



Glamorgan Family History Society

Cymdeithas Hanes

Teuluol Morgannwg



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Isaac TUCKER, "Gwen Witham, her father and grandfather", p. 20

Front Page: Charabanc outings, Porthcawl and Aberkenfig
 – Western Valleys driven by Ivor Tucker

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Society's Objectives © Glamorgan Family History Society

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

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

SOCIETY OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: *Gwyn Rhys*

Vice President: *Diane Brook*

Executive Committee & Society Trustees

Chairman

chairman@glamfhs.org.uk

Meic Jones

44 Hendrecafn Rd, Penygraig, RCT, CF40 1LL

Vice Chairman

Sue Hamer

Secretary/Events Coordinator

secretary@glamfhs.org.uk

Jane Jones

44 Hendrecafn Rd, Penygraig, RCT, CF40 1LL

Treasurer

VACANT

Executive Committee Members:

Ian Black, Nancy Thomas

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



Membership Team

membership@glamfhs.org.uk

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

Editor

editor@glamfhs.org.uk

Jean Fowlds

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

Website website@glamfhs.org.uk

Sue Hamer

Branch Secretaries/Contacts

Aberdare & Cynon Valley

aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk

Mrs Pat Rees ☎ 01685 875528

Bridgend Secretary

bridgend@glamfhs.org.uk

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

Cardiff Programme:

cardiff@glamfhs.org.uk

Jane Graves, 22 Angelica Way, Thornhill, Cardiff,
CF14 9FJ ☎ 07952 098181

Merthyr Secretary

merthyr@glamfhs.org.uk

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

Pontypridd & Rhondda

rhondda@glamfhs.org.uk

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

Swansea Secretary

swansea@glamfhs.org.uk

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

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

EDITORIAL

Welcome to a Summer that hopefully will be a bit more relaxed than last year's now that we can see the 'beginning of the end' of this dreadful disease.

Many thanks must be given to all our contributors, who have sent in such varied and interesting accounts of families and personalities. In this edition we have families from Cowbridge, Merthyr, Rhondda and Neath, a dreadful pit disaster affecting so many fathers and sons, accounts of a young football team and an old professional, and some politics and chess for the contrast. There is also the story of the 'Cardiff Giant' billed as 'the tallest man in the world', or at least the tallest man in Britain, with references for further reading. Therefore a good read and I hope you will enjoy it.

Included in the Contents are two stories about women who led very different lives, and the thinking is that there must be many more like them in families one hundred years or so ago, women who did not settle for the expected humdrum life of marriage and children and looking after men, but who carved their own way in the world, and like Margaret BEVAN in the article, left their mark. Others like Blodwen JENKINS led a very different life, in service to another family, but both are to be recognised for having led worthy lives.

Therefore we would like to hear more of these women: if you have anyone in your family or friendship groups who you can write about, please let us have your stories for the September issue - deadline July 20th, around 1500 words.

Response during lockdown has been great - please continue delving into archives, albums and family collections!

Have a great Summer!

Jean Fowlds, editor@glamfhs.org.uk

Don't miss the 'Cut-Off Dates'

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

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

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It was wonderful to see so many long term members at our first online Annual General Meeting in March. Over 80 attended from all over the world, the most attendees for a long time, so definitely something we hope to continue into the future being able to involve our non-local members. We also enjoyed Darris G Williams' talk that followed the AGM about using Family Search. Darris joined us from Utah where it was 7 am. He took us around the website and showed us many features we were not aware of and the many questions that followed elicited even further hints and tips.

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. Although some of the restrictions have been lifted here in South Wales, indoor gatherings are still restricted in number and so it is difficult to plan to return to face to face meetings at some of our venues due to their size and the difficulty of social distancing. See individual branch reports for further information.

With our Resource Centre at Abekenfig also still closed for the foreseeable future we are considering organising one to one help sessions via Zoom on a Wednesday morning. Anyone interested in volunteering to help provide this for members please get in touch so that a rota can be set up. The sessions will be approx 40 mins long. Further information will be available via the monthly Mailchimp Newsletter when we are ready to take bookings. Members will need to email in their 'brickwall' before the session so that initial research can be done before the 'live' face to face session takes place. Volunteers will also be available to answer queries at the Family History Show 'Online' on Saturday 19 June.

The online talks, Beginners/Brickwall and Coffee & Chat sessions organised by Cardiff & Vale Branch are now being planned for the Autumn and Winter. See inside back cover for June and July sessions.

Some Societies and branches are offering outside events, such as heritage walks, during the summer months. 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 May 2021

SOCIETY TREASURER & TRUSTEES NEEDED

We are currently without a Society Treasurer since the retirement of Nick Davey at the AGM on 29 February 2020.

A couple of volunteers have come forward to help with the website administration and a Finance Team has been set up to undertake the day to day financial administration. Sue Hamer will continue to be the Trustee responsible for overseeing the Finance Team until a new Treasurer is appointed.

As we have also now included a maximum of five years for each Society Officer to continue in that role before taking a break we are also looking to appoint some new Trustees to start to learn some of the vital Society roles. There are currently three vacancies for ordinary Executive Committee Members. As the Executive Committee Meetings take place via Zoom there is no need for Trustees to be based in South Wales.

For further information please contact:
Meic Jones chairman@glamfhs.org.uk

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

It is useful if you can quote the sources used so that other members can benefit from your research findings. Articles should be approximately 1000-1500 words in length. We reserve the right to serialise articles which are over a certain length. Contributors should ensure, if submitting images and documents, that they have obtained the permission of the copyright holder(s).

The copyright holder of digital images used on websites will be different to the original copyright holder and their permission is also needed to enable us to reproduce the digital image in the journal. The Editor reserves the right to remove any images from articles where permission to use has not been obtained.

