



***Glamorgan Family
History Society***

Cymdeithas Hanes

Teuluol Morgannwg



Cardiff Caledonian Society - Annual Burns Night Celebrations

Image Courtesy of © Glamorgan Archives

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Society's Objectives

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

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

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

EDITORIAL

There has been a good response to this Journal's theme request, for stories about immigration into Glamorgan, so many thanks to all contributors. We have items about the melting pot of Merthyr Tydfil in the 19th century by Carolyn Jacob, Maura Bennett gives her family's story from Holland, and there is an early and tragic death in Barrie Jones' family, and by contrast some heartening evacuees' stories in the Garw Valley. There are accounts of murder and suspicious death, and some searching for lost and mysterious relatives, and even some Bible stories!

Nick Davey asks about Hiring Fairs, Richard Ollerton writes of Bethany Chapel, St Mary St, Cardiff and its records, and Rhian Diggins tells of the flourishing society of the Scots in Cardiff.

All this plus the usual Book Reviews and Help Wanted columns, so all in all, a good read, reflecting the vast range of interesting people and events that we all have within the Society.

Please keep those interests alive and tell us more!! December's issue is an open one, all topics welcomed, and if you have any ideas for future themes, or thoughts about any of the subjects depicted, then do not hesitate to get in touch.

Have a good 'Indian' summer, if we are lucky enough to get one in September.

Jean Fowlds, editor@glamfhs.org.uk



THE FUTURE OF THE SOCIETY

All members with email should have received a Mail Chimp Newsletter in July containing brief feedback from the Emergency Executive Committee Meeting held at the Village Hotel on Saturday 29 June. For those who do not have email the content is summarised below:

The Committee would like to thank all members that sent in offers of help. A number have now been allocated an administrative role within the Society. We shall be contacting the remainder over the next few weeks as we match skills and experience to our current vacancies. Diolch yn fawr - your help is much appreciated.

However we are still looking for volunteers to come forward to replace our

Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer at the next Annual General Meeting in February 2020. If you did not receive the letter and feedback form it is not too late to send in your comments and offers of help. The letter and form was sent with your June journal and can be downloaded from the website. Job descriptions for Society vacancies are also available on the website.

At the meeting the Executive Committee identified a number of strategies to follow over the next six months in order to reduce the detrimental effect on the future of the Society of a lack of volunteers for the main Society Officers/Committee Members at the next Annual General Meeting. These include:

- Continue to review job descriptions and in particular to develop teams for many of the Society roles to improve volunteers' knowledge and therefore succession planning;
- Advertise online and in the journal those roles that can be shared and/or be done by members not local to South Wales;
- Priority to be given to ensuring Treasurer role covered to include investigating whether any part of the role can be shared and/or partly undertaken temporarily by an external organisation;
- Consider amendments to Constitution to include 3 year maximum for Society Officers before a one year break;
- Further Constitution amendment to reduced quorum figure from 25 to 20 (or 15).

If Society members can help or provide further suggestions of a way forward please sent any comments to:

chairman@glamfhs.org.uk or treasurer@glamfhs.org.uk.

Alternatively contact any of the Society Officers/Committee members for further information about any of the Society roles.

THE FUTURE OF THE SOCIETY DEPENDS ON MEMBERS COMING FORWARD AND OFFERING TO HELP WITH THE RUNNING OF THE SOCIETY.

Job descriptions for Society roles/vacancies are available on our website:

www.glamfhs.org.uk/society-vacancies

Meic Jones, Chairman/Nick Davey, Treasurer

BEYOND THE HORIZON

#3450 CT Davies

Migration is a multi-faceted subject and as such the angle of light and the viewer's standpoint makes a world of difference to their observations when compared to that of others.

Migration into Glamorgan to find employment in the new industrial expansion was not necessarily a permanent move. Many individuals and those with young families, moved on to other places, and took up other occupations. Glamorgan may have eventually contained half the population of Wales within its boundaries, however, how many of those over time have returned home or travelled far and wide.

What then is the outcome when an individual remains where they are, and the artificial boundary is moved? As far as Glamorgan is concerned there have been changes in the boundaries of Glamorgan and Breconshire that have been absorbed over time, so our individual, the fourth generation born on the family farm, and who continues to farm there, wakes up one morning to find that he is now a resident in another county. He appears in locally based studies as a migrant, when clearly he was not!

Although Ravenstein's "Laws of Migration", drawn up in 1885, may have been a work of importance at the time; he did not have the advantage of access to the census returns for the detailed birthplaces of individuals. As experienced researchers will confirm, no matter what nine family members did to seek a better lifestyle; there is always a tenth member who does not abide by the "Laws". The pattern of age, sex, work, and home, and of migrants, were not necessarily in line with Ravenstein's thinking.

To try and detail migration into an artificially defined location can be an exhausting challenge. Any individual drawing up a series of lines on a map leading from where their ancestors were born, and placing a dot on that locality, may have a result that looks like beads on a chain: some straight, or curved, or one that is jumbled into a mess.

Some may decide to specialise in their family from more distant parts or one with an unusual surname, simply because too many "migrated" to allow a study in depth. At some stage in their lives two distant cousins may arrive at the same place, and then the fun begins trying to plot the route each branch took to become united again. This I have experienced quite recently after nearly 38 years of research when I discovered that my niece and her best friend from school days are 6th cousins.

Many family-tree students will have discovered ancestors from outside their home county, and Glamorgan is full of them. As I'm writing, I realise of course that we are all descendants of migrants, as is shown in the next article!



The following article is part of a longer one by Carolyn Jacob, written about the largest groups of people who came to South Wales and Merthyr in particular, in search of employment and a better life for their families. Because of its length we are printing it in two halves, starting with immigration from the other Home Nations, with the next edition of the Journal in December depicting the coming of those from further afield.

IMMIGRATION TO MERTHYR TYDFIL THE MELTING POT, PART 1

#2183 Carolyn Jacob

The Industrial Revolution was a great spur to population movement as the progress of industry depended on an adequate supply of labour. People came to Glamorgan in their thousands, many walking for a week to reach this Celtic Eldorado. Hordes of hungry, homeless immigrants not only from all over Britain but from many European countries swelled the population. They came here for a better life and created South Wales as we now know it. Before 1850 parts of Glamorgan were often in a state of chaos because of amazing phenomenal growth. The Merthyr Tydfil Valley was the birthplace and nursery of the industrial revolution in Britain, a crucible of change and a melting pot of nationalities. A favourite headline from the Merthyr Express of 25th July 1914 seems to sum it all up: 'Dowlais Spaniard's eye damaged - serious charge against an Irishman'.

From the mid-eighteenth century onwards Merthyr Tydfil received a huge number of immigrants, but the industrial workers there were mainly Welsh, and the Welsh language dominated until the twentieth century. The population of the Borough rose from under 700 in 1750 to over 50,000 in 1850, with the Irish making up a large group of immigrants, although they were only 5% of the total population in the census of 1851. The town was flooded with men from Breconshire, Cardiganshire, Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and North Wales. Immigrants could often earn four times more as industrial labourers than they could from agriculture. Parliamentary Commissioners in 1850 said that the workmen lived in clans, the men from Pembrokeshire inhabited one quarter, the Carmarthenshire men in another, those from Breconshire and Radnorshire stayed together, and so on.

As the largest town in Wales around the mid-19th century, Merthyr was the perfect place for any criminal ancestors to hold out in. It was said that blackening your face and living in Merthyr was a sure way for criminals to avoid detection. In the 1840s a contemporary reported that, "Offenders flock to Merthyr from all parts of Wales, scarce a day passes without constables from the country coming in search of criminals. The district called China is a mere sink of thieves and prostitutes".

The English

The first iron-masters and the men who exploited the mineral wealth of the parish of Merthyr Tydfil came from England. The incoming of the English to this area has been continuous, with small numbers at first coming to the ironworks because of their association with the works' owners.

The SUSSEX iron-masters established some iron-works here as early as the seventeenth Century. The later iron-masters, BACONS, CRAWSHAYS, GUESTS, HOMFRAYS and HILLS were also all English. It was Anthony Bacon from Whitehaven in Cumberland who really got things started in Merthyr Tydfil when he visited the parish with William BROWNRIGG, an expert in mineralogy, who recommended that he take out a lease and establish a furnace here. These first furnaces at Cyfarthfa were built by Charles WOOD, and he brought Cumbrians by ship from Whitehaven, and then by mule from Swansea, to set up the Cyfarthfa Iron-Works.

One of the first furnace men was a William POSTLETHWAITE from Keswick. The THOMPSON family of Westmorland took over the Penydarren Iron-Works and also married into the Crawshay family. In 1766 Charles Wood, whilst erecting the Cyfarthfa Furnaces, noted in his diary of 19th June 1766 that, "The weather was much warmer in Cumberland when I left it in March, than it is now, the wind being cold and piercing". Cumbria is usually much wetter and colder than South Wales, but he was excusing his delays to his financial backers. The well-known MARTIN family from the Dowlais Works came originally from Dockray in Cumbria. The HEPPELS, who were the mineral agents for the Plymouth Works, also left Cumbria for better opportunities in Merthyr Tydfil.

Richard TREVITHICK brought a number of Cornishmen with him in 1804 when he was employed at the Penydarren Works to develop the use of steam-engines. Skilled iron workers came from Staffordshire, such as the BROWNS, MILLWARDS, SMITHS, WILDS. Gradually more English men came from the Forest of Dean, Somerset, and Herefordshire as iron-workers or coal miners, and English shopkeepers also came into the area to seek opportunities for trade from the rapidly-expanding population: the SWEET family of butchers, the HOWFIELDS, and the FLOOKS. The English even

helped provide entertainment, as Robert THOMPSON, the most infamous of the Merthyr Ironmasters, was fond of music and he had his own band, the Cyfarthfa Band, and brought in the LIVESEY and ENGLAND families to perform in it.

Inevitably perhaps, many a street fight resulted in the meeting of the English and the Welsh on a Saturday night!

The Scots

Although it is a long trek between Scotland and Glamorgan, a number of Scots made the journey here because of the good business opportunities that this underdeveloped district presented in the nineteenth century. The newspaper of the Dumfries and Galloway region contained job advertisements for young men willing to follow a drapers' trade in South Wales in the 1820s and 1830s. The Scots were known to be tea dealers, but the first Scots here were 'packmen', selling cloth from door to door, and soon a number of the town's drapers were started by the Scots.

A letter entitled 'Successful Gallovidians' 28th April 1862 tells the story of a young farm labourer from Wigtownshire who left Scotland to sell goods in the mining districts of Glamorgan, and after 20 years of 'labouring heroically' early and late he was able to retire at forty with a fortune and a freehold estate on the river Wye. The most famous historian and thinker of the nineteenth century, Thomas CARLYLE, criticised Merthyr Tydfil for having no middle class and being a town with "a few iron masters, a large number of workers and some Scottish shopkeepers". When he made this snide comment about the Scots he did not mention that his own cousin, Francis Carlyle, was living in the town. Francis was a prosperous businessman and played a role in the annual Burns Night.

Merthyr Tydfil should be proud of the fact that the men of the town chose Keir HARDIE, a Scotsman, to represent them in Parliament in 1900. Originally Keir Hardie had responded to the request to help the Welsh miners in 1898 during the Great Welsh Coal Strike, and he walked around the Valleys speaking to the men, which he described as his best-ever holiday.

The Irish

Life was not easy for the Irish in nineteenth century Glamorgan. The Irish stood out from the host population by their poverty, nationality, race and religion - the English, Scots and Welsh were overwhelmingly Protestant by tradition - and once overseas the Irish tended to be lumped together as ignorant, dirty 'Paddies'. They were often outcasts, locked together in defensive communities in face of British prejudice. It was reported that the principal cause of the excessive overcrowding found in Cardiff was the vast

influx of destitute Irish from Cork, Kerry and Waterford, who had been partly attracted in the hope of obtaining employment on the public works.

Deep-rooted anti-Irish prejudices pervaded British society during the nineteenth century, but by 1870 the Irish had bettered themselves. They have long formed a substantial part of the population of Glamorgan and contributed much to the life of this district. The Church records of St Illtyds, Dowlais, Merthyr Tydfil state that the first Irish labourers came to the area in 1815 and since this date there has been a continuous stream of Irish immigrants to this area. There were famines in Ireland before the Great Famine of 1845, and these disasters encouraged the Irish to come to Glamorgan. Once here they started off at the bottom of the social structure, and were employed on poorly paid jobs such as unloading iron ore and quarrying, or any labouring job. At times the Dowlais Works had agents in Swansea to encourage people getting off the boats to come to this area. For a hundred years an Irishman could nearly always be guaranteed a labouring job in the Dowlais Works, just as long as they started at the bottom!

Church records reveal that the Irish soon intermarried with the Welsh, but even so the two 'Celtic cousins' had many differences in the nineteenth century, especially along a strong religious divide. Saturday nights saw many fights between the Welsh and the Irish, especially when both parties were drunk. When anti-Irish riots caused many to flee from Tredegar in 1882, many fled to Dowlais where they had friends or relatives.

