



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



© Images courtesy of Theo Brueton

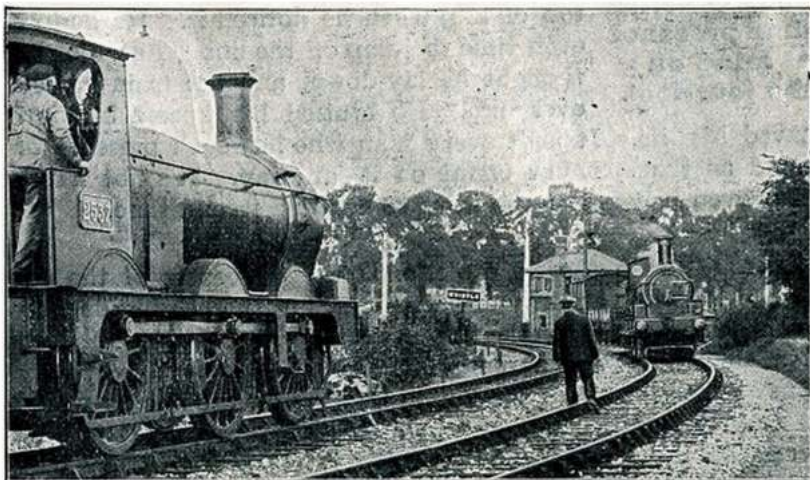
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Accidents on the Railways & Docks of Glamorgan: Article p 39

Images Front Cover: Castle Street Chapel/Capel Bedyddwyr Cymreig, a former Welsh dairy in Ezra St E2 (Bethnal Green) and the London Welsh Centre.

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Centre Insert: AGM Notice, Postal Voting Form, Renewal & Gift Aid Forms

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

Welcome to this Spring edition of the Journal, and to positive 'shoots' for this year's season of growth and renewal in particular, as we look forward to some return to normality with the coming of the vaccine that will protect us from this dreadful virus.

March of course is the month of our patron saint, Saint David, and to coincide we are delighted to welcome Anna Brueton of the London Branch of the Welsh Family History Societies, who as Guest Editor has sent us some inspiring articles from, by, and about, those Welsh people who left for London over the years to seek better lives for themselves and their families. Many stayed, but quite a few came back, and their adventures good and bad make exciting reading.

There is a general article about the history of the Welsh travelling to London, an article about the London branch of the Welsh Family History Societies, details of the project to transcribe the genealogical records of London's Welsh chapels and churches, and some fascinating stories of individuals who have succeeded against all the odds. Also included is the life of a London Welsh policeman during the last war with some graphic accounts of his duties during that time, and of course something about London Welsh sport!

Comprehensive reference sources are given for those who want to follow their own family's history through London's business, social and religious lives.

Anna Brueton is very keen to invite Glamorgan Family History members to join their activities, and you can ask their secretary, Anne Jones, to add your name to their mailing list - see Anne's details below in the article by Ros Bowles.

Our next Journal, due in June, will be a collection of wide-ranging subjects that have been sent over the last few months, with no particular theme, so if you want to send an item in, please do, by April 20th. The September issue will also have a general theme - deadline July 20th - and by then we should all be in a better place to see a brighter future!

Hwyl Fawr!

Jean Fowlds, editor@glamfhs.org.uk

MEMBERS INTERESTS - Unfortunately it has not been possible to include Members' Interests this edition. We are looking at members uploading their own interests to the website but a volunteer is needed to develop this facility - if you have relevant skills please contact: website@glamfhs.org.uk.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Annual General Meeting – Saturday 6 March at 2 pm - Online Via Zoom

Due to the continuing lockdown restrictions our Annual General Meeting this year will be held online via Zoom.

Nominations have been received for the following Society Officers and Trustees:

Chairman: Meic Jones

Vice Chairman: Sue Hamer

Secretary: Jane Jones

Executive Committee Members: Ian Black, Nancy Thomas

We therefore have vacancies for Society Treasurer and three Executive Committee Members.

Members not able to attend the AGM online on 6 March can vote for the above by returning the postal voting form included in the centre insert of this journal to Hon Secretary, Jane Jones by 28 February 2021. AGM documents will be available to download from the Society website by 1 March.

Executive Committee meetings continue to take place online via Zoom and we have been reviewing the situation monthly with regard to restarting face to face meetings and reopening the Aberkenfig Resource Centre. However as yet we are not able to do so due to current restrictions.

Since September a number of talks, Beginners/Brickwall and Coffee and Chat sessions have also been held online. We also held an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting in November to make amendments to our Constitution including the facility to allow voting to take place online. Fifty members attended this meeting making it the highest attendance at a General Meeting for a long time.

Our volunteers who run the Resource Centre at Aberkenfig and in our Branches have been considering how best to prepare for re-opening when the restrictions are lifted and, although it is difficult at present to know when reopening will be possible, measures are being put in place to ensure the safety of our volunteers, members and visitors. Many branches have taken the opportunity of the extended lockdown to undertake projects with their members. Further information about individual Branch's plans and projects are given in the reports in the Society News & Reports section of this journal.

Further updates will be available via our Monthly '**Mail Chimp**' Newsletters, on our website and Facebook Group. If there are members who have an email address but have not received a Newsletter please contact our membership team to check we have your current email. You can also 'Opt In' to receive a Newsletter via the website. Members can unsubscribe from the Newsletter if they do not wish to receive it by clicking on the link at the bottom of the email.

Meic Jones, Chairman, 1 February 2021

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

2020 Annual Membership lapses on 31 March 2021. Please check your journal envelope or your 'Membership Status' when you log in to the website for your expiry date.

The preferred way to renew is via the website as the payment is processed automatically and members can check and update their personal details, email address etc.

Alternatively you can pay by cheque (a renewal form is included in the centre insert of this journal), or by setting up a Standing Order. Please remember to check the current membership rates.

HOW TO RENEW VIA OUR WEBSITE

www.glamfhs.org.uk

1. On Home Page – Click on 'Member Log In'.
2. Log in using your Username: *Your email address*.
3. Password: *If you have forgotten your password follow the instructions to reset your password. You will be emailed a verification link. Click on the link in the email to reset your password.*
4. *Return to the Home Page and Click on 'How to Join'.*
5. Select the appropriate subscription. *If you are renewing the **same** subscription you will see a 'Renew' button.*
6. Click on 'Renew' and follow the instructions to pay by Debit or Credit Card. You do not need a Pay Pal account.
7. If you try to pay after the expiry date of your subscription your account will have lapsed. You will still be registered but you will not have membership access.

Still unable to log in?

- If you have too many attempts at your password your account will be blocked.
- Are you using a new email? Contact us to update your registration.
- If your membership lapsed more than three months ago your account will have been deleted. Contact us to set up a new account.

website@glamfhs.org.uk

THE LONDON BRANCH OF THE WELSH FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES

#248 Ros Bowles, London Branch representative for Glamorgan FHS

The London Branch was set up as a branch of Dyfed FHS in 1986, quickly expanding to become a branch of Glamorgan and other Welsh FHSs and has been very active ever since.

We welcome anyone with an interest in Welsh Family History, from complete beginners to experts in the field. Amongst our members are many extremely experienced and knowledgeable people who are always happy to share their expertise with others.

We normally hold four meetings each year, and recently we have been enjoying the facilities in the Kwanglim Room at Wesley's Chapel in City Road. We typically have speakers at three of these meetings, while the fourth is our AGM and discussion of 'members' interests'. Over the years we have heard excellent talks on a wide variety of relevant topics, which have provided much inspiration and information.

We have also been involved in the Annual 'Family Tree Live' and its predecessor events, helping to man the stand run by the Association of Family History Societies of Wales.

A highlight of each year has been our annual week away in Aberystwyth, during which we spend happy days in the National Library of Wales and jolly evenings in our student accommodation discussing our findings and frustrations.

Of course this year has been very different; we were not able to go away, meetings were cancelled, and our next ones will be 'virtual' rather than real.

The Branch has undertaken several ambitious projects over the years, including transcribing and indexing the registers of Welsh Chapels in London and producing an index of the Welsh contributors to the re-building of St Paul's Cathedral in 1678. The latest project is the generation of a database of Welsh Debtors in the Court for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors.

We extend a very warm welcome to all. Do join us, whether we are meeting in a 'virtual' or 'real' way.

Further details about the branch, including our publications, can be obtained from our Secretary, Anne Jones: annee.jones@ntlworld.com; or follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/lbwfhs>.

THE WELSH IN LONDON

#2493 Anna Brueton

This article is a short account of the contribution that the London Welsh brought to their new home and gave back to Wales. It concentrates on two themes – trade and the economy, and society and culture. Anona Morgan has covered the development of Welsh chapels and churches elsewhere. There is much that I haven't been able to include, and I'm afraid that inevitably there is a surplus of Welsh men!

The Welsh in the London economy

Many Welsh people were drawn to London by the economic opportunities it offered. There are records of Welsh cattle traded in London as far back as the 13th century, but trade networks between London and Wales became closer during the 16th century, as travel routes improved, and London's population grew. Cattle and woollen goods were the backbone of trade between Wales and London, and remained so for several centuries.

The journey to London of a herd of cattle, often accompanied by horses and sheep, took a couple of weeks. Once in the home counties, the cattle would typically be fattened up prior to sale at Smithfield. During the 17th and 18th centuries, the droving of cattle provided Welsh landowners with a safe and convenient way to transfer money to London, in order to pay debts or purchase goods not available in Wales. Along with the drovers came other Welsh people with business in London, particularly the “merched y gerddi” who travelled in spring to find seasonal work, weeding in the market gardens which surrounded London, and selling strawberries on the city streets.

The rapid increase in London's population led to a demand for all sorts of food stuff, and it seems natural that people associated with the cattle trade should branch out into dairying, particularly in the 19th century, as the railway displaced drovers. Initially milk was sold by milkmaids, often Welsh, carrying heavy loads around the streets throughout the day. From the 1830s, milk-selling moved to shops, and Welsh names occur with increasing frequency in the capital's street directories. Typically, the cow was kept in a stall at the back of the shop, so that the milk might be as fresh as possible. Charles Booth's *Survey of London Life and Labour* suggests that only the Welsh were sufficiently “thrifty and self-denying” to make a living out of cow keeping.

Dairying families formed the backbone of London Welsh society, from the Victorian age to the Second World War. They helped to set up and support the Welsh chapels and organised a variety of societies. Eventually the

growth of the major dairies put the little shops out of existence, and all had disappeared before the end of the 20th century.

The Welsh woollen trade grew in significance during the Tudor period. Thomas HOWELL, a native of South Wales, became a London merchant and member of the Drapers Company, exporting woollen goods to Spain, returning to Britain with items such as oil, wine and iron. His ledger, deposited at the Drapers' Company, shows the earliest British example of double-entry book-keeping. He left a substantial sum of money for charitable purposes, eventually used to found two girls' schools in Wales.

The sale of woollen goods to England continued to be a significant part of the Welsh economy in later centuries. They were frequently sold through Welsh-owned shops, which over time expanded into related goods such as clothing, linens and haberdashery. Some of these grew into well-known department stores. The Welsh involvement is clear from their names – Peter JONES, Jones Brothers of Holloway, DH EVANS, for instance (but not John Lewis, who was from Somerset). Several of these stores recruited their staff in Wales; the writer Caradog Evans documented the hardships of life as a London draper's assistant.

Welsh social and cultural activities in London

Welsh people in London have never been particularly numerous, probably never much above 7 per cent of the population. They have generally been well integrated – not large enough to cause friction, but sufficiently different to be caricatured, for their strange speech, their obsession with genealogy, and their love of cheese.

The Tudor period saw an influx of Welsh people to the capital, hoping for advancement as courtiers, lawyers, merchants and tradesmen. They met together in the city guilds, in Doctors' Commons and in the Inns of Court. Among the more notable was Dr John DEE, whose household was celebrated as a centre of Renaissance learning. He maintained his Welsh associations and developed ideas about a particular Welsh patriotism based on the notion of the Welsh as the original Ancient Britons. His cousin Blanche PARRY, Gentlewoman of Queen Elizabeth's Bedchamber, entertained a wide circle of London Welsh people and visitors to the capital.

At this period, and for several centuries later, Welsh towns were too small and too poor to sustain much in the way of cultural activities. Moreover printing and publishing was restricted to London, leading to a concentration of Welsh printers and publishers there, bringing out mainly religious books and pamphlets in their own language. London thus became a magnet for Welsh thinkers and writers.

During the 18th century, many of the more prosperous London Welsh became more conscious of their heritage, forming societies whose objectives were a mixture of social, cultural and charitable purposes. The first was the Honourable and Loyal Society of Ancient Britons; its inaugural meeting on St David's Day 1714 included a sermon, a feast, and the allocation of money for charity, continuing themes of Welsh activities in London. Initially the money raised went to establish apprenticeships for boys of Welsh parentage, but in 1717 a school was opened for Welsh children in London. By 1730 a larger building was required, built in Clerkenwell Green, which still stands, now housing the Marx Memorial Library. The school went on to take girls, and in 1772 moved again, to a yet larger building in Gray's Inn Road. Finally the school relocated to Surrey, and its Welsh connection declined.

Other Welsh societies followed, the most important of which was the Cymmrodorion, founded by Lewis MORRIS, one of the four Morris brothers of Anglesey. One of their main objectives was "to review and save the Welsh literature of the past, and to create conditions for its development". This required resources, so the Morris brothers recruited rich and influential London Welshmen as presidents, including Sir Watkin Williams WYNN, a proud, though Anglicised Welshman. The membership of the early Cymmrodorion had a wider social scope, including artisans, retailers and builders among its membership. Nevertheless, it was not to all tastes; the later Gwyneddigion was less 'learned', preferring such activities as harp music and penillion singing. Their impact however was significant; they collected early Welsh poetry, including that of Dafydd ap Gwylim, and published Welsh literature. Iolo Morgannwg (Edward WILLIAMS, from Flemingston in Glamorgan) was an enthusiastic member, establishing the first Gorsedd of bards on Primrose Hill in 1792.