September theme – Women's stories
Deadline – 20 July

A ROBERTS FAMILY IN COWBRIDGE

#10499 Alan Tyler

It is not known when William ROBERTS and his wife Ann(e) ANDERSON moved to Cowbridge, or for that matter, where they were married. As far as one can tell it was not in Glamorgan or in Monmouthshire.

According to the census information of 1851/61, and his gravestone, William was born in 1803, which would match the baptism of the son of John Roberts & Winnifred at Holy Trinity, Gosport, Hants 26 February 1804.

Using the same sources Ann was born in 1806 at Newport, Monmouthshire, but therein lies another problem. There was an Ann, daughter of Robert Anderson and Mary (ALEXANDER) baptised at St Cybi's, Llangybi on 18 March 1810, the same day as her sister Eliza; but another sister, Sarah, had been baptised there on 25 April 1809. Interesting!

Between 1826 and 1848 William and Ann had 10 children - 3 sons: Thomas, William and John, plus 7 daughters Ann, Mary, Margaret, Eliza, Jane and Ellen (who was registered as Eleanor). All of them were baptised at the parish church in Cowbridge which at the time was known as St Mary's. It would appear that the dedication of Cowbridge church to St Mary was a 19th century invention, the first written reference by that name being in 1835; it reverted to its original dedication of Holy Cross during the 1920s (*Hopkin-James 1922, 148*).

William Robert's occupation on the baptism entries of his first four children is given as nailer and also when John's birth was registered, but when John was baptised William's occupation is given as tinman. At other times his occupation was variously given as tin plate maker and plumber.

Unfortunately the 1841 census returns for Cowbridge do not survive. In 1851 the family were living at Chapel Row, The Limes, where, in addition to William and Ann, the household included their eldest, Thomas, by then a journeyman tailor, John and the four youngest girls (*HO107/2401/362*). Ten years later the family are recorded as living at a property in High Street by which time Thomas had married (*RG09/4075/8/10*).

Thomas married Margaret JOHN in June Qtr 1853 (*Bridgend 11a 644*) and in 1861 the family was living in West Village (Westgate Street) by which time the couple had four daughters; Mary Anne, Margaret, Elizabeth and Ada Leigh. A fifth daughter, Jennett, was born in 1863 but Margaret died the next year. Thomas re-married soon after to Ellen ROBERTS and they

had two more children, William and Winifred. By 1871 Thomas was a widower again living at Town Hall Buildings, High Street, Cowbridge, with his eldest daughter Mary Ann as his housekeeper and his youngest children (RG10/5416/20/12).

Ann Roberts died 6 March 1862, the cause being given as passive hæmorrhagia, and was buried on 10 March in the churchyard. William died on 6 November 1868, probably of bowel/stomach cancer, and was buried with Ann three days later (*Mustoe 1992, 164*). His will was proved at Llandaff 9 January 1869; effects under £300.

John Roberts, the seventh child/youngest son, married Ellen COLLINS 5 June 1865 at the Register Office in Cardiff, witnessed by Ann PHILLIPS & Catherine Collins. John's address was given as 17 Wellington Street, Canton while Ellen's was Pontcanna, Llandaff, Cardiff. Ellen's parents were Thomas Collins and Ann YORATH who lived at 3 Tunnel, Cardiff, a terrace of houses that stood on the site of the Queen's Arcade. Thomas was the keeper of the Crockherbtown Lock on the Glamorganshire Canal, located on the north side of Queen Street, as his father George had been (*Rowson & Wright 2004, 158 & 240*). Thomas and Ann had married on 10 February 1838 at Y Tabernacl, The Hayes, Cardiff, and Ellen, born 17 June 1843, was the third of their five children, Hannah, Mary, George and Catherine being the others.

Thomas died of bronchitis on 1 February 1851 and after the census of that year there is no further information on Ann; it seems likely that she re-married, as at the time she had five children aged 12 years and under. Ellen was included in the 1861 census as a general servant at Tyn y caia (Tyn y Caeau), a farm in Llanblethian parish south-east of Cowbridge (RG09/4075/39).

Between 1866 and 1887 John and Ellen had 10 children - 4 sons William, Lewis, Frederick and George, plus 6 daughters Annie Louisa, Bertha, Mary, Hannah (registered as Anna), Ellen and Ethel. All except Annie Louisa were born in Cowbridge but all were baptised at the parish church. Why Annie Louisa was born in Pontypridd in early 1868 can only be guessed - perhaps that was where Ellen's mother was then living. At the time of William's birth the family residence is given as 'near the Westgate' but thereafter they lived in East Village - now Eastgate Street. Like his elder brother, John was a journeyman tailor who, according to family legend, specialised in coats and waistcoats. William, the eldest son, died aged 2 in July 1868. George aged 3 and his younger sister, Ellen, aged 10 months, both died in the spring of 1886. Lewis, the sixth child/second son, did not marry and died in July 1904. Ellen died of 'natural causes' on 7 August 1901 at East Village and was buried in the churchyard 3 days later.

John died 29 February 1908 of cancer also at East Village and was buried with Ellen on 4 March. Is the curbed grave with no headstone, to the south of that of Anne and William Roberts, the grave of John and Ellen Roberts?

Bertha Roberts, third child/second daughter, was born towards the end of 1870 but was baptised along with Mary on 13 July 1873 who had been born on 15 June. She married Wybert THOMAS, a mason & general builder, who became Mayor of Cowbridge in 1921 & 1922. They had six children - three daughters: Bertha Cordellia, Emily Annie and Marjorie Ellen (registered as Marjorie Helen) plus three sons: Sidney Wybert, John Philip and Colin Rousby. Bertha died 25 August 1906 aged 34 and was the first to be buried in the family plot in the churchyard; she was followed less than a year later by her daughter Emily Annie aged 12. The Deceased Wife's Sister's Marriage Act had been passed in 1907, so Wybert was able to marry Bertha's younger sister, Ethel, in July 1909 but she died, at Old Druid House, East End (Eastgate Street), on 7 December 1910 aged 23. In April 1911 Annie Louisa, elder sister to Bertha and Ethel, was listed as housekeeper to the Thomas family (*RG14/32555/57*) but on 16 August Wybert married Sarah TILLING/TELLING, a widow, at St Mary's, Nolton, Coity. The youngest son of Wybert and Bertha, Colin Rousby, died the following year on 24 November 1912 aged 10. Annie Louisa, who spent much of her life 'in service', died at 59 Eastgate Street and was buried 5 April 1923.