A large number of Welsh boxers have Irish ancestry, the most famous being Jim DRISCOLL of Cardiff. Another notorious bare-knuckle fighter was Redmond COLEMAN, who was born of Irish parents in Iron Lane Georgetown, Merthyr Tydfil in 1882 and nicknamed, 'the Iron man from Iron Lane'. Although he was small in stature, he certainly made up for that with his pugnacity and it was said of him that he would fight anyone of any weight anytime. The author Alexander CORDELL describes him as a legendary figure who inspired the great boxer Jim Driscoll. According to legend, he was the first Welshman to fight at the National Sporting Stadium in London.

See December's Journal for how the Jews, the Italians, the Spanish and the Germans got on in Merthyr's heyday.

Don't miss the 'Cut-Off Dates'

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

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

JOURNEY'S END

#8653 Barrie Jones

For many of us with South Wales ancestry it is almost inevitable that we will have some non-Welsh forebears. From the 1880s the expanding South Wales coal field was a strong focal point of internal migration within Britain. Such was the influx of immigrants to the Welsh coal fields, that next to the United States of America, Wales can boast the second highest rate of immigration in the decade before the First World War. Over the previous centuries internal migration was not unusual, for example, during the 1850s and 1860s some 1½ million people left the rural areas in Wales and England, with two thirds moving into the expanding towns and industrial districts, the balance emigrating overseas¹. Migration tended to suit young men and women seeking employment opportunities away from their family home. An example of someone willing to seek better prospects elsewhere was my wife's great grandfather George POPE (1863-1909).

George Pope



George was born on 27th December 1863 in Horsemonden, Kent, the son of George POPE (b 1831, Burwash, Sussex), an agricultural labourer, and Mary Ann, nee WILSON (b 1834, Blean, Kent)². In his early years George lived in the parish of Horsemonden and he followed his father's employment as an agricultural labourer³. Life for an agricultural labourer could not have been easy, the work being both low paid and seasonal in nature. However, George junior had only one sibling, Alice Maud (b 1868), so supporting a small family made it easier for his parents to stave off the worst excesses of rural poverty.

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

² - George born about 1831, Burwash, Sussex and, Ann born about 1834, Blean, Kent. – 1871 Census, Poplars, Brenchley, Kent.

³ - England Census return 3 April 1881, The Heath, Horsemonden, Kent.

Also, it was normal for rural families to manage small garden plots to supplement their food needs and low income. It may have been in the small family garden plot that George developed his gardening skills, because the next occasion we trace George is in December 1887 in Liverpool where he is employed as a gardener.

On 11th December 1887, at St. John's Baptist Chapel, West Derby, Liverpool, George married Ann BRADLEY (1865-1923), the daughter of Thomas BRADLEY (1832-1902), a tinsmith, and Alice nee LAMBERT (1836-1906).⁴ In February 1888 in Liverpool their first child, Alice Lambert is born (1888-1962). Where George was employed is unknown, he may have worked for one of the large estates, and possibly linked to the PEEL family who were prominent entrepreneurs in the city. It is on the estate of a branch of the PEEL family that we next trace



George's movement. George and his family moved to the lodge on the Taliaris Estate, Talley, Llandeilo Fawr, Carmarthenshire, sometime between 1888 and 1889⁵ again employed as a gardener. William PEEL (1803-1883), a Lancashire businessman, and cousin to Sir Robert PEEL, acquired the Taliaris estate in the 1830s. At the time of George's employment at Taliaris, the estate was in the ownership of William's eldest son, Herbert PEEL (1840-1918).

George and Ann's second child, Thomas, was born at the lodge in August 1889, followed by another son, William, in May 1891. However, George did not stay at Taliaris for long and may have returned to Liverpool for a short time as we find that both his sons, Thomas and William, are christened in St Peter's, Liverpool on 6th September 1892.

We next trace him and his family at Pwllgwaun Farm, Pontypridd, late in 1893 at the time of the christening of his second daughter Mary (1893-1933). Perhaps with a growing family, he was forced to seek better paid work in the expanding coal mining districts of the South Wales valleys. By 1898 George

⁴ - Marriage certificate, 11 December 1887.

⁵ - Daughter Alice Lambert baptised on the 5th March 1888 in Liverpool and son Thomas born on the 28th August 1889 in Taliaris Lodge.

and his ever-growing family are in Merthyr Tydfil⁶, and by 1901 is living in Lower Glynmil, near Pentrebach.⁷ Ann gave birth to ten children in total, of which seven survived childhood⁸. George and Ann's ten children were:

Alice Lambert (1888-1962), Thomas (1898-1963), William (b 1891), Mary (1893-1933), Ruth (1895-1972), Robert (1898-1898), Albert (1900-1901), Arthur (1902-1903), Frederick (1904-1960), Henry (1907-1982).

While in Merthyr, George was employed by the Hill's Plymouth Colliery Company at their No 2, South Duffryn pit, Pentrebach as a boiler stoker. The photograph of George shows a man of slight build, perhaps, not suited to work as a miner or even as a stoker. However, his gardening skills were not wasted as he was also engaged in the summer months tending the grounds of Pentrebach House, previously the residence of the ironmaster Anthony HILL and now occupied by William GREEN, the Company's colliery manager⁹.

On the morning of 29th September 1909 George had been working at Pentrebach House and on his way home for his dinner he met with a fatal accident. He attempted to ride on a journey of trams of mine rubbish being conveyed up the incline towards his home. He was killed instantly when he slipped and fell on the line and the trams went over him crushing his head and arm. On the following day an inquest was held at the Richards Arms, Abercanaid, before the coroner Mr Rhys JENKIN REES and a verdict of 'Accidental Death' was returned¹⁰. Shortly after, a vote of sympathy for his family was passed at a meeting held at the Crown Inn, Troedryhiw, by the No 2 South Duffryn Lodge of the South Wales Miners Federation (the Fed)¹¹.

Ann claimed compensation from George's employers and following their refusal to pay, a court hearing was held on Friday, 24th December before Judge Bryn ROBERTS at Merthyr Tydfil county court. Mr S HILL-KELLY (instructed by Messrs. Walter Morgan, Bruce and Nicholas, solicitors for the Fed) appeared for George's widow, and Mr A PARSONS (instructed by Messrs Gwilym James, Charles, and Davies, solicitors) appeared for Hill's Plymouth Colliery Company.

⁶ - Son, Robert (1898-1898) born early 1898 in Merthyr Tydfil, and daughter, Ruth (1895- 1972) born early 1895 in Pontypridd.

⁷ - Wales Census return, 1901, 1 Lower Glynmil, Merthyr Tydfil.

⁸ - Wales Census return, 1911, 1 Lower Glynmil, Merthyr Tydfil.

⁹ - 'Compensation Case' - Merthyr Express – 25th December 1909.

¹⁰ - 'Trams passed over him, Merthyr man killed' - Cardiff Times – 2nd October 1909; 'Fatal accident' - Merthyr Express – 9th October 1909.

¹¹ - 'Troedryhiw, sympathy' - Merthyr Express – 16th October 1909.

Mr HILL-KELLY contended that the journey of trams alongside which George had been accustomed to pass while working as gardener knocked him down and he was killed. The contention of the Company was that the accident did not arise out of or in course of his employment, and evidence was called on their behalf to show that the fatality occurred through the deceased attempting to jump on the second tram. Judge ROBERTS reserved judgment and the case was adjourned for a later date¹².

On Friday, 4th February 1910, Judge ROBERTS delivered his judgment. His Honour held that the accident was caused by the deceased falling in trying to jump on one of the trams, and gave judgment for the Company and awarded costs¹³. The following March the Fed decided to appeal against Judge Roberts' decision in the case now known as 'Pope v Hill's Plymouth Colliery Company'¹⁴. However, the Court of Appeal upheld Judge ROBERTS' decision; "trying to hitch a lift on a moving train, contrary to his employer's work rules, was said to be needlessly and improperly exposing himself to risk". At a meeting of the Executive Council of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Miners' Federation held at their offices in Cardiff, on 18th July, a letter was read from Messrs Morgan, Bruce, Nicholas and James, solicitors, suggesting that this case should be taken to the House of Lords. The Fed decided that the matter should be referred back to the solicitors and it would appear that Ann's case was taken no further¹⁵.

Ann, a widow at 44 years of age with four children to support¹⁶, had to rely on the earnings of her older children, and sometime after 1911 was to move to 6 Primrose Hill, Twynrodyn, Merthyr Tydfil. Her two eldest sons; Thomas and William, were to share the family home and continued to support her until her death in 1923¹⁷.

George was not afraid to go out into the wide world to seek better employment opportunities as shown in his move first to Liverpool and later to Carmarthenshire. His ever-increasing family drove him to find better paid employment in the South Wales coalfield and ironically although not engaged in any dangerous work, he met an early and tragic demise.

¹² - 'Compensation case' - Merthyr Express – 25th December 1909.

¹³ - 'Merthyr compensation cases' - Merthyr Express – 5th February 1910.

¹⁴ - Merthyr Express – 19th March 1910.

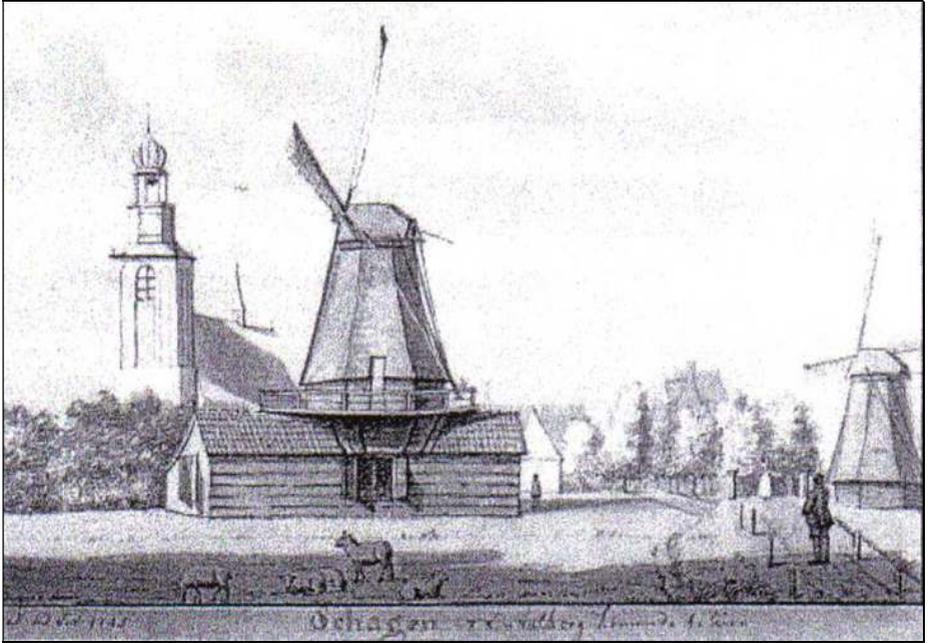
¹⁵ - 'Miners' Executive' - Cardiff Times, 23rd July 1910, and Weekly Mail – 23rd July 1910.

¹⁶ - Mary, Ruth, Frederick, and Henry).

¹⁷ - Merthyr Tydfil register of electors 1919 and 1923.

19 GOLD SOVEREIGNS

#888 Maura Bennett



1743 Jonker Windmills (Jonker Family Archives)

When I was a child, my mother often told me stories about her early life and also that her grandmother, my great-grandmother, had come from Holland as a little girl to live with her aunt and uncle in Cardiff, and she was given gold sovereigns to play with. Gold sovereigns! This was something that I as a seven-year-old found almost unimaginable and very intriguing.

When I began investigating my family history some years later, this story was at the front of my mind. My starting point was a visit to the Glamorgan Record Office, then in its basement location at Cathays Park in Cardiff. Thirty years ago there was, of course, no quick and easy way of finding family ancestors via internet websites - it was a matter of patient trawling through rolls of microfiche in the hope of finding a tiny scrap of information amongst all the thousands of pages that were stored there on film. By sheer chance, perhaps beginner's luck, looking through the Cardiff census for 1881, I found my great grandmother, her husband and their children, including my grandmother, within half an hour. Even today, it is still hard to believe that happened, with the scant information I had to guide me.



Alkmaar in 20th century-Cannon Ball House on the left. (photograph my own)

From that initial discovery, the story of my great-grandmother's life and that of her uncle Jan in Cardiff, and previously in the Netherlands, was gradually assembled. Information was gathered from the Glamorgan Record Office, the PRO in London and a visit to the North Holland Regional Archives Centre in Alkmaar.

My great-grandmother's name was Alida Johanna JONKER, born in Alkmaar, in the province of North Holland in 1846. She had three younger siblings. Sadly, when she was eleven years old, her father Willem, owner of a barge, drowned in one of the many canals that were located in that part of the Netherlands. Her widowed mother, Tecla, with the youngest child only three years old, was obviously in dire need of help in coping with the demands of her family. At this time, an uncle of Alida, her father's brother Jan, happened to be living in Cardiff with his wife Anna Maria. They had no children and so Alida and her brother Nicolaas were offered a home with them in Bute Street. In the 1861 census, Uncle Jan was listed as a jeweller and pawn broker, living with his wife, niece Alida aged 15, nephew Nicolaas 12, a housekeeper and a female servant. By this time, Alida's mother and the two youngest children had moved back to Tecla's family home in Friesland.