Many London Welshmen of this period held radical views. Perhaps the most significant was Richard PRICE, minister of the Dissenting meeting house in Newington Green, on the borders of Islington and Hackney, from Llangeinor in the Vale of Glamorgan. He was a philosopher, political theorist, mathematician and member of the Royal Academy. He achieved fame by writing pamphlets in support of the American colonists in the War of Independence, and his circle of friends included Benjamin Franklin, Joseph Priestley, Mary Wollstonecraft and many other reformers.

Anona Morgan's article elsewhere in this journal describes the growth of Welsh chapels, which from the mid-nineteenth century replaced the public house as the focus of Welsh life in London. Over the next century these supported a wide range of social activities for the Welsh community. At the same time the revived Cymmrodorion played its part in developments back in Wales, including the establishment of the University of Wales. The obstetrician Sir John Williams, from Carmarthenshire, who had his practice in

London, was a dedicated collector of Welsh manuscripts, which became the basis of the National Library of Wales.

Finally, three Welshmen had a significant impact on the fabric of London. Sir Hugh MYDDLETON, from Denbigh, came to London to be apprenticed to a goldsmith. Today he is remembered by Londoners for the construction of the New River, an ambitious engineering project which brought clean water to London from Ware in Hertfordshire. Although superseded by later developments, its route can be traced through north London to the New River Head in Clerkenwell. Inigo Jones, son of a Welsh cloth worker, introduced the classical architecture of the Italian Renaissance to Britain. His designs, notably the Queen's House, the Banqueting House in Whitehall, and the layout of Covent Garden, had a significant influence on the architects who followed him. Two centuries later, John NASH, son of a Welsh millwright, returned to London after an early career in Wales, and became responsible for the development of much of the West End of London in the neoclassical and picturesque styles, under the patronage of the Prince of Wales.

I have relied heavily on *The Welsh in London* (UWP, 2001), edited by the late Emrys Jones.

SOCIETY TREASURER NEEDED WEBSITE MANAGER NEEDED

As we have not received a nomination for this essential Society/Trustee role for the second year, following the retirement of Nick Davey at the AGM on 29 February 2020, Sue Hamer has advised that she will continue to be the Trustee responsible for overseeing the Finance Team but that it will be difficult to undertake the role of Website Manager as well and that very little planned website development has been possible this year due to Finance Team administration taking priority.

As with other Society posts a team to undertake the Website development and administration would be preferable. The role does not need to be local to South Wales.

. For further information on the either role see job descriptions on website or contact:

Meic Jones or Sue Hamer

chairman@glamfhs.org.uk

website@glamfhs.org.uk

A SHOEMAKER, THREE MARRIAGES AND UPWARD MOBILITY

#248 Ros Bowles (nee Goyder)

The surname GOYDER is thought to derive from 'COEDWR' meaning 'woodman'; the family seems to have originated in the Vale of Glamorgan. The earliest instance of it found so far is in 1534, in Gileston, where a Thomas COYDUR, a cleric, took the Oath of Supremacy. The family continued to live in the Vale until the early 19th century.

Edward GOYDER was my 3x great-grandfather. He married Anne MILES – a widow - in Pendaulwyn (Pendoylan) in February 1768. The register mentions that he was a cordwainer (shoemaker). He was still there in January 1769, when he witnessed a marriage, this time signing his name. He next appears in London. They must have travelled during the Spring of 1769 and arrived in the parish of St Marylebone; the Parish Register records the burial of 'Mary GUIDER a Cd' [child] on 29th July 1769. It has been suggested that they may have travelled with cattle drovers, thus being part of a large, relatively safe group while making the journey. Cattle spent some time grazing in fields around St Marylebone, putting on weight, which would have been lost during their long trek from Wales, before being driven on to Smithfield market.

By 1771-2 Edward was paying rates at 27 Paddington Street. The previous ratepayer at that address 'ran away'! There were three further children born between 1770 and 1774 but two of them died as babies and the other seems to have left no further trace. It is interesting that in these records, and in the marriage entries mentioned below, the surname is variously entered as GOYDER, GUIDER, and GUYDER. In England 'GUIDER' has, over many years, been a common mispronunciation of the surname.

In Michaelmas 1773 Edward and Ann moved to 7 Grafton Court, also in St Marylebone, where they remained until 1777. Their son Edward, their first and only child to survive to adulthood, was born in 1776. Ann died in 1778 and was buried in St Marylebone.

At around that time in the same parish three marriages of female members of the family - Amelia, Jane and Mary GOYDER - took place; they may very likely have been Edward's sisters or cousins.

Unfortunately no baptism record for any of them has yet been found. Interestingly all three brides signed their names, while their grooms just made their marks! Edward witnessed two of these marriages and Mary's was witnessed by Ann MILES, who made her mark. Is it possible that this witness was Edward's step-daughter, and the daughter of Ann MILES, his first wife, who was a widow when she married him?

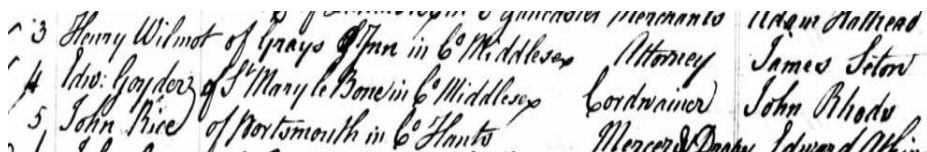
Amelia's husband was Bowen GREENWOOD, also a cordwainer who had served an apprenticeship locally, to John TECK, in 1766. If this had been a 7-year apprenticeship, he would have been qualified by 1773, so may have been born around 1752. Perhaps he worked with Edward and met Amelia that way. Bowen was the next ratepayer at 7 Grafton Court when Edward moved.

Jane's marriage (she actually signed as Jennet) was to Thomas MOSS. Richard GOYDER was the other witness. He may have been the same man who had been an Innkeeper in Penmark, a coastal parish in the Vale of Glamorgan. His Inn would have served people travelling to and from the local port of Aberthaw. Richard's wife Jennet had died in 1769. It is possible that he was the father of the bride.

Mary married Solomon LEGG in July 1781.

A year after his first wife's death Edward married Mary THOMAS. This was in 1779 in St Margaret's Westminster and Amelia GREENWOOD was one of the witnesses. Edward and Mary do not seem to have had any children, and she may have been the Mary GAYDER who was buried in August 1783.

Edward's business seems to have thrived. The Apprenticeship Register shows that he took on John RHODES in November 1774 (TNA IR/1/28 p92).



A handwritten list of names and professions, likely from the Apprenticeship Register. The text is written in cursive and includes the following entries: 'Henry Wilmet of Grays Inn in Co Middlesex Attorney', 'James Sitor', 'Edw. Goyder of St Mary le Bone in Co Middlesex Cordwainer', 'John Rhodes', 'John Rice of Portsmouth in Co Hants Mercer & Draper', and 'Edward M...'. The list is organized into columns, with names and professions on the left and names on the right.

However, there were troubles ahead. Solomon LEGG, who seems to have been an apprentice of Edward's, and was now related by marriage, possibly his brother-in-law, was in trouble for having stolen some clothing.

<https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/browse.jsp?id=t17811205-3-person72&div=t17811205-3#highlight>

5th December 1781 SOLOMAN LEGG was indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling-house of THOMAS GILLINGHAM, about the hour of two in the night, upon the 22nd of November, and stealing therein two linen shirts, value 10s. one silk cloak, value 10s. one scarlet cloth coat, value 2s. and a scarlet cloth cloak, value 2s. the goods of the said THOMAS GILLINGHAM. The prisoner called the following persons to describe his character:

Edward Goyder a shoemaker, who had known him eight years, said he had served him seven years as an apprentice, that he was a very honest, just boy. He has been married about six months, and is a journeyman.

Owen Greenwood had known him the same time. That he had been out of his apprenticeship about a twelve month, behaved very well when an apprentice, and if acquitted would take him into his employment.

'Owen' here is clearly an error but understandable since 'Bowen' is hardly a frequent name.

Meanwhile, poor Mary, Solomon's wife, gave birth to baby Charlotte in 1782 in the British Lying-in Hospital in Endell Street Holborn. The baby was born on 4th June and baptised on 13th.

Solomon appears twice more in the Old Bailey records:

30th April 1783 <https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/browse.jsp?id=t17830430-51-defend674&div=t17830430-51#highlight>

The punishment summary shows that he was to be transported to America for 7 years. <https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/browse.jsp?id=s17830430-1-person1231&div=s17830430-1#highlight>

He was sent to Newgate Prison. The register includes

<i>Benjamin Grove</i>	<i>Convicted of several</i>
<i>Mark Doyle</i>	<i>felonies and severally</i>
<i>Richard Hulme</i>	<i>ordered to be transported</i>
<i>Mary Williams a Widow</i>	<i>to some of the Majesty's</i>
<i>Solomon Legg</i>	<i>Colonies & plantations</i>
<i>Charles Hurling</i>	<i>in America for the term</i>
	<i>of 7 years</i>

So far, a craftsman, twice a widower and with a relation who has been transported. But things pick up for him, and here comes the social mobility.

Edward married again in 1784, in St James's Piccadilly, to his 3rd wife, Margaret LLOYD. It is interesting that both his marriages in London seem to have been to members of the Welsh community.

Margaret and Edward had 4 surviving sons from whom all Goyders all over the world are descended.

Their son Thomas was baptised in 1786 in St Giles in the Fields, and a year later Joseph was baptised in St James's Piccadilly. The last two to survive were William Lloyd baptised in 1792 and David George in 1796, both in St Margaret's Westminster.

Edward had moved to Angel Court in the parish of St Margaret, Westminster at Lady Day 1792. He died there in 1800, and his widow Margaret died in 1805.

David George, the youngest son, wrote an autobiography many years later, in 1857. (*My Battle for Life - the Autobiography of a Phrenologist*). He included several details about his childhood including having run away from an apprenticeship. Interestingly he states that his father, who had died when David was only 4 years old, was employed in the offices of the Exchequer which later paid his widow a small pension. Another source of income for his widowed mother was looking after an old lady by the name of GREENWOOD. 'She was nearly 90 years of age, took an immoderate quantity of Scotch snuff, and divided her time between a large print Prayer Book and her Bible'. Could she have been Bowen's mother? David George's uncle, his mother's brother, according to the autobiography, was a barrister, and it was through this Uncle Lloyd that David later gained an education at the 'Greencoat school', but it is quite a jump from being a cordwainer to working for the Exchequer.

Much later on, in 1846, Edward's son William Lloyd GOYDER married for a second time. On the certificate he gives his father's name as Edward GOYDER, occupation King's Messenger.

Stranger and stranger! There is a possible answer, however, to this apparent 'grade inflation'.

Edward's son Thomas became a printer. An entry in the Stationers' company register reads:

1 July 1800 Thomas son of Edward GOYDER (deceased) messenger in the American Pay Office, bound to Charles CORRALL for 7 years; no money. Freed 7 May 1822.

At a stroke this explains both the 'Exchequer' and the 'Messenger'! Perhaps Edward's third wife, and her barrister brother, had managed to secure him the position as a 'Messenger' in some department dealing with finances.

There was further upward mobility later, however. Thomas and David George both had successful careers, Thomas as a printer and David George as a Phrenologist. Both of them became Ministers in the New Jerusalem Church (Swedenborgian), and David George was very involved in setting up Infant Schools. He also dabbled in medicine, and two of his sons became doctors, but a third son, George Woodroffe Goyder, went on to become Surveyor-

General of South Australia, and is well known there for Goyder's Line of Rainfall. Various geographical features have also been named after him and he is certainly the most famous member of the family. I wonder whether he knew that his grandfather was a shoemaker? Surely, that is real social mobility!

WELSH CHAPELS AND CHURCHES IN LONDON: THEIR HISTORY AND A PROJECT TRANSCRIBING MEMBERS' RECORDS

#11066 Anona Morgan

For some years, the Branch has been involved in researching and transcribing the genealogical records of the historic Welsh Chapels and Churches in London. This is an ongoing project as research opportunities are often confined to our annual trips to the National Library in Aberystwyth where many of the records are held. A summary of the historical context, the work undertaken, difficulties encountered with the ongoing research follows.

We have been fortunate in being able to build on work carried out by Branch members, in particular David OLIVER'S transcription of baptisms at Jewin Calvinistic Methodist Chapel (CM) (Barbican EC1) and Mari ALDERMAN's annotated list of Welsh Chapels in London, updated by Theo BRUETON. This detailed index of chapels by denomination gives particulars of their foundation, history and location of records where known. This, along with a number of publications including 'City Mission' by Huw EDWARDS, has informed the current project which is periodically revisited as new records are discovered or deposited in archives. A sample of the index and a list of source publications appear at the end of this article.

The surviving records of the London Welsh chapels are important not only to family historians, but as a record of a minority who played a significant role in the development of London, particularly in the 19th and 20th centuries. Where possible the transcribed records have adhered to the one hundred year rule to maintain privacy although many original records extend to the late 1900s.

The project's main objective is to locate, record and transcribe as many chapel records as possible and to make the most important of these available on CD and ultimately to deposit them in public archives.

Many Welsh people had migrated to London over the centuries but the birth of the Welsh non-conformist chapels was a result of the visits of Howell HARRIS in the early 1700s and others such as Griffith JONES and Edward 'Gin Shop' Jones who founded the first chapel in Cock Lane in 1774 from which a number of chapels emerged including Jewin Chapel, still active

today. Occasional Welsh-language services were held in several Anglican churches from the 17th century. Regular services were held at St Ethelreda's, Ely Place (Holborn) for several decades in the 19th century, but the church with the longest Welsh association is with St Benet's (by St Paul's) which has held and continues to hold regular Welsh-language services since 1879.

Over fifty chapels and churches have been identified in the Greater London area that have conducted services through the medium of Welsh at some time between the late 18th and the end of the 20th centuries although the majority no longer exist. There are currently ten chapels across London that continue to worship. Some of these are amalgamations of former chapels eg Eastcastle Street (formerly Castle St, West End) and Capel y Drindod Cockfosters.