Frederick Roberts, seventh child/third son, married Elizabeth Mary BROWN, a midwife, in 1907 (Sept Qtr 1907 Bridgend 11a 1482). According to the 1911 census they were living at 59 Eastgate Street with their two children Frances Ellen (2) and Lewis (9 months). His occupation was given as GPO wireman (*RG14/3255/70*). According to family legend Frederick saw service during WWI 'in Egypt' but no relevant records have come to light. In September 1939 they were living across the road at 44 Eastgate Street, their occupations being noted as GPO Engineering Dept and Invalid and Relief County Midwife (*RG101/7326B/003/30*). Their daughter Francis Ellen who had married Aubrey DAVIES in 1926 and their son David also lived there. Lewis Roberts had died 21 May 1938 and Frederick died 2 April 1953 both are buried in the town cemetery.

As noted above Mary Roberts was born 15 June 1873 in East Village and baptised at St Mary's on 13 July. Mary was recorded in the 1881 census as a scholar living at home in East Village (*RG11/5329/20/34*) and ten years later, she was listed as a housemaid (domestic) living-in at The Cross, Llanblethian, the residence of Frederick William DUNN and his family (*RG12/4453/35/9*). For some years between 1891 and 1901 Mary worked as a cook to the Vatchell family at Verlands House, Llanblethian. A photograph, now in Glamorgan Archives, of all the indoor and outdoor staff

with each of them holding 'a tool of their trade' includes Mary holding a frying pan. Mary married George Charles SHEPHERD, a Royal Marine, at St Mary's Church, Cowbridge, on 9 January 1900; her father and three of her siblings were the witnesses. Just over four weeks later George left the UK and transferred to the Hong Kong Police. Mary continued in service; the census of 1901 recording her as the cook in the household of Elsie W SHEPERD (aka Mrs Doctor Sheperd) at Dynevor Cottage, just outside the South Gate of Cowbridge (RG13/5047/21/33). George and Mary's daughter Lucy Ellen was born 2 May 1906 at 5 Church Street, Cowbridge and was baptised 10 June. At the census of 1911 Mary duly recorded herself aged 37 married 11 years with a daughter aged 4 living at 5 Church Street, Cowbridge, which had 5 rooms (RG14/32555/203). George returned to the UK on 21 April 1911 for six months home leave and met his daughter Lucy who had been born following his previous home leave in 1905. George died 29 September 1911 at 5 Church Street, Cowbridge, and was buried 4 days later in the churchyard. Mary never remarried and following her own death at 59 Eastgate Street, Cowbridge, on 15 March 1955 she was buried with her husband. Their grave is now unmarked; the headstone having been re-located.

Finally, if any other members can add further information to this saga I would be very pleased to hear from them.

References

- Holy Trinity Church, Gosport, Hants. Register of Baptisms & Burials 1777-1812*
(Portsmouth History Centre)
- St Cybi's Church, Llangibby, Monmouthshire, Register of Baptisms 1679-1812*
(Gwent Record Office)
- St Mary/Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, Glamorgan, Register of Baptisms*
(Glamorgan Record Office)
- St Mary/Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, Glamorgan, Register of Marriages*
(Glamorgan Record Office)
- St Mary/Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, Glamorgan, Register of Burials*
(Glamorgan Record Office)
- St Mary's Church, Nolton, Coity, Glamorgan, Register of Marriages (Find My Past)*
- Hopkin-James, LJ 1922. Old Cowbridge: Borough, Church and School*
- Mustoe, P (1992) Memorials at Holy Cross Churchyard, Cowbridge*
- Rowson, S & Wright, IL (2004) The Glamorganshire and Aberdare Canals II: Pontypridd to Cardiff*
- Slater's Commercial Directory 1844 (www.genuki.org.uk)*

OLD NEWS, NEW SOURCES:

The Middle Dyffryn Colliery Disaster of 1852 Jill Morgan

Headlines in the *Cambrian* for Friday 14 May 1852 declared:

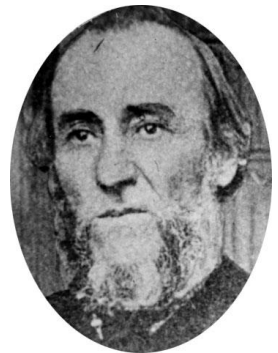
ABERDARE. DREADFUL COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

SIXTY-SEVEN LIVES LOST.

It is our painful duty this day to record another of those most disastrous accidents, as it respects the destruction of human life, which have so frequently occurred in South Wales, especially in the neighbourhood of Aberdare.

On the Monday of that week, just after 9 am, an explosion occurred underground at the Middle Dyffryn pit, resulting in the loss and grief all too often associated with the mining industry in nineteenth-century south Wales. The *Cambrian* article reported that this was the fifth such accident in the area in the past seven years, with a total loss of 167 men and boys.

One local community group accounted for almost one-third of the lives lost in this accident – the local branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints ('Mormons'). Sources originating with members of the LDS church provide details of those whose lives were lost. In a letter published in the *Millennial Star*¹ of 15th June 1852 (which also appeared in the *Deseret News* in Salt Lake City) local LDS church leader William PHILLIPS wrote from Castle Street, Merthyr Tydfil, and listed nineteen names of those lost.