It is easy to imagine my teenaged great-grandmother struggling to get to know an unknown uncle and aunt, and a strange new language and way of life in another country. No doubt she was involved in the day-to-day activities in the house and also helped her uncle in the business. Alida's brother, Nicolaas, returned to the Netherlands and in December 1861 was listed as living with his mother and her new husband in Friesland. Perhaps for a young boy, missing his mother and coping with life, especially school in a strange country, proved to be too difficult.



Luttig Oudoop with Jonker house on left, bridge and Cheese Market (formerly Corn Market)
Engraving in Junker Family Archives

Alida married in St John's Church, Canton, Cardiff in 1868. Her husband Johannes MULLER was a mariner from the Baltic town of Wismar. Their son John was born a year later in Cardiff, but when he was four years old, Alida was widowed. Her husband was drowned at sea when his vessel 'Britannia' sank.

There was a second marriage in 1874, this time to a Bristol-born shipwright, James MORGAN. The wedding took place at St Mary's Church, Bute Street. My grandmother was the eldest of their five children and Alida's son, John, from her first marriage was part of the family. They must have lived happily together as siblings, as they remained in close contact through the generations. I can remember meeting John Muller's wife - to me as a child, an extremely aged 'great-aunt' and visiting their home near Romilly Park, Barry.

Another snippet of family history from my mother was that Alida and her family were Roman Catholics, but Alida's second husband apparently insisted their sons and the two younger daughters were christened at St Mary's Bute Street, (Church in Wales), although their first child, my grandmother, had been baptised in the RC church. It was a source of much amusement to me when computer indexing the parish registers for St David's RC Church in Cardiff, the baptism entries contained not only, as expected, my grandmother's baptism as a baby in 1875, but information regarding three of Alida's other children all baptised there within a two-week period in 1894: a daughter aged 12, another aged 9 and a son aged 16. The phrase 'backing it both ways' comes to mind. It is also hard for me to ignore one of Lady Bracknell's famous remarks, this time regarding

christenings - 'they had every luxury that money could buy'; but I think their mother's intentions were far more serious.

Alida's second husband James eventually brought his seafaring days to a close and became a Dock Pilot. This involved handling the cargo vessels once they had been unloaded and their crew paid and signed off. The dock pilots then moved the ships to where the new cargo would be waiting and they prepared the ship for its next voyage. At this point, crew members were enlisted by the captain ready to sail out into the Bristol Channel to their next destination. James died in 1918 and was buried on 11th November, Armistice Day. Yet another amusing fact regarding religious matters - although James followed the Anglican faith, Alida buried him in the RC section of the Allensbank Cemetery in Cardiff. Was she having a last laugh I wonder?

Alida continued living in Cardiff. For a short time her widowed daughter (my grandmother) and children shared her house in the 1920s, otherwise she lived alone and independently until her death at the age of 92, in 1938.

Alida's uncle, Jan Jonker, also born in Alkmaar, North Holland, I think today might be called an entrepreneur. His birth in Alkmaar in 1796, came the year after Napoleon invaded Holland. His baptism took place at St Matthias RC church. The family house in Alkmaar is quite famous and still known to this day as 'The House with the Cannon Ball', since one of these hit and is still lodged in the front façade of the house following the war with Spain in the late sixteenth century. At his marriage in 1820, Jan was described as a mariner, no doubt sailing the network of canals in that region. There is a gap of twenty years in his life at this point which is so far, a mystery. In 1841 he and his wife surfaced in London, with his occupation described as silk merchant, and is listed in the 1851 census and also on the Electoral Roll as living in Whitechapel. By 1855, he had moved to Cardiff, this time as a jeweller and pawn broker in Bute Street. It was perhaps a matter of 'follow the money'. The London silk market had collapsed as the French imports of silk resumed, and perhaps he was tempted to try and make his fortune in South Wales.

Cardiff, in the middle of the 19th century was a rich and prosperous town and the hub of all the wealth and commercial activity was centred around the docks. Bute Street was the place to be, with banks, shipping headquarters, colliery owners, lawyers all established in the area. The slightly later addition of the prestigious Coal Exchange came in 1888. No doubt a jeweller (and pawn broker) could run a very lucrative business in that location and Uncle Jan certainly took advantage of this. He also advertised facilities for foreign money exchange and offers of secure storage for valuables in a strong room with state of the art safeguards. Nevertheless, a newspaper report in 1867 covered a sensational robbery at his premises. The list of stolen goods contained items such as 50 gold sovereigns, 63 gold napoleons, Belgian Bonds for 1,000 guilders, Dutch Bonds, silver plate, etc, a small fortune at the time. He offered

a substantial reward for the recovery of these items, but the final outcome is not known.



DUKE OF CORNWALL

THE WAY WE WERE: The Hayes in 1879, a far cry from today's cosmopolitan shopping centre
Taken from family collection, originally printed in the South Wales Echo.

The house in Bute Street was described as: a shop, two sitting rooms, 7 bedrooms, kitchen, underground cellar and 'usual offices', plus cottage or warehouse and yard behind the premises, with a back entrance to Bute Lane. Uncle Jan was described in the South Wales Advertiser in 1859 as 'the only Christian pawnbroker in South Wales'. He was also the owner of a number of properties, a few shops and also hostleries - the Duke of Cornwall in the Hayes, near the present Morgan Arcade, the Maindy Tavern at Blackweir, and was granted a licence for a new inn at Maindy, the Hope Hotel.

Then in 1868, he became a naturalised British citizen, which enabled him to purchase land in the Maindy area of Cardiff and build a small terrace of houses situated between North Road and the canal to the west, which he called appropriately Jonkers Place. These six-roomed properties were advertised for letting in the Western Mail in 1872.

Jan died in 1875 aged 78, at his home in Jonkers Place, Blackweir and is buried in Allensbank Cemetery. In his will he was styled as Jan Jonker, gentleman - a far cry from the lowly 'mariner' entered on his marriage certificate fifty years earlier. In his will, he made provision for his wife Anna Maria to be cared for by the nuns of Nazareth House, a Roman Catholic home for the elderly and for orphans. Anna Maria was left money to support her there, plus 'furniture and bedding, plated cutlery, clothes, jewels, diamonds' etc. After her death eighteen months later, the remainder of her possessions became the property of the Nazareth House sisters to be used 'to further their charitable work'. The two executors as named on the will were William ALEXANDER gentleman, timber merchant and late mayor of Cardiff, and William Rose HARVEY, gentleman, lawyer.

This family can be traced back to about 1600 in North Holland, where they were located at a place called Schagen. Patronymics were in use until about 1700 when the surname Jonker was adopted. Perhaps not surprisingly, the family owned windmills. At one time in Schagen, they had four in operation - one was an oil mill for producing the oil for lamps, one was a saw mill and timber yard and the other two windmills produced flour. They moved south from Schagen to Alkmaar in the 1760s.

As far as the family story of '*playing with gold sovereigns*' is concerned, thoughts centre on Chinese Whispers - information becomes distorted as it is passed from one person or one generation to the next.....The original coins were far more likely to have been those my great grandmother handled when, no doubt, as a girl, she was busy helping customers in Uncle Jan's jeweller and pawnbroker business in Bute Street, although she probably had seen gold sovereigns when her Uncle Jan was conducting business transactions, and also knew of the valuables stored in the strong room. But it was a fascinating story for a little girl to hear and one which obviously prompted me to make all my family history investigations in later years.

One final thought - if Uncle Jan had relocated from London to perhaps Manchester, instead of choosing Cardiff, my great grandmother would not have lived there and I would not be here to write this today.

OBITUARY

David Digby Mullin Clark (1921-2019)

The Cardiff branch was very sad to learn of the death of Mr David Clark on Sunday 5 May 2019 at the University Hospital of Wales. At 97, Mr Clark was one of our oldest branch members and was still able to attend the evening meetings. He had very much enjoyed the February 2019 meeting '*Death by poison: An unfortunate end to Welsh sporting legend Norman Biggs*', who it turned out had been one of his cousins. Mr Clark served as the Treasurer for the Glamorgan Family History Society for many years and had enjoyed the comradeship and so many of the wonderful events organised by the society.

The committal service was held at Thornhill Crematorium, Cardiff on Wednesday 29 May. This was followed by the Thanksgiving/Funeral service which was held on Friday 31 May at St Mary's Church, Whitchurch. Mr Clark leaves a son, James, and daughter, Elizabeth, to whom we extend our condolences at this sad time of loss.

MY FAMILY'S JOURNEY INTO GLAMORGAN

Kenneth Harris

My paternal grandfather was Albert Ernest HARRIS (b Worcester 1867) but left the family when in his teens. Records show him as being a Journeyman Watch/ClockMaker/Repairer, and he had shops at different times in Evans Road, Kenfig Hill and Station Road, Port Talbot. He died in Port Talbot in 1929. He was in Brecon in 1901 when two of his sons were born (my uncles). One son, born in Bedford in 1907; my father, Sidney Edgar HARRIS (b 1909), together with a daughter (b 1911), were born in Aberavon (Port Talbot). I arrived on the scene in 1945, born in Baglan. I now live near Malvern in Worcester so have returned close to my roots via Briton Ferry, Clydach, Ynystawe, Llanfair Caereinion and Knighton (the latter two being in Powys).

My paternal grandmother was Martha PIM (born Barnstaple 1871, died Port Talbot 1958), daughter of John Pim and Ann ACLAND/ACKLAND, who married at Goodleigh, Barnstable in 1863. Other children were born whilst the family was still in Barnstaple, but by 1891 the family were at Davies Road, Cockett, Swansea, with Ann shown as Head of Household and a Farmworker, but no mention of John – presumably dead. Martha was working as a Domestic for a family of MOCK, grain importers, in Walter Road, Swansea. (At that time, MOCK was a family business in Barnstaple so could the Barnstaple background have helped obtain employment?) There are Pims still in Swansea though I have never made contact.

My maternal grandparents were FISHLOCK and GREENAWAY (sometimes GREENWAY) – both names and known family members still in the Neath areas of Briton Ferry and Skewen. Both families arrived in Neath via Bristol. The FISHLOCKS had been in parts of Wiltshire and the name still persists there and in Bristol. The GREENAWAYS are thought to have originated in Ireland and worked their way through to Bristol from Cornwall.

Linked to the FISHLOCKS via marriages are the names LACEY, WEEKES, HIATT, BARNET and COLLIER with the latter two names still prominent in Briton Ferry and known cousins.

The FISHLOCKS, two branches, settled in the Brynhyfryd and Giant's Grave areas of Briton Ferry – my bloodline being that of the Giant's Grave root.

My Grandfather, Richard FISHLOCK, married Eliza GREENAWAY of Skewen. She was working at the Copper Works opposite Wards Shipbreaking Yard, and my grandfather would swim or paddle (depending upon the state of the tide) across the River Neath to meet her. He would bundle up his clothes when crossing, then clean-off the mud and then dress again. My mother, Catherine Jane FISHLOCK(Jenny) was born in 1909 - the day after my father!

Both families were at their respective Neath homes in 1891.

Rosina GREENAWAY married Francis Arthur CREECH (from Skewen) and they were meant to have emigrated to Canada on the Titanic but due to Rosina's illness, postponed the journey! One of my late uncles, a veteran of WWII had a dubious record as a kind of Jonah as a number of ships from which he had been transferred were later sunk by the Germans. This uncle also served on HMS Consort which was involved in the Yangtze Incident! I've kept my feet firmly on the ground!

I am also linked, though not by blood, to the DAVEY family who were 19th century industrialists in Briton Ferry and had arrived from Bristol, although their Family Tree goes back to Bawdeswell in Norfolk. One of the family, Lt Colonel Joseph Morgan DAVEY was in WWI action in France and Italy and was buried with full military honours at St Catharine's Church, Baglan. Close to his grave is that of his family relative, Naval Lieutenant Lewis Gwyn LEWIS, originally from Gwynfe, Carmarthenshire, who saw service with the British Indian Navy. Whilst on Sick Leave and a passenger on the SS Northam, he took charge of the rescue work of civilian passengers when it ran aground in the Red Sea in 1859, for which the grateful passengers made him a gift of a gold watch. He ended his years as Harbourmaster at Neath and died in 1929. Together, these two families are linked to the FITZMAURICE (Swansea) and TONG (Middleton, Manchester) families. I possess his own typed history of Lewis Gwyn LEWIS should that ever be of interest to the Society.

The DAVEYs lived first at Shelone and then Penrhiwgoch/Woodside in Briton Ferry, and I believe former Wales' hooker, Richard Hibbert, resides in one of their former homes.

I can go into greater detail of any of the above should it be required by anyone.

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inside back cover). The Haggis was the highlight and would be piped in and addressed by one of the guests (front cover).

Alongside the programmes are two 'Scottish Passports' issued to guests attending the Burns Night event and including the programme and menu for the evening (image inside back cover).

The records of the Cardiff Caledonian Society provide a picture of Cardiff's strong Scottish community.

Croeso, Welcome to new volunteers.....!

- Exchange Journals Coordinator - Joe Evans
exchange@glamfhs.org.uk
- Members' Interests Coordinator - Megan George
interests@glamfhs.org.uk
 - MI Look Ups - Theresa Holland
milookups@glamfhs.org.uk

None of these volunteers live local to South Wales and, in fact, Joe lives in Europe.

Volunteering a few hours or so a week can be done from anywhere in the world.

