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DYFED FAMILY HISTORY JOURNAL

Volume 15 Number 3
August 2024

Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Dyfed Family History Society

REGISTERED CHARITY No. 513347

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

Please quote your membership number in any correspondence.

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

I MUST START with an apology for the late receipt of this issue, unfortunately the printers needed a longer lead time than usual which delayed our print run for a week or so, hopefully everyone has their copy before the end of August.

The AGM on 27 April was well attended and it was a delight to meet our new President the Right Rev. Dorrien Davies who chaired the meeting. Edward Perkins gave a wonderful talk about Auctioneering in Pembrokeshire, which was available afterwards to those members signed up to the Online Discussion Group.

This issue is well represented with articles on various topics, from the Australian Gold Rush to Banking in Llandybydder, and I thank all those who have submitted them. As usual I need to call on members again to supply me with more content for the next issue in December. If every member, wrote a one-page item, we would have enough content for the following 30 issues of the journal i.e. 10 years' worth!

So, what I am asking for is for you to find one ancestor who had an interesting story. I have my 3rd GGrandfather in prison in Norwich. In the 1841 census, this led me to the archives in Norwich and the court report that showed this was his second offence, stealing from his employer! How did you manage to break down a brick wall or find some document which led to you discovering someone new in your family tree? When my grandmother died, she had a letter from solicitors in Australia containing the details of her Great Aunt Sarah's will – this gave me another two generations of names!

Obituaries are another great resource, in earlier times they listed all the chief mourners and their relationship to the deceased. Did you know that the Pembrokeshire Archives have created their own database of Obituaries from the local newspapers and those held at the National Library of Wales can be accessed free through the Welsh Newspapers Online website?

Please consider submitting something and perhaps taking over the role of Editor, as the December issue should be my last! As I have said before this could be a shared role between several people and I would be on hand to help until the new editor(s) felt comfortable to take over on their own.

Editor

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

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Branch Meetings and Other Events

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

Cardigan Branch

- 5 Aug NO MEETING
- 2 Sep TBA
- 7 Oct Archaeological Survey Brynberian 7000 BC –
Hedd Ladd Lewis
- 4 Nov The Landsker Line – Mark Cole
- 2 Dec NO MEETING

Carmarthen Branch (now at 2.00pm at Spilman Hotel)

- 28 Aug TBC
- 25 Sep TBC
- 30 Oct TBC
- 27 Nov TBC

Haverfordwest Branch

- 14 Aug NO MEETING
- 11 Sep Afternoon at the Archives – 1pm–4pm
- 9 Oct TBC
- 13 Nov TBC

Llanelli Branch (now back in Llanelly House)

- 19 Aug NO MEETING
- 16 Sep Getting My Act Together – Noel Rees
- 21 Oct Swansea Debtor – Debra John
- 18 Nov Swansea Museum – Karl Morgan

Upper Towy Valley Branch

- Aug Memorial Inscriptions
- 14–15 Sept **Llandovery Sheep Festival** a weekend celebration of rural
crafts, food, entertainment and of course, sheep farming
- 25 Sep Speaker to be confirmed
- 14–18 Oct Visit to Chatham
- 23 Oct Speaker to be confirmed
- 27 Nov Christmas Dinner

London Branch

- 11–18 Aug Visit to National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth
21 Sep Women in Carmarthen – Mary Thorley (via Zoom)
9 Nov The Rebecca Riots through the letters of Middleton Estate
land agent Thomas Herbert Cook – Dr Lowri Ann Rees
SFHEA (via Zoom)

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

- 26 Aug The Morgan Family – Gareth Morgan
30 Sep Wills and Marriage Bonds at the NLW – Beryl Evans
28 Oct The American Census – Donna Stanton
25 Nov Other online resources – including the Internet Archive –
Billie McNamara

25–28 Sept (4pm–8pm Wed/Thur) (10am–6pm Fri/Sat)

An Exhibition of the History of Lambston Parish, at Bethal Chapel Sutton

Where to find out about other Genealogical Events:

Family History Federation

<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events>

FHF Really Useful Bulletins – the archive for access to these are available
at www.exploreyourgenealogy.co.uk/bulletins

GENEVA (**GENeological Events and Activities** – run on behalf of
GENUKI and the FHF) <http://www.geneva.weald.org.uk/doku.php>

News on Dyfed Archaeological Trust

ON 1 APRIL 2024 the four Welsh archaeological trusts (Clwyd-Powys, Dyfed, Glamorgan–Gwent and Gwynedd) merged to form Heneb: the Trust for Welsh Archaeology.

AR 1AF EBRILL 2024 unodd y pedair ymddiriedolaeth archeolegol Gymreig (Clwyd–Powys, Dyfed, Morgannwg–Gwent a Gwynedd) i ffurfio Heneb: Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeoleg Cymru.

General Secretary's Report

THANK YOU to the members who attended our AGM, either in person, or by Zoom; this was our first meeting with the new President, Bishop Dorrien. He seems very keen in being involved in the Society and we hope to see much more of him. The AGM took about half an hour, but Bishop Dorrien stayed for a further 30 minutes talking to the members. Eric Davies was duly appointed an Honorary Life Member for his many years working with the Carmarthen branch and representing the Society at many external events.

Edward Perkins then gave a very interesting talk “An Auctioneer’s Tale”. His talk was recorded and for those who could not attend in person was available, if you are signed up for the Online Discussion Group!

Work on updating our MI page on the website is progressing with the first test taking place between ourselves and our website providers Delwedd. We hope to have this up and running by the next journal in December when more news will be forthcoming.

Some branches stop their meetings during the summer months, if you are in the area and would like to attend a meeting then please contact the branch secretary for an update, their contact details are on the inside back cover of this journal.

Colin Potter (5576)

Volunteers needed

WE, AS ALWAYS, need volunteers to help transcribe MIs and summer/autumn is the perfect time to do this. Perhaps there is a cemetery, graveyard or burial ground near you that has not been recorded yet and you could spare a few hours to photograph and record the headstones? If this is something you think you could participate in, please contact Janice at MI@dyfedfhs.org.uk who would be delighted to supply you with our guidance notes.

One of the Church cemeteries we transcribed a few years ago at St Lawrence, Gumfreston, Pembrokeshire sadly closed a few years later and fell into disrepair. The church has now been taken over by the Friends of Friendless Churches charity ([www. http://friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk](http://friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk)) and is being fully restored. For an interesting YouTube video on the transformation search for Friends of Friendless Churches.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

THE APRIL 2024 issue of the Dyfed FHS Journal included an article by Dyfed FHS member Peter Meurig Jones entitled 'My Grandmother's Grandfather'. The article, which includes a large amount of valuable factual information which Peter had gleaned, focuses on Peter's grandmother's paternal grandfather John Jones – known to his children as 'Tadcu Noyadd' – and John's many descendants.

Towards the end of his article, Peter posed a question: 'Am I the only member of the Dyfed FHS who is descended from [this] John Jones of Llanybydder?'. I think the question was probably posed in casual hope rather than with his expectation of receiving multiple positive responses. Anyway, I think I have surprised Peter by being able to declare to him that I too am a descendant of his John Jones – a real success story for the Journal! Peter and I had not known each other previously but we know now that we are cousins! I have already been able to share with Peter information I published earlier on our John Jones of Llanybydder and his descendants in articles in the Journal of the Cardiganshire FHS (of which I am a member) and we are looking forward to continuing our cooperation in family research.

Peter and I are now looking forward to hearing of other members of Dyfed FHS who are descendants of his 'Tadcu Noyadd' and may be able to add to our knowledge of our family!

Alwyn Thompson (6415)

New or Updated Memorial Inscriptions

Updated On the Website

Llanfyrnach – Antioch Chapel, Crymych.

Seion Chapel Crymych.

Hermon Chapel.

Kidwelly – St Mary's Church Kidwelly.

Kidwelly Public Cemetery – Index only.

Ready to put on (*currently updates are on hold due to work on MI searchable database, but contact MI@dyfedfhs.org.uk with any questions*)

All Index only

Burry Port / Pembrey

Llandry Church Cemetery.

Tabernacle Chapel Trimsaran.

Llangyndeyrn / Llangendeirne

Bethel Welsh Independent Chapel Carway.

Nazareth Congregational Chapelyard, Pontyates.

Llanwnda

Ty Wesely and Salem Chapel.

Updated

Salem Chapel Trimsaran – Extra index to update

St Tyfi Church, Llandyfeisant – excellent website with information about the

Friends of the Church and the work they have done

Buckley's Brewery

Held by Archifau Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire Archives

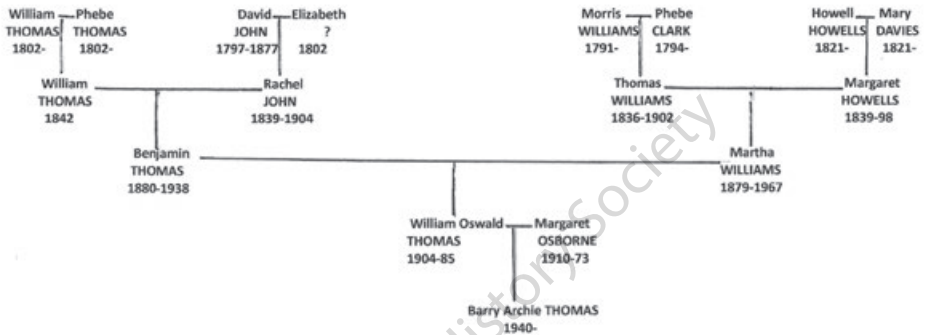
THE BUSINESS of Buckley's Brewery started in 1767, when Henry Child (b. 1742) from Freystrop, Pembrokeshire, a prominent Methodist, started to brew beer in Llanelli, Carmarthenshire. He had come to Llanelli as estate agent for Sir Thomas Stepney (d. 1772) of Prendergast, near Haverfordwest, who owned a malthouse and a brewhouse. Child acquired the freehold of Felinfoel mill in Llanelli. The population increase caused his brewing business to flourish.

The Rev. James Buckley (1770–1839) from Oldham, Lancashire, married Maria, the daughter of Henry Child, and developed the brewery. When he died, his second son, another James Buckley, managed the company. After his death in 1883, the business fell into the hands of his three sons, who from then on traded as the Buckley Brothers. In 1998, brewing ceased in Llanelli and the beer production moved to Cardiff. William Bythway worked as the clerk of James Buckley and was interested in James Buckley's daughter.

The collection contains 892 items & 31 files (in English), comprising deeds and documents: Buckley's Brewery, 1815–1938; additional papers, 1786–1975.

A Family of Shoemakers

There is a long history of shoemaking in my family starting with three of my four Welsh great great grandfathers. In 1851, 60-year-old Morris (Maurice) Williams from Llangan was living with his wife Phebe in Whitland Village in the parish of Llanboidy, Carmarthenshire. He was a shoemaker as were two of his sons John, aged 25 and Thomas, 15, my great grandfather. In the 1861 census return he is described as a boot and shoemaker.



My Welsh Family Tree

Meanwhile in 1851, 49-year-old William Thomas, from Llanboidy and his wife Phebe were living in Llanfyrnach, Pembrokeshire. He was also a shoemaker and employed one man, possibly his son John, 22 also described as a shoemaker.

My third shoemaking great great grandfather was David John, the father-in-law of William and Phebe's son, also called William Thomas. It would appear that David was not always as successful in his profession as he is described in the 1851 census as a pauper shoemaker. Things must have looked up as he had lost the pauper status in the 1861 and 1871 census returns. David was born in 1797 and lived in the Llanboidy area all his life.

My other Welsh great great grandfather, Howell Howells, born in Cyffyg in 1821, broke the mould. In both the 1851 and 1861 census returns he is described as a labourer living in the parish of Llangan.

Turning to the next generation, there are more records of shoemakers. Both my great grandfathers, Thomas Williams and William Thomas were shoemakers as were their brothers John Williams and John Thomas.



My great grandfather William Thomas (the son)

Thomas Williams married Margaret, the daughter of Howell Howells. Although Howell was not a shoemaker, his son John evidently was as he is included on the 1861 census return as an apprentice living with Thomas and Margaret. The Williams family lived at Pontfane near the Trevaughan Bridge just to the south Whitland where they raised a family of 12 children.

Thomas worked as a shoemaker for at least 20 years and clearly passed the skills on to his children. In 1871, another apprentice, Joseph Picton, is living with them and it is likely that



The Williams children¹

¹ The Williams children on the occasion of their mother's death in 1891. Clockwise from the front left: Howell (b. Dec. 5th 1858), William (b. July 22nd 1868), Morris (b. August 7th 1862), Elizabeth (b. Aug. 4th 1864), John (b. July 29th 1866), Phoebe (b. Dec. 30th 1868), Thomas (b. Dec. 30th 1870), Mary (b. Oct. 17th 1872), David (b. July 2nd 1874), Margaret (b. April 22nd 1876), Leiza (b. June 12th 1877), Martha, my grandmother (b. June 18th 1879), Emily (b. Jan. 29th 1884).

he was working for Thomas. By 1881 two of the children living at Pontfane, William and John, are also working as shoemakers and a third son, Howell, is living nearby in Whitland, working as a boot and shoemaker. By 1891, William and John have left home but Thomas is still working, now as a boot and shoemaker. The census return for 1901 shows that Howell is living in St John Street, Whitland and is working at home with the assistance of his wife Emma. Thomas is still in Pontfane and is described as a self-employed shoemaker working from home. He is widowed but his daughter Martha, my grandmother, is living with him as a housekeeper. According to his wife Margaret's death certificate in 1898 he is now a boot and shoemaker master. Martha was born in 1879 and was the second youngest in the family and the last of the children to leave home. In 1903, after her father's death, she moved away from the area to marry Benjamin Thomas, the son of William. Here the shoemaker tradition in my direct line comes to an end. As far as I can tell, none of Benjamin's brothers were shoemakers and he was a collier in the Rhondda Valleys living in Porth. Howell Williams, however, did pass his skills on to his son. In 1911 Howell and Emma are running a boot making dealership from their premises at 3 St John Street, Whitland and their son, James Morris is working with them as a boot maker. They are all still there in 1921 by which time Emma has relinquished her involvement in the business leaving Howell and James to run it together. They are still in business together, at the same address, in 1939, this time as boot makers and repairers.