William S Phillips

Among the victims were a number of fathers with their sons: Ebenezer MORRIS, age 32, and his sons David (age 10) and John (age 11). Ebenezer was the president of the Cwmbach Branch of the LDS church. He had been sent to the area with his family to serve as a proselyting missionary, but like many missionaries he would have needed to work to support himself, and in this case also his family. He had converted to 'Mormonism' in 1844, his wife Mary Margaret in 1843, and they were among those baptised into the first congregation of the LDS church established in south Wales, in Penydarren. Family lore tells that the two boys weren't working in the pit, but had gone down to take food to

¹ The *Millennial Star* was the UK-based publication for the LDS church from 1840 to 1970.

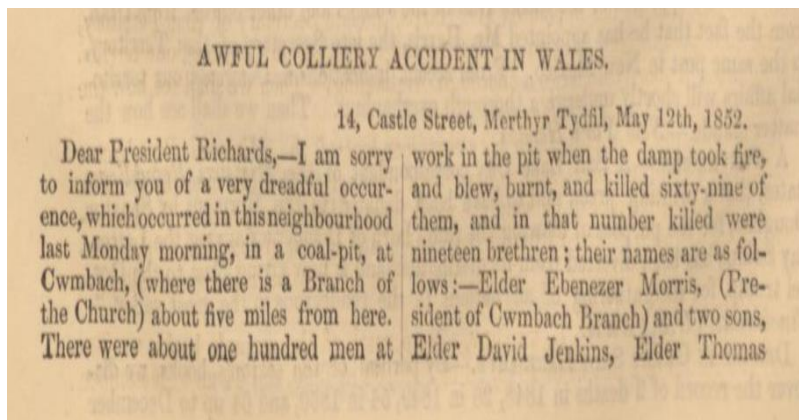
their father, and indeed they may have been younger than the ages given in the report of the accident. The bodies of Ebenezer and his sons were never recovered from the pit.

Other fathers and sons were:

Rees HOPKINS (age 50) and his son John (age 15).

Edward DAVIS (age 34) and his son David (age 14).

Lewis JONES (age 42) and his sons William (age 16) and John (age 14).



In addition to these young men there were:

Charles MARKS, age 11, son of the widow Hannah Marks, whose three sons were colliers, and whose husband had died 2 years previously;

William SAMUEL, age 16;

Jenkin ROSSER, age 22, son of the widowed Mary Rosser of Aberdare, who had lost her husband Jenkin almost twenty years previously;

Daniel MATHEWS, age 18, the youngest son of Thomas and Mary Matthews from Treboeth, Swansea, whose family formed the nucleus of the Treboeth LDS branch. According to the Memorandum Book of LDS missionary Thomas ROBERTS, writing from Swansea at the time:

May 10 (1852), a very bad explosion took place in a coal mine at Cwmbach, near Aberdare, where 67 lost their lives. Nineteen of these were Latter Day Saints. Daniel Mathews, brother of Joseph Mathews was one of them.

Daniel was not the only 'labour immigrant' at the colliery, as the *Cambrian* reports that four of the dead were taken by train to Neath for funerals there, among them another father and son.

The other victims were men in their prime:

David JENKINS, age 36. David's death certificate reads '*Died from suffocation*' and he is buried in St Johns, Aberdare.

Thomas EVANS, age 41

Thomas PHILLIPS, age 30

Thomas PRITCHARD, age 36.

Thomas REES, age 29.

And of course, there were the widows who were, in a very real sense, also victims of the accident:

Ebenezer Morris's widow, Mary Margaret, living in Tir Founder, had given birth to their seventh child just days before the accident. In the spring of 1853 she emigrated with her surviving four children, and settled in Utah Territory, where she re-married and had a further six children.

Rees Hopkins' wife Sarah would also emigrate that year with their youngest son William Thomas Hopkins, on board the *Jersey*. He would settle in Cache Valley in what is now northern Utah, where he farmed and later raised a family.

Thomas Pritchard's widow, Hannah, emigrated in 1864 with the three youngest of their four children – by then young people. Their oldest son had emigrated in 1862.

David Jenkins' widow, Anna left for America in 1868 and settled in Samaria, Idaho, along with many other Welsh converts to the LDS church. She sailed with their sons Evan and John. A married daughter, Hannah, with her husband and daughter also sailed with them.

Eight more members of the LDS church were working at the colliery, who managed to get out alive. William Phillips states in his letter that he had counselled the members to work elsewhere, for safety's sake, but concludes that they were lured by the extra £2 per month that could be earned there. Certainly for those families who wished to emigrate that money would have been of considerable help. Sadly seventeen wage earners were lost, leaving some of the widows and children perhaps without the means for daily sustenance, let alone the luxury of seeking a better life across the Atlantic.

Register for our online talks on Eventbrite:

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

CAPTAIN GEORGE AUGUR, the Cardiff Giant #11036 Ted Richards

In 1915 the billboards for the Barnum and Bailey Circus in America advertised 'Captain George AUGER, the Cardiff Giant, the tallest man on earth'. You may recall the Barnum and Bailey Circus; it was the focus of the Hugh Jackman hit film The Greatest Showman.

As with all such claims there is an element of truth in the statement: articles have been written in the Western Mail and also by the BBC (see details below), but for us at the Roath Local History Society this has been an intriguing investigation, attempting to prise out the facts from the fiction. In doing so we believe we have uncovered information not previously known about Captain George Auger and his family

George Auger was indeed born in Cardiff, but not as George, that was a name he adopted later in life for his showbiz career. He was born William Henry Auger on 27 Dec 1881 at 48 Gough Street, Cardiff.

Dec. 27 1881	1884 Sep. 28 No. 499	William Henry	Henry Lauretta	Auger.	26. Half Ace.	Police. Constable	P.B. Drabbe
Sep. 2 1884	1884 Sep. 28 No. 500	Ada Louisa	Henry Lauretta	Auger.	26 Half Ace	Police Constable	P.B. Drabbe

The birth certificate of William Henry Auger also tells us he was born to Henry Auger, a policeman, and Elizabeth Lauretta Frances CONNOP. It appears that William Henry Auger only had a fleeting association with Cardiff, contrary to what some reports say. By Sept 1884 the Auger family are living in Brentford, and in Apr 1889 William starts school at Wilmot Street School, Bethnal Green.