Check out the vacancies on our website:

www.glamfhs.org.uk/societyvacancies

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<https://www.glamfhs.org.uk/images/2019GiftAidForm.pdf>

EVACUEES' TALES

Jan Thomas and Jan Jones

One aspect of immigration into Glamorgan is the number of evacuees that came from the big cities of London, Birmingham and Manchester when the German bombing offensive was at its most severe. Here are two stories, about two small girls, and then two small boys.

Jan Thomas of Sarn relates how she became friendly with two ladies, known as Mary and Ada, who had come to Wales as children aged 7 and 9 respectively, during the blitz in WW2 over London.

Ada's memories are of her mother taking her to the train station where there were lots of other children, who were all going to different parts of Wales for their safety due to the bombing. Ada told me her mother was a nurse and her father was a fireman and for this reason her parents stayed behind, as they were much needed there. Ada's home was bombed and she had a lucky escape when a large piece of shrapnel came through her bedroom window and landed on her bed; she told me if it wasn't for her father's army coat which was over her that night she would have been injured; all firemen were issued with them at that time.

Ada stayed in the valleys until the end of the war. Her mother had told her she was to stay with her uncle and aunt, a story that was given to many evacuee children, and she recalls how her 'aunt' had fussed over her immensely. Her 'uncle' at first sight scared her stiff, but he was a wonderful man and made her laugh a lot. She remembers his chesty cough, and dark rimmed eyes and blackened fingernails due to working in the coal mines.

Mary came with her pregnant mother; her father was a bus driver and stayed in London where he was needed. They went to west Wales and the family they stayed with were very good to them, but Mary found it hard to adjust to her new surroundings, finding the culture and language very difficult at first.

However she soon made new friends at school and they helped her a lot, eventually speaking very good Welsh. Mary and her mother returned to London, but what they saw there shocked them: what was once their home, and the whole street, was now a pile of rubble. Many of their friends and neighbours were killed whilst their homes were destroyed. Both of these brave ladies told me they remember those dreadful bombing raids and won't forget what they saw and heard. Both of them came back to Wales and made their home here, settling into Welsh life.

Jan Jones tells of Martin HARVEY, who was a small boy of six years old when he and his younger brother, Charles, were sent from their home in Birmingham to an unknown valley in South Wales in late 1941, because of the fear of the city being bombed by the Germans. All over Britain, children were being sent away from their homes if those homes were likely to be targets for enemy attack.

Not all children were taken in by caring adults; some would be exploited and used for an extra pair of hands to help run the household, but that did not happen to these two. Martin and Charles were spotted in the school in Pontycymmer, where they stood forlornly with labels round their necks saying 'Do not separate us'. They were both taken into the home of my family with Maude and Bill SUTTON, in Queen Street, Blaengarw, and spent an idyllic two years with the family, going to school and running around the mountainside.

Martin, in particular, never forgot his two years in Blaengarw, and as an adult he came to Blaengarw every year apart from his time doing National Service in Germany, until 2017, when illness prevented his journey. Jan was not born until 1944 so does not remember him as an evacuee, but has played hostess to his visits ever since her parents had died. She remembers fondly how Martin used to talk about the freedom of the hills, collecting whinberries, and paddling in the streams.

Before his illness Martin wrote to Jan, his 'sister' as he thought of her, to express his gratitude and thanks, not just to her and her family but to all Garw people for their welcome and hospitality to two frightened little boys. His wish was that when he died, his ashes were to be scattered in his 'ancestral home', as he referred to Blaengarw.

That event took place in May this year, when Martin died aged 84. His family came to Jan's in Blaengarw, and took a walk up the mountainside and scattered his ashes in the place that he loved best and thought of as home.

**** GOOD NEWS ****

The cost of obtaining a copy of a will in England and Wales has been reduced from £10 to £1.50 on the www.gov.uk/search-will-probate website (1858-1996). However If there is no will ordering the Administration of Probate document will not give you much more information than is contained in the index.

MURDER AND MAYHEM IN GLAMORGAN

#10573 Jean Fowlds

Not all incomers into Glamorgan went on to lead peaceful and hard-working lives; some were responsible for crimes of the worst sort, with tragic consequences for all concerned.

The Glamorgan Gazette of July 20th 1945 reported on the Glamorgan Assizes in Swansea, where a Canadian soldier, Howard Joseph GROSSLEY, a married man, was found guilty of murdering Lily GRIFFITHS, a single woman with whom he had been living. She had been found shot in a lane off New Road, Porthcawl, and died a few days later.

At the time of the shooting Mr Grossley and Miss Griffiths, together with their two-year-old child, were staying with a Mr and Mrs ATKINSON in New Road, Porthcawl, and on March 12th they were listening to the radio when it was announced that German prisoners had escaped from the PoW camp at Island Farm near Bridgend.* Mr Grossley had an automatic pistol, which he kept upstairs, and he then brought it down to demonstrate how it worked. Shortly afterwards he went out drinking, came back and shot Lily Griffiths after an argument. He shouted for the police, claiming that an escaped German had shot her. He persisted with this story until admitting that he had indeed fired the gun, but it was by accident. Witnesses were called for, and police later found the bullet which had passed through Lily's body, and showed that it had come from Grossley's gun.

After appearing before Bridgend Magistrates' Court, he was remanded before being sent to the Assizes, where he was sentenced to death, all the while pleading not guilty.

**Island Farm is the subject of several articles and books, amongst them 'The Great German Escape' by Peter Philips, who disputes the official figures that 70 Germans escaped, and that they were all recaptured: he maintains it was nearer 80, and that one or two were never recaptured. The ingenuity used by the Germans to aid their escape was said to have influenced the film 'The Great Escape'.*

Another tragic story:

On May 8th 1952 the Gazette reported the execution in Cardiff gaol of Ajit SINGH, a 27 year old Sikh living in Elder House, Bridgend. Mr Singh was apparently besotted with Joan Marion THOMAS, a young widow of Dunraven Street Bridgend, and was following her around to try and rekindle a former association.

Mrs Thomas had caught a bus to go to Cefn Hirgoed to visit her sister, accompanied by her friend Mildred Valerie WILLIAMS, when Mr Singh also boarded. When they all alighted Mrs Thomas was stopped and an argument took place. She shouted to her friend that Mr Singh had a gun, which he then used to shoot her twice. She attempted to run away, but he fired more shots and she died on the spot. The gun used was a German self-loading pistol, and it was a mystery how he had obtained it.

Mr Singh claimed that he remembered nothing of the incident, and the jury made a strong recommendation for mercy, but were ignored, as the prosecution stated it was a clear case of deliberate pre-planned murder, something he had been heard to propose several times before the event.

The Court of Criminal Appeal dismissed the subsequent appeal, and the sentence of death was upheld. Mr Singh's religious beliefs were honoured when special arrangements for his body's cremation were permitted.

NB Information and research for these items were given to me by members Gerald Jarvis and DK Jones, for which many thanks

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Aberkenfig Resource Centre

We need to recruit some additional volunteers to help with research and administrative tasks and to cover for holidays at our Resource Centre at Aberkenfig.

Administrative tasks include:

dealing with the sale of our publications as well as answering research queries and Look Up requests sent in by our members.

We also have a number of projects that need additional transcribers and checkers.

**If you can spare an hour or so please contact:
arc@glamfhs.org.uk**

It does not need to be a regular commitment and some tasks can be done at home!

HIRING OR MOP FAIRS

#1911 Nick Davey

Before Domestic Servants, Employment, and Secretarial agencies, the Labour exchange and Employment service, how did our ancestors find employment outside of family, or tied employment such as estates or trade guilds? The answer is “Hiring or Mop Fairs”. Prior to the industrial revolution and the mass migration of the population from the countryside to the larger towns, cities, and centres of industry in the mid to late 1800s, our ancestors relied on them.

These fairs originated after the Statute of Labourers was passed by Edward III in 1351, which was an attempt to regulate wages after the Black Death and as a result of Section 15 of the Statute of Artificers (Apprentices) in 1563, local justices were to set a yearly wage assessment ‘respecting the plenty or scarcity of the time’, covering ‘so many of the said artificers, handicraftsmen, husbandmen or any other labourer, servant or workman, whose wages in time past hath been by any law or statute rated and appointed, as also the wages of all other labourers, artificers, workmen or apprentices of husbandry, which have not been rated as they [the justices] shall think meet by their directions to be rated.....’

Sections 18-19 provided that if employers and workers agreed wages above the set rates, they could be imprisoned.

(edited source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Statute_of_Artificers_1563).

These yearly pronouncements were made around Michaelmas (29th September) each year at these Hiring or Mop Fairs. Sadly there are no records of Hiring Fairs in Glamorgan or Wales. However all of the fairs in England and Wales were published by William Owen in his book ‘New Book of Fairs’ in 1788 & 1816, both available online via www.archive.org.

These Hiring Fairs did not occur in every county town, but near to a group of villages, and were regulated by Acts of Parliament. Those looking to be hired would display a tassel (the Mop) showing their occupation. Employers would move through and around them discussing their skills etc and having decided who to hire, gave them a “fasten-penny” (often a shilling) to confirm their employment. Those hired would remove the tassel and go on to enjoy the other delights of the fair.

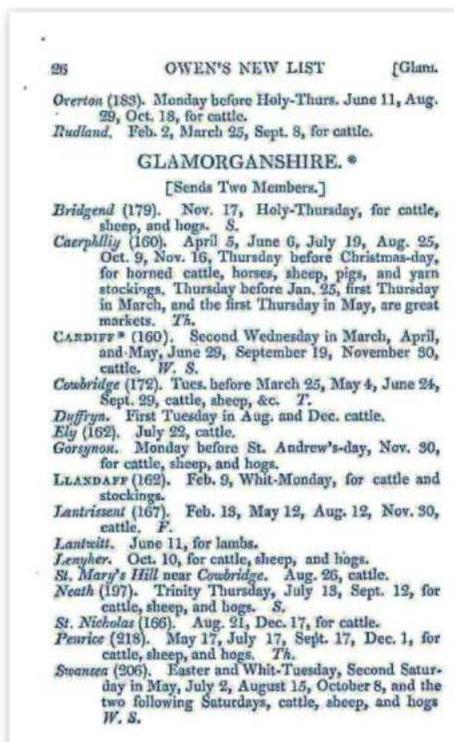
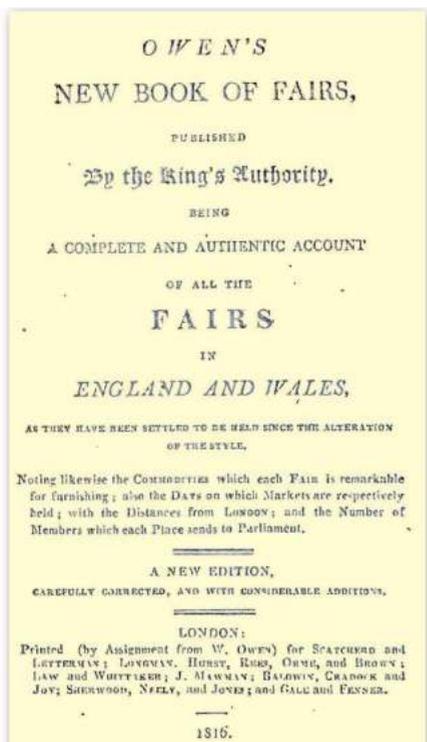
(Source wikipedia.org/wiki/Hiring_and_mop_fairs#cite_note-8)

I have searched for any records of such agreements, and the earliest one I found is from County Armagh with an Inventory date 1717:

'Due to Danaill MCCLELLEN for one quarter's wages.....6s 6d, and due to Elinor STEVENSON for halfe a year's wages16s 6d'. What is not clear is if they were both hired at a fair. (Source: 'Hiring Fairs and Market Places', by May Blair 2007, page 6).

Having previously stated that there are no Hiring, Mop or Statute Fairs in Wales it is hard to imagine that at the fairs held around late September – early October, in Caerphilly, Cardiff, Cowbridge, Lougher, Neath, Penrice and Swansea that there wouldn't be people looking for employment and employed in the same way. The Act of 1563 listed the trades which applied, so if your ancestor was skilled in another trade then the protection of the Act did not apply, and abuse could occur.

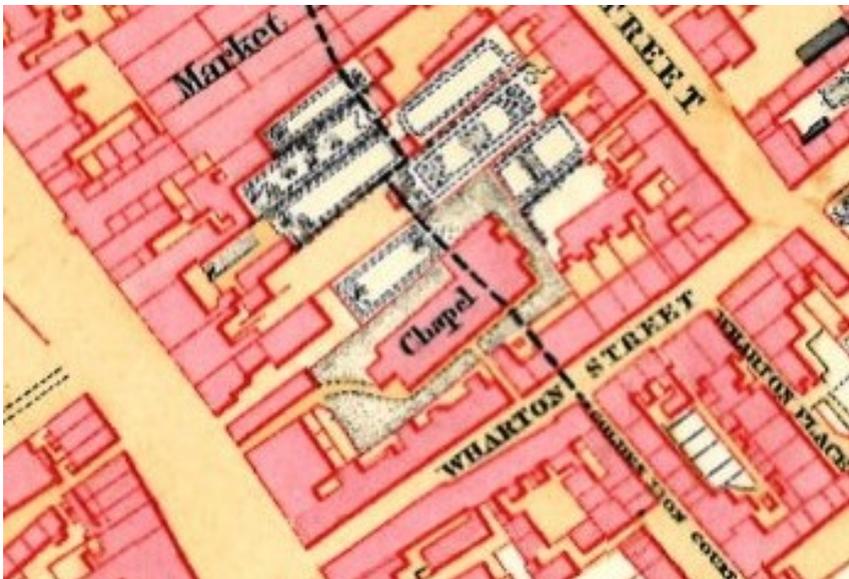
I would be very interested to hear if readers have any records of family members who might have been employed through one of these fairs. I realise we are talking probably before the major industrialisation period of South Wales, which would and did swallow up any unemployed labourers, but it would help me build a better picture of life here before the coal and iron era.