I have tried, without much success, to find the exact location of the addresses given in the census but it is clear that the families all lived within a few miles of each other centred around Whitland in the parishes of Cyffyg, Llangan, Llanboidy and Llanfyrnach. Indeed, my great great grandparents Morris and Phebe Williams and Howell and Mary Howells were consecutive entries on the 1841 census together with their children Thomas Williams and Margaret Howells aged 5 and 2 respectively, who went on to marry and become my great grandparents. It may seem



The three youngest Williams daughters in about 1900. Martha (standing), Leiza (seated left) and Emily, clearly dressed for a special occasion

strange that shoemakers lived close together, but it is estimated that there was one shoemaker for every 300 people and the population living around the area must have been large enough for people to have come to one of them for new shoes or boots. Shoemakers tended to specialise in making either men's shoes and boots or ladies' shoes as the techniques for making them were very different. Both families made shoes and boots, but I have no idea if either family made shoes for women. The 1861 census showed that there were over 250,000 people in the shoemaking trade in England and Wales. It was the sixth largest category of employment with more people employed in shoemaking than were employed in mining, on the railways or in engineering.



The three Thomas sons²

William Thomas and Thomas Williams were living near to each other so it is likely that they and their families would have known each other and socialised. Shoemakers at this time were said to have higher levels of literacy than most of their clients but their wives would generally not have been so well educated. It is not surprising to see that William Thomas signed his name whereas Rachel just made her mark on their 1864 marriage certificate. Many were freethinkers and

dissenters from the Established Church, which fits in with both the Williams and Thomas families being Baptists.

My grandparents Benjamin Thomas and Martha Williams grew up in and around Whitland and must have met each other there. In fact, they had probably known each other for years before they married on June 2nd, 1903. By then my grandfather had moved to the Rhondda Valleys to become a collier. Martha would have joined him in the Rhondda, possibly at 10 Belmont Terrace, Cymmer, Porth, his address given on the marriage certificate.

Barry Thomas (73875)
Email: barryat654@gmail.com

² From the left: David, John and Benjamin all very smartly dressed and carrying their walking sticks. The coal trucks in the background suggest they are in the Rhondda valleys possibly for the wedding of Martha and Benjamin.

Banking in Llanybydder

Many members of DFHS will recall the days when the High Streets of their home towns were the beating heart of local trade and commerce. Bank offices were a prominent feature in the townscape and ecology of the High Street. By their very architecture and interior fittings banking institutions exuded respectability, stability and wealth. Bank Managers and their senior staff were expected and encouraged by their employers to become embedded in their communities; indeed, many local societies and institutions seemed to reserve the post of Treasurer for their bank manager!

Banking in the early 1960's was dominated by the "Big Five" banks – Barclays, Lloyds, Midland, National Provincial and Westminster. The smaller banks – District, Martins, and Williams Deacons had few branches in Wales. A restricted range of banking facilities was available at local Trustee Savings Banks, Building Societies and at the Post Office. The "Big Five" became the "Big Four" when Martins Bank was absorbed by Barclays (15 December 1969) and the District, National Provincial and Westminster Banks combined to form the National Westminster Bank Limited (NWB) on 1 January 1970. Most towns had at least one branch of the "Big Four" banks, and many towns, including Llanybydder and Lampeter, had a full complement of the "Four."

Banking services in England and Wales were initially provided by drovers, goldsmiths, industrialists, landlords and merchants who developed their banking enterprises either as individuals or with a maximum of six partners. Banking came to rural Dyfed in the late eighteenth century with the drovers – cattle dealers who collected cattle from the farms of Wales and walked them to Smithfield market in London to sell before



Lloyds Bank Ltd 1931

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returning with gold sovereigns to settle their accounts with their suppliers.¹ The first drover's bank to be established was at Llandovery in 1799 by David Jones. David Jones's bank was widely known as "*Banc yr Eidon Du*" (the Black Ox Bank) because his bank notes were embellished with a representation of a black ox. This bank survived the post Napoleonic War depressions and the panic of 1825. The depressions after the Napoleonic Wars brought about many bank failures; between 1814–1816, eighty-nine country bankers failed and again, between 1824–1826 a further eighty country banks failed. To strengthen and regulate banking, the Bank Charter Act of 1826 authorised the formation of joint stock banks more than 65 miles from London, this allowed for multiple shareholders, thus spreading risk. An amendment to the Act in 1833 permitted the formation of joint stock banks within the 65 mile radius of London.

As a result of this Act, three joint stock banks which came to have very close links with Wales were founded – they were the ambitiously named National Provincial Bank of England Limited (NP), founded in 1833 and the equally ambitiously named North and South Wales Bank Limited (N&SWB), founded in Liverpool in 1836. Also established in 1836 was the Birmingham and Midland Bank Limited, based in Birmingham. All these banks, together with Barclays and Lloyds, which arose from old private banks, were expansionist in outlook.²

When David Jones died in 1839, his three grandsons continued the business under the name of "David Jones & Co.", with branches at Llandovery, Llandeilo and Lampeter. It is the Lampeter branch which figures in this article. The hours of business at Lampeter were from 10 am to 3 pm apart from Wednesday when the bank closed at noon. In 1903 the Lampeter Branch of David Jones & Co., established a sub branch at Dolgader House, Llanybydder with weekly attendance on Mondays and fair days from 10-30am to 3pm. Why the longest established bank in Lampeter should have lagged behind the more recently established NP and Barclays in opening an office in Llanybydder is curious. The Llanybydder sub branch was retained when David Jones & Co., was taken over by Lloyds Bank Limited in 1909. In 1923 the bank moved to new premises at Glanteifi, near the bridge over Afon Teifi. Business was such that in 1924 it became a clerk-in-charge branch under Lampeter, and in March 1932 it

¹ See Moira C.L. Evans, "The Welsh Drovers", *Dyfed FHS Journal*. Vol. 13, No. 2 (April 2018) p. 43–45.

² Based on J. Rhys Williams, 'The growth and development of banking in Clwyd.' *Denbighshire Historical Society Transaction*. Vol. 39 (1990) pp. 91–106.

achieved full branch status until closure in March 2000. The premises became the offices of a long established local firm of monumental masons.

The National Provincial Bank of England (NP) opened a branch at Lampeter in 1866 and in 1897 an agency was established at Llanybydder which operated from a room at “Elvet House” – this property was next door to the premises where Barclays later opened their branch in 1901. The opening hours were ‘Monthly Markets and Fair Days’. By 1914, banking hours had increased to ‘Mondays, Tuesdays, Saturdays and Fair Days’. Business must have flourished, for on 2 July 1923 it became a branch office to Lampeter. In the meantime the NP had merged with Union of London and Smiths Bank to become National Provincial & Union Bank of England – shortened to National Provincial Bank in 1924. In 1926 the NP purchased a former butcher’s shop, Powell House, No. 7 Market Street, Llanybydder. The *Welsh Gazette* of 24 June reported that building work at Powell House had been completed and that the Bank would open for business on 21 June. The branch appears to have been successful, for it was upgraded to full branch status on 11 January 1933 with Mr. Evan Thomas Walters as Manager. The change of name to NWB on 1 January 1970 has been noted earlier. On 27 November 2014, Llanybydder branch closed and the business was transferred to NWB Lampeter. The premises are now owned by a local baker.

The third bank to establish itself at Lampeter was the London and Provincial Bank who opened their branch on 1 November 1898. This bank was established in 1864 as the Provincial Banking Corporation. After several amalgamations, notably that with the Bank of Wales in 1865, it adopted the name of the London and Provincial Bank Ltd., five years later the L&P’s branch network in Wales increased with the acquisition of branches at Merthyr Tydfil and Llanelli and in 1898 with the opening of new branches at Llandeilo, Llandovery and Lampeter. After a short stay in rented premises, the Lampeter branch relocated to No’s 2, 3 & 4, Harford Square. In January 1918 the L&P merged with its close rival, the London and South Western Bank, to form the London, Provincial and South Western Bank, under which short-lived name it amalgamated with Barclays Bank Ltd. in October 1918.

A sub branch had been opened in Llanybydder in 1901 and elevated to full branch status in 1923, but under the management of Lampeter. The branch was closed in 1942 (as were many small branches during World War II) and never re-opened. The premises were taken over by a local businessman and became an ironmongery shop appropriately named “Sheffield House.” Today, it is an antique shop.



Barclays Bank Ltd., Llanybydder 1931
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Ref 3/4380-2

ten of which were in Wales: Aberaeron, Cardigan, Haverfordwest, Lampeter, Llandeilo, Llandysul, Neyland, Newcastle Emlyn, Pontypool and Tywyn. It did not take the LC&M long to open a sub branch in Llanybydder for the *Carmarthen Journal* of 10 October 1913 (p.5) notes the presence of Mr W. M. Davies of LC&M Bank at a Clay Shooting Match at Llanybydder. In 1922 the



Midland Bank Ltd., Llanybydder 1923
reproduced with kind permission of HSBC Archives

The quartet of banks at Lampeter was completed in 1912 when the London City & Midland Bank (LC&M) opened its doors. A brief note in the *Carmarthen Journal* of 28 January 1913 (p.5) announced the opening of the branch under the management of Mr. H. Lloyd Williams. During that year, LC&M had opened fifteen new branches,

Bank took up residence in newly converted premises at Railway House, Llanybydder and gave its office full branch status under Mr. Davies's management. The branch reverted to sub branch status between May 1937 and May 1938. Closure came on 4 October 2004. The premises are now occupied by a fish and chip takeaway under the name of "*Sglodion y Sgwar*".

For much of the nineteenth and twentieth Centuries livestock farming was the economic mainstay of the Lampeter–Llanybydder area and the main business of the various banks. The great expansion of branch banking that occurred in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century saw the creation of the “Big Four” banks. Technological and social changes in the late twentieth and early twenty first centuries caused a decline of footfall at all bank branches, thus precipitating the retreat of the major banks from many towns, including Lampeter and Llanybydder. This change in the ecology of the High Street is starkly illustrated by this brief case study of Llanybydder where there are no full time branches. As for Lampeter, at the time of writing (August 2023) only one permanent full time bank branch remains – the other three have closed their premises. However one bank provides a mobile bank service which visits both Llanybydder and Lampeter (amongst other towns in Dyfed) for a few hours once a week to provide face to face banking services.



National Westminster Bank Ltd., Llanybydder 1972
reproduced with kind permission of NatWest Group Archives © 2023

The information necessary to prepare this paper has been derived largely from on-line newspapers, supplemented by information and pictures generously made available by the Archivists of Barclays Group, HSBC, Lloyds Banking Group and Nat West Group; to these Archivists, to the Editor of these Transactions and to friends from Llanybydder, my grateful thanks for their support. Any errors of commission, omission or comprehension are mine and for these I apologise.

Peter Meurig Jones (210)

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

Part 2

Part 1 of this article (*April 2024 Vol 15 No. 2*) was concerned with the lives, families, travels and occupations of George and Richard, two of the first four sons of David and Mary Evans of Pembroke, who were trained by their father as stonemasons and who emigrated with their families to Australia to help build the city of Ballarat following the discovery of gold in 1851. This part continues in like manner with the other two brothers, William and John, the first of whom also emigrated to Ballarat, and concludes with a description of David and Mary's later children.

William

William was the first born of David and Mary Evans and so the eldest of the four brothers. He was born in Pembroke but baptised on 3 October 1819 at St Nicholas Monkton in keeping with the tradition of the first born being baptised in the mother's home parish. Being the eldest, it seems he did not need to leave Pembroke to find work, possibly working alongside his father until the latter died in 1849.

In March 1843 he married Mary Maria Williams (1815–1851), the daughter of a rigger, in St Mary Pembroke. They had three children, Frances Maria (1843–1914), Letitia Annie (1847–1924) and Bessy (1849–1919) but, at the birth of the fourth child (unnamed) in January 1851, Mary Maria died in childbirth aged 35. Fourteen months later, in 1852, William married Margaret Hendy (1824–1895) in the parish of St Florence, Pembrokeshire. Later that year his brother George set sail for Australia. Eventually William too realised that Australia was the place to find never ending work for a stonemason and he sailed from Plymouth on the ship Birmingham on 27 September 1854 with his new wife and children Letitia and Bessy, but not his eldest daughter Frances. The reason for this one can only speculate on? Did she not get on with her new stepmother Margaret? More likely is that, after her mother's death when she and her sisters were presumably looked after at various times by friends and relations, Frances grew attached to someone like her grandmother Elizabeth Williams, who had various members of her family living with her in 1851 but who eventually died in August 1852. Certainly by 1861, Frances was living as a servant with her married aunt Elizabeth, daughter of grandmother Elizabeth

above. She didn't marry until 1870 and died childless in 1914 at the age of 70.

William's wife Margaret was pregnant when the ship Birmingham left Plymouth and a female child was born on board. She lived

just five months and was given the name Grace Birmingham. The ship arrived at Christmas 1854. William did not need to seek work at the quayside. The family made their way to Ballarat either directly or via William's brother George in Melbourne. William was listed in Huxtable's 1857 Ballarat Commercial Directory as a mason living in Mair Street. In the Ballarat Directory of 1869, however, he is shown living at 3 Lyons Street.