In the 1891 census we find the Augers, now with five children, living in Hanwell, West London. In Feb 1894, and aged just 12, William lies about his age in order to join the Royal Marine Light Infantry. He claimed to have been born in Cardiff in 1875 as opposed to 1881. How did he get away with it? Well, his military record shows that he was already unusually tall at 5' 8½". He served for just less than a year and whilst at Portsmouth it

appears he chose to desert. We are left to wonder if he was indeed the youngest person to ever serve in the Royal Marines.

For the next period in William's life the online newspapers have provided an excellent resource, not only for detailing his adolescent life but also for mapping out his growth. In 1895, William, aged 13 and now 6' 3" appears at Marylebone Court with his friend. William Auger was accused of keeping watch whilst his friend John THEIL went into shops to steal. His friend was caught with three pairs of stolen socks in his possession and was remanded. We don't hear what happened to William.

In Sept 1896 there is another court appearance that paints both a sad and at the same time humorous picture. Now aged 14 he is 6' 6" tall, and arrested for nothing other than looking suspicious in Notting Hill. The Daily Telegraph reported that as the court pictured the calamities that might have occurred if he had strength proportionate to his height he was let off after his mother testified as to her son's age and explained that he was going to be put into long-trousers soon despite him still being a child. The following year, aged 15, he once again lied about his age, claiming he was 19, and joins Great Western Railways in Paddington where he serves as a policeman. His employment lasts just over a year and he is dismissed in March 1899.

By May 1899 he is working as a doorman at the Alhambra Theatre in Leicester Square. Now measuring 6' 11" and pretending to be 17 years old he is paired with a small boy in a similar uniform to accentuate William's height even further. His chest measures 43" and he is described as being able to lift 180 lbs with just one hand. He opens the door for the theatre-goers and they pass underneath without needing in any way to duck.

Whilst employed at the Alhambra Theatre he was arrested once again in June 1899. This time he was accused of not paying the arrears due to Rose WARD for the maintenance of her child. The amount owed was said to be 16s. William admitted this was correct and his mother came forward and paid the outstanding money. By Aug 1900, once more in arrears and arrested again, he had grown to 7' 4" and was described as the second tallest man in the world. He was also now being described as an actor.

In the summer of 1900 he marries Elizabeth HEARNE from Edinburgh, Scotland, in Lambeth, London.

December 1900 does indeed see his embarkation on a career as an actor. It is also the first time we hear of him being referred to as George as

opposed to William. He appears at the Ealing Theatre at Christmas 1900 as George Auger the 7' 6" Giant, in a production of Puss in Boots.

In the 1901 census we find William Henry Auger, aged 22, theatre doorman, born in Cardiff, living with Elizabeth Auger, his wife, also 22, born in Scotland. The address is 61 Brook Street, Southwark.

In March 1904 George and Elizabeth Auger sail from Le Havre, France to New York aboard the SS La Bretagne, apparently with the inducements of Barnum and Bailey Circus which had been touring around London. His arrival in America is recorded in the New York Times. It describes the very uncomfortable journey he'd experienced aboard La Bretagne, having to draw his knees up under his chin to sleep in his six-foot berth. It also states that he was to be placed in exhibition at the Barnum and Bailey Circus which opened in Madison Square Garden that month.

In November 1904 we find an interesting article in the Evening Express headlined 'Missing Cardiff Giant - How Mother received Good News'. The article reports how 8 foot, 19 stone, George Auger, had lost contact with his mother when he moved abroad. She had changed address and failed to notify the Post Office of a forwarding address so his letters home were not received. It was only when a neighbour of his mother read a story in the paper of George having an overcoat stolen was the connection made. Our research found a few discrepancies regarding dates and events around this time, but in Feb 1905 the New York Times reports of George Auger having to fold himself up and kneel on the elevator floor when visiting the Equitable Life building in order to arrange \$10,000 life insurance. He is 8' 1" and 320 lbs according to the article. He stated his mother was 5' 2" and his father 5' 11" and both still living. There is also evidence here that he hadn't yet adopted the name the 'Cardiff Giant' as in the article it states 'they call me the British Goliath'. A photo in the UK Sketch newspaper in May 1905 had a picture of 7'10" Giant George Auger with dwarf Paul Oval in his coat pocket. It is not clear where or when the picture was taken but it is in an article about the Union Jack Club in London.

The next time we pick up George Auger is in 1907, not as part of the Barnum and Bailey Circus but as an independent artist. He has written a play called Jack the Giant Killer which he takes on tour. He is naturally playing the giant, and now described as 'the tallest man on earth', and much of the rest of the cast are described as of diminutive stature including Ernest Rommel the 'smallest comedian in the world'. The cast also included his wife Elizabeth.

In May 1908 'Jack the Giant Killer' plays Boston before heading over to Europe. They arrive in Liverpool in June aboard the Lusitania describing

themselves as vaudeville artists. They probably play a number of venues but we know for sure that he visited his place of birth and played the Empire Theatre in Queen Street, Cardiff in November.

George Auger is still in South Wales in April 1909 as we discover with this intriguing story from the Glamorgan Gazette: *Maesteg: Cyclist Injured - Mr. George Auger, the Welsh giant, who is now performing at Maesteg Town-hall, was driving in his motorcar on Wednesday towards Bridgend, when his attention was called to a cyclist lying by the side of the road unconscious and bleeding. Mr Auger put the injured man in his car and drove to Drs. Kirkby and Thomas's surgery, Maesteg. Dr. Bell Thomas found that he had received serious injuries to the head. He is Herbert DEACON, 26 Garn Road, Maesteg. Mr. Auger later took the man home in his car.*

Back in America 'Jack the Giant Killer' continued to tour. It was playing Boston again in 1910 and again in 1913. In the 1910 US Census we find George Auger lodging in Ardmore Street, Washington DC with his fellow performer Ernest ROMMEL, both describing themselves as actors.