The chapels covered many areas of London from the City to the outskirts of Harrow, Enfield, Croydon, Deptford, Kingston and beyond. These included short-lived meeting rooms and a variety of locations, approximately 23 Calvinist Methodist, 4 Welsh Wesleyan, 11 Independent (Annibynwyr), 5 Welsh Baptist, 5 Welsh Anglican. These were the main denominations along with other organisations such as the Mission of Welsh Seamen (Tooley St SE1) formed in 1820 that eventually morphed into Falmouth Rd (CM) (Deptford) until its closure in 1982. Chapels where records have been transcribed are highlighted on the main index (Table 1).

Many began as Sunday Schools or met in rented rooms before building their own chapels. Quite often factions moved away from the mother church to form new congregations. Reasons for these moves included burgeoning congregations or breakaway groups, eg Welsh Baptists from Eldon St (Moorfields) formed a number of outposts culminating in Castle Street about 1865. Such movement has proved quite confusing when trying to link records to chapels and denominations when some worshipped at similar addresses.

Determining the location and accessibility of records of the London Chapels has been a major part of the project. These range from the National Archives, London Metropolitan Archives, London Boroughs, National Library of Wales, online sources and individual chapels. The latter has proved the most difficult to research as the records were often held by the ministers or deacons and may have disappeared with the chapels as they closed. It is also important to remember that chapels, being independent bodies, have no legal obligation to deposit documents or to grant access to them. Whilst primarily concentrating on chapels, there are a number of Welsh Churches where 'Welsh' records were sometimes recorded separately at the back of the register. Records are often a mixture of Welsh and English dependent

on the individual recorder at the time, which can be challenging, especially when trying to decipher spidery writing.

In addition to the required registers, some chapels recorded 'pew rents', 'Adroddiadau' (Church Reports), as well as letters of transfer from one chapel to another. The latter are particularly useful as they give information on the migration from and to chapels. Membership lists can sometimes give an indication of why the person came to London by virtue of their residence, eg hospitals, colleges and company premises.

The lack of information on the part of Wales the individuals come from is most frustrating as most baptismal and marriage records only show London addresses. As previously mentioned, member transfer letters are more revealing, giving the name and location of the original chapel and town or village - be it coming from or returning to Wales. Some examples include:

- *Deptford - Miss LEWIS moving to Goldsmiths College in 1919 from Bethel, Rhondda and returning to the same chapel in 1921 (possibly she had been a student).*
- *Holloway (Sussex Rd) - Miss M WILLIAMS living at the Tottenham Nursing Institute moved to the chapel from Penuel, Twyn'rodyn, Merthyr Tydfil in 1910 (but sadly no information of when she originally moved to London).*

At times it has been difficult to separate the social history aspects of the information gathered from the specific details of individuals when trying to carry out research. Whilst the main lists transcribed are baptisms, marriages and burials, other records have information on the history of the chapels themselves, ministers and elders and the occasional dispute, which can make interesting reading but a digression when searching for genealogical information. Many of these are in Welsh and where possible have been translated.

Occupations are shown on the baptismal and marriage records which can be useful to the social historian as well as family searches. Records at Falmouth Rd indicate the majority were employed in the dairies or as 'cowkeepers'. Marriage and baptismal records of my great-grandfather indicated his journey from a grocer to dairyman. I have been able to use the information on his marriage certificate to find his name on chapel records in that area to find out what happened to him. Cross referencing such records can help in forming a picture of a relative's life in London.

This project is ongoing as new records are identified. We should like to thank everyone for their contribution and we would be grateful to hear from anyone who could provide us with information.

Name and address	Founded or moved to this site	Moved from this site or closed	Records	Cat Ref	Records held at	Notes	Status
Cock Lane, Smithfield, E1	founded in 1772*	moved 1785	Births/Baptisms 1799-1839	RG4/4400	TNA, NLW	First chapel in London, founded in a room above an earthenware shop in Cock Lane, now believed to be 1772*, original denomination - Independents, became MC circa 1802	Transcribed to 1874
Capel Sion - Wilderness Row, east of Clerkenwell Green	1785 or 1788*- 1823	moved 1828	indexed by IGI			*new evidence - legal application in 1788, first chapel in London	Needs to be verified
Jewin Crescent, Barbican EC1	1823- 1879*	moved 1879	Copy held by chapel 1799-1874, indexed by David Oliver		Jewin	opened in 1879 and extended in 1898; bombed Dec 1940 and rebuilt	
Jewin Chapel, Bridgewater Gdns nr Aldersgate	1877- 1961	moved 1961				moved to Bridgewater Gdns nr Aldersgate	
Jewin Chapel, Farn St Golden Lane EC1Y 0SA	from 1961	active 2020	Later registers kept by chapel Baptisms 1837 - 1920		Jewin	new chapel opened in Farn Street, 1961 marriages prior to 1925 held at local register office	Transcribed

Table 1 – Example of Index of Calvinist Methodist Chapel in London
© London Branch of the Welsh Family History Societies

Sources:

'The Welsh in London' edited by Emrys Jones

'Cymry Llundain Ddoe a Heddiw' pp,66-85: *Undeb Cymdeithiasau Diwyllianol Cymraeg Llundain*(1956) {Abe Books)

Victoria County History of Middlesex: see British History Online

'The London Encyclopaedia' edited by Ben Weinreb & Christopher Hibbert (1983)

'Capeli Llundain, City Mission' by Huw Edwards (2014)

DAVID EVANS THE MAN TO VOTE FOR!

#312 Mari Alderman

It was not an auspicious start in life. Margaret EVANS's sixth child was one day old and as yet unnamed in the 1851 census. She was head of the household and her occupation a labourer, although this might have been the occupation of her absent husband. They lived in a tiny cottage at Cwmbay, Llannarth, Cardiganshire, close to the sea. He was baptised David at Ffos-y-ffin Calvinistic Methodist Chapel on 3 June and the records¹ give details of his parents: Evan Evans came from Llannarth; Margaret's maiden name was DAVIES and Llanbadarn Trefeglwys her parish before marriage.

He did not live there long. By 1861 he was living at 3 Jones Court, Lower Brecon Street, Dowlais, with his widowed father Evan, 49, and eldest sister Mary, 23. Evan worked as a platelayer and Mary was a servant maid, keeping house for her father, brother and two lodgers. Courts were cramped and often unsanitary dwellings behind the main streets. Despite being cramped families often took in lodgers. This is probably where Evan lived in 1851.² Men from west Wales often tramped the 65 miles to find work in the industrial areas.

Margaret died at this address in 1858 suffering from peritonitis, a condition that would be treatable today. She was just 44 and David was only 7. Most of the large public cemeteries in Merthyr had yet to be created and as the family attended Hermon CM Chapel, Dowlais,³ she was probably buried there.

Although his parents appear to have been unable to write, making their marks in the parish register at their wedding, David did receive an education, possibly at the Guests' school, Dowlais. Welsh was his first language, but he

¹ Now held by NLW

² The census area that included Dowlais is missing from the 1851 census returns.

³ Demolished in the early 1970s when Dowlais was redeveloped.

had a good command of English and later wrote poetry in both languages. He also wrote a notebook about his teenage years.

He did not follow his father into manual work. *"I had spent my short life after leaving school with Mr William LEWIS, grocer, Dowlais"*. But in January 1866 he left Dowlais for Treforest to work in the Castle grocer's shop. The building was a former home of the Crawshay family who owned Treforest Tinplate Works. *"It snowed the day I arrived and I was amazed to see the sparkling scene – snow would not lie on the ground more than an hour in Dowlais even though it was 700 feet above sea level"*. Here he lived over the shop with Benjamin REES 22, William DAVIES 20 and Ann HUGHES their housekeeper. For the first time he slept in a room on his own and the calling of otters on the riverbank kept him awake. They had a long working day finishing at 10 pm. Shops stayed open late particularly at weekends when people were paid. This enterprise was sponsored by Samuel Jones, Welsh CM minister, Cefn-coed-y-cymmer, whose relatives ran the tinworks from 1864.

Naturally the newcomers attended Saron CM chapel, Treforest. David spent many hours around the stove in the centre of the building teaching the youngest children the *a b c and commencing to read* with Mr John HARRIS, mason. Their social activity revolved around the chapel, but when Ben Rees married Miss JONES the *Castle boys and Miss Hughes* were invited to the wedding breakfast held at the Crawshays' home, Forest House. He had never been to a dance before: *"this was the only dance that I ever did try to take a part in, the participants being the performers of a country dance. It was indeed quite amusing to see us boys trying to walk to and fro bowing to the ladies but we thoroughly enjoyed the fun, the accompanist being Mr TOBIN with his concertina"*.

In 1871 he was still at the Castle Shop, but at 20 he was the head of the household with an apprentice and Ann Hughes as housekeeper. In January 1875 aged 23 he married Elizabeth the eldest daughter of Evan MORGAN, a butcher from Rhydfelen, at Sardis Independent Chapel, Pontypridd. They left Wales soon after this to live with David's sister Jane and her husband Henry NEWMAN, a pork butcher, in Jamaica Road, Bermondsey. Here their first child, Albert, was born and David learnt the trade of pork butchery. A second child, Emily, was born in Bethnal Green in 1879 and a third, Jeanetta, in Southwark Park Road in 1881. It was not unusual for Welsh families to have relatives living in London and other cousins also came to work for the Newmans.

After seven years they returned to Rhydfelen. Elizabeth's parents had retired to Ysguborwen Farm and it is likely that David took over his father-in-law's business. He was known as 'Dai Black Pudding' at his stall in Pontypridd

Butter Market and at five other local markets. Eventually he also ran two shops in Treforest and a small abattoir. Life was looking up for the boy from humble beginnings, but in 1888 Elizabeth died aged just 33. She was buried at Saron chapel where David was a deacon. He composed an *englyn* for her. Elizabeth's widowed mother Anne and sister Janet came to live with him to keep house.

By 1891 only Janet remained, aged 36 and single. David was 49. In January 1893 they married at Groeswen Chapel. This relationship was within the prohibited degree at that time⁴, but they married quite openly; Anne gave them a family bible in 1892, just before the wedding. They were to have two children, Idris in 1895 and Nellie in 1899. The family completed Welsh schedules in the census, but spoke both English and Welsh, although the language of children under three years old was not recorded. The adults spoke to the children in Welsh, but they replied in English, the language they needed for their education.

On 4 August 1897 David's eldest child Albert died, apparently from sunstroke, aged 20. A local paper reported he had been of delicate health. Albert was buried at Saron in the same grave as his mother and in 1905 his sister Emily was buried there too. On a happier note David's daughter Janet (Jeanetta) married William FARRALL at Saron Chapel in 1907⁵. Bill was a Lancashire engineer who came to work in Pontypridd in the early 1900s when the tramways were built. Their children Edna and David born in 1910 and 1912 were David's first grandchildren.

By 1900 David had become involved in local politics. He represented Treforest ward on Pontypridd Urban District Council becoming the first chairman and serving again in 1908. During his terms of office he opened Wood Road School and the Berw Bridge (White Bridge) over the Taff. As chairman of the Education Committee he was instrumental in establishing Pontypridd Intermediate School for Girls at Glyntaff. A report in the *Glamorgan Free Press* 1 May 1908 says:

Councillor David Evans JP

The new Chairman of the Pontypridd UDC

Councillor David Evans, who was on Tuesday elected Chairman of the Pontypridd Urban District Council, is a native of Cardiganshire, but spent his

⁴ The law was changed by the Deceased Wife's Sister Marriage Act 1907, which retrospectively legalised such unions and legitimised any children born to them.

⁵ It was said her parents hoped she would marry Mr David Williams the owner of a grocer's shop in Park Street, Treforest, and a large house near the station in Taff's Well. However, she heard that he had an illegitimate child with one of his servants and would have nothing to do with him.

infancy in Dowlais, Merthyr Tydfil. When a youth – 41 years ago – he came to Treforest, where he remained for eight years and then went to London. Seven [years] afterwards he returned to Treforest where he set up in business as a butcher having shops at Treforest and Rhydfelen, making his home at the latter place. In 1900 he was elected as one of the Treforest Ward representatives. Since that time he has been twice returned unopposed. He has been a deacon of the Calvinistic Methodist Church for the last 20 years, and leader of the choir. He is a Liberal in politics.

All the family had to help in the shops. David's wife Janet ran the shop at 50/51 Cardiff Road where they also lived, while he ran the shops in Treforest. He continued to be an active member of Saron, but Janet attended Ebenezer, Rhydfelen. It made good business sense to keep in favour with two different congregations as there was an expectation that members would support each other's businesses.

In 1919 David Evans retired and moved to 9 Janet Street, Rhydfelen; his son Idris continued to run the business. David invested his money in 18 small properties and left an estate valued at £4,759 when he died in 1924 aged [almost] 73. He was buried at Saron chapel graveyard next to Elizabeth and their children, an event attended by many local dignitaries.

LONDON RESOURCES FOR WELSH FAMILY HISTORY

Anne Jones

In addition to the availability of online records outside Wales there are a number of places in London where you can undertake Welsh Family History research. A selection of these and their records are described below. In some cases pre-booking or registering for a reader's ticket maybe required.

The National Archives, Kew

Over 90% of the National Archives' records have not been digitised and there are therefore a large number of records that will require you to visit Kew to research. At the time of writing the National Archives was open for a limited number of hours Tuesday to Friday, pre-booking is required and documents must be ordered in advance (restricted to nine documents a day).