William and Margaret produced six children in Ballarat, namely Dorah Mary (1856–1856), Morris (1857–1920), Wyndham Bancroft (1858–1859), Annie Aurelia Grace (1860–1926), Wyndham Joseph (1863–1864) and Ashton William Joseph (1865–1870). To a large extent these dates present a sad litany of short lives. In particular, Wyndham Joseph was drowned in a quarry hole filled with water when he was aged 20 months.

Margaret died in 1895 and William Barker was a pall bearer at her funeral. William Evans died in October 1897 while living back in Mair Street – at 193. His origins were not forgotten.



Sturt St., Ballarat



Town Hall, Ballarat



William Evans

The Ballarat Star described him as a builder, late of Pembroke Dock, Pembrokeshire, South Wales. (He preferred to call himself a stonemason.) He died after a long illness aged 78 years. In his will he left everything to his unmarried and sole remaining son Morris who was living with him. In his turn Morris, when he died in 1920, left all his worldly goods to his beloved sister Annie Aurelia Grace. William was buried among his kin with a modest gravestone in Ballarat Old Cemetery, where, misquoting Rupert Brooke, it may be said, there's some corner of a distant land that is forever Pembroke. It's a pity that unlike in Richard's case, it is not possible to identify any particular buildings on which George or William worked. In their lifetimes, though, they saw Ballarat declared a city in 1870.

Grandmother Sarah

At this point a digression from the main story would not be out of place. As mentioned in Part 1, George Evans married Elizabeth Morrice, the daughter of Richard Morrice, a rigger, and his wife Sarah née Harrison. They had four children but the middle two died when aged three and one. Then Elizabeth, the eldest, married George as a minor aged 20. Any feelings of loss by the parents were surely exacerbated when George whisked Elizabeth away to Australia less than six years later together with their three children. A further six years later, in 1859, Richard Morrice died in the Royal Charter's shipwreck off the coast of Anglesea, the Liverpool Mercury reporting that six of the riggers on board lost their lives including Richard. This disaster was the spur to the creation of weather forecasts (a new term created at the time) as, until that point, it had been assumed that the weather could not be forecast.

It is easy to imagine Sarah's determination at this point, if not earlier, to find a way to be reunited with her family. In the 1861 census she can be seen as the shop keeper in a provision (grocery) shop in the Everton area of Liverpool, no

doubt saving every penny she could. In the following year, 1862, she saw her youngest child, David Elijah, safely married and by 1867 she was ready and able to make the daunting journey to Australia as a non-assisted passenger in the steerage compartment of the Lady Melville. This ship left Gravesend on 6 September and arrived at Port Phillip near Melbourne on 10 December. There then necessitated the final hop to Ballarat, which by 1867 could be made by train from Geelong. On arrival, Sarah would have been met by her daughter Elizabeth, her son-in-law George and five grandchildren. She enjoyed six years with her family before dying in 1873 at the age of 73.

John

John Evans saw his future in the army, not in any regiment but the Royal Engineers who welcomed skilled builders, carpenters, bricklayers, roofers etc., although they had to be prepared to fight if necessary as well as ply their trades. He enlisted at Portsmouth in January 1851 and joined the Woolwich detachment. Here he met up with his fiancée Mary Stephens who had been born in Monkton in 1822 but had travelled to London to take a job in service in Hampstead. They married in St Luke Charlton, Kent, in September 1853.

The following year John Evans was called up to serve in the Crimean War. On 1 September most of his company sailed from their base camp in Varna, Bulgaria, to the Crimea. John, however, along with a small group of others, mostly masons and carpenters, were shipped back to Scutari, opposite Istanbul, possibly to convert part of the Selimiye Barracks into the Barrack Hospital. Florence Nightingale arrived soon afterwards. John eventually made it to Sebastopol and survived the war, after which he was returned to Chatham, the new headquarters of the Royal Engineers. Here he was able to live with his wife again. Their first child, Tom Harbet Evans was born there on 24 April 1860.

John stayed in Chatham until late 1864 when he and his family were transferred to Dublin, then British, where he remained until his death on 25 October 1871 aged 47. He was buried on 28 October in the Garrison Cemetery, Arbour Hill, Dublin.

John and Mary had three children. First born was Tom Harbet, mentioned above, who followed his father into the Royal Engineers in 1874 at the age of 14. He was trained as a surveyor and served for 25 years, being discharged in 1899 but dying soon afterwards. In 1884 he married Elizabeth Wormall of Edmondthorpe in Leicestershire. They had three children.

John and Mary's second child, Mary Anne, was born in Dublin in 1865. By 1891 she was living in London, and in 1909, at the age of 44, she married a widower, Alfred George Birch. They had no children and she died in Surrey in 1922 aged 57. The third child, William Charles was born in Dublin in 1867. He also signed up to the Royal Engineers at the age of 14, in 1881. In 1888, though, in view of a heart condition, he was declared unfit for further service. He moved sideways jobwise to join the largely civilian Ordnance Survey in Southampton, where he worked and lived until his death in 1938. In 1899 he married Eliza Mary Mailliw Hancock, who was over nine years his elder. They had no children. It has been suggested that Eliza's third Christian name - William written backwards - was sometimes chosen by parents who expected or wanted a boy but got a girl, but there may be other explanations. After John's death, Mary stayed on in Dublin to see her children through school. After that her whereabouts and details of her death are currently unknown.

The others

Following the four sons described above, David and Mary had four other children. First was their only daughter Caroline (1828–48), who succumbed to TB at the young age of twenty after nine months of suffering. Then there were two sons, Edmund (1830–1858) and Thomas (1834–1859), both of whom were also trained as stonemasons. They both died from TB (not certified). There is evidence that many cases of tuberculosis in stonemasons and other industrial workers were actually examples of silicosis, causing hardening and scarring to lung tissue. Both sons died at home (as did Caroline). After their father died in 1849, there might have been sufficient work to keep them occupied local to home.

David and Mary's last child, Herbert, was quite a different character from the rest. Born in 1838, by 1851 he was a scholar rather than any level of mason, and in 1861 a tailor. The inspiration for this may have come from a neighbour a few years older than him who was described as a tailor on the 1851 census. It proved to be Herbert's occupation for life. He lived at home at least until he married Elizabeth Louisa Davies (1848–1903) in 1867. He witnessed his mother's death in 1868 at the age of 78 and celebrated the births of his first two children, Richard (1868–1936) and Herbert George (1870–1942) in Pembroke before moving out of Pembrokeshire and into Treherbert in Glamorgan. There Caroline Elizabeth (1874–1944), the last child of Herbert and Elizabeth, was born. In the names of the three children are reflected those of their parents Herbert and Elizabeth, Herbert's late sister Caroline and late brother Richard (in Australia).

The three children produced 12 grandchildren, of whom two were killed in WW1, one emigrated to America and one died young apparently unnamed. These, together with the eight surviving grandchildren of John in the Royal Engineers, are on the whole the ancestors of the family members born since in the UK. The rest are mostly in Australia. In 1888, at the age of 49, Herbert became a Freemason in the Afan Lodge in Aberavon. Much of the railway over the route from Treherbert to Aberavon had opened by that date.

“After a long and painful illness”, Herbert died of cancer of the mouth aged 57 in February 1896. At his departure he was a master tailor living in his adopted hometown Treherbert, in his own house Cloth Hall, and a Freemason. He was buried in Treorky Cemetery. So it was that, by the end the 19th century, all the offspring of David and Mary Evans were no more.

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James Phillipps of Tregybi and Cardigan Priory

Part 2

(Part 1 appeared in Volume 15.2 April 2024)

Parliamentarian

James became deeply involved with the Parliamentarians under Oliver Cromwell: he was a Colonel in the Parliamentary army, and one of six who represented Wales in the ‘Little Parliament’ or ‘Barebones Parliament’ of 1653;¹ in the same year “He was assigned the official lodgings lately occupied by Sir Henry Vane 27 June 1653 ...”,² and an associate of Cromwell himself during the Protectorate. He was one of the Commissioners of Sequestration, hence the quote from Francis Jones.³

“... he and his brother Hector are said to have sequestered the estates of the Royalists with excessive zeal.”

The following extract is from *Old Wales*:⁴

“1655 June 29. Note of a contract to Col. James Phillips for the following sequestered estates of Papists and Recusants in Wales: [a list follows totalling over £480 per annum.]

“June 29. Letters to the respective County Commissioners to let the estates to Phillips for one year or show cause to the contrary. (Col. James Phillips was one of the most active supporters of the Commonwealth in Cardiganshire, where he was seated at the Priory, Cardigan ... Col Phillips was Sheriff of Cardiganshire 1649 and member for the county 1654 and 1656, and afterwards returned for Cardigan town in 1660 and 1661 but unseated on petition the following year. He was a man of great activity and influence, as shown by the fact that in 1653 he was one of the six members appointed to represent all Wales in Barebones’ Parliament. He was a member of the various Commonwealth Committees.”

James was linked to the depredations at St. David’s Cathedral when quantities of lead were removed to Carmarthen and Swansea, however some apparently found its way onto the roof of the Priory, Cardigan.⁵

“... lead from the cathedral was taken to ‘Swanzey in Glamorganshire to cover the Market-House’ and ‘that part of the Lead of St. David’s Cathedral was us’d about a Gentleman’s House call’d the Priory in Cardigan, and Church

there.’ Small wonder, therefore, that a certain Richard Phillips⁶ petitioned Charles II on 21 January 1660 ‘that ye cathedrall church of St. Davids ... is miserably defaced and spoiled by ye sacrilegious practices of Philip Jones and James Philipps Esqre ... and others and ye materialls thereof, of a great value converted to their particular use to ye utter ruin of ye ancient fabric ... James Phillipps lived at the Priory, Cardigan, and Philip Jones was Governor of Swansea Castle during the Commonwealth.”

The complexity of the relationship between the families at Cardigan and at Picton is illustrated in part in the “Notes on Houses Garrisoned in the Civil War”, in *Carmarthenshire Notes*:⁷

“Sir Richard Phillips, Bart., succeeded his father, Sir John, and garrisoned his Castle of Picton for King Charles I in the time of the civil wars. He married Elizabeth, daughter to Sir Erasmus Dryden of Canons Ashby, Northampton, Bart., by whom he had Sir Erasmus, and one daughter, Frances, who married James Philipps of Tregibbye, in Cardigan, Esq., Kimber, 1771.

“It has been stated that Picton was saved from being dismantled, although garrisoned for the King, by the influence of James Philipps of Tregibbye ...”

From “Welsh Members during the Commonwealth” in the *Cambrian Quarterly Magazine*:⁸

“Mr James Phillips resided at the Priory, at Cardigan. The then residence of this gentleman was a part of the ancient religious cell modernized ...” (5)

“Mr. Phillips was a great partisan of his day, one of the Conservators of the Peace for the counties of Caermarthen (sic), Pembroke and Cardigan: his family nearly allied to those of Picton Castle, the first we know was Einon, the grandson of Sir Thomas Phillips of Picton. This family, doubtless, purchased the Priory estate in consequence of its political contingency, commanding, by its tenantry, the return of a member for the borough. Cromwell having excluded the boroughs from sending representatives, Mr. Phillips appears here as a county member.”

By 1649, James was around 55 years old, and a man of considerable influence both locally and in Cromwellian circles in London. However, this was not just a military exercise of power, and he found time for more benevolent activities during the interregnum.

From *Bye-Gones*:⁹

“The first school established was the Grammar School at Cardigan, which was set up during the Commonwealth by some of those who had fought on the side of the people against the King. The prime mover was James Phillipps of the Priory, a man high in repute with Cromwell, and known as the husband of the “Matchless Orinda”.”

He was also linked to a similar school at Lampeter.¹⁰

His republican fervour seems to have softened by the end of the Commonwealth era. After the death of Oliver and the continuation of the Commonwealth under his son Richard Cromwell, we find him in the company of others prepared to countenance the return of the monarchy.

The dichotomy of James’ nature is summarised in the following from *The Cambrian Quarterly Magazine*¹¹ citing an earlier MS of about 1661:

“James Phillipps, one that had the fortune to be with all tymes yet thrived by none; an argument that covetousness (the root of evil) was not the motive for him to take employments. His genius is to undertake publique affairs; regarding sometimes more the employment than the authority from whome received the same. He hath done much good and is ill rewarded by those he deserved most of.”

He again served in Parliament after the Restoration, although a Parliament very different from that at the outset of the Cromwell era. His position was not comfortable, as described in the History of Parliament Online:

“In 1661, Philipps was opposed by the royalist Sir Francis Lloyd, but he was returned to the Cavalier Parliament where he was again totally inactive. His position was difficult, and it was only through the intervention of Sir Charles Cotterell that he escaped penalty for his part in the preceding regime. On 27 June 1661 information was given to the House that Philipps as a member of the High Court of Justice was present when Gerard was sentenced to death. He was suspended from sitting, and a committee appointed to hear evidence. Arthur Owen was made responsible for Philipps’s further appearance when the House directed. He was able to prove that he had left London for Wales after the first day of Gerard’s trial, and on 13 Feb. 1662 he was allowed to resume his seat.”

Gerard’s crime was the attempted assassination of Cromwell, and Arthur Owen of New Moat was another erstwhile Parliamentarian who took part in the Restoration parliament, though like James Phillipps in a more restrained mode.

James' politics at this time had moderated significantly, and he appears to be more influenced by personal friendships such as that of Charles Cotterell and Arthur Owen rather than the zeal of his earlier years. If he was indeed born in 1594, he would have been 67 or so by the Restoration, and no doubt gained a more philosophical outlook. His second wife Katherine ('Orinda') died in London in 1665, and we can speculate that after losing his seat in Parliament, with his daughter married and living at Boulston, and following his third marriage to Ann Rudd of Aberglasney, that he and Anne were living quietly at The Priory in Cardigan.

Anne Phillipps, wife of James Phillipps, of The Priory, Cardigan, died 1673 or 74, the Probate of her Will is dated 1674.

James died in 1674, buried in St. Mary's, Cardigan.