BETHANY BAPTIST CHAPEL (CARDIFF) BURIAL RECORDS (1807-1860)

The original Bethany Baptist Chapel site in Cardiff now lies within a large department store on the corner of St Mary and Wharton Streets. Plans for re-development of the site are currently being considered, see <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/entire-church-sat-hidden-plain-15730949> (although the Chapel building pictured therein dates from 1864) and <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/business/business-news/plans-howells-building-cardiff-transform-16374837>.

The land surrounding the Chapel building was used as a burial ground from June 1807, when the site was first acquired, until April 1860, even though burials there were proscribed under the Burial Act from 1 October 1859 (<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/22264/page/1985>).



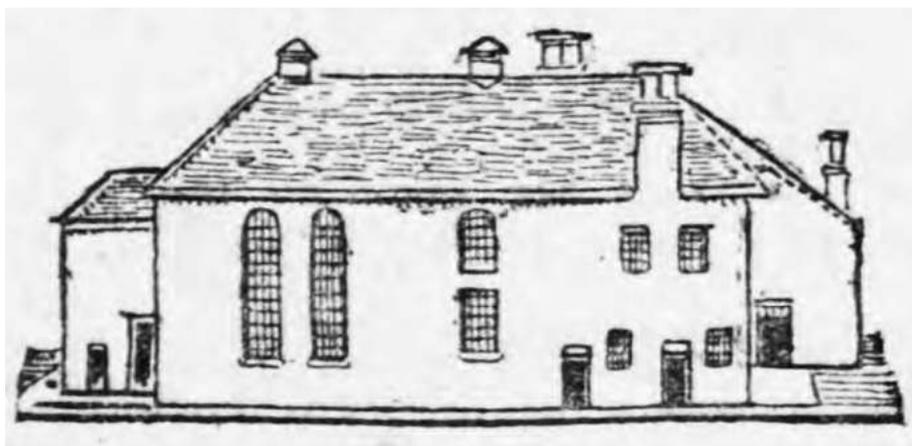
Detail from 'Plan of the Centre of Cardiff in 1851' showing the location of Bethany Chapel, Cardiff, and the surrounding land used for burials. (Adapted with kind permission of Cardiff Libraries.)

As well as burials of Chapel members and their families, 'it was originally agreed upon by all members that any person, not being a member of the church, should be permitted to bury a child, relative, or friend, in the said

burying grounds upon paying the sum of four shillings to the grave digger, and eight shillings to the church, for every interment.' After examining records available online and in the Glamorgan Archives, it appears that this resolution was generally observed except for 'some few cases which appeared to require a deviation, on account of the poverty or distress of the parties concerned'

(<https://newspapers.library.wales/view/3633383/3633386/28/>).

There was a significant increase in burial rates in the Chapel grounds during and after the 1848-9 outbreak of cholera in Cardiff. It is now known that well over 500 people were interred in the Bethany Chapel burial ground between 1807 and 1860 (reasonable estimates of the missing data suggest that the figure is probably around 700 burials in total). Most were not actually Chapel members and a large proportion were children.



*'Old Bethany Chapel', St Mary Street, Cardiff, 1821-64 (with post-1830s extensions)
viewed from the Wharton Street side*

(<https://newspapers.library.wales/view/3428063/3428067/63/>).

Family historians researching deaths in Cardiff 1807-1860 for which burial records have not been located may find the following Bethany Chapel sources useful. They provide burial information for Bethany Chapel members and their families, as well as for many non-members. However, the coverage is incomplete, the major gap being for family of Chapel members who died 1837-1860, although if a Chapel family connection is known then a death in that period would likely imply a Chapel burial ground interment. The information provided is also limited but may just include that vital clue needed to generate new lines of genealogical exploration.

1. Bethany Chapel death register

Death dates: June 1807 - April 1837.

Included: 143 deaths of Chapel members, their families, and non-members.

Availability: The National Archives, RG4/3493 and RG4/3879; FindMyPast.com; Glamorgan Archives [GA], 'Copy register of births and deaths', DBAP 15/3/3/1 (also transcribed by Glamorgan FHS).

Comments: Cross-referencing available records indicates that the people whose deaths are recorded here were interred in the Chapel burial ground.

2. Bethany Chapel member register

Death/burial dates: September 1807 - April 1856.

Included: 578 Chapel members, with 112 death and/or burial records of which 68 are Chapel burial ground interments. (N.B. Membership numbering ends at 598 but jumps from 429 to 450 instead of 430, leaving only 578 records.)

Availability: GA, 'Church record, being a history of the church, and register of members', DBAP 15/1/2. An index of Chapel members named in this source is also available (GA, 'Register of members 1806-56, surname index to register', DBAP 15/2i).

Comments: Chapel member deaths up to April 1837 also appear in Source 1 above; some non-Chapel death/burial places are also given; only Chapel members are listed, not their children etc.

3. Bethany Chapel Deacon's accounts (a)

Burial dates: September 1814 - March 1833.

Included: 31 non-member Chapel burial ground interments.

Availability: GA, 'Deacon's account book 1806-1833', DBAP 15/2/1/4.

Comments: Dates of payment of the non-member burial fee are given. Limited information is provided in these accounts about each burial, often not even a name, but most burials can be matched with deaths given in Source 1 and the payment date is usually within a week of the death.

4. Bethany Chapel Deacon's accounts (b)

Burial dates: February 1834 - July 1858.

Included: 334 non-member Chapel burial ground interments.

Availability: GA, 'The Baptist Church St Marys Street Cardiff: The Deacons cash account book', CL/MS 2.1242/2.

Comments: Continues Source 3. Dates of payment of the non-Chapel member burial fee are given (which may cover more than one burial). Cross-referencing available records indicates that the payments were generally made within a few weeks of the burial. The name of the deceased person, and/or their parent(s) in the case of a child, is usually included.

5. Bethany Chapel Deacon's accounts (c)

Burial dates: October 1858 - April 1860.

Included: 28 non-member Chapel burial ground interments.

Availability: GA, 'Deacon's account book 1858-1894', DBAP 15/2/1/5.

Comments: Continues Source 4. Dates of payment of the non-Chapel member burial fee are given. The name of the deceased person, and/or their parent(s) in the case of a child, is usually included.

6. Bethany Baptist Chapel Cardiff non-member burials 1807-1860 spreadsheet (Ollerton & O'Brien, 2019)

Burial dates: September 1807 - April 1860.

Included: 393 non-member Chapel burial ground interments.

Availability: Glamorgan FHS (print version).

Comments: This spreadsheet collates information from the Deacon's accounts books for non-Chapel member burials (Sources 3-5 above) and includes probable matches with records from the Bethany Chapel death records 1807-1837 and the GRO death index 1837-1860 (example page below).

Bethany Chapel St Mary St Cardiff non-Chapel member burials 1807-60												
Spreadsheet: Richard L. Ollerton ©2019						Glamorgan Archives (GA) record imaging: Catherine O'Brien						
Bethany Chapel Deacon's account books burial fee payments 1807-60						Comparison records - probable matches						
Surname	Name	Description	Parent	Date of payment			#	Surname	Name	Age	Date of death	
				Day	Mth	Year					Quarter	
35	Richards	Cathrine		12	8	1830		Richards	Catharine (dau of late Lewellyn Rich	20		8/8/1830
36		grave	(paid by Mr T Leyshon)	16	4	1831		Leyshon	Eliza (dau of Thomas Leyshon & Cat 3yrs 10mth			12/4/1831
37	Jenkins	wife		30	7	1831						
38	Evans	Thos		1	3	1833	31					
GA, Deacon's cash account book [1854-1858], CL/MS 2.1242/2												
40	Rees	child	George Rees	22	2	1834		Rees	Rachel	6		20/2/1834
41		child		4	2	1835						
42	Price	Mrs		29	9	1835		Price				25/9/1835
43	Walters	Mrs		4	11	1835		Walters	Elizabeth	54		31/8/1835
44	Jefford	child	Mr Jefford	17	12	1835						
45	Rees	child	Rees, groom	12	1	1836		Rees	Margaret	4		4/11/1835
46	Leyshon	child	Lewis Leyshon	23	4	1836						
47	Williams	child	Mr James Williams	4	5	1836		Williams	John	0		26/4/1836
48	Mathias	children	Danl Mathias	14	5	1836		Mathias	Mary	10		28/4/1836
49				14	5	1836		Mathias	Phillip	5		2/5/1836
50				14	5	1836		Mathias	Elizabeth	7		3/5/1836
51				14	5	1836		Mathias	John	2		3/5/1836
52	Ward	child	Edmund Ward Junr	16	5	1836		Ward Junr	Samuel	1		2/5/1836
53	David	Ann		10	3	1837		Davies	Ann	85		4/3/1837
54	Salmon	David		20	3	1837		Salmon	David	42		16/3/1837
55		child, Irish		3	4	1837		Brian	John	1		29/3/1837
GRO death index - Cardiff district												
57	Stone	Mrs		30	9	1837		STONE	MARY	44		Sep
58	Riches	child	Mr Riches	27	11	1837		RICHES	LOUISA CLARA HURRY	1		Dec
59	White	Wm		26	12	1837		WHITE	WILLIAM	59		Dec
60	Insole	vault	Mr Insole	26	12	1837		INSOLE	GEORGE FREDERICK	1		Dec
61	Fifoot	old Mrs		26	1	1838		FIFOOT	ELEANOR	69		Mar
62	Burrows	Ann		19	2	1838		BURROWS	ANN	9		Mar
63	Arthur	child	Arthur, blacksmith	23	2	1838		ARTHER	JONATHON	3		Mar

Assoc Prof Richard L Ollerton & Catherine O'Brien

EXCHANGE E-JOURNALS

The following societies have agreed to exchange electronic journals with us and copies of their magazines/newsletters are in the process of being uploaded to the Members Only Area of our website. With a big thank you to Joe Evans, who has volunteered to be our Exchange E-Journal Coordinator. Joe can be contacted on

exchange@glamfhs.org.uk.

Society Name	Title of Newsletter/Magazine
Wales New Zealand FHS	Newsletter
Powys FHS	Y Chronicl
Waltham Forest FHS	Roots in the Forest
Weston Super Mare FHS	Buckets & Spades
Doncaster FHS	The Doncaster Ancestor
Alberta Family History Society	Chinook Newsletter
Richmond-Tweed FHS	The Cedar Log
Society of Australian Genealogists	Descent
British Columbia	The British Columbia Genealogist
Hillingdon FHS	
Manchester & Lancs FHS	
Dorset FHS	
Australian Inst of Genealogical Studies	The Genealogist
Genealogical Society of Victoria	Ancestor
Buckinghamshire FHS	Origins
Suffolk FHS	Suffolk Roots
Family History Society of Cheshire	Cheshire Ancestor

ARTICLES NEEDED



December - General/Migration to Glamorgan 2

HELP WANTED/ RESEARCH REQUESTS

#10991 Tessa Buckley

I am researching a book about my husband's grandfather, Richard Morgan Walters of Gilfach, Glamorgan (1879-1946) and his parents, John Thomas Walters (c.1846-1915) and Elizabeth Morgan (c.1854-1934) see article below.

There are many mysteries and unanswered questions surrounding Richard Walters, who seems to have had some very famous and influential friends, despite spending much of his life as a shopkeeper in Gilfach. I would be interested to get in touch with any descendants of Richard Walters' children: William, George Henry, Taliesin, Lewis David, Naomi (Queenie), Herbert Spencer, and Annie, to see if they can help solve any of these puzzles. Also descendants of John Thomas Walters, who had at least two other children apart from Richard: Rose, (born in the USA), and George.

*If you can help Tessa, please contact Editor, Jean Fowlds,
editor@glamfhs.org.uk*

A SUSPICIOUS DEATH

#10991 Tessa Buckley

'Bargoed Mystery' shouts the headline in the Evening Express and Evening Mail of Wednesday September 12th, 1906. 'Rich Visitor's Fate after Trip from Brighton. Chloral hydrate found in his stomach – How did it get there?' How indeed? This article flagged up all sorts of interesting questions for me, as the man who ran the lodging house where the rich man was staying when he died was my husband's great grandfather, John Thomas WALTERS.

The article was a report of the Coroner's inquest into the sudden death of Mr Alexander Ellis NASH who, on 17th July 1906, had arrived at No 27 Gwerthoner Place, Gilfach, accompanied by his nurse, Alice Emily WOODWARD. Mr Nash, it seemed, wanted a break after the recent death of his wife. Unfortunately, he became seriously ill during the night, and died the next day. The local doctor, unable to establish a satisfactory cause of death, got in touch with Mr Nash's own doctor, who declared the death as 'suspicious', and contacted the Coroner.