A search for "Glamorgan" in the Discovery Catalogue and filtered for the National Archives only*

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r? q=Glamorgan& sd=& e d=& hb=tna> reveals 37,840 records linked to "Glamorgan" with 9,362 available for download only. Examples of the records available at Kew include:

- Militia and Volunteers Muster Books and Pay Lists. Volunteers 1797-1814 Glamorganshire Glamorgan Rangers
- Criminal and civil trials in the Welsh assize courts 1831-1971
- Crew lists and agreements and log books of merchant ships 1747-1860
- Crew lists and agreements and log books of merchant ships after 1861
- Merchant seamen of the First World War
- Merchant seamen serving since 1918
- Royal Navy ratings up to 1913
- Miscellaneous Papers and Records, Vale of Glamorgan Railway. Newspaper Reports and Circular as to opening of line
- Chancery: Petty Bag Office: Writ Files. Return of Writs. Coroners. Glamorgan William Davies
- Miscellaneous Papers and Records. Vale of Glamorgan Railway, Capital. Barry Glebe – Granting tenants of the Rector of Barry access to a new road.

**Ed: When searching the National Archives Discovery Catalogue you can filter results for those located at Kew and/or at other Archives/Repositories.*

Chancery Records: Looking at just Chancery records, we understand that there are at least 3,220 cases for Glamorgan giving names of Plaintiffs, Defendants and properties. For example:

Date: 1850-1855

Plaintiffs: *Griffith LLEWELLYN on behalf of himself and other creditors of George BASSETT deceased*

Defendants: *John MORGAN and his wife, David THOMAS, Christopher BASSETT, Mary Bassett widow (since deceased), Walter Morgan, Miles Morgan and his wife, Joan Bassett, Catherine Bassett, Richard Bassett, Ann Bassett, Mary Bassett the granddaughter, George Bassett, David DAVIES, Ann Thomas and Shadrack Thomas.*

Subject: *Farms and land in Llandyfodog [Llandyfodwg], Llanwonno, Langwelach, Glamorganshire.*

Details: *List of tenants, rents, receipts, disbursements*

Prize Papers: A hidden litigation archive is “Prize Papers” – Litigation about ships captured in wartime 1650-1815. May include interrogations of the captured crew and perhaps a captor so start with a mini-biography and include letters for delivery across the world. In some cases personal archives for a merchant may have been found onboard. At present this archive is not indexed but if you have an ancestor you believe may have been on board, a prize may contain gems.

The Society of Genealogists (SoG)

The Society of Genealogists Library is at 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA and contains thousands of unique records. Access to the SoG library is free for members but non-members may use the library on payment of a search fee and proof of ID. As with all archives access has been restricted during the Covid-19 pandemic and all visits must be pre-booked. At the time of writing the library was open to a maximum of 20 persons per day and open each Tuesday and one Saturday each month.

The SoG online catalogue:

<https://s10312uk.eos-intl.eu/S10312UK/OPAC/Index.aspx> contains details of everything in the library except the Document Collections. Members of the SoG can view some databases on SoG Data Online but to search other items a visit to the library may be required. Browsing the online catalogue identifies 558 records for "Wales". Filtering this to browse for those records for Glamorganshire returns 167 records, some in English some in Welsh. The records held are varied including census transcriptions, indexes, manuscripts, publications, maps, and school magazines for example. A small selection of the records relevant to Glamorganshire held are listed below:

- Achau Cymroaidd: ynghyd a hanes byr o sir forganwg ac hanes y gwahanol maedresi sydd ynddi: Analecta Glamorganica (2 vol) [Manuscript.]
- Alphabetical name index to Glamorgan testators of wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury for the period 1601-1770: Glamorgan wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury 1601-1770 [Microfiche.]
- The Avonian: magazine of the Glan Afan County Grammar School, no 88 (Whitsun 1959)
- Carmarthen & Glamorgan contiguous parishes: this guide lists all the parishes alphabetically with their adjoining parishes & ... Where parishes are contiguous with other counties these are shown using the Chapman county codes
- County sources at the Society of Genealogists: Wales parish registers, nonconformist registers, marriage licences, monumental inscriptions
- Glamorgan wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury 1572-1600; a dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Diploma in Extra-Mural studies (local history) [of] University College, Cardiff [Typescript.]
- Wrenche (Pransiad) & Radcliffe: notes on 2 families of Glamorgan

The SoG's document collection includes original sources such as birth, marriage and death certificates, deeds, wills, marriage settlements, apprenticeship indentures, letters etc or transcripts of records such as pedigrees or research notes. The SoG is currently undertaking a project to

digitise these documents and make them available online but at present they may only be viewed at the SoG or in some cases a copy may be ordered. An online index of the surnames for which the SoG has documents can be searched at <http://www.sog.org.uk/search-records/index-of-the-document-collection/>.

An example of the documents held for the surname "THOMAS" is a transcription of the Diary of William Thomas. William's diary provides later 18th century gossip details about people in South-East Glamorganshire. The transcription is available on microfiche and includes an index. One reviewer referred to this document as "very useful and also rather fun".

The SoG holds hundreds of pedigrees and an online index of the surnames covered is available at <http://www.sog.org.uk/search-records/pedigrees/>. Larger pedigrees are rolled up and stored in archive boxes ("Roll pedigrees") whilst smaller ones are stored flat ("Sheet pedigrees").

The pedigrees are kept on closed access and need to be applied for at the Lower Library enquiry counter by filling out an orange slip. As with the document collection in some cases a copy may be ordered.

On joining the SoG members are given a birth brief form on which they can record all of their ancestors back to their great-great-grandparents. An online index of all of the surnames that occur on the birth brief forms received prior to 2007 is available at <http://www.sog.org.uk/search-records/introduction-to-the-birth-brief-collection/>. Post 2007 details are only available to members via SoG Data Online. A visit to the library is required to consult the birth briefs themselves.

One of the Special Collections held in the library is the Great Card Index. This index was compiled by SoG members including Leoline GRIFFITHS during the period 1911 to 1939 (with a few post-1939 additions) and covers the period from the late 11th century to the late 19th century. The index contains over a million slips of paper containing various items of genealogical information extracted from sources such as parish registers, marriage licences, will indexes, monumental inscriptions and references to Chancery Proceedings. The entries are arranged by surname and then by first name. Leoline Griffiths at the same time compiled a separate list of Welsh names mainly from Glamorgan and Cardigan. The index is known as **Griffith's Index** to Wales and is available as a traditional card index.

The Caird Library and Archive

The Caird Library and Archive is at the National Maritime Museum Greenwich. Access to the Caird Library and Archive is free with a Reader's

Ticket and at the time of writing the Library is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays by appointment.

To request items to view in the Library, you will need to register with the Caird Library and Archive Ordering System “Aeon”

<https://archiveandlibrary.rmg.co.uk/aeon/>

The National Maritime Museum's manuscripts collection occupies over four linear miles of shelf space with the Library collection including over 100,000 books, pamphlets and bound periodicals spanning every aspect of maritime history, including: emigration, navigation, piracy, astronomy, shipping companies, shipwrecks, biographies, the two World Wars, horology, Merchant and Royal Navy. Also included are many original documents, manuscripts, atlases, maps, sea charts and periodicals. There are 6,000 books and printed resources available to study on open access shelves. The collection includes copies of the journal Maritime Wales, a Journal published by Gwynedd Archives Services with the aim of researching and documenting Welsh maritime history, including the lives of various figures in Wales' maritime past. The Library has copies of the Journal from no 1 (1976) to no. 39 (2018) but regrettably the series is incomplete with 9 Journals not held.

To search the Archive Catalogue

https://collections.rmg.co.uk/archive.html?_ga=2.213998551.1555547620.1600117349-236574544.1600024275#!asearch

To search the Library Catalogue

<http://librarycatalogue.rmg.co.uk/uhtbin/cgisirsi/?ps=CPzT9inegj/x/303980050/60/502/X>

A Search of the Archive Catalogue for “Glamorgan” provides 222 matches primarily Crew List: Agreements and Official Logs but includes a couple of Colonial Cooks Certificates; for example

A Colonial Cooks Certificate issued to William Edwards.

Year of Birth 1888.

Place of Birth Nelson, Glamorgan.

Army School of Cookery for India, Poona

Date made 1921-03-12

RSS/CC/M/37 Certificate No 34/2.

Certificate includes signature and physical description of the holder.

The Library's collection of crew lists and masters', mates' and engineers' certificates are key family history resources for searching the merchant navy.

[NB Royal Navy records are held at the National Archives (Kew).]

Merchant Navy materials include:

- Crew records
- Officers' records and
- Shipowner records

enabling you to search for:

- Members of the Merchant Navy
- Vessels and voyages.

Many records however are held overseas and the Library staff will be able to assist you identify where relevant records may be located.

Lambeth Palace Library

The Lambeth Palace Library and Church of England Record Centre is currently closed to enable both collections and staff to move into the new Lambeth Palace Library building. They hope to reopen the reading rooms in 2021.

The Library holds a small amount of marriage records, principally bonds and allegations relating to those married by licence issued under the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Library does not hold any records for Glamorganshire but does hold records for Merionethshire specifically Llangelynin, Merionethshire: parishioners, 1665 (CM VI/30). The Library does hold some Papers of William Lloyd as Bishop of Llandaff 1675-1679.

The Library holds records for individuals who have served as members of the Anglican clergy and a complete set, from 1858, of Crockfords Clerical Directory: a Directory of the Clergy of the Church of England, the Church in Wales, the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Church of Ireland. This is the basic source of career information for Anglican clergy. Some editions are available via Ancestry.

To search the database catalogue of manuscripts and archives, and linked databases of featured names and places visit

https://archives.lambethpalacelibrary.org.uk/calmview/?_ga=2.157681274.1966587758.1600119459-1688334754.1600026555

To search the online printed books catalogue which includes over 130,000 items held by the Library, including the entire collections of printed books, prints and periodicals visit

https://bookscat.lambethpalacelibrary.org.uk/?_ga=2.258369738.1966587758.1600119459-1688334754.1600026555

**JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR SOCIETY VACANCIES ARE AVAILABLE ON
OUR WEBSITE www.glam.org.uk/society-vacancies.**

A LONDON WELSH POLICEMAN

#20591 Penny Rowlinson

Evan Leslie WILLIAMS, known as Les (my father) was born in Barry 06.01.1915. Some of the places that he lived are, Pentyrch, Abercanaid, Nantgarw and Rhiwbina. After graduating from the University of Wales at Cardiff, he was accepted by the Metropolitan Police College and moved up to London.

The college was situated in Hendon. Lord TRENCHARD started the college when he was appointed Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. The object was to produce an officer class somewhat similar to the Armed Forces. Most of the up to thirty cadets each year were serving police officers but there were five places for graduate members of the public. Les always said that he won his place because they needed a scrum half for the rugby team! Rugby had always been a major interest, and he was able to play against the three services' cadet officers and various Oxbridge colleges. The course ended in July 1939 and Les was posted to Putney station as an Inspector.

One of the duties that he always remembered was being in charge of the arrangements for evacuating children from Putney Railway station. He never forgot the misery on the faces of parents and children as they were put on trains, with very little information available about what awaited them.

Another memory, when serving in Richmond, was being called out during thick smog to a woman who had collapsed in the High Street. When the ambulance finally got through, the driver said that with visibility almost zero he could not find his way back to the hospital, so Les had to half run in front of it for the mile and a half to the hospital.

In August 1940 he was posted to Balham as a Junior Station Inspector in charge of three stations. Here occurred the most horrendous incident that happened to him during the war. A bomb fell on Balham underground station. At first, it was believed that there were no casualties; however, a little girl of about 11 years of age came into one of the stations and said that she had been with her parents in the underground station and she could not find them. Les took one of his sergeants to the station and they explored by the light of their torches. When they got to the platform they discovered a huge mound of earth which nearly reached the roof and they slid over it on their stomachs. On the other side they could hear rushing water but, despite trying to get through the water and sewage, could not find anybody. They called the Civil Defence rescue squad and eventually it transpired that about a hundred people had lost their lives. Fortunately, the girl and her parents

were safely reunited. What had happened was that a relatively small bomb had penetrated the platform and exploded, bursting the water mains and the sewers. The earth had been washed onto the platform and trapped the people sheltering there. A bus that had managed to stop on the edge of the crater was swept in as the earth was washed away and the hole enlarged.

Policing was a reserved occupation, but in 1942 government policy changed and younger police officers were called up. Les joined the navy and did basic training in HMS Ganges (Harwich). The high spot there was playing on a joint UK/New Zealand rugby team which tied against a team boasting fourteen internationals. After that he was asked to train at London University's School of Oriental Languages to become a Japanese interpreter. I wonder whether his ability to learn Japanese very quickly was perhaps partly due to his bilingual Welsh childhood. He was posted to HMS Anderson, a large intelligence communication centre in Ceylon, as the administration and security officer and as a listener to Japanese wireless traffic.

On return to UK, Les was posted as Station Officer to Croydon. While there he had to deal with the first major train crash after the war, as well as being sent to major occasions such as the Trooping of the Colour, the Lord Mayor's Show and the Derby. He was next posted as instructor with the rank of Chief Inspector to the newly formed National Police College at Ryton-on-Dunsmore.

On return to London in 1951, Les was put in charge of the Catford sub-division. During his time there 'The Great Smog' occurred, when the day was turned to night, traffic came to a halt and the smell of sulphur dioxide permeated everything. The carbon monoxide was fatal to those with lung problems and he was called out to dozens of sudden deaths. He had to visit his other stations of Beckenham and Penge on foot.

He was promoted to Superintendent and sent to East Dulwich sub-division, consisting of East Dulwich, West Dulwich and Sydenham. At about this time there were two main criminal gangs in London. The KRAYs, who controlled the East End, and the RICHARDSONS who controlled South London and operated mainly from neighbouring Peckham but also from Les's area. There were many illegal drinking clubs. Street betting was also rife and there was a high level of racial tension.

His next posting was a complete contrast; Gerald Road covered Belgravia, Victoria and Pimlico. Within the area were sixty-three embassies, with all the problems associated with protests, demonstrations and diplomatic immunity. Many famous people lived in the area. All state visits used to start at Victoria Station and Les found that the main problem was having to wear his No 1

uniform. The state visits were in the summer and the uniform was a tunic buttoned up to the neck and lined with lambs' wool, a special helmet with a large silver badge, woollen trousers, a sword belt and, if it was raining, a wool cape.