(Part 3 will appear in Volume 15.4)

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⁴ Old Wales, v.1, no.3.

⁵ *The Journal of Welsh Ecclesiastical History*, vol.3, 1986, p.82–3 and citations therein.

⁶ Grandson of Sir Richard Phillipps of Picton.

⁷ *Carmarthenshire Notes*, vol 3 (1891).

⁸ *Cambrian Quarterly*, No.15, July 1832, vol.4.

⁹ *Bye-Gones*, April 1884.

¹⁰ *Seren Gomer*, January 1902, p.50.

¹¹ *The Cambrian Quarterly Magazine and Celtic Repertory*, Vol. 15, July 1832.

Church of St Thomas à Becket, Haverfordwest

Over several years my lifelong friend Brenda Munt and her friend Linda McCann recorded the inscriptions on some five hundred graves in the cemetery surrounding the church of St Thomas à Becket in Haverfordwest. I explored the history of those named, culminating in the publication of a book “The Stories behind the Stones” in 2019. I also investigated the history behind the monuments and memorials within the church.



St Thomas à Becket Church

One of the memorials is prominently located in the nave of the church.

SACRED TO THE
MEMORY OF
CAPTAIN CHARLES
PHILLIPS OF THE
ROYAL NAVY WHO
DIED THE 21ST
OCTOBER 1839
AGED 54 YEARS.
THIS TABLET
IS RAISED IN



AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE OF A FRIEND AND INDULGENT
HUSBAND BY HIS SORROWING WIDOW NOVEMBER 1839

Charles Phillips was the second son of George and Eliza Phillips. The *Glamorgan Newspaper* of 2 November 1839 recorded the deaths of two brothers, Capt Charles Phillips, RN, who died at Dupleddale near Haverfordwest, and his older brother John Lort Phillips Esq. of Hill Street, age 68. Charles, who had retired to Dupleddale, Burton, was buried at St Thomas church on 26 October.

Captain Charles Phillips served in the Royal Navy. Starting as a midshipman on *L'Aigle* which was shipwrecked in 1798 off Tunis, he joined the *Marlborough*, then the *Warrior* which pursued the combined French and Spanish fleets from the Mediterranean to Brest in 1799. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1806 and served on several ships in the Mediterranean area before becoming Commander in 1812. He invented and patented a successful geared capstan which was fitted on most naval ships of the time. Admiral Lort Stokes (a relative of the Captain Phillips) wrote in his book *Discoveries in Australia*: "We were endeavouring to weigh the ship's anchor. This proved impossible but had the ship [*HMS Beagle*] been fitted with Captain Phillips' RN capstan there would have been a better chance of succeeding." Captain Phillips continued to invent important devices including a method of suspending a ship's compass to prevent it being affected by the firing of guns in action. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1829.

In 1821 Phillips was appointed Captain of the *Spey* and soon afterwards *HMS Bann*, a ship of the *Cyrus* class, which in 1823 was patrolling along the African coast looking for slave ships. In a four-month cruise they rescued 813 slaves, but in May many of the crew died of fever off Ascension Island. The captain's steward, Thomas Walters of St Thomas parish, was one of those who died.

The other memorial is placed in the choir vestry under the bell tower.



SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF THOMAS WALTERS, SON OF MATTHEW AND ELEANOR WALTERS OF THIS TOWN, WHO DIED ON BOARD HM SHIP BANN AT ISLAND OF ASCENSION ON THE 26TH DAY OF MAY 1823, IN THE FAITHFUL AND HONEST DISCHARGE OF HIS DUTY AS CAPTAIN'S STEWARD.

Matthew Walters was the landlord of the Three Crowns public house in Hill Street. His son Thomas Walters served on *HMS Bann*, a ship of the Cyrus class launched in 1814. During the 1830s Ascension Island had become a base for the ships of the West Africa Squadron. These ships patrolled inshore along the African coast looking for slave ships as Britain had embarked on an anti-slavery policy. Crews on the ships working that coast were susceptible to fever and made for Ascension Island for rest and recuperation. In 1823, a fever carried by *HMS Bann* killed fifty men from the ship and the garrison. One of these was Thomas Walters, the Captain's steward.

Maybe the memorial was commissioned by the ship's captain, Charles Phillips, but significantly it is placed rather obscurely in the choir vestry under the bell tower and not in the main body of the church where the Phillips family are memorialised.

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Trefangor Burial Ground, Llanddewi Velfrey

It is hard to believe today that Ffynnon, or the Church's burial ground at Trefangor, was once at the centre of a large demonstration involving Ministers, Deacons, Solicitors and a dead body.

The story begins in 1640 with the birth of Griffith Howell in the Narberth area. The Howell family is one of the oldest in the county of Pembrokeshire and some of them held distinguished offices under King Charles II.

Griffith Howell was baptised on 4th June 1667 at his home in Rhashaker, Narberth. It is believed that a certain William Jones officiated.

William Jones had been ejected from the Church of England in 1662 for being one of the famous 2,000 who would not conform to some of the teachings and practices of the Church. He had been imprisoned in Carmarthen Gaol

in consequence of his beliefs. William Jones was baptised at Olchon, near Abergavenny.

On 13th May 1668 Griffith Howell and William Jones were chosen as Baptist Elders and they devoted themselves wholly to the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the Christian Ordinances. William Jones worked in the Welsh areas of Rhydwlwm, Cilfowyr etc. and Griffith Howell worked in the English districts of Rhashaker (Narberth), Molleston etc.

Griffith Howell conducted religious services at his home for about forty years and during that time he saw his wife and son baptised. Some time between 1668 and 1700 it is believed that Griffith Howell gave a piece of land at Trefangor, near Narberth, where Baptists could be laid to rest after their journey of life was over.

It is important to note that non-conformists were not allowed to bury their dead in cemeteries and Priests were known to refuse to bury people who had not been Christened.

One story relates to a body exhumed and buried on a crossroads, the burial place of murderers, etc., because the woman concerned had not been Christened. Children were buried at night in back gardens. If consent was given to bury on Church property, then no prayers were to be said or hymns sung within the confines of the Churchyard. The Baptists were made to hold their funeral services outside the Churchyard before laying the deceased to rest.

Griffith Howell gave the Baptists of Wales a resting place. His son, John Howell, laid stones for the boundary wall around the plot which was 33 feet square. John Howell was the first to be buried in Trefangor. Griffith Howell was laid to rest in Trefangor in 1705 or 1706.

For 150 years nothing of special interest transpired in connection with this little-known burial ground situated deep in the heart of the countryside, away from the noise of traffic, with no Chapel to attract the notice of passers-by.

During this time the Baptists of the county had erected Chapels at Molleston, Narberth and Ffynnon, each with their own burial grounds. Rhydwlwm too, had secured similar ground. Infrequent were the burials at Trefangor during this time. However, Trefangor became the centre of attraction on Saturday, 26th October 1861.

In 1803, David Griffiths was born in the Parish of Trefelyn, Pembrokeshire. He was baptised in Carmel in 1820. He became well-known for his preaching

abilities and was encouraged to prepare for college. This he did, with the support of his friends, and he attended at an educational establishment of considerable repute at Ffynnon, which was conducted by the Reverend Benjamin Davies, the first Minister of Ffynnon.

David Griffiths succeeded to gain admission to Bradford College and consequently held Pastorates at Meltham, Burnley and Choughfold. In 1840 he became Principal of Accrington College. Unfortunately, he had to leave the post eight years later due to ill health.

David Griffiths' journey through life ended on 19th October 1861, with him being 58 years old. He had expressed a wish to his friends that he might be laid to rest in Trefangor. Out of respect for his wish, his mortal remains were carried back to Pembrokeshire on a train, arriving at Narberth Station on 26th October 1861, accompanied by several of his friends from Yorkshire and Lancashire, a journey of more than 200 miles.

It is at this point that Mr J L G P Lewis of Henllan, a local gentleman, who had bought Trefangor Farm, which surrounded the little burial ground, claimed also the place of interment, and demanded a fee before allowing burial to take place. The Reverend Henry Price of Rhydwylym urged all present not to surrender the rights of the denomination and the body of the late David Griffiths was conveyed to Narberth, and temporarily buried at Bethesda, the service being led by the Reverend Hugh W Jones of Carmarthen. The case was entrusted to Mr William Rees, a solicitor from Haverfordwest, who was an unflinching member of the denomination. He interviewed Mr Lewis, who was known as the Squire of Henllan, and tried to persuade him to change his mind, but the Squire would not yield.

Mr Rees called a conference at Narberth, inviting Ministers and leading members of the denomination to discuss the case. The problem was that the deeds which showed that the late Reverend Griffith Howell had given that land to the Baptist Denomination had gone missing and without this proof, the Squire would not change his mind.

On Monday, 4th November 1861, a large crowd, of more than 1,000 people gathered at Narberth and carried the remains of David Griffiths to Trefangor. The Reverend B Thomas, Narberth, arranged the service at Bethesda and before setting off for Trefangor, the Reverend David Davies, Pembroke offered prayer in English and the Reverend Owen Griffiths, Blaenconin offered prayer in Welsh. Mr Rees headed the procession and on their arrival at Trefangor, Mr Lewis of

Henllan was waiting to receive them. Thorns and bushes had been placed in the road and although William Rees requested their removal, Mr Lewis refused. The gate to the burial ground was locked, and when the Squire refused to hand over the key, William Rees broke the lock with a hammer, and entry was gained. While the grave was opened, the large crowd were addressed by the Reverend Dr Davies, Haverfordwest, the Reverend Henry Price, Rhydwlwym, the Reverend D M Evans, Llanelli and the Reverend H J Morgan, Pembroke Dock.

William Rees was served with a writ, to appear at Haverfordwest Assizes on 3rd July 1862. The Judge was Sir W E Channel. Three charges were brought against Mr Rees:

1. That he forced his way into the burial ground, which was the private property of the plaintiff, Mr Lewis;
2. That he broke the lock which the plaintiff had put to the entrance gate.
3. That he ruined several trees and shrubs that were in the road leading to the burial ground and committed other offences against the plaintiff.

Mr Rees was found guilty and made to pay: 40 shillings for breaking the lock and damaging the trees; 40 shillings for forcing entrance to the burial ground; together with costs amounting to £573 5s 0d.

The Pembrokeshire Association of Baptist Churches felt that as Mr Rees was acting on behalf of the Denomination, they would make a collection to try and pay off the fine. Sadly, out of 54 Churches, only 22 made a collection and the sum raised was £148 16s 0d. The story does not end there.

Two or three years later, Mr Lewis of Henllan was looking through some papers belonging to the late Archdeacon Evans of Nantyreglwys, near Narberth, when he came across the deeds to Trefangor Burial Ground. To his credit, Mr Lewis declared openly that he had found the deeds and acknowledged that Trefangor belonged to the Baptist Denomination. He then generously gave a piece of land adjoining the cemetery to enlarge it, contributed £10 towards the cost of an additional wall and gave some land to Ffynnon for interment purposes at the rent of a peppercorn a year.

We are most grateful to the Reverend Huw M George for his research, his writing of this article and his permission to publish it in this journal.

Submitted by Geraint Davies (4553)

Australia Bound

This is the story of two young Llandovery men who went to Australia in 1853 to seek their fortune in the gold rush.

One was William Evans of Maestwynog Farm which is along the road from Llanwrda to Pumpsaint at the junction where the road turns to Porthyrhyd. He was my wife's great, great uncle a brother to her great grandfather David Evans.

The other young man was John Manuel who was born in 1830 in Lower Street, Llandovery. John was baptised in Llandinat church. By 1851 John had moved to London and was working as a draper's assistant.

So, how do we know about this trip? We have three letters written by William to his parents at Maestwynog Farm. The letters were addressed to Mr Morgan Evans, Maestwynog, c/o Edward Manuel, Black Ox Tavern, Llandovery. Edward Manuel was the father of John, William's travelling companion. In the 1851 Census Edward was listed as a publican so it seems that he was the landlord of the Black Ox.

In the first letter dated 12th September 1853 William describes the voyage and his life in Melbourne. They sailed on a ship called the *Lady Flora* and it took 130 days to reach Hobsons Bay, Port Phillip, Melbourne.



William says that for the first 9 days he was very seasick but after that he enjoyed the voyage. Within one month of landing both William and John had found employment, John as a haberdasher and William as a carter for Messrs Bolton and Chambers Contractors and Timber Merchants. William says that he is earning £2 a week. This was a lot of money, about 5 times what a labourer would get in Wales at that time. However, he says that food and lodging are expensive and gives detailed costs of many different things.

This was a booming time in Melbourne with the town growing rapidly due to the massive influx of gold seekers – much like San Francisco in 1849. In 1852 75,000 people arrived in the Colony of Victoria. The gold fields were at Bendigo and Ballarat about a100 miles north of Melbourne. In the letter William says that he plans to go to seek his fortune, but he will not go until he

has accumulated enough money to stay at the diggings for 6 to 8 weeks. He was confident that he would succeed in that time.

The second letter was sent only 2 weeks after the first and William says he is sending it in case the first one failed to arrive. The third letter is about a year and a half later, March 1855. By this time William has received mail from home. We should remember that, from sending a letter it would take eight to nine months to receive the reply. Clearly receiving a letter from home was very important because William complains that he has only received two letters, but he has sent five. He says that he has been to the diggings but did not find the big nugget he was looking for. He seems quite relaxed and says that he is leaving it to grow for a final visit before he returns home. It seems that he never did find that big nugget because we know that he was back in Maestwynog in 1861 for the Census. Maybe he planned to come back after a few years but also his father died in 1856 and that was the reason for his return. Sadly, he died at quite a young age in 1868 and is buried with his parents in Caio.

John Manuel, we know went on to Sydney but there is no further trace of his life in Australia.