The inquest was held at the Gwerthoner Hotel in front of the Coroner, Mr RJ RHYS. John and Sarah Jane Walters, as proprietors of the lodging house

where the man had died, were present, as was the young nurse, and members of the dead man's family.

Proceedings started with a report of the post mortem, which had found all Mr Nash's organs to be sound. On 3rd August it was decided to send the contents of the stomach for analysis, but this was delayed when the analyst was taken ill. The analysis was not completed until 4th September, by which time the intestines were decomposing fast. Even so, 4 grams of chloral hydrate were found in the intestines, which suggested that the original dose taken was at least 40 grams – quite enough to cause death.

When Alice Woodward was questioned, she insisted that the only liquid she had given her patient was a little whisky and water during the night, when he was coughing. She said she had brought no medicine with her, and neither had he, for she had packed his bag. The Coroner pointed out that a 10 gram dose of chloral hydrate was often used as a sedative, and that people addicted to it could be 'very sly' about hiding it.

The Coroner continued to press the nurse: "What were you paid?"

"Two guineas per week."

"Have you ever given Mr Nash a draught of chloral hydrate?"

"No! Apart from the whisky, the only drink I gave him was a cup of Bovril on our arrival."

Finally, the Coroner summed up the evidence for the benefit of the jury. The delay in carrying out the analysis meant that it was impossible to say exactly how much chloral hydrate the deceased had consumed, but expert advice suggested it must have been at least 40 grams, enough to kill him. Where did he get the drug from? Either the experts were wrong, or the nurse was not telling the whole truth. (At this point Alice Woodward burst into tears.) Why would she have given him such a dose? Was it taken by him, or given by her, or by a third party? He pointed out that the nurse was paid good wages, and had no apparent interest in his death.

The jury's verdict, when it finally arrived, was 'Death caused by chloral poisoning, but how obtained, and by whom administered, they could not say.' This was a mixed blessing for Alice; she was not going to be arrested for his murder, but the shadow of suspicion had not been entirely removed.

There was one fact that nobody mentioned at the inquest, which I found particularly telling. I had carried out extensive research into the lives of John Walters and his wife, Sarah Jane, and I knew that her maiden name was Woodward. She and John had adopted one of her nieces, Alice May Woodward, but nurse, Alice Emily Woodward, was another niece, the

daughter of Sarah's younger sister, Elizabeth, and must have been well-known to John and Sarah. If the Coroner and the jury had known of the relationship, might they not have suspected that Mr Nash's death was the result of some sort of family conspiracy? No wonder everyone thought it prudent not to mention they were related.

When I first read the article, I did wonder myself exactly what was going on. My research suggests that John Walters was a bit of a Jack the Lad: a man who had three (possibly five) children by three different women on two continents, and who went through a marriage ceremony with Sarah Jane when he was, as far as we can tell, still married to his second wife, Elizabeth MORGAN. Despite all this, I have now come to the conclusion that the most likely explanation for Mr Nash's death was that he had been regularly taking chloral hydrate as a sedative, but was, as the Coroner suggested, 'sly' about the habit. Either he accidentally took an overdose, or he was so depressed after the death of his wife that he took his own life. Either way, this still leaves the question of what happened to the bottle containing the drug. Could Sarah Jane and Alice have disposed of it, fearing that they might be implicated in his death? They may well have been unaware that a forensic analysis might reveal the existence of the drug in his stomach. Probably we shall never know for sure, but I would love to have been a fly on the wall at that inquest!

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HELP WANTED FOLLOWING THE DRUM

David Clammer

During the Napoleonic period, it was customary for British troops ordered abroad on active service to take some of their wives with them. I have been researching the lives and experiences of these women on campaign using contemporary letters and diaries, official orders and regimental records, but I'd like to know more about what happened to the survivors when they came home at the war's end.

The Adjutant General's Regulations and Orders laid down that "the lawful Wives of Soldiers are permitted to embark in the proportion of Six to One Hundred Men including Non-commissioned Officers". In an infantry battalion, that usually meant about six women to each company. The rule did not apply to officers, though very few seem to have wished to subject their ladies to the rigours of campaigning.

The wives who were to accompany their husbands were usually chosen by ballot, a tense and harrowing process. Then the regiment marched from its depot to the port of departure, often accompanied by the wives and children who were to be left behind, desperate to remain with their men till the last minute. There are some harrowing descriptions of the tearful final farewells, with men, women and children not knowing when, if ever, they might see or hear of one another again. No wonder that one soldier, witnessing such a scene in July 1809, wrote "On this occasion my feelings nearly overcame me, and I really could not help rejoicing that I was a single man."

It's a relief to know that the women left behind were not actually abandoned, but were given an allowance (not exceeding two pence a mile) to enable them to make their way home. The regiment issued each woman with a certificate which was countersigned by a magistrate who made out a route, specifying her destination. As the woman made her way across country, she presented her certificate to the overseer of the poor in each parish, who gave her sufficient money to see her through to the next stage, and who was no doubt all too anxious to see her on her way. Whatever hardships these women endured, on foot in all winds and weathers, with poor food and accommodation, and perhaps a child in tow, they had little choice. War Office regulations were uncompromising: "Wives of Soldiers not complying with the Regulations.....shall be treated as Vagrants."

The women who were accompanying their husbands' regiment had to endure all the hazards and privations of the high seas. Sometimes units sailed in

warships, at other times in slow and leaky civilian transports, "drowning machines" as one officer called them. On long voyages hammocks or bunks were supposed to be provided, but often there was nothing but the deck. In storms, with the hatches battened down, conditions were appalling, with men, women and children crushed together, rolling about, and seasick in the darkness. There were also the hazards of enemy privateers, fire, shipwreck and sometimes childbirth to contend with. Where they were bound for depended of course on the government's shifting strategy. It may have been Holland, Egypt, the Cape or India, Denmark, North America or the West Indies, but most often it was the war in the Peninsula, between 1808 and 1814.

Once in Portugal or Spain, the troops and their wives faced a life of almost constant movement exposed to every kind of weather. The infantry marched of course, though most of the women managed to acquire a donkey, either to ride or to carry their possessions. There were no tents until the very end of the war, and regiments were either quartered in whatever buildings were at hand or they bivouacked in the open. Clothing and especially shoes wore out: it was often a ragged army. It was also very often a hungry one when supplies failed to keep up. Wives must have been permanently hungry in any case, because women were officially entitled to only one half of a soldier's ration, and children a quarter. It was probably because of this that despite stringent orders against it, the women were notorious plunderers.

After battles and sieges soldiers' wives often tended the wounded, but they were also determined looters, and shared with their husbands the besetting sin of drunkenness. Occasionally they were taken prisoner (usually soon released), and were sometimes involved in the fighting itself. More often, they had to face the harrowing experience of searching the battlefield for a wounded husband, or his mutilated remains. Many women were widowed of course, which meant that they were no longer on the strength and entitled to rations. They usually solved this difficulty by quickly marrying another soldier. There were cases of women making arrangements with several men in advance, just in case. It was a matter of survival.

After the war came to an end at Waterloo in the summer of 1815, the regiments and their women came slowly home. And what did the future hold? Married couples who survived stood a better chance of prospering and some lived in reasonable circumstances. A few women became sufficiently respected members of the community to merit impressive memorials, such as Ann WINZER, buried at Piddlehinton in Dorset, whose gravestone describes her as a Waterloo heroine, or Jenny JONES, who lies at Tal-y-Llyn in Wales, whose memorial records that "she was with her husband of the 23rd Royal Welch Fusiliers at the Battle of Waterloo and was

on the field three days." But many were widows. Some of these were able to benefit from the public subscriptions raised after Waterloo, but as the years passed many were faced with obscure poverty, begging for parish relief or a place in an almshouse. Some fell into crime.

So my purpose in writing this article is to ask for help. Perhaps someone has traced just such an ancestor, and has knowledge of her experiences on active service, or of what became of her afterwards, and it would be good to know of any more heroines whose graves or memorials record their deeds. I am trying to rescue some of these doughty women from the historical shadows, and if you can help, I'd love to hear from you.

You can contact me via the Editor, or directly at my email address: davidclammer@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Website Administrator(s)

Additional volunteers are needed to help develop/run our website and to provide holiday cover.

These roles do not need to be South Wales based.

Roles/Tasks include:

updating the Branch Meetings/Events
updating membership subscriptions and details
uploading past/archived journals
updating members' interests.

These tasks can be undertaken by a team of individuals.
Training will be provided.

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

LOST FAMILY BIBLE

#9970 Gail Wright

When I was about 10 years old, I was helping my grandmother (Margaret HOPKINS, nee ROWLANDS) to polish the furniture in the lounge room in readiness for a visit from some friends from the Sydney Cymrodorion Society later that evening. After we had polished and vacuumed, my grandmother bought over a very large book and placed it on my lap. She told me that this book would be mine one day to care for and look after. Then I would hand it down to the next generation. Not much of this made sense to me at the time, and I had already stopped really listening to her as I had seen some most glorious pictures from the inside of this book and just wanted to open it and read.

On opening this book, I found pictures of Moses parting the seas, of Abraham, of Noah and his Ark together with all his animals; then there was Mary and Joseph with the baby Jesus, then Palm Sunday with Jesus riding a donkey and many palm fronds on the ground for them to walk on. Then there was the Crucifixion and the Resurrection.

Yes, THIS was my grandmother's Family Bible.

(At the front of this book, I noticed there was quite a bit of handwriting – many years later, I came to the conclusion it was probably the family history I would later begin to research.)

My grandmother died in 1972, and as my uncle was still alive this family Bible went to him. As he had no children and I was the first born of the next generation, I was told this would (in due course) come to me. Around 1975, my grandmother's house caught fire and my uncle, who still lived in the family home, was taken to hospital with smoke inhalation. Sometime while he was in hospital, the looters moved in. All the family heirlooms, the paintings, the tea sets, the brass candelabra, AND the family Bible went missing.

After a while, my uncle moved from his Dullwich Hill (New South Wales) home to Gympie in Queensland. At that stage, we still did not know if the Family Bible was ruined due to water damage or if it too was stolen. However, I cannot imagine just why a looter would want a Family Bible.

Even now, after almost 45 years, I still have this vague hope, that maybe, one day, this Bible will find its way home to me.

So, if any of you know of anyone who has found a Family Bible, written in Welsh, with gold leaf edged pages and a black material cover, the names of ROWLANDS, EVANS, HOPKINS and HUGHES in the family history section at the front, I would be eternally grateful if you would point this gem in my direction.

I have written to just about everyone I can think of in the area where my grandmother lived, but as my family now live in Western Australia, it is not easy to reach all those who may be of assistance, on the other side of the country.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Members wishing to submit or update their Members Interests for publishing in the journal and on our website should use the form included in the Centre Insert of this journal.

PLEASE NOTE that to comply with the new GDPR regulations we no longer publish personal details in the journal and do not issue your details to other members but will forward any requests to you.

Please also confirm on the form how you wish to be contacted. Forms can be emailed to interests@glamfhs.org.uk. Please quote your membership number and 'Members Interests' in the email subject and attach the completed form.

RHONDDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMME

Date	Speaker	Topic
7 Sep	Steve Brewer	Mincemeat & the Miner: The Welshman who Won the War
5 Oct	Phil Grant	Biography of Rhondda Rugby Legend Willie Llewellyn
2 Nov	Keith Jones	Brown Lennox Chainworks
7 Dec	Glen Booker	American WW2 GI Brides from Rhondda

(Please note that this programme may be subject to change)

WHEN? the first **SATURDAY** of every month except for January
WHERE? **NEW VENUE!** Porth Library, Porth Plaza, Pontypridd Road, Porth, CF39 9PG

TIME? 11.00 am start (please be prompt, to ensure you get a seat)

COST? £2 entrance fee per talk or £10 for annual personal membership

FURTHER DETAILS:

<http://www.rhonddahistoricalsociety.wordpress.com>

email: rhonddahs@yahoo.com tel: 07810277048

SOME SORT OF COUSIN

#9792 Roger Jones

Just after the second World War ended, when I was a five-year old boy, our Auntie Viv used to take me and my brother, David, to see some relations, referred to as "some sort of cousin". They were known to us as Uncle William and Auntie Mary GREENMEADOW, both of whom seemed very old, indeed the oldest people we had ever seen. They were, we were told, brother and sister, and lived in an old stone cottage in the middle of the countryside.

I still have quite vivid memories of those times. We would catch the bus in Newport, and travel through Michaelstone-y-Vedw to the Cefn Mably junction where we would alight to what seemed an interminably long walk up the lane towards Rudry, striking off on to a footpath leading across some fields, down a hill, over a wooden-bridged stream and back up a hill to a gate in the wall; there were geese in the yard, who would always greet us with loud squawking, which frightened me a bit.