After this, Les was promoted Chief Superintendent and transferred to Scotland Yard and, in the era of the Cold War and the availability of nuclear weapons to all the world, was put in charge of police war planning. Other projects followed which involved travelling and lecturing and he was promoted to Commander. He was also awarded the Queen's Police Medal for distinguished service.

After retirement from the police, Les became Operations and Security Manager at the New Covent Garden Market in Battersea. He was the first person to hold the post and he had a staff of about thirty beadles who acted as his 'policemen'. In 1978 he retired and went to live in Battle. He died in 2002.



The Metropolitan Police College, Rugger, 1938-39

Back Row L-R D Holdsworth, JCA Ryan, AP Horne, WD Capper, RDG Moore, HC Clark, *EL Williams*

Middle Row L-R RB Matthews, GAR Wright-Nooth, SE Peck, GFW Gillespie, RHS McConnell, AI Barratt, RJ Rowley

Front Row: L-R HA Langton, IJ Forbes-Leith, KL Harris

Don't miss the 'Cut-Off Dates'

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

March Issue	20 January	June Issue	20 April
Sept issue	20 July	Dec Issue	20 Oct

LONDON WELSH AND SPORT

#11197 Ralph Thomas

People who play sport will always seek out local clubs wherever they may be – the better the player, the better the club, indeed the best clubs are a magnet attracting the better players, some of whom will travel long distances to play for a better team.

Similarly, a player who excels at a new club can act as a trailblazer, and when many similarly-minded players follow the same path, some of them come together and decide to start their own club, hence in 1885 the London Welsh Rugby Club was formed. The Club is known all over the world mainly for a golden period of the amateur game when its players included several British Lions such as John DAWES and JPR WILLIAMS. Sadly, the professional game brought other issues, mainly of a financial nature, such that the London Welsh Rugby Club could not compete and the Club folded, only to be re-started soon afterwards and it continues to play at a decent level from its long-standing base at Old Deer Park, Richmond. (*Ed - see more on the London Welsh RFC next page*).

In 1891 London Welsh Football Club was formed and currently operate two football teams, that play home games at the Quentin Hogg Memorial Ground at Chiswick competing in the Amateur Football Combination which is based in and around London and the Home Counties – this is believed to be the largest adult football league in Europe.

In 1964 London Welsh Hockey Club was formed as an invitation club for international and aspiring internationals to play friendly matches against top opposition. In the days before national leagues and national cup competition this was a pathway to a Wales trial, but, as fixture lists became congested the better players became increasingly unavailable for these extra matches and the Club suffered, closing down in 1987.

London Welsh Cricket Club, based at Tolworth, currently play in division 2 of the Surrey League.

A common thread through all these clubs is sportsmanship and camaraderie, play hard on the pitch and socialise afterwards; new players are always welcome and not only Welshmen – and this is what amateur sport is all about.

PLEASE NOTE WE HAVE FOUR VACANCIES ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND ALL SOCIETY OFFICERS WILL BE STANDING DOWN IN FIVE YEARS – NEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO JOIN COMMITTEE TO LEARN THEIR ROLES IF THE SOCIETY IS TO CONTINUE PAST 2026.

LONDON WELSH RFC

#10631 Ian Black

London Welsh Rugby Club or as it is known in Welsh, “Clwb Rygbi Cymry Llundain” was formed in 1885 by a group of Welshmen who met in a Fleet Street Hotel. The club had a difficult start, failing to attract many leading players until Willie LLEWELLYN, Captain of Wales, who was a pharmaceutical student in London, got the Welsh Rugby Union to refuse to cap any Welsh player living in London unless they played for London Welsh.

This had the effect that international players like Teddy MORGAN, Rhys GABE, Arthur HARDING and the former Blaengarw flyer Hopkin MADDOCK played for the club resulting in much improved performances on the pitch. Hop Maddock scored 170 tries for London Welsh, a record that still stands. Other top players played for London Welsh but their golden era was between 1966 and 1973 when they fielded up to 14 internationals in games watched by capacity crowds. In 1971 Carwyn JAMES, coach of the British Lions Rugby Team and a former London Welsh Player, picked seven of their players to tour with the Lions when they became the first Lions team to beat New Zealand in a test series in New Zealand. The London Welsh legends in this team were John DAWES (Captain), JPR WILLIAMS, Gerald DAVIES, John TAYLOR, Mervyn DAVIES, Mike ROBERTS and Jeff EVANS.



London Welsh, 1973, Garw Valley Heritage Society archives

After this period they continued to be a leading side and their biggest achievement was in reaching the John Player Cup Final in 1985, only to lose to Bath 24-15.

In 2008/9 the club turned professional. They played mainly in the English Championship but won promotion to the English Premiership twice, only to be relegated the following season back to the championship. The second time in 2014/15 they did not win a competitive match during the whole season.

After major financial problems the club had to go into liquidation in December 2016 and they were thrown out of the English Championship for not meeting regulations. They are now back at Old Deer Park playing in the London and South East, with a four year plan, supported by former players, to get themselves back in the National Division.

DAVID DAVIES OF TREBOETH 1799-1874

Bookbinder, Diarist, Baptist Minister, Poet
Janet Hudson (nee Williams)

In common with most family historians, what motivated me to read the diaries of David DAVIES, Bookbinder of Treboeth, was the hope of coming across any mention of any of my own ancestors. Spanning a long period (1819-1833) there was more than a decent chance of success.

Treboeth is a relatively small, specific area of the parish of Llangyfelach, just a few miles north of Swansea. It is where, for very many generations, my family have lived and worked and worshipped. Today it is largely urbanised and, sadly, anglicised, but at the beginning of the 19th century it was still predominantly rural and a monoglot Welsh community. These were people who worked extremely hard all their lives but who rarely became rich. More often than not they left no wills and little in the way of a paper trail. Here was a resource which predated the census and which had the potential to add a few more clues.

I was not disappointed. Far from it. It was thrilling to see them all there – the MORGANS and the REESES and the JONESES – coming to life in precious little snapshots as their daily lives coincided with David's.

1825 July 29th Friday Worked till 6 builded at the Hogsty with Rees Morgan till dark

1828 December 12th Mathew Rees moving to his new House

1820 May 14th Sunday Went to Mynyddbach for a horse to Thos Morgan for Mr Evans to go to Baran (chapel)

This Mr EVANS was David's employer, Mr Daniel EVANS, Bookbinder of Treboeth, who was also at that time the Minister of Mynyddbach Independent Chapel, one of the most important chapels in the area.

David Davies was not a native of the parish. He was born in Llangeler, Carmarthenshire, in 1799. It was only in 1819, at the age of twenty and newly qualified, that he arrived in Treboeth to take up employment (and lodgings) with the Evans family. It was also around this time that David started to keep a journal, something he continued to do until 1833. There are of course the usual entries of everyday life:

rose early at 4 oclock.....I Worked all day.....finished Thomas Rees's Bible.....went to a cheerful prayer meeting at Tredeunaw.....

Interspersed with these are events he found new and amazing. On Christmas Day 1819 David walked the easy distance into 'the big city' of Swansea and was treated to an

Ealegant show which consisted of seven lions, cobra Eleaphant Bengal tiger Sea lion Porcupine Tiger Cat and 5 or 7 others

We are transported back to a time when Morriston was newly built. Laid out in the 1780s, and only in its first phase of construction, this was Wales' first industrial planned town, incorporating the very latest technology. David was very impressed:

1821 Morriston is a village of great superiority with respect to its containing 21 Meeting houses and a chapel 4 Taverns several shops and houses are lightened with gas lights here.

There were times though in those first years away from home that young David found life difficult. It is quite obvious that his diaries (and later the two Registers) were never intended to be read by anyone but himself. He is always starkly honest about himself:

1822 January 5th The day passed very troublesome to me because of my poverty being so poor I have no shoes to go to town. I cried very much this evening.

Things did improve. We watch him develop from sensitive youth to mature family man, well-respected in his community. We see his religious conviction deepening over the years, eventually leading to him being ordained. In 1844 he answered the call to become the Minister of Bethania Baptist Chapel in Clydach.

We also follow his journey from newly-qualified employee (earning just three shillings a week) to successful businessman. In 1823, when Daniel Evans retired, David set up in business for himself. That was also the year he married his beloved Hannah Rees of Cadle farm. David recorded all the ups and downs of their courtship, from first buying cakes for her and her friends in the Powell Arms to their wedding day celebrations.

Despite David's regular efforts to drum up more business, bookbinding alone was never enough to fully sustain them, especially as by 1840 they had nine extra mouths to feed. Both of them regularly supplemented their income by working on local farms.

1827 May 30th Went to Tycoch at potatoes all day almost killed ourselves

David would also find time to work on his own garden, make clothes for his children, and help his neighbours.

1825 July 25th *Hot weather.....I worked at Rees MORGAN's hay in company with Wm MORRIS*

Self-sufficiency and mutual support were vital for survival.

In addition to poverty, incurable illness and death were also inescapably ever-present. Over the years David carefully recorded each loss.

1832 November 18th

Claddu Nel BENCH y fydwraig o dyr Sadler yn M. am 10

(Burial of old Nel Bench the midwife from Sadler's land in Mynyddbach at 10)

Some entries are particularly poignant.

1832 May 11th *Friday Bety REES Mynyddbach died being on the point of getting married to Dd CAMPELL*

Accidents and serious injuries were frequent in the various new smelting works in Morriston and Landore, also in the numerous small collieries around Treboeth.

1833 July 18th *William MORT killed in Drews pit*

Children were particularly vulnerable:

1820 October 9th *Monday. Night. Hopkin JENKINS and his two sons were burnt in the coalworks, very bad, the younger child is about 7 years of age, he was burnt the worst.*

David's own two toddlers thankfully survived smallpox in 1825.

Especially feared, however, was an outbreak of cholera, that of 1832 proved especially hard. On 21st March David refers to a special service held at the home of Mary HUGH to pray for Divine protection against the disease

er mwyn ein cadw rhag difod y cholera morbus ofnadwy

To no avail, for by July 20th *The cholera in Swansea*, and by August 2nd *Llawer yn meirw* (many dying).

The outbreak soon spread north to Treboeth and Morriston, reaching its peak in August and September. The vicar of Llangyfelach was to write *cholera* in the margin of his Burial Register for each of his parishioners that it took. David counted 14 souls lost to the Mynyddbach community.

In the spring of that year many in Treboeth had taken the courageous decision to seek a better life in America. Ever meticulous in his record-

keeping, David lists the 29 people *Emigrated of my acquaintance to New York by the Brig Elizabeth Clarke, April 14th* amongst them John, Daniel EVANS' son.

In the years that followed, David was to maintain a regular correspondence with several of them.

1833 *April 21st writing a letter to Anne JENKINS in New York*

He continued to keep up with news from home and abroad until his death. Many of the family names on his list of emigrants were still to be found in Treboeth well into the twentieth century.

David's journals may have ended in 1833 but in 1839 he took up a new kind of record-keeping, an indirect result of the infamous scandal at Mynyddbach Chapel. Outraged by the continuing immoral (and illegal) behaviour of the new minister, a group of members, David included, decided to break away and form a separate chapel of their own. They were to join the Baptist Union and build Caersalem Newydd in Tirdeunaw, not half a mile away.

David started his own private list, a Register of Members of this group, adding to it as new people joined. He would again carefully record their deaths, but also other details about them which he found noteworthy. He created a similar Register for Bethania, and these were a joy to read. I discovered the fates of several individuals who had seemingly 'disappeared', such as

Philip MORGAN Junr Died at Pittsburg North America March 1852.

Even more enlightening are David's blunt appraisals of people's character. It was very reassuring for me to discover that David EDWARDS Tirdeunaw had been a *Cristion glew* (a brave Christian). Better still that Jane MORGANS had been a *santes*. Not so gratifying to read that Philip MORGAN Senior had been *hen ddyn cantachlyd, cybydd* (a quarrelsome old man, a miser). No wonder his son had left home as soon as he did.

My focus here has necessarily been quite narrow, concentrating mainly on how invaluable David's diaries are for family history research, containing as they do so many references to so many individuals. But they are so much more. They are a window into a different time, a different way of thinking about the world. David has bequeathed us a precious, vivid picture of life in Treboeth during those early years of the nineteenth century, when industrialisation was bringing cataclysmic changes to the area – for good and ill.

Sources:

Swansea University Archives:

LAC/114 *Treboeth Manuscripts*. These include the diaries 1819-1833 (with gaps)

National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth:

NLW MS 22245A *Diaries* 1822-1824

NLW MS 19054E *Register of Caersalem Newydd Baptist Chapel, Tre-boeth and of Bethania Baptist Chapel Clydach*

ACCIDENTS ON THE RAILWAYS AND IN THE DOCKS OF GLAMORGAN

#5644 Rosemary Leonard

I am a volunteer on a project at The National Archives in Kew, in which the names of thousands of working men and some women, of Glamorgan, are being recorded. What do these people have in common? They are all victims of an accident occurring on railway property from around 1860 to 1920, and as such their accident was recorded in an accident register of a railway company. This work, which is being supervised at Kew by Chris Heather, a Transport Records Specialist, is opening up records which have been inaccessible for over 100 years.

By far the greatest number of accidents being recorded by volunteers at the National Archives happened in Glamorgan. This is because, of the 15 railway companies whose registers are stored at Kew, 11 were Welsh and the majority of these were based in Glamorgan.

- Barry Railway Company RAIL 23
- Brecon and Merthyr Tydfil Junction Railway Company RAIL 65
- Cardiff Railway Company RAIL 97
- Port Talbot Railway and Docks Company RAIL 574
- Rhondda and Swansea Bay Railway Company RAIL 581
- Rhymney Railway Company RAIL 583
- Taff Vale Railway Company RAIL 684
- Vale of Glamorgan Railway Company RAIL 702

Coal was the reason why so many different railway companies operated in Glamorgan. The Taff Vale Railway company built a railway line which followed the canal which had originally been used to transport coal from the coalfield to the docks in Cardiff. Branch lines were built and other railway companies were formed to compete. Amongst the companies who saw the need to facilitate the need for coal traffic to and from the docks was the Bute Docks Company. They owned the docks and in 1897 the Bute Docks Company became the Cardiff

Railway Company. Competition was now between the two largest coal exporting docks in the world - Barry Docks and Bute (Cardiff) Docks.