He became a naturalized American citizen in January 1917 whilst living in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He was still going by the name of George Auger when he completed his passport application form in October 1917, rather than his birth name of William Henry Auger, his intention being to work in Cuba.

By May 1918 he had returned from Cuba and was appearing in the Fred Bradna Circus in Washington DC for three days, a show attended by the President's wife, Mrs Woodrow Wilson. The show netted a whopping \$3,300 on the first day and George Auger, 'the Cardiff Colossus' was extremely popular.

He gets drafted into the US WWI army in September 1918. On his draft form his date of birth is correct, his employer is Barnum and Bailey, and he is living in Bridgeport, Fairfield County, Connecticut. His height is officially given at 7' 6" in the section reserved for information about whether the individual is physically disqualified to serve. This, together with the fact that the war was all but over, meant that he probably saw no active military service.

He died suddenly on 30 November 1922 aged 40 at a friends' Thanksgiving dinner. His early death is made even sadder by the fact that he was about to break out of the circus role and embark on a career in the 'moving pictures'. He had signed a contract said to be worth \$350 per week to star alongside actor Harold LLOYD as the giant Colosso in the film 'Why Worry?'.

His body had to be lowered in a specially made coffin from the second floor window of the Manhattan apartment where he died using block and tackle, with 1000 people looking on. His funeral was attended by many of his showbiz colleagues including many of diminutive stature who were part of his act. Also present was Ringling the bulldog, whining throughout, who was to have gone with George to California the next week to start filming the movie.

By the time his obituary appears in the papers he is 8' 4". He was described as a good natured, likable person who lounged through life trying to make the best of what nature had served him.

He is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in Manhattan, New York, sadly in an unmarked grave (plot: range 34, grave 293).

This abridged article and the research behind it was jointly compiled by family history enthusiasts Joanna Keen, Liz Rees and Ted Richards. They came in contact via the Glamorgan Family History Society Facebook page and were able to pool various resources and research skills and learn from each other to complete this research. More on George Augur's life can be found via:

Roath Local History Society:

<https://roathlocalhistorysociety.org/2020/08/10/captain-george-auger-the-cardiff-giant-tallest-man-on-earth-and-the-jimi-hendrix-connection/>

Western Mail Article: <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/lifestyle/nostalgia/curious-tale-8ft-cardiff-policeman-14844142>

BBC Article: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-53580172>

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

The Trustees Annual Report and Accounts are included as a separate document with this Journal.

The Notes to the Accounts and Branch Reports have been uploaded to the website together with the Draft Minutes.

If anyone would like a paper copy please email:
secretary@glamfhs.org.uk

GWEN WITHAM,
her father and grandfather
'Ordinary' people lost and found
Christine Hellicar

I am the niece of Gwen WITHAM, née TUCKER, and on her death in 2019 I came into possession of an album, photographs and ephemera covering the period 1890-1930 that were kept in her family.

I did not know Gwen very well until her last months but I found her to be a warm and giving person, who enjoyed looking through the collection and talking about those she could recognise. Since then with the aid of the census and other on-line family history sources I have been able to add more information and identify further photographs. She would have been delighted to know that the collection (now with the Garw Valley Heritage Society Archives) is being kept as part of Wales' heritage.

The collection was owned originally by Gwen's grandmother Lavinia Tucker (née JOHN), born in 1876, and passed to her son and daughter-in-law, Ivor and Vi (Hilda Violet) Tucker née RIDGEWAY. The Tucker and John families can be found in various parts of Glamorgan over a period of at least 250 years.

Gwen identified her parents and grandparents, her uncle Gordon and one or two others, and my research has found a few more details: Gwen's great-grandparents were Rachel JONES, born 1832 in Carmarthen, and David Tucker, also born 1832 in Carmarthen. In the 1861 census he is shown as being a copper smelter at Cadoxton, Neath, with three children; in 1871 he is a bank coal trimmer with six children; in 1881 he is a copperman living in Coedfrank, Neath, with three more children and in 1891 he is once more a copper smelter in Neath.

Out of his nine children, it is Gwen's grandfather, Isaac, who has the most photographs and records: Isaac Tucker (1868-1940) is shown as a coalminer in Coedfrank, Neath in the 1891 census, but by 1901 he is listed as a police constable living in the police station, Tir Phil, 1 Gas Street, Merthyr Tydfil. He had married Lavinia John in 1896 in Cardiff, and by then had two sons, Gordon and Ivor (Gwen's father). According to Gwen, her uncle Gordon was 'one who disappeared a lot'. There are several photos in the collection of Isaac and other unidentified policemen.

In 1911, ten years on, Isaac is a licensed victualler at The Rising Sun, 1 High Street, Troedrihwfuch, Tir Phil, Gelligaer; there were several other

pubs/hotels owned by members of the wider John family. In the 1939 register Isaac is living with son, Ivor, and family at 85 Grove Road, Risca, and he died in 1940 in Caerleon.

Ivor Lewis David Tucker (1900-1982), Gwen's father, was born in Matthewstown, and his marriage certificate at age 22 shows him to be a Grocer's assistant living in 83 Craddock Street, Cardiff, son of Isaac Tucker, hotel manager. It seems that Ivor and his wife Vi might have met whilst working on the Home Front in WW1, although Gwen had no firm idea on this. Ivor did not serve in WW1 but he may have been working for the VAD as a driver and posted to Shepton Mallet in Somerset where his first driving licences were issued (1917, 18, and 19). In 1921 the licence was issued by Monmouth.