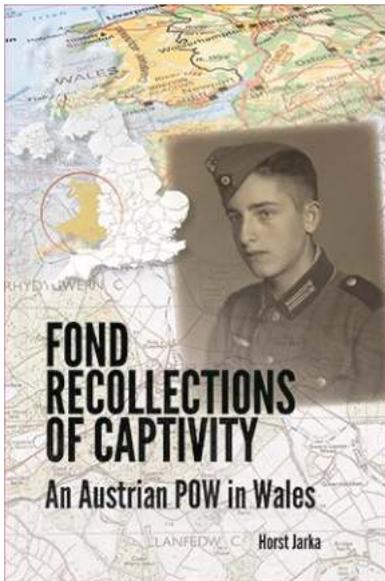
I remember William and Mary to be austere but kindly, and my being impressed by Auntie Viv to be polite at all times. Auntie Mary used to be keen for my brother and me to play in the wood behind the house, perhaps to allow the grown-ups to have a serious conversation. (My brother and I had been banished there after one episode when we muddied the water in another stream which was William and Mary's water supply).

The cottage always had the same strong, distinctive smell, earthy and wood-smoked, pleasant and reassuringly consistent. I also particularly remember the absolute peace and silence of the house, broken only by the very loud ticking of a grandfather clock. The ticking seemed very slow, perhaps because time goes more slowly when you are young, perhaps because time went slowly only at the magical Greenmeadow, or perhaps it was simply a two second tick. I remember that I was desperate to be allowed to go up the stairs next to the inglenook fireplace to see what was there. I asked Auntie Viv if I could ask William and Mary to go up there and she said I was not to.

Also I remember one night when Auntie Viv had left it late going home. It was a moonless night and we found it difficult to find our way down the field to the wooden bridge over the stream. Auntie Viv kept telling us that it was as well we were there to guide the way. Eventually we found the bridge, where we stopped a while and Auntie told us to look up. There was virtually no light pollution in those days of course and we were in the middle of the countryside. There were literally countless pinpoints of bright stars covering the sky from horizon to horizon. I have only seen the sky like that the once.

It is only since retiring that my brother and I started on a family history, and tried to find out any common ancestry to William and Mary. This was not eased by the fact that we knew them only by the surname, as we thought, of Greenmeadow, but which we eventually found to be REES. This led us to tracing back our lines to the end of the 18th century, where the offspring of a William and Anne HUNT, who had come down from Hawarden via St Brides, eventually settled with their six children in the Cyffig/Llanddowror Parishes of Carmarthenshire, where all the children married and formed quite a dynasty in that area. Family rumour has it that they came over from Ireland, but our research has hit a brick wall there.

From all this it became apparent that my brother and I were the second cousins, three times removed, of William and Mary.



Coming up to date, during several of our visits to Greenmeadow, we had also frequently met a so-called prisoner of war, known to us as John. He didn't seem much of a prisoner to me as he appeared to be in the habit of roaming around the countryside, and not much of an enemy as he had befriended William and Mary and formed a seemingly solid bond with them.

We were not to see John again for sixty years, having made contact with him again during our family history research. His real name is Horst JARKA, married to Lois, and living in Missoula, Montana, both Emeritus Professors of Montana University.

Now in his 94th year, Horst has recently published his memoirs largely covering his time in Ruperra Castle, where he was imprisoned as a POW, and also covering his friendship and time spent with William and Mary.

If you would like to know more, the book is 'Fond Recollections of Captivity', by Horst Jarka, published by the University of Montana and Ariadne Press of California, ISBN 9781572412088

I think, as we did, you will find it a uniquely touching story of kindred spirits, transcendent of nationality and redolent of a past which is now scarcely recognisable, and unlikely to be experienced again.

SCRIPTURE CAKES

An alternative Bible story

#10573 Jean Fowlds

Does anyone remember these??

I'm going back to my Sunday School days in the Rhondda Valley, many years ago, when the older ladies of the congregation would regale us with recipes that would not only teach us (girls, anyway), how to cook, but also make us familiar with the Bible.

They would write a list of ingredients, each one referred to by its place in whatever book in the Bible it appeared in, so for example if the recipe needs yeast, it was referred to as "two teaspoons of Amos iv v.5", referred to there as "that which is leavened", and sugar would be "Jeremiah vi, v.20", which is called "the sweet cane from a far country" in the text.

A fruit cake recipe could look like this:

8 oz Jeremiah vi 20

7 oz Judges v 25 (last clause)

3 tbsp 1 Samuel xiv, 25

4 of Jeremiah xvii 11

6 oz I Samuel xxx 12 (2nd food)

6 oz Nahum iii 12

3 1/2 oz of Numbers xvii 8

16 oz I Kings iv 22

1 tsp II Chronicles ix 9

1 tsp Leviticus ii 13

2 tsp Amos iv 5

5 tbsp Judges iv 19 (last item)

The instructions then followed, exhorting the cook to "Chop up Nahum iii", "Cream up Judges v, add in Jeremiah vi (one at a time) and then I Samuel xiv". Then came the sifting of I Kings iv, II Chronicles ix, Leviticus ii and Amos iv. Stir until a batter starts to form, and lastly add enough of Judges iv to make a dropping consistency. Pour the cake batter into the prepared tin and sprinkle over any remaining Numbers xvii, and bake at gas mark 5 for about 90 minutes.

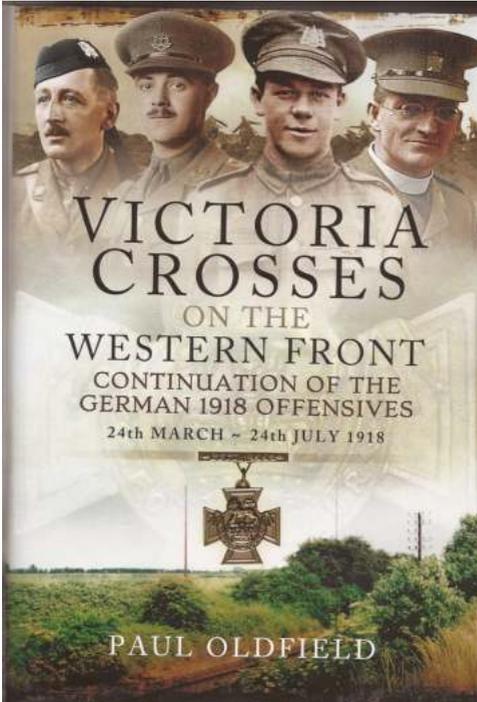
I used to copy these down and take home to my mother, but as she was not religiously inclined, never read the Bible, and only sent me to Sunday School to get me out from under her feet, I never saw the cake being made. On the other hand, I became quite adept in Scripture Knowledge and often took first or second prize in competitions! *Recipes like this quite often appeared in Victorian publications such as Good Housekeeping and various Christian magazines.*

BOOK REVIEWS

Once more Pen & Sword Books have come up with some excellent guides for the family researcher.

VICTORIA CROSSES ON THE WESTERN FRONT

Continuation of the German Offensives 1918, 24th March – 24th July 1918
Paul Oldfield



This is the seventh book of a planned nine book series. It covers the German Offensives on the Somme and Lys from 24th March 1918 until the resumption of offensive operations by the British Expeditionary Force in July at Le Hamel and Villers – Bretonneaux. The author is Paul Oldfield who served in the military services for 36 years and has also worked as a battlefield guide.

Forty VCs were won by very gallant men in this period from Great Britain, Australia, Canada and one New Zealander. There are present day maps of the area where the battles were fought and the place where each soldier who was awarded the VC marked so you can use the maps to stand on the location where the VC was

awarded.

The book has been meticulously researched and Oldfield's military knowledge and understanding is evident throughout the book especially when giving his account of the military events which are both informative and interesting to read. This section includes sketch maps showing position and movement of troops during the battles.

There are detailed biographies of each VC recipient giving parents, siblings, where educated, their employment, military career and their deaths. Photographs used add extra interest to the accounts. The abbreviations used are given in the front part of the book so you are not searching through

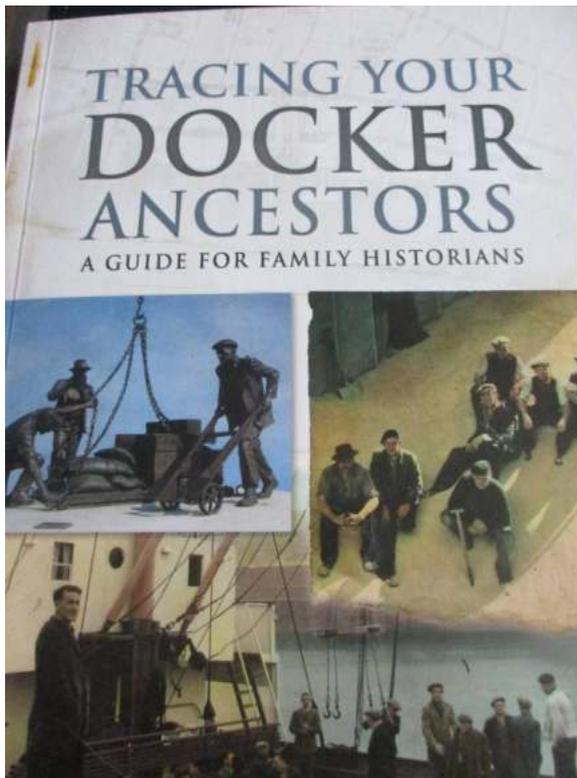
the book to find what they mean. Anyone with an interest in this period of history or in any of the VC holders will find this an informative, essential read. Also anyone visiting the area of these battles will find this a valuable companion.

ISBN 1473827108, hardback 775 pages, £40.00.

TRACING YOUR DOCKER ANCESTORS:

A GUIDE FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS, Dr Alex Ombler

This title from Pen & Sword Books is self-explanatory, but when I first saw this book I wondered why there would be a special one written about dockers over any other occupation, but then when one thinks of the number of ports that Glamorgan has, from Swansea in the west through Port Talbot, Porthcawl, Barry, Penarth, Cardiff and onto Newport in Monmouthshire, then we must have a good number of dockers in our families.



Dr Alex Ombler has written this guide because he recognised that the organizational history of the dock labour force is extremely complex, meaning that social and family lives of dockers and their communities can be difficult to research. This book aims to remedy that.

There is a useful introduction which will be familiar to many family researchers already, such as giving references to the

various newspaper and university archives with particular mention of the 1939 register. After the introduction the main body of the book takes the reader through the origins of the dock labour force, the tools and equipment they used, the role of the Trade Unions, and of course the communities from

whence they came. Dock strikes and the dockers' decline end the book, with some sober reflections on how the industry coped, or failed to cope, with the introduction of the new technology – the cargo handling revolution of the huge container ships and docks.

Throughout there are many illustrations and photographs of the lives of the dockworkers, and some case studies where we can read and become involved in the often precarious lives of the individual docker. A recommended 'good read' even if you do not have any dock workers in your family.

ISBN 152674404X. Paperback, 150 pages, £14.99.

Pen & Sword Books, 47 Church Street,
Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 2AS
01226 734241 <http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk>

PEN-Y-GRAIG & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The society meets on the second Wednesday afternoon of each month except in August.

Meetings take place 1-45pm until 3-30pm at **The Soar Ffrwdamos Centre, Pen-y-graig**. (By the roundabout)

Admission is £3 per person, with refreshments included.

Participation in the Raffle is optional.



Wednesday 11th September - E

Belcham gives an illustrated talk on *'Swansea's Bad Girls'* The

Victorian "*Naughty Ninety's*" were never naughtier than in Swansea.

Wednesday 9th October - Annual General Meeting followed by a presentation of old and new photographs of Porth.

Wednesday 13th November - Graham Chapman gives an illustrated talk on the American Kennedy claim entitled *'The Kennedy Curse'*.

Wednesday 4th December - Social afternoon with a fun Quiz and seasonal refreshments.

SOCIETY NEWS & REPORTS

SOCIETY TREASURER NEEDED

As from 31 August 2020 or earlier.

Please contact Nick Davey
treasurer@glamfhs.org.uk

who will provide information about this vital Society role.
The Treasurer does not need to be South Wales based.

GLAMORGAN FHS RESEARCH AND LOOK UPS

The Society has a team of volunteers that will provide members with advice on their research and will undertake 'look ups' in Society records.

More extensive and one to one sessions are also available at the following:

Cardiff & Vale Branch: First SATURDAY in the month: 5th Floor, Central Library, Canal Street, Cardiff, from 10 am to 2 pm. cardiff@glamfhs.org.uk

Aberdare/Cynon Valley Branch

2nd Thursdays monthly, upstairs in Aberdare Library 2-4 pm. Members and prospective members are welcome to join us either to help or to ask for help with their own research. Members living elsewhere can forward requests for help to.....
aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk

Swansea Branch

Members in the Swansea or Neath areas who would like help with their research, or members elsewhere who are seeking help with research in the Swansea or Neath areas are invited to Email: swansea@glamfhs.org.uk with the subject line 'Local Research Help'. Someone from the branch should then reply and possibly arrange to meet at a convenient local library or similar location, or offer help remotely.

swansea@glamfhs.org.uk

.....*And of course at Aberkenfig Resource Centre - Wednesdays 10.30 - 1 pm - see advert next page.*

ABERKENFIG RESOURCE CENTRE

Please note the Aberkenfig Resource Centre is
CLOSED on the last Wednesday each month and
after a Bank Holiday.