Why so many of these registers survive is thought to be due to the fact that these companies became constituent parts of the Great Western Railway (GWR) which in turn survived the grouping of the railway companies in 1923.

MOVEMENT OF WAGONS.

A large proportion of the accidents arising out of capstan working is due to failure on the part of the men to stand in the right position when operating the capstan.



This man is obviously standing in the wrong position as the capstan rope when tightened is likely to cause injury.



The right way.

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The data captured includes the name of the person, date of accident, name of railway company, grade (ie platelayer, fireman, capstanman etc), location, injury and cause of accident. Some registers include age, the number of days off work, weekly wage and amount of compensation (if any) was paid. This data is not only useful for family historians, but taken as a whole, creates a vast database of medical and social material which could be analysed by students of social, medical and railway history in the future.

I spent about a year cataloguing accidents from the registers of the Cardiff Railway Company and so it is with the accidents of this company that I am most

familiar. Almost all of these accidents happened in the Bute Docks, and as such there is a wider range of accidents than in most railway accident registers. There are accidents, not only associated with working alongside and on the railway track, rolling stock and signalling, but also accidents

aboard vessels in warehouses, and accidents involving the tipping of coal - most notably accidents involving coaling cranes.

Of the thousands of accidents recorded in Bute Docks, few were fatal, but of those that were, many were drownings. This differs from the railway network where fatalities were commonplace (*Ed: see Rachel Hawkins' article elsewhere in the Journal*). At this time, for one passenger killed on the railway, nine railway workers suffered fatal injuries.

Throughout this time, the Cardiff Railway Company was meticulous in the recording of accidents. Not only do we see the details of the accident itself, but what happened to the person afterwards. In the later registers there are many instances of workers being taken to the Infirmary, sometimes with reference to the person becoming an outpatient. A visit to the Infirmary or to the Royal Hamadryad Hospital if you were a seafarer, did not always mean days off work as some workers went straight back to work and so 'no time lost' was also recorded.

The same kind of accidents happen time and time again. One of the first things to draw my attention was the number of accidents involving capstans and capstan ropes. Other frequent accidents involved signal and other levers jerking back. In warehouses accidents were caused by trestles and platforms giving way. In workshops, strikers often 'missed the blow' and fingers were caught when the scotch (wedge) placed under a wagon on a turntable moved. Most of these accidents caused bruising.

One way to gauge the seriousness of an accident is to look at the 'number of days lost'. There are instances where someone has fallen from a height and has returned to work the next day and on the other hand a 'slight wound' can result in the person being off work for weeks or months. These were the days before antibiotics so it was not unusual for wounds to become septic. Serious accidents were reported to the 'Factory Inspector' and 'Factory Surgeon'.

The Cardiff Railway Company registers covering the period of the First World War are particularly interesting for women appear for the first time. Almost all the incidents involved the women sustaining cuts or bruises whilst working on the foreshore. What I found unusual is that in each accident, the woman is referred to as a labourer. In the same registers, ages are not recorded but it became apparent that some of the workers were boys as some had accidents whilst 'playing' (or getting into mischief) during their dinner break. Often these boys were messengers who used bicycles to get around the area. As a contrast the registers of the Barry Railway Company records ages and this company employed both women (aged 17-25) and boys (aged 13-16) as locomotive cleaners.

Whilst cataloguing, I have come across at least five accidents involving cans of condensed milk and something else I found unexpected was there were more scalds caused in the process of making tea, than caused by steam powered machinery!

I did come across something very unexpected. One day, a few weeks into the project, I was going through an index of names when suddenly a name caught my attention. There in front of me I saw 'KEAST, Philip'. I knew at once that this was my great-grandfather. What was he doing in a railway accident book? He was a mariner. I found the entry and it confirmed that he was indeed my great grandfather, as he was living in Strathnairn Street and I knew the address. He was 'Master of Hopper' and the date was July 10 1917. The report read:

"While shifting chain to renew platform and chain, the chain hook of the man who was assisting him, slipped and penetrated Keat's right thumb".

Little did I know that I would find my own ancestor amongst the pages for I had no known railway workers among my ancestors!

What is not recorded is that he was 70 years of age at the time. This made me think. How many people of a similar age were working in the docks now that younger men had been called up? At this time, so many men were suffering from falls whether tripping over railway tracks or into pits or holds. I had put it down to inappropriate footwear and working at night, but perhaps it was also something to do with age.

The information from the registers is put on to a spreadsheet which on completion is sent to Chris Heather for checking. He in turn then sends it to be uploaded onto Discovery, The National Archives online catalogue. The general public can access this information at:

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

Chris also sends the data to Dr Mike ESBESTER at the University of Portsmouth, as the information is used in a project documenting the work, life and death of railway workers in the early 20th Century. This information is available at <http://www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk/>

As I write this, it has been 6 months since I last volunteered on site at Kew. Luckily I have been able to continue with the project as Chris has been able to get hold of some digitalised registers. Before too long, I should be back at Kew to finish a Taff Vale Railway Company register which awaits me in the repository! I am grateful to Chris Heather for his helpful advice in compiling this article and also to Dr Mike Esbester for the use of the photos.

THE TRAGIC DEATH OF A SMALL CHILD

#2925 Rachel Hawkins

In 1926 my mother's first cousin, Gwilym HUGHES, and his wife Lizzie lived at 27 Green St, Morriston, Swansea. In those days the back gardens of Green St ran close to the sidings of Morristonn Railway Station, just a low wall and a fence separating them. Gwilym and Lizzie had a two-year old daughter, Glenys Elizabeth. One fateful day Glenys slipped away from her mother's side, climbed the wall, squeezed through a hole in the fence and onto the railway lines. Unfortunately at that time an engine was performing shunting operations. Little Glenys was knocked down by the engine and received terrible injuries. Dr KEMP was called but could only pronounce life to be extinct.

On 15th October 1926 The Cambria Daily Reader published an account of the inquest into the accident, held before the Swansea Borough Coroner, Mr JC MORRIS. A neighbour, Mrs Iorwerth WILLIAMS, told the court that she had been in her garden at the time and had seen the little girl lying on the tracks in the path of an engine engaged in shunting operations. She said she had rushed out, climbed the wall and fence onto the railway and tried desperately to attract the attention of the driver. Despite her shouts however, the engine knocked down the child as she was in the act of regaining her feet.

The engine driver, Mr Richard WILLIAMS of Manselton, and the fireman, Mr Harold W RONALDSTON of Waunwen, both declared they had kept a careful lookout but explained that as the engine overlapped the rails at the point of the accident it would have been impossible to see a small child. Neither had seen Mrs Williams before the accident.

Another witness, Mr James MORRIS, checker, of Glantawe St, Morriston, described how his attention was attracted by the gesticulations of Mrs Williams, but, owing to the fact the deceased could not be seen from where he stood, a little more than 50 yards away, he thought she was attracting his attention to two other children who were standing near the railings. After he had walked along the lines to within 15 feet of the engine he saw the deceased's body. Replying to the coroner the witness said that when children were seen trespassing on the lines they were quickly sent away, and in the cases where the parents were known they were taken to their homes and personally handed over by GWR employees to their parents.

The coroner returned a verdict of accidental death and Chief Divisional Inspector DALTON expressed the Company's deep sympathy to the bereaved parents.

In 1950 Morriston station became Morriston West. On 11 June 1956 it was closed to passengers and closed completely on 4th October 1965. No trace of the station remains today and the site is lost under the A4067 Neath Road.

THE 1943 UNIVERSITY OF WALES BY ELECTION

John P Lethbridge

Introduction

The University of Wales had its own MP from 1918 to 1950 elected by its graduates who thus had a vote in their home constituency and another as a graduate. The other British Universities also had MPs. The 1945-1950 Labour government abolished university MPs but sitting ones remained MPs until the 1950 General Election.

On Sunday 1 November 1942 Sir Thomas Artemus JONES KC retired aged seventy-one from being County Court Judge for North Wales. He was the son of a Denbigh stone mason and quarryman; left school aged eleven; was in turn a newsboy at WH Smith's at Denbigh Railway Station, a journalist, and a barrister; was appointed KC (King's Counsel) in 1919; knighted in 1930; and appointed a judge in 1931. On becoming one he declared that he would hear evidence in Welsh if appropriate despite this being banned by the 1536 Anglo-Welsh Act of Union. He was married but childless.

Sir Thomas Artemus Jones was replaced as North Wales County Court Judge by Ernest EVANS KC who was born in 1885 the son of Evan Evans the Clerk to Cardiganshire County Council; studied at Llandovery College, University of Wales Aberystwyth and Trinity Hall Cambridge getting a first in law; became a barrister in 1910; was a Captain in the Royal Army Service Corps in the First World War; LLOYD GEORGE's private secretary from 1918 to 1920; Liberal MP for Cardiganshire from a 1921 by election to 1923; was elected Liberal MP for the University of Wales in 1924; and was married with three children.

On becoming a judge Ernest Evans KC had to stand down as an MP. During the Second World War an electoral pact between the three main parties meant that at by-elections whichever held the seat prior to it would nominate their own candidate and the other two would not. Despite this there were five candidates at the 25-29 January 1943 University of Wales by-election.

The Professor Candidate: The Liberal candidate Professor William John GRUFFYDD was born in Caernarvonshire on 14 February 1881 a quarryman's son; studied at Caernarvon County School and Jesus College Oxford; taught for a year in Scarborough and two years at Beaumaris Grammar; was appointed a lecturer in Celtic at University of Wales Cardiff in 1906; wrote Welsh poetry and scholarly work; was the 1910 National Eisteddfod Crown Poet; served in the navy in the First World War; and in 1918 was appointed



Professor of Celtic at Cardiff. He claimed to be independent; and supported the Welsh language and the British war effort. Most of the Welsh establishment backed him.

The Merseyside Candidate: John Saunders LEWIS, ie Saunders Lewis, was born on 15 October 1893 at Wallasey, Cheshire, the son of a Calvinistic Methodist minister of Welsh descent; and was educated locally and at Liverpool University. He was a Lieutenant in the South Wales Borderers in the First World War, was badly wounded in 1917 and later served in British intelligence in Greece. He returned to Liverpool University in 1919 and got a first in English. In 1922 he was appointed a lecturer in Welsh at the University of Wales Swansea. In 1924 he married Margaret GILCHRIST a Methodist convert to Catholicism. He too became a Catholic.



In 1925 Saunders Lewis helped found Plaid Cymru. In 1936 the Air Ministry built a bombing range on the Llyn Peninsula despite intense Welsh opposition. He and two other men set fire to it and handed themselves in to the police. A Caernarvon jury failed to agree and the threesome were retried at the Old Bailey and given nine months each. He lost his job and made a thin living as a journalist and writer to support himself, his wife and their daughter.

Saunders Lewis stood for parliament at the 1943 University of Wales by election on a platform of Welsh independence and opposition to the war. However he pointed out that if he was elected it would not affect the British government's conduct of the war.

The Swansea Candidate: Alun Talfan DAVIES was born at Gorseinon near Swansea on 22 July 1913 the son of a Calvinistic Methodist Minister; studied at Gowerton Grammar, the University of Wales Aberystwyth and Cambridge getting a law degree; became a barrister; and in 1942 married Eiluned Christopher WILLIAMS. They were to have a son and three daughters one of whom married the Welsh Rugby international Barry JOHN. One of Alun Talfan Davies's older brothers was the author and broadcaster Aneurin Talfan Davies aka Aneurin ap Talfan.



Alun Talfan Davies, a former Plaid Cymru member, stood as an independent. He wanted the creation of a Secretary of State for Wales and a Welsh Office and eventual devolution; but opposed Welsh independence. He believed

that if religious groups wanted their own schools they should fund them themselves.

The Candidate from the Valleys: Evan DAVIES was born on 4 November 1906 in Gelligaer the son of Lodwig Davies a colliery over-man and studied at Fochriw Primary School; Bargoed Grammar Technical School from 1919 to 1924 where the headmaster was James Silvan EVANS; and the University of Wales Aberystwyth where he studied several subjects graduating in 1929 with a lower second class honours economics degree. He edited the college magazine and was Vice President of the Students' Representative Council.



Evan Davies became a teacher at Bargoed Boys School and on 27 December 1933 married Nancy Caroline EVERSON at Holy Trinity Church Ystrad Mynach. She was the daughter of Osborne Everson, a colliery blacksmith. She was an Aberystwyth graduate and had taught at Castleford Grammar in Yorkshire. They were to have two sons. In 1937 Evan Davies obtained an MA at Aberystwyth with a thesis on the British Iron and Steel Trades since 1920. He was active in the Labour Party and the Workers' Educational Association.

Evan Davies tried to be selected as the Labour candidate at the 4 July 1939 Caerphilly by-election caused by the death of the sitting Labour MP Morgan JONES. The eventual Labour Candidate Ness EDWARDS the Hengoed miners' agent got 19,847 votes. The Conservative candidate Ronald McMillan BELL a barrister got 9,349 votes. By 1943 Evan Davies was a Staff Sergeant at the War Office doing research for the Personnel (Human Resources) Selection Staff. He stood at the 1943 University of Wales election as an Independent Socialist.

The Sheffield Candidate: According to his birth certificate, Oxford records and an Ancestry Tree Neville Lawrence EVANS was born at Sheffield on 13 April 1913 the third child of Daniel Evans a Sheffield milliner and his wife Mary Elizabeth Evans nee LEWIN, both aged forty five. Another Ancestry Tree shows him as born at Sheffield on 13 April 1913 the out of wedlock son of Lieutenant (later Major) William Sandford Evans of the Welsh Regiment and Violet Elinor Spencer Lewin who married on 4 October 1913 in London. This couple were to have two legitimate sons. William Sandford Evans's family owned Evans Medical Supplies Ltd a multinational pharmaceutical company.