Gwen said her father was a coach driver and later a chauffeur and it was something of which he was very proud. There are several photos of Ivor driving coaches or standing by buses. In the 1960s he worked for Avimo Ltd, an aeronautical equipment company as a plater.

Following the death of his wife Ivor went to live with Gwen and John Witham at their home in Thornton Heath, where he was cared for until his death in 1982.

Gwen Novello Tucker was born in Cardiff in March 1923 in 49 Wellington Street. Her middle name does not appear on any forms, so one wonders whether Ivor saw a connection between himself and Ivor Novello, who was very popular at that time, but Gwen said it was a family name.

She spent a happy childhood in the Newport area, but War broke out when she was 16, in 1939, and the following year she moved to Taunton to live with her aunt, her mother's sister, as the area was seen to be a safer place than remaining in industrial South Wales. Her family soon followed, and they never returned to Wales. Gwen married John Witham in 1956, and went to live in Thornton Heath where they stayed for the rest of their lives. John died in 2017 and Gwen in 2019; they had no children but it was not a regret for them.

These are only a few notes discovered about a few members of my extended family; I am sure there must be more to be found, but I am so glad to have known Gwen who has enriched my understanding of the lives they lived.

MARGARET WALKER BEVAN 1883 – 1951

My Great-Aunt MAGGIE

#11124 Dave Gordon

Over many years I heard stories about my Great Auntie Maggie, and over the last forty years I have inherited a number of photos and documents, but only in 2006 did I start researching my Family History. These researches shed light on an eventful and exciting life lived by a courageous woman of my family.

Margaret Walker BEVAN was born in Swansea on 22nd October 1883, the elder of two daughters to John and Harriet Bevan. Her father having died in July 1885 at age only 26, Margaret, her sister, Sarah Jane, and her mother moved in with Margaret's Maternal Grandparents, John and Hester WALKER, who were still living in Swansea. Her mother later remarried in 1894 to John Stead CRANFIELD; John had previously been married to Eliza Jane DAVIES until her death in 1892.

In May 1902 Margaret became a trainee nurse in Coventry City Hospital. On completion of her basic training, she joined the Becket Hospital in Barnsley, rising to the position of Matron by the time she resigned in 1915. She joined the Welsh Military Hospital, Netley (near Southampton) in July 1915, volunteering for overseas service. Originally built to treat casualties of the Crimean War, the hospital had 399 beds, and was maintained by voluntary contributions from Wales. It was treating casualties of the Great War within weeks of the British Expeditionary Force crossing the channel in 1914. Colonel SHEEN of Cardiff was the Commanding Officer and a Miss EVANS of Aberystwyth was the Matron at that time. (The Colonel and Matron had both served in South Africa.)

On 17th May 1915 the Commanding Officer received orders to take the Welch (sic) Hospital overseas to India as a complete unit with staff and equipment for 3000 beds. It was known as the 34th Welch General Hospital, Deolali², India, and the nursing staff had to join The Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS). They were apparently the only complete unit to be sent overseas.

On Saturday May 13th 1916 Margaret started to keep a record of her travels in a notebook, but nothing of her hospital activities. It is clear that the move was already common knowledge. She also kept a list of

² Apparently nineteenth century troops and staff based in Deolali were almost driven mad" by the heat and the boredom, hence the expression "being sent deolali".

quotations in the back of the notebook. (Margaret never married and I did wonder when reading these quotations whether there was someone she loved but had lost.) En route to India the personnel had three weeks stay at Alexandra where most of the nursing staff did temporary duties at various Military Hospitals. Then on 24th June they landed at Bombay and were sent up in small numbers to Deolali as the hospital wards were made ready. Margaret was put in charge of a ward of 70 beds, medical cases (sic); the patients were troops who had served in Basra. Later, wounded Turkish prisoners of war were sent to that section, mainly for surgical treatment.

On July 17th 1917 the Nursing Staff of the 34th Welch General Hospital were sent first to Basra then to different hospitals on the Persian Gulf. This development must have been to support the drive by the allies against the Turks. Margaret was moved on to Amara (in what was then Mesopotamia). Here her travel diary ends. Margaret was at numbers 1 and 32 General Military Hospitals. Later she was sent to Bacuba³ where she nursed Armenians, and Greek Refugee women and children. Among her memorabilia is a photograph of a menu of what was clearly a celebratory dinner. It was (to be) held on 20th July 1918 at "South Camp, Amarah". Presumably it was to celebrate a major victory over the Turkish army and Margaret was one of the guests.

At some date after the end of the war Margaret will have received a letter written by her mother telling her that her younger sister, Sarah Jane, had died just six days before the end of the war. There is no record of when she received this letter or of her reaction to the news, but the extract below shows the heartbreak of their mother, and the flu refers to the world-wide spread of the so-called Spanish flu, which killed millions at the end of the war.

Oh Maggie, our poor Jennie (Sarah Jane) passed away. Monday-Tuesday she took flu and in her weak state she had no chance to pass it off. We are burying her Monday Nov. 11th at Cwmgelly. I am too upset to write more this time. Well next time Charlie and Amy (Sarah Jane's children) both lying very ill at the time, but are better now. The boys had it first but are getting on nicely now, we don't quite know yet what Charlie (her husband) is going to do. Nellie (one of his sisters) is there at present. We hear today the war may be over soon so perhaps we may see you soon. Much love from all at home, I remain your poor sad Mother.

³ Baqubah, some 60 km north of Bagdad. The move must therefore have been after the defeat of Turkey and the subsequent armistice.

It was only the month before that Sarah Jane had written to her sister Margaret as follows:

My Dear Maggie,

I have had several letters from you since I have been ill, but have not been able to answer them⁴. I am writing this in bed, I cannot even sit up yet. Of course Mother has told you about me; she was here for three weeks with me but her poor legs got so bad she had to go home. Now Nell is here. Of course I am getting better but still I am not able to move much. Nurse got me out of bed this morning to make the bed, so that is a good start; the Nurse still comes twice a day. It is nearly 5 weeks now since it happened. The cause of all the trouble was a large abscess somewhere on the Pelvic Bone. It has broken now but I have suffered agony with it. Baby had been dead about a fortnight before it was born. I have been very near death and oh how I wished you were here, but enough about me. How are you, it will be your Birthday in a few days time.