CLOSED - 25 Sept, 30 Oct, 27 Nov, 25 Dec & 1 Jan

Open Wednesday MORNING 10:30–1:00 pm
The Pensioners' Hall, Heol Persondy,
Aberkenfig, CF32 9RF (This is not the postal address)
Just off Junction 36 of the M4

See our website for directions: <http://www.glamfhs.org.uk>
Telephone: 01656 728531 (during opening hours) or
Email: arc@glamfhs.org.uk

If you wish to receive help from one of our volunteers on a one to one basis please email or telephone to BOOK beforehand and let us know WHAT HELP you need. Given sufficient notice we will then try to pair you up with an 'expert' for the area you are researching!

If you wish to carry out your own research it is advisable to email or telephone to book a computer (if travelling any distance.)

ABERDARE/CYNON VALLEY BRANCH

May and June's meetings were both spent on discussion and research. A decision was made not to hold meetings during July and August however we did hold research afternoons in Aberdare library and were pleased to be able to help new members and non-members with their research.

September our guest speaker will be Malcolm Cowper he will give a power point presentation on the subject of National Service. Malcolm has recently produced a book called "Reluctant Warriors" the book he says captures the memories and experiences of the young men of this generation.

October will be our Branch Annual General Meeting

November our guest speaker will be Brian Davies, Brian has given us excellent talks in the past this time his subject will be on Thomas Williams Lamps. This should be a very popular subject as the lamps are made locally and have been used by many throughout the years.

Pat Rees, aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk



BRIDGEND BRANCH

May's meeting included a very entertaining talk from F/L Robert Taylor about the Dam Busters in Wales [R.A.F Stormy Down]. Many local people had not realised that part of the training happened locally here in the Bridgend area. It was a lively, interesting talk with the addition of a stall selling memorabilia to promote the work of the organisation.

June's meeting unfortunately had to be changed last minute due to illness. We are very grateful to Basil George for stepping into the breach. His talk, 'The George Family Name Society, Merthyr Mawr Estate Stories' was fascinating and despite no visual aids he held the group's attention for the entire evening.

July's meeting was also a change from our programme due to circumstances beyond our control and we were most grateful to Gavin Davies for stepping forward and entertaining us with a talk on 'WW1 The Battle of Loos 1915'. An outline of the war, battle and effects on those involved was given with interesting visual aids throughout.

Nancy Thomas & Vicky Salmon, bridgend@glamfhs.org.uk



CARDIFF & THE VALE BRANCH

Cardiff Group: We moved into our new meeting room at Insole Court, which is Stable Room 1 for the May evening meeting. Over 30 people listened to Roger Swan, Memorial Manager, Cardiff Bereavement Services presentation '*Cardiff's Victorian cemetery and the importance of burial records*'. Roger gave a very well-illustrated talk on the history of Cathays Cemetery including an explanation of the Victorian symbolism found on some of the headstones. Visitors and members asked a wide range of questions and the consensus was that we do not talk about death on a regular basis. The Cardiff Bereavement Services

offers a research service for a small fee, some of the members have used that and found it very helpful in their quest to find family members.

Our June speaker, Dr Jean Jenkins, Cardiff University shared her research on *'Families and the Factory: The life of Burberry in the Rhondda'*. Dr Jenkins gave a fascinating account on the origins of what was to become the Burberry Factory in the Rhondda. The factory was started and partially funded by a Jewish migrant – Alfred Polikoff from the Ukraine in the 1930s. The Burberry factory was finally closed in 2007 having made a profit of £24M in its final year. The factory employed generations of family members and Polikoff was always known as a good employer. Her talk has inspired a couple of the members to dig deeper into the life of Mr Polikoff.

The July meeting talk was presented by committee member Dr Diane Brooks who illustrated how brick walls found during one's genealogy research can be revisited and solved because information thought lost is being recreated as alternative documents are discovered and are being made available for research. One example was Irish Records lost in the June 1922 fire which are now being made available digitally in the 'Beyond 2022' project, since further county records are being found stored in other buildings than the county archive where the fire took place. A surprise was how a will was found for sale on Ebay. The overall message being not to lose hope as 'Things Turn Up'!

You can always follow the branch via our Twitter handle @Cardiff_GFHS

Sully Group: At our June meeting one of our members, Lindsay Roberts, demonstrated how to use DNA Painter a free program that can be used to map chromosome matches from DNA results. We all went away from the session eager to 'have a go' to map the chromosome matches we have on www.gedmatch.com. Colours can be used to show chromosome overlaps with others who have tested and who match on the same segment as well as including notes as to which possible line (maternal/paternal) they match.

No meetings were held in July and August. Group members continue to record the older memorial inscriptions at Barry (Merthyr Dyfan) cemetery on a Friday morning during the Summer months.

At our September meeting we will be reviewing and planning the coming year. Volunteers are requested for a Group committee.

*Stephen Fairhurst, Jane Graves & Sue Hamer
cardiff@glamfhs.org.uk*

MERTHYR TYDFIL BRANCH

The Merthyr Tydfil Branch worked with the Dic Penderyn Society in assisting with a history conference in Merthyr Tydfil in May which was mainly related to the radical past of the town. The Annual Merthyr Rising Festival took place a week later. The event was a success and it is hoped that it will be repeated next year too.

We have had contact with several people claiming descent from Dic Penderyn, however, he had siblings but no surviving children.

Our excellent talk in July was with the WEA lecturer, Daryl Leeworthy, who discussed his own Scottish ancestors and also told us about the different records in Scotland and the way to conduct research into Scottish family. Scottish records seem to be much more 'connected' and a birth record will also give the date and place where the child's parents were married. Recently assisting with an enquiry regarding the surname GRAHAM has taught us about the connection between Wales, Ireland and Scotland. It was assumed that the 'Grahams' had come to Wales from Scotland but in fact they were Irish Protestants who had lived in Northern Ireland for centuries. We discovered that the belligerent 'border' Graham clan moved to Ireland in the seventeenth century when the choice given was 'the boat or the rope'.

*Carolyn Jacob & Suzanne Doolan,
merthyr@glamfhs.org.uk*



PONTYPRIDD & RHONDDA BRANCH

We have had a number of very interesting speakers this year on various topics. They have been very well received and provoked a lot of interest to the members. However, attendance is lower than it has been in the past, which is very worrying. But I understand that other branches also suffer from lack of members attending. Hopefully it will improve in the new term.

The branch attended the Fair at the National Library in Aberystwyth in May. They had lots of visitors interested in Glamorgan so had a relatively good day.

The branch will also be attending the Bristol and Avon Family History Day on September 28th. Then the Glam FHS Fair on October 12th at Merthyr Leisure Centre. We hope that the weather will be kind to us this year!!

Jane Jones, rhondda@glamfhs.org.uk

SWANSEA BRANCH

At our May meeting, Malcolm and Ruth Ridge gave us an informative and interesting talk on the Swansea architect Ernest Morgan. Ernest, born in 1881, was one of four brothers, sons of a wealthy wine merchant. The family at one time lived in the house called Fernhill, at Blackpill and in Walter Road. After studying to become an architect he worked in London and abroad but by 1910 he was back in Swansea. He won the competition to design the new Swansea Central Police Station. In 1913 he was appointed the first Borough Architect at a salary of £500 a year. He served in World War I and was stationed in Palestine and Egypt. After the War he was responsible for designing the Swansea Cenotaph which he modelled on the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

His buildings are noted for their decorated facades. Even his most mundane buildings were designed with extra decoration which raised them above the ordinary. Many of us will be familiar with the Electricity Sub-station at Blackpill, (now 'The Junction' Café), and also to the oldest amongst us, as a favourite stop for the Mumbles train. We were amazed to learn how many of Swansea's buildings were of his design. He oversaw the building of social housing at Townhill. He was responsible for a number of Swansea schools, possibly the most instantly recognisable being Mayhill, 'the round school on top of the hill', easily visible from the city centre. He also designed Sketty and Oystermouth libraries. Although he didn't design the Guildhall, he did have an influence on its design when his suggestion of a Viking theme was adopted. Ernest retired in 1947 and died in 1954 leaving Swansea a legacy of fine buildings.

In July our talk was 'In Flanders Fields - a personal journey of discovery'. This was Liz McSloy's moving account of her visits to the Cemeteries and Memorials in France and Belgium. Liz has extensively photographed the cemeteries but has also picked out individual graves which caught her particular interest. She also showed us her video of a visit to the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres. This famous memorial was unveiled in 1927 and is dedicated to the soldiers killed at Ypres in World War I whose graves are unknown. It is situated at the start of one of the main roads leading out of the town, poignantly the road which led the soldiers to the front line. She told us of one lady from Ypres who has attended every evening ceremony since. Although we are familiar with the images of the cemeteries, it was Liz's enthusiasm and interest which made this a moving and thought-provoking evening. She concluded her talk with an image of her father and herself at her grandfather's grave.

We have had two research sessions in Swansea library, in April and June, though disappointingly our June session was curtailed by an unexpected internet update which the council was carrying out that evening. We will be holding another session on 12th September and would like to invite any beginners to Family History to come along. We can guide you towards the Internet Sites most useful to you as you start your research. Do join us.

*Cherry King & Jeff Coleman,
swansea@glamfhs.org.uk*



EVENTS REPORT - ANNUAL FAIR 12 OCTOBER MERTHYR LEISURE CENTRE

I have received most replies to our invitations to our Fair in October. Most of our regulars have replied and we have a few new exhibitors - if any other organisations would like a table or two please let us know and return booking forms as soon as possible. A list of exhibitors will be available on our website next month.

SPEAKERS ARE BEING FINALIZED AND WILL BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY.

So far we have only received one offer of help in the setting up so it would be appreciated if we could have a lot more help from members, both on Saturday 12 October and especially on the night before, Friday 11th, to help with the setting up,

Contact: Jane Jones, events@glamfhs.org.uk.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event
7 Sept	Dyfed FHS Fair, St Peters Hall, Carmarthen
28 Sept	Bristol & Avon FHS Fair, Filton, Bristol
5 Oct	Oxford FHS Fair, Woodstock
12 Oct	**Glamorgan FHS Fair, Merthyr Tydfil**
24-26 Oct	RootsTech London, Excel Convention Centre

Further events are listed on the www.genuki.org.uk website – see link - <http://geneva.weald.org.uk/events@glamfhs.org.uk>

BRANCH MEETINGS

Aberdare/Cynon Valley: Meetings 7 pm 1st Friday of the month – Green Street Methodist Church, Aberdare Research & Help Sessions: 2nd Thursdays monthly, upstairs in Aberdare Library 2-4 pm. Contact the Branch Secretary for further information.

6 Sept	National Service - Malcolm Cowper
4 Oct	Annual General Meeting
1 Nov	Thomas Williams Lamps - Brian Davies
6 Dec	Victorian Christmas - Ann Watts

Bridgend: 3rd Monday of the month – 7.30 pm Len Evans Centre, Aberkenfig

16 Sept	Branch AGM followed by 'Memories' - John R James
21 Oct	Land of Song - Dean Powell
18 Nov	People & Events of the Garw Valley - Garw History Group
December	NO MEETING - NADOLIG LLAWEN

Cardiff & Vale Branch: 1st Tuesday of the month – 7.15 pm Stable 1, Insole Court, Fairwater Road, Cardiff, CF5 2LN

3 Sept	Whitchurch Hospital - Ian Beech, Swansea University
1 Oct	AGM followed by E Turner & Sons - Building Cardiff's Civic Centre (Part 2) - Robert & Gill Lawson
5 Nov	The Man Be Not Exempted: Conscription and the Military Appeals Tribunals of the Great War - Jeremy Konsbruck
3 Dec	Christmas Social & Family History Research Top Tips

Sully Group: 3rd Thursday of the month – 7 pm The Old School, South Road, Sully, CF64 5TG

19 Sept	Resource Update, Planning Review and Committee Meeting
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Merthyr Tydfil (AFTERNOON MEETINGS): 2nd Tuesday of the month – 2 pm Canolfan Soar, Pontmorlais, CF47 8UB (Welsh Centre)

10 Sept	Wales at the start of the Twentieth Century' - Lisa Powell
8 Oct	Annual General Meeting - Discussion on new records available, Wine & Welsh Cakes
12 Nov	The Theatres of Merthyr Tydfil - Carl Llewellyn
10 Dec	Xmas Social

Pontypridd & Rhondda: 3rd Tuesday of the month – 7pm Pontypridd Museum, Bridge Street

17 Sept	Reluctant Warriors, Memories of National Service 1945-1960: Malcolm Cowper
15 Oct	Annual General Meeting
19 Nov	TBA - See website for details - www.glamfhs.org.uk
December	NO MEETING - NADOLIG LLAWEN

Swansea: 2nd Monday of the month – 6.30pm for talk at 7 pm, Committee Room 2, Civic Centre, Swansea

Thurs 12 Sept	Research evening in Swansea Central Library, 5–6.45 pm
Mon 14 Oct	AGM followed by 'Five Men from Morrision' - Ivor Rees
Mon 11 Nov	"Swansea's Blue Plaques' Part 2 - Janet Neilson
December	NO MEETING - NADOLIG LLAWEN



GLAMORGAN

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



invites you to our

FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

FREE PARKING
FREE ADMISSION
FREE INFORMATION
FREE TALKS

Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Centre

Saturday
12th October 2019
10.00am - 3.30pm

Full details on our website:

www.glamfhs.org.uk

The Largest Family History Fair in Wales

If undelivered please return to:

63 Clos Pwll Clai, Tondu, Bridgend, CF32 9BZ