The letters are written in quite flowery English which is typical of Victorian times. This is a little bit strange because William was certainly a Welsh speaker, he talks about speaking Welsh with other Welshmen in Melbourne. Maybe he spoke Welsh but could not write in Welsh? I do wonder if the letters were the work of a letter writer which I understand was quite common. Whichever way they are a beautiful record of his journey and a snapshot of life in Melbourne at the beginning of the gold rush.

I first became aware of the letters about 40 years ago. They were in a writing box on the dresser at Cwmcynwal Farm where they had been for about 100 years. They would have come to Cwmcynwal with David Evans, William's brother, when he married Elizabeth Morgan a daughter of Cwmcynwal and moved there to live.

(Editor: transcriptions of all three letters are available on the Upper Towy Valley Spotlight on the DFHS website, unfortunately too large to include within the article and the originals are too fragile to scan!)

It is maybe worth noting that the gold which was extracted from the Victorian goldfields over some 30 years paid off the UK National Debt.

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Family discoveries via DNA matches

Background

I've been researching family history for several years, using the on-line Ancestry genealogy application.

Ancestry have DNA matching as an additional option. They see the unique association between you and the other cousin. If allowed you can view their DNA matched family tree, their relationship to you e.g. '3rd cousin', strength of DNA match, percentage of their Welsh ethnicity etc., and a recent development that suggests which family tree side of your parent they are associated with. N.B. the match can also be on both sides or unassigned.

This article details a few of those family connections discovered through DNA matching.

When I first reviewed the DNA match list, I recognised several cousins on the list, including down to 4th cousins by matching their family trees back to a common ancestor. Many other cousins on the DNA match list were undistinguishable. The exact family match required more research.

This entailed the following processes:

- expanding my own family tree to include detailed facts of the sibling trees of my grandparents' branches (sideways), going as far as the facts that I could ascertain were correct and I had confidence in the accuracy of the details discovered.
- matching the detail in the unknown cousin DNA match family trees to where they corresponded to close match person in my tree, thereby finding common grandparents. Building a reverse tree from that person in the DNA match tree, back to the identified common ancestors in my tree. N.B. this match of course requires that the cousin on the match list has an accurate traceable tree that contains reliable data but in most cases no family tree is available or there is no detail to follow.
- on the DNA match, a recognisable family name, location (County, parish or address etc.) and birth dates are in the DNA match tree.

Over several years, these DNA matches have opened very interesting stories that without the DNA match and the subsequent family investigation, I wouldn't have any knowledge of.

Only by the alternatives of detailed time-consuming research, visiting many various archive facilities at different locations would this be possible even then it would need a lot of good fortune. The stories of these DNA family relations and narratives are featured as follows:

Ancestor, DNA find

A 4th cousin DNA match to my 3x great grandmother Ruth Llewellyn, nee Thomas, b. 1795 Cenarth, married to John Llewellyn b. 1766 d.1841 in Cenarth, “tailor”, living in 1851 at Glandwr Cenarth.

In a previous DFHS article, August 2021, I wrote of John and Ruth’s grandson born 1850 to his unmarried mother, Mary Llewellyn in the Cardigan workhouse at St Dogmaels.

Another DNA match of 4th cousin provided a match on my family tree on the paternal side. This was a 2nd cousin 3x removed, Sarah Ann Thomas b. 1860 Cenarth who in 1891 was living in St Mary parish Cardiff, married to David Jenkins. I then reconstructed the tree back in the hope of discovering a shared common ancestor.

Gleaned from tips provided by various authors of articles in DFHS journal and other sources e.g., [GRO.gov](https://www.gro.gov.uk) providing birth date and mothers’ maiden surname, Ancestry family search function etc.

Sarah’s father Joshua Thomas b 1838 Cenarth, in 1871 a Pig Dealer, also living at Glandwr Cenarth.

By 1881 they were living in the Swansea district of Lisbon, in parish of Llangyfelach, occupation Foreman in Steel Works i.e. the famous ‘Landore’ Siemens Steel Works, which produced the 25000 tons of high-quality steel used in the construction of the Forth Bridge in 1882. The Works was a 15-minute walk from his house. Joshua’s father was Ruth Llewellyn’s brother, Samuel Thomas b. 1798 Cenarth, farmer of 13 acers, Parcybras, Glanteifi, Cenarth, a close neighbour to Ruth Llewellyn.

Samuel had 8 children one of whom was Margaret b. 1825 Cenarth, who married John Evans b.1823 Cenarth.

On their wedding they moved to Skewen Neath, where they ran a Grocers shop for 50 years, John Evans, who, like her, had been brought up in Capel Bryn Seion (Annibynwyr – Independent), who at the time of their wedding

was working as a 'schoolmaster' in the Rhos y Caerau and Pencaer area near Fishguard. They moved to Skewen on the day of their wedding, November 22nd, 1855, which took place in Saron, Llangeler. They had 3 children 2 daughters and a son, viz. Rachel b. 1858, Samuel Thomas b.1860, Sara b.1862. Samuel became a distinguished politician and High Court Judge. In 1881 Margaret's father Samuel was staying with them in Skewen, listed as a retired farmer.

Both John and Margret were devoted members of Capel Annibynwyr, Capel Ebenezer, Skewen, as outlined in Margaret Thomas' obituary:

The following is part extract from the obituary of Margaret Thomas as published in *Y Celt* Nov. 1903, pages 8–9 (Source – NLW *Welsh Newspapers on-line*)

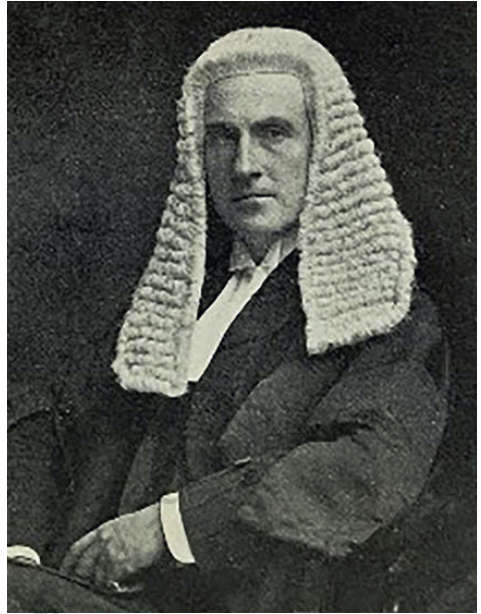
'Marwolaeth a Chladdedigaeath Mrs Margaret Evans, 'Y Siop,' Sciwen. 13^{eg} o fis Tachwedd hunodd Mrs Margaret Evans, gweddw y diweddar Mr John Evans, 'Y Siop,' Sciwen, a mam Mr S T Evans, K.C., A.S., yn ei 80 mlwydd oed. Heblaw efe, gadawa ar ei hoi ddwy Ferch – Mrs Samuel, Cockett, a Mrs Powell, Coedmor, Sciwen. Claddwyd hi dydd Llun yr 16^{eg}, o dan y drefn Ymneillduol yn, meddrod y teulu yn mynwent Eglwys y Sciwen, o dan arwyddion amlwg o alar cyffredinol a dwys. Un oedd yn un fawr gerid gan bawb, a theimlid fod yr holl ardal yn cael colled drom drwy ei marwolaeth, ac yn arbenig eglwys y Tabernacl'.

(Death and Burial of Mrs Margaret Evans, 'The Shop,' Skewen. On 13th November Mrs Margaret Evans, widow of the late Mr John Evans, 'The Shop,' Skewen, and mother of Mr S T Evans, K.C., M.P., passed away aged 80. Besides him, she leaves two daughters – Mrs Samuel, Cockett, and Mrs Powell, Coedmor, Skewen. She was buried on Monday the 16th, under Nonconformist procedure, in the family grave in Skewen Church cemetery, where signs of general and intense mourning were obvious. She was greatly loved by everyone, and it was felt that the whole area suffered a heavy loss through her death, and especially Tabernacle Chapel.)

“ She was brought up in the Bryn Seion area, Newcastle Emlyn, in a farmhouse called Parcybras, which stands in a beautiful spot above the river Teifi, between the village of Cenarth and Pontseli. She belonged to a very responsible family and had many early advantages that were not commonly found in the first part of the previous century. When she was young, she was accepted as a member in Bryn Seion, by the Reverend Edward Rees, one of the most famous men of our denomination in his day”.

Born at Skewen, Glamorganshire, May 1859, the only son of John Evans, a local grocer, and Margaret Evans, both natives of Cenarth. After attending the Collegiate School at Swansea, he proceeded to Aberystwyth College and took a London degree.

Overcoming his parents' wish that he should enter the ministry', he became articled at Neath and qualified as a solicitor in 1883. He served on the town council at Neath and took an active part in local politics, in 1890 he was returned to Parliament MP for Mid-Glamorgan, which he represented continuously for the next twenty years. His abilities and his gifts as a debater made him a prominent member of the Welsh Parliamentary Party.



**Sir Samuel Thomas Evans KC –
Wikipedia open source**

In 1891 he was called to the Bar, and he soon acquired a large practice on the South Wales circuit. He took silk in 1901, being the last Q.C. to be created by queen Victoria. In 1908 he was made recorder of Swansea; in the same year he was appointed Solicitor-General. In 1910 he became president of the Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division of the High Court. He was a G.C.B. “Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath” and a member of the Privy Council.

He died in 1918 and is buried in St John’s Church Skewen, the same cemetery as are his parents.

His sister Rachel also died in 1918. It’s possible that they were both victims of the 1918 ‘Spanish Flu’ pandemic. Additional detail of the life of Samuel Thomas Evans is available on-line and various books especially various books on History of Neath and district and NLW Dictionary of Biography.

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The Road to Rothwell and Back

This story developed from two separate pieces of research, which have connected to build a wider picture, and I am grateful to Robert G. Page for his permission to include his findings from Northamptonshire.

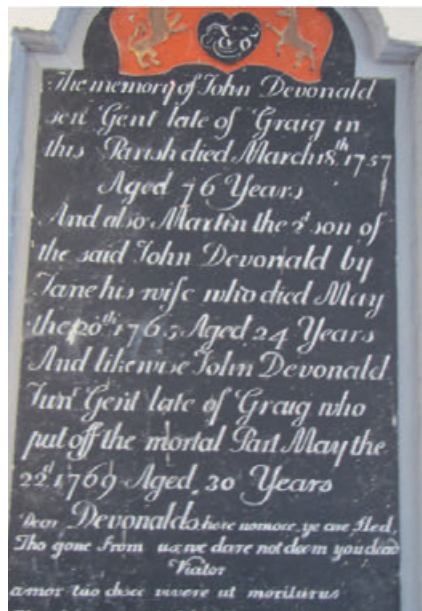
John Devonald of Graig, Llanfyrnach (1681–1757)

There were several by this name,¹ and in this article we focus on John (1681–1757), son of John and grandson of John Devonald (–1665), who had inherited Graig from his father Thomas. Initially, little was known about him except the names of sons John and Martin who died without issue, and his daughters Hannah and Dinah. However a typescript was discovered at NLW, no doubt transcribed from an earlier handwritten document, giving some account of events regarding a second marriage. The name of neither wife was given, but subsequently a possible marriage was found at Rothwell, Northamptonshire in 1716, to Hannah Hills,² then we find that the Golden Grove pedigrees show his wife as *Sarah*, daughter of Robert Hills.

At first sight this seems unlikely, until we consider the journeys made by the cattle drovers, Northampton being a known centre for onward sale to the cattle dealers from London and elsewhere.³ The Morse family, (see below) were known to have been involved in the trade.

John Devonald of Graig was an early Nonconformist, closely involved with the foundation of the Congregational chapel at Glandwr, donating the land for it to be built.

So it was with interest that I read Bob Page's article (DFHJ December 2023) about *Perrot Ap Rice*. There is no known family link with the Devonalds, but the Northampton connection is intriguing. *Perrot ap Rice* had conveniently disappeared from sight in Pembrokeshire after charges of treason were brought against him in 1659, until a later generation with the anglicised surname of Ap(p)rice



Glandwr plaque

emerged in Northamptonshire (possibly due to nonconformist connections.) So, it can be conjectured that *Perrot ap Rice* of Rickeston found it timely to leave Pembrokeshire in company with the drovers, safer in company than travelling alone. The vast assemblies of cattle would have required many hands to control and tend to them during the long journey, and one more or less scarcely noticed.

A further point of note is the date of Perrot's charge of treason, 1659. This was right at the end of the Cromwellian era, the Protectorate. Oliver Cromwell had died the year before, leaving his son Richard in power, though weak in the role. The Restoration of Charles II as monarch happened the following year, 1660, so how was the term "treason" to be interpreted? It seems that Perrot was never actually convicted, at least there is no record, and maybe the judicial authorities at the time decided to hold their hand, until it was certain in whose name the charge could be brought.

Returning to John Devonald, two years before his marriage to Hannah Hills at Rothwell,⁴ Northamptonshire, his name is one of the signatories of a letter dated 1st November 1714, from the Congregational church at Rhydyceisaid to their brethren at Rothwell, Northants. It is time to introduce the name of **Matthias Maurice**, a Nonconformist with strong views and fervent style as a preacher, born 1684 in Llanddewi Velfrey, who following a schism within the brethren of Henllan Amgoed, left to form the new church at Rhydyceisaid. That was in 1711, but by 1713 he is ministering at Olney, Northamptonshire, and in 1714 he is present at Rothwell, where he was asked to take over the ministry, at a time when the incumbent, Richard Davis, (also High Calvinist) was a "very sick man" and an assistant was needed. An unpleasant interlude followed, regarding his leaving the church at Olney (described by Streather).⁵ There also seems to have been an irregularity in his departure from Rhydyceisaid, detailed in the letter of 1714.

