

CARDIFF AND VALE BRANCH

cardiffmeetings@glamfhs.org.uk

Glamorgan Archives at 2 pm

Tuesday 4th June 2024: New Projects and Recent Acquisitions

Tuesday 3rd September: Maritime records

Tuesday 5th November: Wartime records

July & August – No Meeting

Online Tuesday 8th October at 7pm: Branch AGM & Speaker TBC

Please note: meetings at the archives are held in a room that is accessed via the reading room. As such, normal archive protocols must be observed – ie coats, bags, pens, etc. must be placed in lockers and cannot be taken into the meetings.

MERTHYR TYDFIL BRANCH

merthyr@glamfhs.org.uk

2 pm Soar, Welsh Centre, Pontmorlais on the 2nd Tuesday of each month
Members gather in Soar for a chat at 1pm.

Tuesday 11th June: Edwyn Parry, 'Gareth Jones and the Holodomor'.

Tuesday 9th July: Lisa Powell, 'Mother Shepherd and the Salvation Army'.

August no meeting

Tuesday 10th Sept: Christine Trevett, 'First Names Deriving from WWI'.

PONTYPRIDD & RHONDDA BRANCH

rhondda@glamfhs.org.uk

Third Tuesday 7 pm at Pontypridd Museum

18th June

16th July

August – No Meeting

SWANSEA BRANCH

swansea@glamfhs.org.uk

2pm at West Glamorgan Archives, Civic Centre, Oystermouth Road, SA1 3SN

Meeting at 2pm will start with a talk by one of the archivist team
followed by time for research or help can be given
to anyone starting out with their research.

11th June

9th July

August – No meeting

ONLINE BRANCH (Ar Lein)

arlein@glamfhs.org.uk

Talks at 7.00 pm

23 May – Welsh immigrants to the USA after 1790 – Darris G Williams

13 June – Photo Restoration – Stephen Gill

11 July – Coffee & Chat – Members Useful Books

August – no meeting

12 Sept – Crowdsourcing – Rescheduled from April – Billie McNamara

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

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

Further updates on Branch meetings and events are posted on our website
and on social media. <https://www.glamfhs.org.uk/events>



GFHS: ARC OPENING DATES

2ND & 4TH

WEDNESDAYS OF THE MONTH:

PLEASE CHECK IF IT'S A BANK HOLIDAY

10am - 2pm

2024 ARC OPENING DATES

MAY: 8TH & 22ND

JUNE: 12TH & 26TH

JULY: 10TH & 24TH

AUGUST: 14TH & 28TH

SEPTEMBER: 11TH & 25TH

OCTOBER: 9TH & 23RD

NOVEMBER: 13TH & 27TH

DECEMBER: 11TH **CLOSED 25TH**
NADOLIG LLAWEN

SATURDAY OPENING BY BRIDGEND BRANCH
10AM – 12MD

MAY 18TH

JUNE 15TH

JULY 13TH

AUGUST 17TH

SEPTEMBER 14TH

Contact:

arc2@glamfhs.org.uk

www.glamfhs.org.uk



2018 Eisteddfod in Cardiff Bay



2024 Parc Ynysangharad, Pontypridd, 3-10 August

I undelivered please return to
Glamorgan Family History Society
c/o 63 Clos Pwll Clai, Tondy, Bridgend, CF32 9BZ