Neville Lawrence Evans studied at King Edward VII School at Sheffield and chemistry at Jesus College Oxford graduating in 1936. He was President of

the Leoline Jenkins Scientific Club in 1935-1936 and gave it a paper on *Transition Element Complexes*. By 1939 he was an industrial chemist and lived in London. In 1943 he was working at a government munitions factory. He stood in the 1943 University of Wales by-election as an Independent Socialist who wanted victory and socialism and to be a voice for Wales, learning and youth.

The results

The polls were open at the 1943 University of Wales by-election from Monday 25 January to Friday 29 January. The returning officer was David Emrys EVANS the Principal of Bangor and Vice Chancellor of the University of Wales.

The victorious candidate Professor Gruffydd got 3,098 votes, 52.3% of the total. Saunders Lewis got 1,330 votes, 22.5% of the total, the best result a Plaid Cymru candidate had got up to then. He kept his deposit as did Alun Talfan Davies who got 755 votes, 12.8% of the total. Evan Davies got 644 votes, 10.7% of the total, and lost his deposit as did Neville Lawrence Evans, who got 101 votes, 1.7% of the total. There were some spoilt ballot papers.

Later Events

Professor Gruffydd held his seat at the 1945 General Election. He ceased to be an MP in 1950 after university constituencies were abolished. He returned to literary work and translated Shakespeare's King Lear and Sophocles's Antigone into Welsh. He died at his Caernarvon home on 29 September 1954 aged 73.

Saunders Lewis was appointed a lecturer in Welsh at the University of Wales Cardiff in 1952. He retired in 1957 and helped found the Welsh Language Society. He died on 1 September 1985 in hospital in Cardiff aged 93.

Alun Talfan Davies did law work for the National Union of Mineworkers and was made a QC in 1961. He was three times a Liberal General Election candidate for Welsh seats but lost each time. He was a Circuit Court Judge from 1972 to 1986 and was knighted in 1976. He was Chairman of the Trustees of the Aberfan Fund, which allocated the money raised by public subscription from 1967 to 1990. He died at his Penarth home on 1 November 2000 aged 87.

Evan Davies was appointed Glamorgan County Council Neath Divisional Executive Officer after he was demobilized. He held the post until he retired in 1970 and was prominent in local affairs. He never stood for parliament again. He died in Neath General Hospital on 4 January 1985 aged 78.

Neville Lawrence Evans returned to being an industrial chemist and never stood for parliament again. He died in a London Hospital on 12 January 1983 aged 69. The King Edward VII School in Sheffield is now a comprehensive. It routinely sends pupils to Oxford. Evans Medical Supplies

Ltd after several takeovers beginning in 1961 is part of GlaxoSmithKline, a multinational pharmaceutical company. The Evans Medical Supplies brand disappeared in 1998.

Sources

Professor Gruffydd and Saunders Lewis have Dictionary of National Biography entries and they and Alun Talfan Davies have Who Was Who entries. I must specially thank the Glamorgan Family History Society and Gelligaer Historical Society members who found vital information about Evan Davies; and the Sheffield and District Family History Society members who helped me research Neville Lawrence Evans.

I must also thank the staff at Glamorgan and other archives and libraries; Dr Robin Darwall Smith of Jesus College, Oxford; staff at Aberystwyth University; the WEA Welsh office; the British Newspaper Archive; the General Register Office who have done a tremendous job in terrible times; and Amazon who have made obtaining out of print books much easier.

CADOXTON-JUXTA-BARRY: A JENKINS FAMILY - DIASPORA OR DESTINY: FORTUNE & FATE

Part 1 #6507 John M Annear

JENKIN and SIENCYN as familiar alternatives for the name John were early forenames in Wales, later to become surnames of patronymic origin. The name is commonly found in Glamorgan and Monmouthshire. This article concerns Evan Jenkins (1754-1839), his fifth son Thomas Jenkins (1807-1889), and first generation and some later descendants of the latter in Cardiff and Cadoxton.

Part 1 describes the lives of the first three sons of Thomas and Elizabeth, Part 2 in a future edition will account for their remaining sons, and Part 3 will be their daughters' lives.

Evan Jenkins (1754-1839), baptised at St Cadoc's Church 1754, was a timber squarer, who lived at Stone Cottage in Cadoxton, and on 20th November 1787 he married Mary EVAN who according to family story was 'a widow from Wenvoe with four children', which tale conflated two truths. Mary Evan of Wenvoe was indeed previously married on 13th September 1783 to William RICHARD of Wenvoe, who was buried 16 months later on 6th January 1785 at Cadoxton, but had her four sons by Evan, namely Evan junior (1788-), twins, William (1791-) and Arnold (1791-1850) and John, each baptised at St Cadoc's Church; Mary was buried 9th September 1804 at St Andrews Major Church. Less than four months later, Evan Jenkins senior aged 50 remarried on 31st December 1804 at St Cadoc's to Mary GRIFFITH (1773-1839), daughter of Phillip Griffith and Gwenllian of Cadoxton. Evan Jenkins and Mary (nee Griffith) had a son Thomas Jenkins (1807-1889)

baptised 14th March 1807, and a daughter Anne (1813-1895), baptised 17th January 1813, both at St Cadoc's. Evan Jenkins senior died aged 85 on 20th February 1839, and Mary followed within three months on 3rd May 1839, both buried at St Cadoc's.

So, to repeat, it is Thomas Jenkins, his family and immediate descendants' families and subsequent descendants, who maintained a link with Cadoxton, that this article is about. At age 19 on 19th July 1826 Thomas Jenkins married at St Cadoc's to Elizabeth VENTRIS aged 21, daughter of George Ventriss and Mary (nee WENMOTH). The Ventures, Venters, or Ventriss family were seafarers, sailing on the winds, originating from the central Mediterranean, especially the Naples area of Italy, and Malta. In the early 18th century Nicholas Ventres had settled in Lanteglos-by-Fowey and later Fowey on either side of that estuary in mid-Cornwall.

At first seagoing mariners, two generations later saw George Ventriss (1779-1855) becoming a Customs House Officer at Polruan, and he married on the 18th May 1802 at Boconnoc Chapel and Parish Church Mary Wenmoth with whom he had three daughters and two sons. In the early 1820s George Ventriss transferred to Glamorgan to cover the coast from Sully to Aberthaw, together with his family except for eldest daughter Anne who had married in Lanteglos. Both daughters, Elizabeth and Anne, married on 19th July and 18th October 1826 respectively to Thomas Jenkins and William BROCK, of whom more later. By the early 1830s, George Ventriss once again transferred, this time to Rochford in Essex where he was the Superannuated Coast Officer. He took with him his two sons who became Master Tailors there. His wife Mary died and George remarried to Mary Anne SKIRRALL (1816-). In later life George returned to Plymouth, where he died from liver disease aged 75 on 21st January 1855. Of the Ventrisses, with a history of a bastardy order and birth of a 'base child' in Cornwall, and the fairly rapid marital arrangements of his two daughters, is there a hint of impulsivity?

Thomas and Elizabeth Jenkins removed from Rock Cottage in Cadoxton between 1831 and 1834 to Cardiff, to Little Frederick Street in 1841, and then to Love Lane by 1851, Wellington Street by 1861, and finally to Stone Cottage in Severn Road, Canton, Cardiff. Thomas was a Master Stone Builder and Mason, though he retained a twelve-acre farm in Cadoxton, and owned in Cardiff Canton many leasehold and freehold properties, including three cottages at Dinas Powys, Rock Cottage with land including the old pound in Cadoxton, Pencotri house garden and meadows, Bridgewalls field, the blacksmiths shop, and three cottages. All these are detailed in his Will for distribution, including charges against some, in favour of his two sons who had emigrated and the offspring of the two sons who were deceased.

Elizabeth died aged 73 on 20th December 1878, Thomas aged 82 on 16th July 1889, both at Stone Cottage, Severn Road, Cardiff, though buried at St Cadoc's in Cadoxton. Thomas was later described as 'fairly well-to-do, but he believed in giving his sons a sound education as well as setting them to a trade'; he also had a flair for detail.

The first three of Thomas and Elizabeth's nine sons and two daughters were born in Cadoxton, the remainder in Cardiff. George Jenkins (1827-1859) was apprenticed at age 14 as a tailor at the house of William LEWIS. He was married aged 23 on 19th June 1851 at Bethany Baptist Chapel in St Mary Street to Jane TAMPLIN aged 22, a barmaid, a daughter of John Tamplin, a shipping pilot, and they had a son and three daughters. George changed his trade to become a Shipbrokers' Clerk and later Agent, until tragedy struck on 22nd February 1859. The 'Black Eagle' was a steam tug belonging to Thames Steam Towing Company, and had the boiler parts supplied at Deptford. She was inspected several times during 1857 and 1858 when 'as far as we can learn, everything that was requisite to be done was done', according to local records. The boiler had been represented as comparatively new and externally appearing to be perfect, so the Black Eagle was purchased by Thomas Elliott, a Ship's Master, on 14th February 1859 from Victoria Dock, Blackwall.

With a crew of eight she set out on 18th February, via Falmouth, reaching Cardiff Docks on 22nd February, when the Deputy Dock Master immediately ordered that she tug out the 'Milo of Sunderland'. The tug went ahead with such violence that the pilot halloed to stop lest the vessel strike the dock gates, whereupon the tug's engine was stopped, ceased to steam, and the next moment exploded, filling the surrounding air with blast tubes, pieces of iron and wood weighing up to 1cwt, up to a distance of 150 yards. A crowd had gathered on the pier to watch the supposedly 'new' tug's arrival, many of which were injured. All eight on board were killed, including George Jenkins, who could not be identified until the next afternoon; six were seriously injured; and others less so. A month later the coroner's verdict cited inefficiency and the fracturing of the boiler stays of bar iron, their brackets, and badly fitted connecting pins. The boiler itself was of good Staffordshire plate, though worn; the safety valves were of primitive style, yet not under control of the Board of Trade as 'Black Eagle' was not a passenger vessel. After a long voyage the water within was below its safety level and the boiler tubes salted up, so that when fresh water was pumped in the indications on the gauge became invisible, and as cold water came into contact with hot plates more steam was generated than the safety valves could cope with. A later account said the valve had been shut off because of the noise. George Jenkins was buried in Cardiff; his widow died at Roath aged 85 on 1st July 1894, buried at Cadoxton.

Thomas and Elizabeth's second son, Evan Jenkins (1829-1874), was born on 1st December 1829 at Cadoxton, and he became a sailor who early on sailed to South America and to India as ship's carpenter, and latterly second mate. He emigrated in the early 1850s to Australia, where at first he tried his luck at the Victoria Gold Diggings, but he soon returned to his trade as shipwright at Fletcher's Slips in Port Adelaide, and was offered the chance to complete the vacated construction of a boat at Goolwa on the Murray River, which he fashioned into a schooner 'The Lady of the Lake'.

He was married on 18th February 1855 at St Paul's Church Port Adelaide to Rebecca Anne CLARK, born 1833 to a Dublin Book Publisher and who had migrated in 1851. At first they lived in Queenstown, Port Adelaide, then in 1866 they moved to Port Victor at Encounter Bay. They had four daughters and three sons.

Having been offered an interest in the 'Gem', a coastal trading vessel originally built at Cowes IOW, registered in 1835 and able to carry over 80 tons, Evan passed the Trinity Board examination for Master's Certificate on 17th September 1856, and entered into partnership as McCoy and Jenkins. For some years he was Captain of 'Gem', sailing between Port Adelaide via Bluff and Rosetta Head to Port Elliott, conveying more than enough of the wheat that South Australia could consume. The firm then bought the 'Gulnare', built in British North America, registered in 1856, of 151 tons, which sailed from London, accompanied by Evan's younger brother, Nicholas Jenkins, of whom more later. Evan moved with his family to Encounter Bay, where he became the Captain of the 'Gulnare' sailing from Port Victor to Melbourne and sometimes extending on to Sydney and Brisbane; the firm also owned the 'Crinoline', a schooner used as a whaling boat, though with limited success. After both boats were sold, the firm purchased the 'Omega', but this foundered on an uncharted rock off King Island. In early 1870 he purchased and captained the schooner 'Engelbert', built in Bremen 1863 of 245 tons and able to carry 400 tons. His sailings took him from Adelaide to Sydney or Newcastle in Australia, to Banjoewanjee in Java, to Mauritius, to Foo Chow, a free port 25 miles upstream on River Min Jiang in China, and to Amoy or Formosa, conveying variously coal, wheat, rice or tea, carrying ship mails and often a few passengers. So proud was Evan of the 'Engelbert' that his youngest daughter, born 6th December 1872, was named Ethel Engelbert Jenkins.

On 21st September 1873 'Engelbert' departed from Foo Chow for Sydney carrying tea, and was last seen on 27th September, six days later. She should have arrived at Sydney during November or December and by February 1874 'little hopes are entertained for the safety of the Engelbert', which was finally declared lost in September 1874. As her freight, the ship, and Captain Jenkins' life were well insured, investment for his family was

comfortably made in the Bank of Adelaide. The family remained at Encounter Bay; Rebecca died aged 68 on 6th January 1902 at Frederick Street, New Parkside, Adelaide. Of Evan's many descendants, a grandson and namesake fought in France during World War I.

A third son of Thomas and Elizabeth Jenkins was Thomas Jenkins (1831-1848), born 13th January 1831 at Cadoxton, who died aged 17 of typhoid fever on 20th September 1848, buried at Cadoxton.

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Articles for inclusion in the journal should be sent **via email** to editor@glamfhs.org.uk.

It is important to quote the sources used so that other members can benefit from your research findings. Articles should be approximately 1000-1500 words in length. We reserve the right to serialise articles which are over a certain length.