In October 1716 we have the marriage of John Devonald and Hannah Hills at Orton, a chapelry of Rothwell, Northants. While this is recorded in the (C of E) Bishop's transcripts, it is surely no coincidence that Matthias Maurice was minister at the Congregational church at Rothwell, nor can it be a coincidence that back in Pembrokeshire when John's wife Hannah died sometime later, he chose to have her funeral and burial at Rhydyceisaid chapel, some 9 miles south of Graig.

There is no evidence that John and Hannah/Sarah made their home in Northamptonshire, but returned to Graig, where their son Edward was born. If John were, as we suggest, regularly working alongside or even leading the drovers, he could

continue to make the journey to Northampton, his wife well looked after at Graig, with wider family and friends in Llanfyrnach. Another possibility is that Robert Hills, Hannah's father, is said to have married a daughter of Martin of Newport.⁶ So there was by the early 1700s a close link between the Nonconformists of the Pembrokeshire/Carmarthenshire border, and the Northamptonshire community at Olney and Rothwell. It seems likely that the letter from Rhydyceisiaid could have been carried by the drovers, or maybe even John Devonald himself.

The Llandawke Typescript

At the National Library, enclosed in a scrolled Devonald family tree back to early times, I found a typescript headed Llandawke 1897, with some detail of the family history of John Devonald of Graig (1681–1757), who we can identify with the John Devonald above.⁷ He is described as “the first Freeholder who was a Dissenter in the Parish of Llanfyrnach”, and with the letter described above this gives a strong motivation for him to be closely involved with establishing a chapel at Glandwr, and donation of the land on which it was to be built. A plaque to his memory and those of his two sons John and Martin, is in the chapel, unusual in a nonconformist interior.

The Typescript goes on to describe events relating to a “first wife from England”, who died in 1710, and an older son, Edward, from this first marriage, who died in 1735, aged about 30, and a second marriage. However we have the evidence that John's marriage to Hannah Hills took place in 1716, so in this, and with several other possible discrepancies (see below), we might consider the reliability of the document. It is unsigned and with no attribution. It is likely that the events described happened, but the dates are uncertain.

The location of Llandawke (near Laugharne, Carmarthenshire) is readily explained: John Devonald (–1757), left his property to his eldest son, John Devonald Jr., who died without issue, leaving Graig to his sister Hannah and brother-in-law Thomas Morse of Brimaston jointly. It was a great-grandson of this marriage, John Devonald Morse (1824–1900), who left Graig and subsequently settled at Llandawke. His wife was Mary Hughes of Sarnlas, Llangan. In all they had 12 children, and with descendants from the intervening generations, it may have been at a family reunion that this account of family lore from several centuries earlier was compiled in 1897.

So there is a strong possibility that John Devonald (–1757) travelled regularly with the Drovers, possibly one of the leaders. He had a sizeable holding at Graig, where the drove might be assembled from farms round about, for grazing until ready to move off. For the routes they might have taken to Northampton(shire)

and the practicalities of overnight stops, the publications listed under footnote (3) have details. On arrival, there would be dealers or intermediaries with accommodation for the drovers, and lands for grazing the cattle. If we accept this regular interaction between the two communities, it is no surprise that the religious affiliations were also shared.

No easy clarification

I could imagine several scenarios which might explain the various discrepancies in the Llandawke document, but without evidence. To throw a further spanner in the idea of coming to any conclusions, we recall that the Golden Grove entry has his wife as *Sarah* f.⁸ Robert Hills of Halcourt in Com. Northampton.⁹ No record for this has been found, so there might be an assumption that Sarah and Hannah were one and the same person; or were Sarah and Hannah two different people, perhaps cousins, and John's eldest son, Edward, born of the earlier marriage? In that case, Edward could well have indeed died in 1735, aged about 30.¹⁰ Might there have been an earlier Nonconformist marriage, ratified in church at a later date? Or, if we discount an earlier marriage, is Edward's age of 30 in mistake for 13? And is the mention of his WIFE's relatives from Whitchurch actually meant for his MOTHER's? (she was indeed from Whitchurch).¹¹ If we had one more recorded date for any of these events, it might all fall into place.

On firmer ground, we have dates for John's other sons (by his second wife, Jane) confirmed from the plaque at Glandwr: John (b.c.1739) and Martin (b.c.1741), and with the eldest daughter Hannah, born a year or so earlier, (1737), Hannah (née Hills) must have died before 1736, and John senior remarried. The previous several years must have been dark times for him, and we can understand the words of the Llandawke document, that he "asked to be guided by a man of rare abilities by the name of Mark Evan." Mark Evan was also one of the witnesses to the codicil of John Devonald's will dated February 1756,¹² but I have not so far traced him. He could be someone of status in the Independent church, or maybe an elderly groom or farm hand with the sort of wisdom which cannot be taught. I am keeping an open mind.

Both John (jr.) who inherited Graig, and Martin were unmarried, and died relatively young with no known issue. Martin having predeceased him, John jr. left Graig to his sister Hannah and her husband Thomas Morse, jointly, and so as described above, it was their great-grandson John Devonald Morse who moved from Graig, initially to Sarnlas, then settled in Llandawke. He died in 1900, and we could wish he had been able to give more information as to what took his ancestor to Northamptonshire almost two centuries before.

Acknowledgements

With thanks to Robert G. Page for allowing me to reference his article on Perrot ap Rice, and his careful appraisal of the above in draft, in particular relating to Northamptonshire, also to Bettye Kirkwood (1911) and Simon Carter (2251) for earlier Devonald email exchanges. Also, thanks to Betsi Worner and Anna Williams for the second Llandawke document. Other sources are shown in the footnotes.

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Notes

¹ See *Devonalds of Llanfyrnach* in DFHJ Dec 2019.

² BTs for the chapelry of Orton.

³ There are a number of books on the drovers by R J Colyer, Philip Gwyn Hughes, Twm Elias and Shirley Toulson (non-fiction) among others.

⁴ Also known as Rowell

⁵ *Memorials of the Independent Chapel at Rothwell*. G W Streater.

⁶ Unverified.

⁷ I have since seen a different typed version, which is clearly titled “Copy of a MS of J D Morse of Llandawke”, extending to later generations.

⁸ ferch = daughter of.

⁹ Probably Holcot, Northants. No such place spelt Halcourt has been identified.

¹⁰ Golden Grove shows the son Edward, but the record stops there.

¹¹ Elinor f. Howell Pŵs (Prees), Eglwyswen.

¹² SD 1757/88.

Help Needed

Steadman Family

MY ANCESTORS John Griffiths and Jane Steadman were married at Gwnnws (Cardiganshire) in 1840, and for the next three generations most of their descendants were given the middle name Steadman. Clearly this was an important name to them, and there is a family legend that Jane was a descendant of the Stedman family who once owned Strata Florida Abbey. Certainly, the legend is geographically plausible – and in fact Jane’s mother, also Jane, the widow of William Steadman, was buried at Strata Florida in 1858.

I would like some help in proving (or disproving) a connection to the Stedmans please. I understand that there are older parish registers at the

Ceredigion Archives, but Aberystwyth is a bit far for me to travel at present. I'd also be interested in any records that are available of the descendants of the Strata Florida Stedmans, to approach the problem from that side as well.

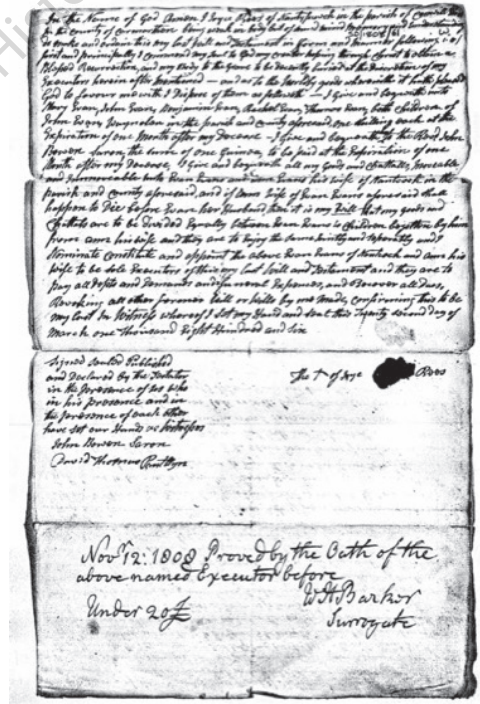
Thomas Preece (22941)

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Thomas Rees

I AM RESEARCHING members of my family tree. I have had great difficulty finding their baptisms because I believe they were mainly chapel people. Now, I have come across a will for a Joyce/Joice Rees 1808 Conwil Elvet Nantyfwch farm on National Library of Wales website which I attach.

Her husband Caleb Rees died in 1806 leaving all his belongings to his wife. In her will, amongst various monies left to her family in which she seems to refer to the children by patronymics (her husband Caleb Rees I suspect was referred to as Caleb Evan after his father Evan Rees see attached will 1767 *(too large to include here but a copy can be provided if necessary just ask the Editor)* for Pen Vol Carw farm and so on to the children). Interestingly, she leaves some money to a John Bowen of Saron but where is this chapel? Looking at the geography in relation to the farm and the nearest sizeable village Conwil Elvet is this Saron in/near Llangeler to the north? Or is there another more likely Saron as the family seem to live mainly in the Conwil Elvet area/parish. Perhaps one of the DFHS members might be able to ascertain from their local knowledge which Saron chapel is being referred too. In addition, if you can identify this chapel do you know of any records or tell me where I can get access to their records for births/deaths and marriages?



My actual direct line of descent from Evan Rees is through his other son Thomas NOT Caleb Rees his brother mentioned above. Again, I cannot find baptisms either for the offspring of Thomas Rees because I believe they were chapel people perhaps belonging like his brother Caleb to the Saron chapel above I am seeking to find.

Gareth K Rees (52424)

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Family Bible

Can you help? Only recently has it come to my attention that in a 2005 edition of your newsletter you posted a letter from Barbara Morris regarding a 'new home for a bible'.

This was my family bible which sadly disappeared following the death of my father. I contacted Barbara Morris and received the following helpful reply.

'Hi Peter, I remember we advertised in a Welsh local history magazine and a gentleman contacted me to say that the names inside the bible were in his family tree. I think he had a good claim to the bible, and he drove down from Wales to Croydon, Surrey to collect it. Perhaps this was one of your cousins? That was nearly 20 years ago, I suppose, although it doesn't seem like it. I don't think I still have the correspondence, but if it turns up, I will get in touch again to let you know who it was. Thank you for getting in touch, I'm sorry we no longer have the bible. I think my parents bought the bible in a charity shop, or a second-hand bookshop, somewhere in Wales. My mother did a lot of family history research and made various trips visiting numerous farms and houses where various ancestors had lived.'

I was wondering if anyone knows who might have collected the bible or its current whereabouts so that I could get in contact with them.

Dr Peter Bernard Jones (13684)

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NEW HOME FOR A BIBLE

I have a large, heavy, late C19th or early C20th Welsh bible with birth and death entries for the family of David and Sarah Jones, both buried at Blaen-waun. Sarah died 17 August 1901, and David died in 1931. Also Sarah's sister Elizabeth Davies, 1873-1949, who is buried at Cardigan Cemetery.

The entries in the bible may date from the 1940s, and also include:

Thomas Jones b. 1890 who married Sarah Ann Jones b. 1891, and Sarah Ann's mother Martha Thomas who died in 1944 and was buried at Soar Whitland.

Thomas Elwyn Jones b. 1918 who married Doris Hardcastle b. 1923 at Toll Gavel Wesleyan Chapel in Beverly, Yorkshire; and Doris' grandmother Mary Jane Horsley buried at Tickton, Yorkshire.

Peter Bernard Jones b. 1947.

I'd like to hand the bible on to any descendants of this family, and would be glad to hear from any of them or from anyone who has any clues to help me find them.

If it's not possible to trace this family, then the bible is available to any Welsh speaker who is willing to collect it from SE3.

S. Morris
b.morris@btinternet.com

Members Interests

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

Member	Surname	Forenames	Occupation	Place	County	Country	Event	From	To
1748	Payne	Elizabeth	Housemaid	Llandoverly	Carma	Wales		1910	1930
2335	Bowen	Richard	Tenant Farmer	Kilgetry Farm	Pembr	Wales		1835	1932
53527	Laugharne								
3104	James							1750	1900
11594	Sandell	George Thomas	Collier	Tyrlain, Llanddarog	Carma			1901	1950
11594	Basey	Walter		Chestnut Cottage, Queen Street, Llandoverly	Carma			1908	1984
11594	Jones (Basey)	Margaretta or Gretta			Carma			1910	1985
11594	Basey	Walter Clive			Carma			1940	1954
4109	Dally	David	Miner	Coedcanlass	Pembr	Wales			
41832	Dawkin	William	Gent	Llanelli	Carma	Wales	B/Bap	1766	1767
41832	Dawkin	William		Swansea			any	c1749	
41832	Williams	Margaret	wife of William (1798)	Llanelli			any		
41832	Phillips	David	Gent	Llanllwch	Carma			1781	1850
41832	Thomas	Rachel	wife of David	Panteager	Monmo			1791	1878

57583	Morse	Henry	Mariner	Saint Davids	Pembr	Wales	Any	1816	1895
57583	John	Richard(s)	Weaver	Saint Davids	Pembr	Wales	Any	1851	1916
57583	Evan	Dinah		Llanschar	Pembr	Wales	Birth	c1816	c1898
16583	Harrises	John Howell	Farmer	Mydrim	Carms	UK		1874	1947
16583	Cheded	Harriet Susanna	Housewife	Whitchueh Canonicorum	Dorse	UK		1888	1974
16583	Davies	Thomas (Tom)	Sec NFU	Carma	Carms	UK		1882	1949
16583	Issac	Elizabeth Anne	Housewife	Carma	Carms	UK		1887	1972
36314	Morris	John	Farmer	Llanddeiniol, Gilfache farm	Cardi	Wales		c1756	1830
36314	Morris	Jenkin			Cardi	Wales	Any/All	1841	1892
36314	Jones	Sarah	Dressmaker / Farmer's wife	Tanybwlich, Llangeitho	Cardi	Wales	Any/All	1839	1905
68211	Birch		Tailor	Haverfordwest	Pembr	UK		1800	present
58668	Rowlands	Richard	Farmer	Melindwr (Capel Bangor)	Cardi	Wales		1745	1828
11653	Lewis	Johnny		Llandello	Carma	Wales	Death	1905	1905
11653	Lewis	David h	Soldier	Llandello	Carma	Wales	WW1	1905	1917
52578	Wilding	Frederick Cyril		Borth					
2549	Llewellyn	Annie		Milford	Pembs		Buried	1942	
2549	Cozens	Ann		Freystrop	Pembs		Born	c1800	
92251	Esmond			Burton	Pembr				