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BOOK REVIEW

William Morgan, Eighteenth Century Actuary, Mathematician and Radical

To paraphrase the publisher's notes, to read about William Morgan is to 'encounter the 18th century world of finance, science and politics'. He was a Welshman born in Bridgend, but his influence extended far beyond national borders producing a legacy that continues into the present time. At the age of only 25 he became an actuary at the Equitable Life Assurance Company, a position he was to hold for over 50 years and which gave him the informal title of the father of the actuarial profession. He was also deeply interested in the scientific experiments that were taking place in this period of Enlightenment, and his own experiments with electricity led to the construction of the first X-ray tube. He was the nephew of Richard Price, and like his uncle, a radical with ideas that put him at

risk of imprisonment during Pitt's Reign of Terror. William Morgan was also the great-great-great-grandfather of the author, Nicola Bruton Bennetts, and the reader gets an immediate feeling of the love and respect with which she held William. This remarkable life is extremely well-researched, well-illustrated, and gives a fascinating picture of a clever, kindly, warm-hearted man of whom any family would be proud.

Paperback, ISBN 978-1-78683-618-2, 258 pages £14.99. University of Wales Press, Cardiff, www.uwp.co.uk

Jean Fowlds

Editor's note: This year has seen several letters to the editor resulting in contact with long-lost relatives and knowledge of new resources for the researcher, so please do keep your letters and requests coming as you never know what (or who) will turn up.

- Please note we do not include requests for information about living people, the usual research methods should be undertaken to identify possible relatives before contacting them via post in the first instance.
- Due to data protection and privacy regulations we do not publish personal details ie postal or email addresses in the journal.

HELP WANTED

#20555 David Murphy: With reference to the proposed theme of the London Welsh for the March 2021 edition: the following isn't an article, but more of a question/request for help. I know my Great Grandfather - James Vincent MURPHY - was born in Merthyr Tydfil in 1882 and that he was in London in 1899 and had been living there at 3 Malden Road, Kentish Town, London, Middlesex (for 12 months or more) and had been working for a Mr DAVIS of 8 Haverstock Hill, London, as a Labourer, according to his Attestation papers when he joined the Middlesex Regiment and went to serve in South Africa. I know he returned to Wales in 1900 and married in Dowlais in 1901 and had then moved to Pontycymer by 1911. My questions are; What 'area' of London did the majority of Welsh people live in London, would it have been Kentish Town? Would anyone know if Mr Davis was Welsh and if so what his business was?

#3489 Len Cooke: My Father: Leonard Glyndwr COOKE (1912-1992) formerly of Kenfig Hill. Glamorgan was for many years in the 1960s & 70s a competition team member of the St John's Ambulance Brigade, Kenfig Hill; and of his colliery (Pentre Slant/Aberbaiden, Mid Glamorgan). Both teams entered and won national 'ambulance team competitions', including at the Welsh National Eisteddfodau. He also taught the junior members of the brigade for many years. His service to the Brigade was recognised when he was elected as a "Serving Brother". I want to include some of the details of this service in our family history. For the past four years I have been emailing the Welsh Office of the St John's Ambulance Brigade, Cardiff. Apart from the generic email (We have received...) reply to the first email, I have not received any further responses. I would be pleased if any member, who has successfully got the type of information I want from the St John's Ambulance Brigade, Welsh Office, or any other useful sources, could send me their sources' details and approach.

#551 Robert Graham Williams: With the forthcoming issue of the 2021 journal, can I please add a lookup into the following: Doctor Evan JONES of "Doctors Commons" London married Catherine BURNELL, the daughter of Richard BURNELL of Newton Nottage Glamorgan on 31/12/1804. Doctor JONES had acquired much land in Newton Nottage. They lived at Clevis House. Newton Nottage, before moving to London around 1847. I have them in the 1851 census with their many children in London, and some of them later carried on as Doctors and Pharmacists. I would like to know what happened to the members of this family after 1851? The above Richard BURNELL [died in 1811] was my 5x great grandfather.

SOCIETY NEWS & REPORTS

ABERDARE/CYNON VALLEY BRANCH

We hope all our members are keeping safe and well. 2020 certainly turned out to be a very difficult year for everyone. The year started off well, we had a new venue and had some very good guest speakers, but unfortunately as for everyone else Covid-19 has seen an end to our plans.

Various dates were looked at to hold our AGM but return to lockdown and the museum being closed made this impossible. As we were unable to hold our AGM the current branch committee agreed to remain in their current positions as follows:

Chair - vacant

Vice chair – Wendy Bennett

Secretary – Pat Rees

Meetings and Social – Haydn Williams

Projects – David Barnard

Treasurer – David Barnard is holding this position on a temporary basis due to the resignation of Margaret Rees.

We are very grateful to David for stepping into this position enabling us to submit our Branch Accounts. Also I represent the branch as a branch trustee on the Executive Committee for the Society.

We are very grateful to our members who continued to work on the Brynngaer Cemetery project last year which is now coming to an end. We have other projects which we are hoping to start this year information on these will be sent out to members once we are allowed to meet up again.

However In the meantime as we are unable to re-commence our meetings if any one requires help with their research please do not hesitate to contact me on the e-mail address below. We look forward to the time when we can meet up again, in the meantime keep safe everyone, hope to see you soon.

Pat Rees, Aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk

ABERKENFIG RESOURCE CENTRE (ARC) REPORT

The ARC remains closed to visitors for the foreseeable future. The situation with Covid-19 is being monitored and along with Government Policy/Advice a decision to reopen will be made when it is considered safe.

While the ARC remains closed our volunteers are still available to help you with research. To make accessing help and advice easier for you a "VIRTUAL

HELP DESK” has been set up on the website www.glamfhs.org.uk. Just click on the link, complete the form and your request will be forwarded to an appropriate volunteer. We are also still processing orders via Genfair www.genfair.co.uk as we know you are all using this lockdown to tackle those Brickwalls!

Our volunteers continue to work from home, the largest project at the moment is updating our publications to comply with GDPR (Data Protection) this will, unfortunately take some time due to the limited number of volunteers we have at this time.

We hope you are keeping safe and well and look forward to hearing from you via the “Help Desk” soon.

BRIDGEND BRANCH

Well I hope everyone is well and safe, waiting for their jobs so that we may eventually return to our meetings although as yet we are not able to provide a date when this will be possible. Any way a bit belatedly Happy New Year. The Bridgend Branch continue to be kept updated with regular newsletters. Should you have any questions or research queries the “Virtual Help” button on the website remains available.

Nancy Thomas, bridgend@glamfhs.org.uk

CARDIFF & VALE BRANCH REPORT

It is great to see that the Covid-19 vaccination programme is being rolled out but just where you are on the priority list is dependent on so many factors. So, with the ever-ongoing uncertainty on what rules will be in place and just for how long or how many lockdowns there are going to be, what meeting numbers will be allowed, social distancing etc, the Cardiff branch committee has decided that we will continue to meet online until and including July 2021. We regularly review the idea of being able to meet in person and are looking forward to the day when that might happen safely.

The last few months have been busy with our various monthly Zoom sessions,

- on the first Tuesday of the month we meet for our branch talk
- Saturdays (either the first or second of the month) the morning ‘Brickwall’ session and then on
- the third Thursday for our ‘Coffee and Chat family history’.

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

newsletter. Places are limited, so if something catches your eye do book straight away as the last few talks have been 'sold out'.

For December, with the anticipation of the Christmas and New Year rerun of films, we had invited Jeremy Konsbruck to present his research on '*Stars in Battledress*'. Joined by participants from Missouri, USA and the Gold Coast, Australia we certainly had our knowledge tested in recognising the stars of screen in their military attire. Thrown into the mix was the German Shepherd dog Rin-Tin-Tin and Winnipeg/Winnie the female black bear that lived at London Zoo from 1915 until her death in 1934. She had been rescued by Canadian cavalry veterinarian Harry Colebourn. 'Winnie' was the inspiration for AA Milne's character Winnie-the-Pooh. As ever, this was an extremely well-researched and illustrated talk, thank you Jeremy.

At our biggest online session to date we had 73 participants, including a lady from Rhode Island (USA) and a member in Canada join us in January to listen to Dean Powell and his very engaging talk on '*History of the Hilltop*'. For those who had never been to Llantrisant, and even for those who knew a bit before, this was a truly enlightening presentation on a town that has a mace even older than the one used in the House of Commons. A history that includes the Welsh bowmen who were able to fire 14 or 15 arrows a minute at the Battle of Crecy (1346), the stunning Edward Burne-Jones window in the local parish church, the local colourful characters including Dr William Price and the very interesting 300-year-old custom of "Beating the Bounds" which is held every seven years.

Our November '*Coffee and Chat family history*' session had the theme of Family History software was very enlightening. In December we talked about military history research. Thank you very much to everyone who has attended and participated. The sessions have proved to be very informative and are a great forum for asking questions and exchanging knowledge. We only make 25 tickets available for these sessions so that everyone hopefully gets a chance to participate.

Our December Brickwall session '*Flying High: My ancestor was a WWII pilot*' was postponed and will hopefully be rearranged for later this year when Nick Davey has fully recovered. We started 2021 with Jeff Coleman as our January speaker who gave us plenty of useful suggestions and resources in his session '*Thinking outside the box: The elusive ancestor*'. It was great to meet our members scattered around the UK but also to have participants from Colorado (USA) and Cape Town (South Africa).

Further details of all the sessions will be circulated via the Branch & Society monthly newsletters. You can follow the branch via Twitter: @Cardiff_GFHS. See inside back cover for a list of the forthcoming talks, brickwall and coffee and chat sessions.

Sully Group

While the Old School remains closed Sully Group meetings have been replaced for the time being by the online Coffee and Chat sessions on the third Thursday each month.

Jane Graves, cardiff@glamfhs.org.uk

MERTHYR TYDFIL BRANCH

The Merthyr Branch has to come clean and admit to having had an AGM and meeting on 8th December. We were only able to do this as we meet in Canolfan Soar, the Welsh Centre in the town centre that includes a theatre, café bar, book shop, teaching rooms and flexible meeting and conference facilities. Soar had already successfully hosted meetings after lockdown following very strict rules and procedures. We were not able to advertise our meeting as numbers had to be very limited, members were invited who had expressed a wish to attend a meeting. The AGM was remarkably brief, confirming no change in the committee and circulating an account of healthy branch finances. We were fortunate in having a wonderful, well-illustrated talk by Carl Llewellyn on the Italians in Wales and Merthyr Tydfil in particular. Carl had undertaken a great deal of research and his talk was very popular, one of his very best and he has many excellent talks. When the Berni family were prosecuted in the 1890s for selling ice cream on a Sunday in December the judge dismissed the case laughing that the people of Merthyr were very hardy to eat ice cream on an exceptionally cold winter day. The meeting included two ladies in their nineties who greatly enjoyed the talk, even with all windows wide open in December, showing that Merthyr people are still robust and capable of enduring difficult conditions!

Under present circumstances there can be no settled plans to hold another meeting, however, like other societies who hold their meetings in Soar, the Merthyr Tydfil Historical Society, the WEA and the Opera Appreciation Society etc, we hope to resume talks by Easter. We are grateful to the staff in Soar for their considerate, thoughtful and professional service.

.Carolyn Jacob, merthyr@glamfhs.org.uk

PONTYPRIDD AND RHONDDA

Not a lot to report unfortunately, and we are still unable to meet mainly because of the Covid restrictions. We have just heard however that the Museum has heating now, and work on its repair should be starting soon, but they don't expect to be functioning until late April/early May, depending on the Covid situation. They have been looking at the state of the river and it is very high at the moment (end January), so we are crossing fingers it doesn't get any higher.

Future events for us at the moment, and I presume other branches too, are all Zoom-related - please see the website and monthly GFHS newsletters.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Online Zoom Meetings

Date	Time	Title
Tues 2 March	7.30 pm	The Broken Banch: Name Changes in Family History – Ian Waller
Sat 6 March	2 p m	Society AGM & Speaker - Darris Williams, Family Search
Sat 13 March	11-12	Battalions and Brigadiers? Interpreting Military Records – Jeremy Konsbruck
Thurs 18 Mar	7-8 pm	Coffee & Chat
Tues 13 April	7.30 pm	Ship to Shore – Tracing Seagoing Ancestors - Dr Janet Few
Sat 17 April	11-12	“Well I didn’t know that!” How searching online newspapers can reveal a surprising wealth of information about our ancestors and their lives – Sue Hamer
Thurs 22 April	7-8 pm	Coffee & Chat
Tues 4 May	7.30 pm	Edith Cavell, my Mum & me - Anthony Hughes
Thurs 20 May	7-8 pm	Coffee & Chat
Tues 1 Jun	7.30 pm	Tracing a House History - Gill Blanchard
Thurs 17 Jun	7-8 pm	Coffee & Chat
Tues 6 Jul	7.30 pm	TBC Prof Rebecca Probert
Thurs 15 July	7-8 pm	Coffee & Chat

Saturday 20 February (10–4) Family History Show Online
<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online/>

25-27 February - Rootstech Connect – Online
www.rootstech.org

Saturday 10 April – The Really Useful Show Online
<https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/>

Friday/Saturday 25/26 June
 The Genealogy Show – Virtual Event

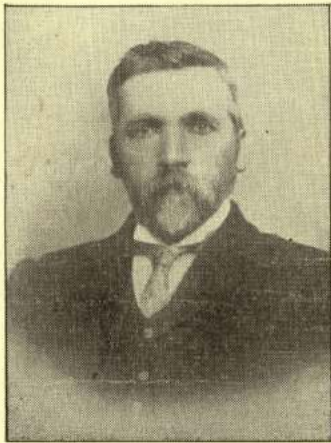
Updates on other events are available on GENEVA
<http://geneva.weald.org.uk/>

Next page - David Evans, the Man to Vote For!



VOTE FOR EVANS,
WHO HAS SERVED YOU FAITHFULLY.

VOTE FOR EVANS.



VOTE FOR EVANS,
THE MAN TO VOTE FOR.
(SEE OTHER SIDE)

PONTYPRIDD
District Council Election.

TREFOREST WARD.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

If you consider that I have carried out my duties as your representative for the past 9 Years, to the Best Advantage, then I Respectfully Solicit your Vote on Monday, the 4th day of April.

Please mark the Ballot Paper thus:

1	DAVIES, D. L.	
2	EVANS, D.	X

Do not spoil your Vote by putting two x's.

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