92251	Jones				Walton West	Pembr		1750	1860
92251	Jones	Thomas	Ag Lab		Uzmaston	Pembr		1850	1897
92251	Jones	Thomas			Haverfordwest			1850	1897
37981	Davies	Anne			Pantyderi, Bancyfelin	Carma	Wales	1903	
14651	Jenkins	James			Llanwinio	Carma	Unite	1851	1861
14651	Jenkins	Thomas	Farmer		Trelech ar Betws	Carma	Unite	1851	1890
44532	Richards	Brinley	Clerk, Tinsplate Works Manager		Llanelli	Carma	Wales	1893	1930
44532	Richards	David	Various at Tinsplate Works		Llanelli	Carma	Wales	1873	1916
44532	Richards	Tabitha			Llanelli	Carma	Wales	1888	1964
44532	Richards	Blodwen	Dressmaker		Llanelli	Carma	Wales	1884	1930
44532	Richards	David Charles	Tinsplate worker		Llanelli	Carma	Wales	1873	1914
71552	Rowland	Morris			Llangendeirne	Carma	Wales	1757	1836
71552	Lewis	Sage			Llangendeirne	Carma	Wales	1778	
71552	Culham				Llangendeirne	Carma	Wales		
68817	Harries/ Harris	William	Blacksmith		Nantycaws	Carma	S. Wa	1844	
68817	Rees	William	Collier		Pembrey	Carma	S. Wal	1850	
44555	Richards	Amy Elvira			Camarthen	Camar	Wales	1879	1883
12432	John	James	Seaman		Fishguard	Pembr	Wales	1860	1938



Around the Branches



CARDIGAN

Early Criminal Photography in Wales

Our speaker this evening, 4th March, was Richard Ireland, retired Professor of Law. Richard gave our group a lively and informative talk drawing on his many years of experience as a lecturer.

Nowadays we are able to identify people easily using photographic id, fingerprints and DNA. Before these scientific methods came into use much more primitive ways of identifying and remembering the faces of criminals were used. These included staring at prisoners for a prolonged period of time in order to commit their features and any distinguishing marks to memory. The hands of the accused were also shown prominently in photographs as well as their faces as hands often had distinguishing features such as tattoos, missing fingers or other injuries.

The earliest surviving picture of a prisoner is a photograph by Governor George Stephens. He photographed James Jones, who was convicted of attempting to murder his sister-in-law, in 1858. Carmarthen jail was also photographed by George Stephens during his long service there as a governor. He enjoyed photography as a hobby but later realised that it could be a useful way to record criminals who otherwise could change their name easily when they moved between different areas.

Social changes in the 19th century meant that people were more mobile, often leaving rural areas to look for work in towns and cities. Urban masses meant that people were no longer known to each other as they had been in small rural communities and were also unknown to the authorities.

Two Irishmen, Patrick O'Sullivan and Ian Murphy, who brutally murdered an elderly lady near Newport, were pictured using a daguerreotype (named after the French inventor Daguerre) which was then sent to Ireland in order to find

out more about them. A woodcut made from the daguerreotype was then used to print the picture in a Monmouthshire newspaper.

Some photographs of criminals appear to be “dressed up” with painted backdrops and the accused shown in a posed position leaning on a pillar or chair. The photograph took some time to take and it was necessary for the subject to stay still during the process so something to lean on was helpful. A less kind method was used in Ruthin jail where a chair was equipped with a triangular piece on the seat to make the prisoner sit still.

During the 1850s and with an increase in prison numbers sophistication begins. A prisoner named William Sadler is shown not only with his full face and hands prominently displayed but also in profile and with his prison number and the date displayed in front of him. A sixteen year old murderer, William Flackney, was photographed in Bedford jail with his prison number hanging on his front while a female prisoner, Mary Lobart, has her prison number more tastefully displayed beside her attached to a curtain instead of on her chest. They were fortunate to be identified by signs with numbers as Governor Gardner of Bristol was in favour of the idea of using gunpowder to mark a prisoner for identification purposes. Branding had been used throughout history to mark beggars, thieves and army deserters but these were more enlightened times.

Compulsory photography of prisoners was brought into law with The Habitual Criminals Act in 1869. One copy was held at the prison and a second copy was sent to Scotland Yard in London. Storing the increasing number of photographs became a problem and also prisoners tried all sorts of tricks such as closing their eyes and puffing out their cheeks to change their appearance and avoid being recognised.

In 1879 Alphonse Bertillon invented a method that combined detailed measurements of a prisoner’s body with frontal and profile photographs. The five measurements were head length, head breadth, length of the middle finger, length of the left foot and length from the elbow to the end of the middle finger. Eye colour and the length of the little finger were also recorded.

The use of fingerprinting was adopted by the police in 1901 and superseded other methods of identification but the mugshot is still used today and probably will always be the most obvious, instant and easy way to identify a suspect quickly.

Harbours, Railways and Airports in Pembrokeshire

Our talk this evening on April 8th was by Edward Perkins, a very interesting speaker with a wealth of local knowledge.

If you pick up a tourist leaflet it will tell you that Pembrokeshire is famed for its rich farmland, stunning landscapes and unspoilt beaches whose beauty rivals anywhere in the world. Yet a hundred years ago Pembrokeshire was quite a different place, famed instead for industrial activity. Quarries, ship building, lime kilns, military airports and a railway to transport the goods produced have all but disappeared now though look carefully and you can still see signs of them on the landscape.

Harbours

Harbours in Pembrokeshire were busy, thriving, industrial places unlike the picturesque tourist destinations today. If we stepped back in time and walked through Newport we would see ships being built in the harbour and all the signs of a successful fishing trade which may have taken place there since Roman times. It is difficult to imagine how pretty little Newport with its holiday cottages and cafes looked then.

Fishguard, whose name comes from the old Scandinavian word *Fiskigaror*, meaning to catch or keep fish, is now just a very small town with a pretty harbour but once relied on a thriving fishing industry, as the name implies. Fish were exported as far away as the Mediterranean and ship building also took place there although the last ship to be built in Fishguard was in 1845. Fishguard had a natural harbour, but this was improved between 1894 and 1906 for the Irish ferry trade. It was also a starting point for ships to sail to America. The luxury liner the *RMS Mauretania* sailed from Fishguard harbour to New York in 1907. On the return journey the ship brought mail from America which was then transferred to land by a Lighter.

Solva was a very important harbour where lime came in. The lime had to be transported from the ships up the beach to the kilns where it was burnt, raked out and loaded onto carts for use on farm land. It was very hard and dangerous work as lime will burn skin so the men would cover their arms and faces with rancid butter to give them some protection.

Porthgain was a small industrial harbour used for transporting stone from two big quarries. From around 1850 slate, brick and then granite were shipped from the harbour. You can still see the lime kiln, harbour and pilot's house.

Railways

The coming of the railway transformed Pembrokeshire. Brunel had intended that the Great Western Railway would connect London and Bristol with Wales where it would provide a link with Ireland and New York. Brunel wanted to transform Fishguard into an international port but instead the terminus was built at Neyland on the Milford Haven waterway. When the railway came to Fishguard the population increased and more houses were needed so Harbour Village were built to house the labourers. So many people were employed in Fishguard at that time that when the school opened in 1913 300 children came. Cattle were exported from Ireland to Fishguard and transported by railway trucks and sent all over the country.

Airports in Pembrokeshire (sorry no holiday flights!)

During the First World War Fishguard harbour became a Seaplane base with six planes. The site covered three acres, but accommodation was in tents with the Officers mess in the Fishguard Bay Hotel. A map of Milford Haven harbour made in 1724 may have been carried on board a French warship during the French Invasion. In 1941 during the Second world war the Luftwaffe took photographs of Fishguard Harbour, perhaps planning the second invasion of Fishguard!

RAF Brawdy started as an RAF base with planes flying out over the Atlantic Ocean collecting weather information. They also took part in air sea rescues. It was operational between 1944 and 1992 with the RAF and the Royal Navy using it before the site was turned over to the British Army.

During the Second World War the airport at St Davids supported Halifax bombers and their crew. They were spending ten to twelve hours in the air looking for German submarines off the coast. In February 1944 plans were drawn to build an Oceanic air base at St David's stretching over three miles with three runways. It would have meant the destruction of over fifty farms, buildings and houses to make way for it.

Fortunately, the plans for an airport were scrapped and St David's remains an unspoilt and peaceful town in the beautiful and tranquil Pembrokeshire countryside of today.

Fiona Thomas (34437)

ONLINE DISCUSSION GROUP

THE NUMBER of members registered for our group has risen to 184 which is very encouraging, and we are receiving favourable feedback too. Having members join us from the USA has given us an increased dimension to our discussions.

We have had very interesting talks from our own group members Anona Morgan and Margaret Cross who have taken us on their research journeys. We followed Margaret's family from Narberth, some of whom ended up in Pennsylvania. Anona took us back to the beginnings of the Independent Chapels through the eyes of her father who was very involved with the movement. In our May meeting we highlighted brick walls that some of our members had submitted and managed to shed some light on possible resources that could help solve them. We also delved into the origins of the Landsker Line in Pembrokeshire.

All these talks have been recorded and sent out to the Online Discussion Group members so even if they aren't able to attend our Zoom meetings on the night they will be able to view the meetings online for a limited time. This is particularly important to our Australian and New Zealand members as the time difference means it is difficult for them to join us live.

Rosaleen Boardman (6495)

CARMARTHEN

THE APRIL meeting, on the 24th was held at the Spilman Hotel and was fairly well attended, the new meeting time of 2.00pm seems to suit everyone.

Our guest speaker was Alex Young. He is a local man, running a gardening and house clearance business in the town and locality. As well as talking about the very interesting items that are found in attics and sheds, Alex brought along various items that he now has in a collection. Most owners, or family, are happy to donate or sell items to Alex, as most objects are of great local historical interest. These are carefully stored by Alex, and now and again items are put on the Carmarthen site on Facebook, which can be viewed by FaceBook users.

Bruce Wallace was very interested in maps that Alex brought along. I believe that Bruce will be of help in this department! There were coins of importance

too. Hopefully, Alex will come along to another of our meetings as no doubt, there are more “finds” still to be found.

Our May meeting on the 29th saw us at a different venue, this time at the Museum at Abergwili. Although a guided tour had been arranged, Bruce came along, and gave us a wonderful talk, and so much information, on a battle scene, in concrete, along a wall. This was a rather personal talk for Bruce, as he had made the discovery of part of this. It was while lodging at a cottage in Johnstown, Carmarthen, many years ago. While clearing a wall, a concrete horse head was found. This was at “Woodbine cottage”, which is still there, not far from the traffic lights. It seems that this quite elaborate concrete carving had originally been at Pontgarreg farm just up the road. It was moved to the cottage when the cottage was built. On further searching, it was discovered that the carvings were quite elaborate. There were soldiers, horses, and a typical battle scene. This is all now covering a length of wall at the Museum.

Bruce told us the whole history in detail. A wonderful story! We then looked at some paintings of local scenes, including Yr Hen Capel, Llanybri. Of the attached air raid shelter built by the home guard. There were paintings by Stanley Lewis (1905–2010). There were eleven members present, who thoroughly enjoyed the talk. A huge “thank you” to Bruce for such a detailed and interesting talk.

The June 26th meeting was planned for a talk by a member of the Ferryside lifeboat crew, unfortunately, this had to be postponed for another time.

Janet Slate (6020)

LONDON

February Meeting (via Zoom)

AS WE WERE unable to find an external speaker for the meeting held on February 24, I gave a talk which had been prepared for AGRA Cymru, entitled *Bastardy under the Old Poor Law in South Wales: records for family historians*.

Under the Old Poor Law, in force from the end of the sixteenth century until 1832, each parish was responsible for the support of its poor. As Wales was largely rural in this period, the majority of the poor were farm labourers and their families, though towards the end of the period industrial workers made

up an increasing proportion. Relief was largely paid for by local farmers, who also took it in turns to act as the overseers who delivered the relief. The local magistracy was responsible for oversight of the process. Thus, poor law records involve not only the recipients, but a much wider group within the community. It is worth noting that these groups were connected in other ways: for instance, farmers employed the labourers; and many of the farmers' landlords were magistrates.

An unmarried woman who found herself pregnant and in need of parish support would be examined by the local JP to determine the name of the putative father, whereupon a warrant would be issued to the constable to apprehend him. If the father was prepared to co-operate, and had sufficient income, he might swear a bastardy bond to relieve the parish of any responsibility for supporting his child; otherwise, the parish would issue a filiation order (to confirm his parentage) and a maintenance order (to determine how much he should pay). Other types of warrants include those to remove absconding fathers to the mother's parish and to return pregnant woman living away from their parish of settlement – mainly servants – back home.

The parish vestry book recorded decisions about granting relief. For example, some vestries concerned themselves with who should be responsible for raising the child, with the child's grandmother sometimes considered to be a more appropriate carer. Decisions about apprenticing pauper children were also recorded. The parish accounts listed amounts spent; in addition to regular weekly payments, provision for illegitimate children also included amounts for the mother's lying in, midwife's services, and regular sums for the child's shoes and clothing. Most regular weekly payments for the child's support were in the range of 18 to 24 pence, with parishes in Glamorgan sometimes more generous than those in Carmarthenshire.

These procedures generated a good deal of paperwork, though only a small proportion has survived. The most obvious place to look is among parish records in county record offices. A number of Dyfed parishes have surviving parish poor law accounts and vestry books, but bonds, warrants and orders relating to bastardy are thin on the ground. There is a small collection for Llanarthne parish covering 1800 to the end of the Old Poor Law, but little elsewhere in Dyfed parish records. As JPs were involved in issuing warrants, copies may have been deposited in estate records, or among solicitors' papers. For instance, the papers of the Llandovery solicitor DTM Jones at NLW contain several examples.

On the Parish by Raymond K.J. Grant is a comprehensive guide to Old Poor Law records for Glamorgan

It has to be said that the bastardy records of the Old Poor Law are not particularly rich sources for family history. The chance of finding a specific child or its parents is generally small. The strength of a good set of poor law records, including overseers accounts and vestry books, is the picture they give of parish life and the interests and sometimes conflicting priorities of its inhabitants.

June Meeting

THE BRANCH AGM was held on 15 June in person at the Kwanglim Room, Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London. In the absence of other nominations, all Branch officers were prepared to continue in post, and were elected unopposed. The Treasurer's report showed that branch outgoings exceeded income. It was agreed that we would ask members for a voluntary annual subscription.

Ros Bowles confirmed arrangements for the Branch summer visit to Aberystwyth. The remainder of the meeting discussed Members' Interests

Anna Brueton (1806)

UPPER TOWY VALLEY

OUR SPEAKER for February was one of our own members, Mrs Mary Rees of Tycroes, whose topic was Auschwitz.

Mary began by speaking of her childhood and early days of teaching. On retirement, Mary and her husband Ryal took a coach tour to Poland, including a visit to Auschwitz, which they looked forward to with feelings of anxiety and trepidation.

Railway lines led to ornate cast iron gates, inscribed in German – Work makes you Free. They were met by young guides who explained that people came there thinking they were coming to work camps. They travelled in deplorable conditions in cattle wagons, packed tightly together, having to stand, hungry and thirsty. Many didn't make the journey. The Nazis had put up the facade of a railway station, to prevent rioting. Men, women and children were separated. The men were divided into able-bodied and feeble. The old and feeble were taken to the "showers"; the able-bodied underwent hard labour on a

starvation diet, until they died. The same happened to the women. Those unable to work were told to undress so that they would be clean to go on, and that all their possessions would be stored, “to be collected later”. Of course, they never were. Men and women went on to the gas chambers. The guides told of the grandmother who offered to carry the babies for her daughter. The mother lost her children.

The able bodied were undressed and shaved of hair, standing in the cold for hours. One of those who came to attend to them was Dr. Mengele, the “Angel of Death”. There were three or four to a bunk bed with straw for bedding and a flimsy blanket. These were educated, cultured people of good standing. The next morning all were brought out and counted. The Nazis were meticulous with records. They were allocated work – seamstresses and instrumentalists had the advantage, otherwise it was hard labour.

Mary and Ryal saw buildings with pock-marked walls where people had been stood to be shot. There were torture buildings where people were hung by the rafters until their shoulders were dislocated. One officer showed some humanity when he held them to prevent them falling when he took them down. There were small cubicles where people were crammed in for days. A glass cabinet held human hair, which was used when weaving officers’ uniforms. Another held spectacles, another shoes, including one little red shoe.

Other guards were the prisoners themselves, having to be brutal to their fellow Jews. If they failed in their duty, they would be demoted to being an ordinary prisoner.

It was a very traumatic visit. Young people told the visitors their ancestors had been prisoners there. Their accounts had been passed down and the youngsters felt it was their duty to inform people what had happened.

When the war was coming to an end the Nazis panicked, wanting to get rid of their records. The Russians came into Auschwitz and discovered the conditions there. The food prisoners existed on was soup with no meat, a small piece of bread and weak tea. Many died of starvation and disease and the Russians were shocked at the mounds of skeletons and mass graves.

After her visit, Mary read up more on this horrendous episode in our history – *Anne Frank’s diary* and *A Voice from the Holocaust* by Eve Soumerai. *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* was the story of nine-year-old Bruno whose family had all they needed. Bruno’s father, a Commandant, was to go to Auschwitz to be in charge. Bruno explored the grounds and saw people in striped pyjamas the other side

of the fence. He spoke to and befriended Shmuel, a little boy to whom he took food. The boys planned that Shmuel would bring pyjamas for Bruno and he went into the camp. The prisoners were ordered to line up and both boys were led to the showers. A film by Martin Amis, “Zone of Interest” tells a similar true story. The house can be visited and the maid who worked there, now in her nineties, remembers it all. She would steal food from the house and leave it for the prisoners. There is now a museum in the house.

Wendy Holden in “Born Survivors” tells of three Jewish women, who were taken to the camp and questioned by Dr. Mengele. The three women gave birth, helped by a doctor from the train. All miraculously survived. One mother, Anka and her daughter Eva came to Cardiff, where Eva attended the Welsh school. The other two children were found in the U.S.A. and Canada. They met up in 2010, wanting to find the doctor who had saved their lives.

In Poland in 1943 families lived in ghettos, surrounded by walls. One person, Jacob, had a cellar with a trap door to the sewers, which he prepared as an escape route. He was a rich man, owning jewellery and gold, used to buy provisions. The main river flowed through the sewers, and some fell in the river as they escaped. Hiding places were made and a sewer worker provided food for them. They were brought out of the sewers at Liberation after fourteen months. They had been continually in the darkness – everything was blood-red.

In “The Tattooist” Heather Morris tells the story of a Slovakian Jew Lale Sokolov. The Nazis came to his village, and he could only protect his family if he worked for them at Auschwitz. The fact that he was a tattooist saved his life. He fell in love with a young girl he tattooed, Gita Furman. She became ill and there was no medicine available. In one block possessions were stored, and valuables had been sewn into the hems and seams of clothing. A woman smuggled medicine out to him, and he became known as “The Fixer”, exchanging gold and jewellery for food for his fellow prisoners.

On the March of Death, he was separated from Gita when he was caught by the Russians but he escaped and made his way home. His sister survived but other members of his family had gone to the gas chambers. He went to Bratislava and contacted the Red Cross who helped him find Gita and they got married. They went to Paris and eventually Australia and had a son.

When Oscar Schindler died penniless in Germany a collection was made to take him to Israel to be buried. He used the fact that he had a factory to ensure that the workers were fed and had good beds to sleep in. The Nazis tried to force

him to make ammunitions but failed to do this. “Whoever saves one life saves the world entire.”

Our grateful thanks to Mary for her thought-provoking talk.

Our meeting for March was taken by Hugh Davies, who provided us with a Quiz to guess the objects. Hugh had brought along several unusual objects which he has collected, and we put our minds to deciding what they were, with varying degrees of success!

The first item was a mould for making candles, followed by covers for smoke glasses. There were also weather glasses to measure water pressure and hangers to carry a barrister's wig and gown.

Hugh had also brought an instrument to bleed animals, a goffering iron for lace and a dish for ice-cream – a penny lick. One contraption was to hold water for budgies and there was also a cartridge maker and an instrument to open the mouth of a horse or cow to examine the teeth or tongue or to administer medicine.

The last objects were a wool winder, weights to straighten a cow's horns (how didn't we guess that one?) a scissors for making button holes and some very pretty ornamental dishes to be used as spittoons.

Our grateful thanks to Hugh for a very enjoyable evening.

At Easter our Family History Research Room at the Heritage Centre reopened and our speaker in April was one of our members, Lynne Davies, who gave us an interesting and nostalgic talk on “Aspects of a Very Rural Life”.

Moiria C. L. Evans (39)

HAVERFORDWEST

THERE WAS NO meeting in April, and our meeting in May was an Afternoon in the Archives, not many people came but those who did had a good afternoon and managed to find quite a bit in their research. Our usual thanks go to the Archives staff who go out of their way to help everyone.

June saw us back in our normal meeting room at the Archives and we had a general talk about resources available in your research – free and paid for websites and what they offer. Some handouts were distributed to attendees

giving the websites discussed; census dates; access to the GRO and what they offer; a “mind map” which is a useful aide memoir for ensuring you have tried all the avenues of research; church parishes for Pembrokeshire and Cardiganshire and finally some blank research forms. These proved popular and were offered as electronic copies also.

Our July meeting was “off-site” at the “pop up” Haverfordwest Museum site at the Riverside in Haverfordwest. The group were given exclusive access for an evening visit and were given an update on what was happening at the Castle, what the future held and what other items were in the collection that was not on show in their temporary home.

Cate Hobbs (2872)

Odds and Ends

DO YOU KNOW of any speakers, either local to a DFHS branch or willing to speak via Zoom? The branches and the Online Discussion Group are always looking for interesting speakers – perhaps you are someone who could give a talk on your own family history or local history in Dyfed? Please contact your local branch (see the inside back cover of this journal for contacts) or the ODG via online@dyfedfhs.org.uk or the editor editor@dyfedfhs.org.uk

WE HAVE FOUR copies of Family Historians V5 Delux Genealogy Software – although they now have version 7 available; v5 is still supported and is still offered for sale on Amazon (although they don't have any copies!) Anyone who would like a copy for the price of the postage, contact editor@dyfedfhs.org.uk

WE HAVE TWO DVD's available, which we are happy to send FoC to any member that wants either or both: Y Chwarelwr/The Quarryman (Full English subtitles throughout); Harry Patch – Last surviving Tommy and an ordinary man (produced by Forces War Records in 2016).

IDRIS THOMAS a member from Haverfordwest has again proved how rainy Pembrokeshire is! He only researches family trees when it rains and he has again produced two local family trees, which are freely offered to members: JOHN family of Haverfordwest descending from William John 1835–1927; WARREN family of Haverfordwest descending from Charles Warren 1839–1921. Anyone interested in having a scanned copy of either of the above please contact editor@dyfedfhs.org.uk

New Members

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

Member Number	Member Name	Address	Email Address
68211	Mr Richard Auckland	Barnwood Gloucestershire UK	
24119	Mrs Viv Leverington	Holt Wiltshire UK	viewerington@yahoo.co.uk
79559	Mrs Anne Messer	Pwll Llanelli Carmarthenshire Wales	
53784	Mrs Heather Tomos	Eglwysrwr Pembrokeshire UK	heathertomos@live.co.uk
57569	Miss Amanda Gooch	Broughton Kettering Northamptonshire UK	Goochiemand@aol.com
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31713	Mr Terry Sinnett	Powys Wales	terrysinnett@aol.com
49642	Mr Keith Thomas	Bristol Road Somerset UK	
29893	Ms Jane Green	Llechryd Ceredigion Wales	janegreen@hotmail.com
57583	Janet Clark	Warragul Victoria Australia	mudlarkj@gmail.com
22883	Caryl Thomas	Carmarthen UK	
84921	Mrs Carol Elliott	Llanstadwell Sir Benfro UK	carol.elliott@gmail.com
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11254	Mrs Ann Elizabeth Jones	Williamstown Tonypandy Rhondda Cynon Taff Wales	Annj2341@aol.com
19336	Mr Terence Sinnett	Powys UK	tsinn12537@aol.com
79896	Ms Rhian Bebb	Trem-yr-Onsedd Machynlleth	
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38442	Nancy Oylor	Clinton USA	nancyoyler@gmail.com
81394	Mrs Sian Lawrence	Clarboston Road UK	
19798	Mr John Lewis	Pewsey Wiltshire UK	
68191	Elizabeth/Margaret Parry/Lewis	Doylestown PA USA	
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16583	Mr MEILIR HARRIES	Llangunor Carmarthen Wales	rhys_harries@btopenworld.com
64871	Mr David John Evans	Rhiwbina Cardiff UK	
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86121	Mr Gareth Walters	Lower Freystrop Dyfed UK	
91289	Peter Jones	Northwich Cheshire UK	peter@nbkeepingup.co.uk
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95459	Mr Robert Dyer	Glenmore Durban KwaZulu-Nata South Africa	robd4@mmweb.co.za
17959	Mrs Vivienne Kelly	Pill Newport Wales	v.kelly1@outlook.com
44532	Ms Sian Richards	Chorlton Manchester UK	sianrichards55@gmail.com
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11594	Mrs Frances Langston	Warminster Wiltshire UK	langstonfran2016@gmail.com
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86879	Malcolm Gribble	Tewkesbury UK	mgg@myphone.coop
58668	Dr Lisa Tweedie	Malmesbury Wiltshire UK	
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64862	Audrey Price	Brecon Road Llandovery Carmarthenshire UK	
92251	Mrs Kate Jones	Middlebeck Nottinghamshire UK	Kate Elliott50@hotmail.com
81999	Mr Peter Antony Williams	Welwyn Garden City Herts UK	pete.williams.cym@gmail.com

Obituary

Membership No.
990

Name
Derek F Williams

Joined
1989

Branch Meetings

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

Cardigan Aberteifi

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

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

Carmarthen CAERFYRDDIN

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

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

Haverfordwest Hwlfordd

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

Email: haverfordwest@dyfedfhs.org.uk

Llanelli

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

London Llundain

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

Upper Towy Valley Cwm Tywi Uchaf

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

Email: uppertowyvalley@dyfedfhs.org.uk

Contacts

www.dyfedfhs.org.uk

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Matters relating to the Management Committee and the AGM

General Secretary: Mr. Colin Potter.
25 Milton Meadows, Milton, Tenby, Pembrokeshire, SA70 8PL
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Matters relating to membership

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membership@dyfedfhs.org.uk
Contact the Membership Secretary for contact detail of other members.

Matters relating to the journal (articles, photographs, letters, help needed, advertising)

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