I suppose it will be almost Christmas before you get this. I hope you will have a good time. I wonder where you will be, One of your letters came yesterday, you were still in Amara then⁵, Aunty Rachel and Margaret Ann are often here; they send their love. Johnny GORDON has just come home from France. He has been to see me this afternoon and wishes to be remembered to you. There is great excitement today about the war. They seem to think that the end is not very far off. I shall be glad because you will not be long before coming home. Well Dear I cannot write much more this time. I hope you are all right, Nell sends her love. Charlie is quite well. With fondest love from all, your loving sister. Jennie

These two letters are the only ones surviving from Margaret's war time service.

Margaret finally returned to England via Suez and Marseilles, landing at Dover at Christmas 1919. Demobilised in January 1920, Margaret worked briefly at the Borough of Hornsey Isolation Hospital before being offered the job of Matron at the Farnborough and Cove Memorial Hospital then being set up to honour the local residents who had laid down their lives in the Great War.

The hospital was opened by Earl and Lady HAIG on 12th July 1921. (Margaret is seen behind and between Earl and Lady Haig) She finally

⁴ It is impossible to distinguish between commas and full stops so to make it readable have altered the grammar accordingly. (See original.)

⁵ Originally Amara was in Mesopotamia but is now in Iraq.

retired in 1945 aged 62. In that year an adjacent house, purchased by the Management Committee, was renamed Bevan Lodge in her honour. She was also elected a "Life Governor" of the Hospital.

Margaret moved back to Swansea, spending time with other members of her family including Mick, her half-nephew, who in 1949 became ill. The doctor thought it was nothing serious but Maggie told him he was wrong and that Mick had either polio or meningitis so should get to hospital immediately. Maggie was right; Mick DID have polio, and very seriously. After months in an iron lung he finally recovered but was severely disabled.

Margaret Bevan, my Aunt Maggie, died just two years later in 1951 in her home town of Swansea; a person I am proud to have had in my family.



EDITOR'S NOTE: *The June 2021 edition of the 'Who Do You Think You Are' magazine features an article of the Netley hospital where Margaret went in 1915 to start her overseas service*

Online Events - Autumn and Winter 2021/2022

We will be continuing our online talks and brickwall sessions for the rest of the year.

Let us know if there are any topics you would like us to include.

Contact: cardiffandvale@glamfhs.org.uk

BLODWEN JENKINS, A LIFE IN SERVICE (1879-1958) Janet Richardson

My father, who died 27 years ago at the age of 90, was an inveterate hoarder; many the papers he left enabled me to piece together a great deal of our family history. Among them was a photo album covered in brown paper containing many unidentified photographs. But it also contained a document headed 'CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY of BIRTH (Issued for the purposes of the Factories and Workshop Act 1891)' dated December 2nd 1903 confirming the birth of Blodwen JENKINS in 1879.

Superintendent Registrar's District of <i>Pontypool</i>					
Registrar's Sub-District of <i>Ystradgynedd</i> in the County of <i>Gwent</i>					
No.	When and where Born.	Name (if any).	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.
387	<i>Second May 1889 4 Pleasant Terrace Ystrad Gynedd</i>	<i>Blodwen</i>	<i>girl</i>	<i>John Jenkins</i>	<i>Esther Jenkins formerly Lewis</i>

Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Date of Registration.
<i>Coal Miner</i>	<i>John Jenkins Father 4 Pleasant Terrace Ystrad Gynedd</i>	<i>Seventeenth June 1889</i>	<i>Geo Williams Registrar</i>	

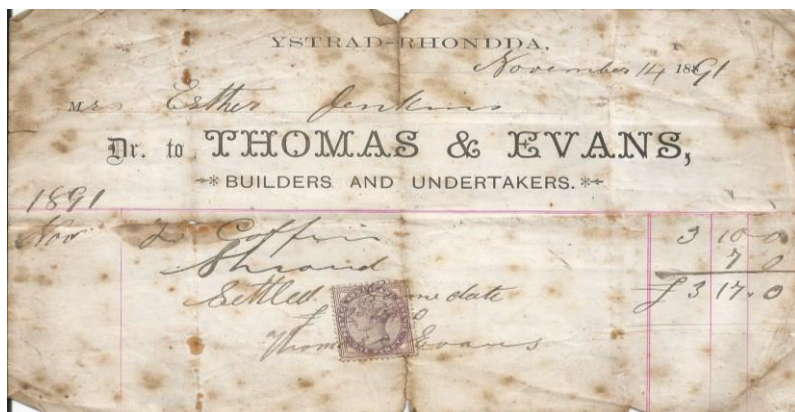
Blodwen was my grandmother's house-keeper and companion at Bournemouth House, St Clears. We visited every Sunday until my grandmother died in 1953. Blodwen played a big part in our childhood when we visited and stayed at Bournemouth House during school holidays. I knew very little about her other than she was from the Rhondda and had a brother called Tom. As a child I was unaware that young women, even children in their early teens from poorer families went into service with wealthier

families. My grandfather's family had no apparent connections with the Rhondda and was certainly not wealthy. I was curious as to how Blodwen had ended up in St Clears. Finding the certificate prompted me to look into her past.

Blodwen was born on 2nd May 1889 at 4 Pleasant Terrace, Ystrad, Ystradyfodog (later known as Tonypany) in the Rhondda Valley. Her father, John Jenkins, was born around 1858 in the Rhondda valley and her mother, Esther LEWIS, was born in Maenclochog, Pembrokeshire around 1867. Her parents were married on 19th January 1885 at the Registry Office in the District of Pontypridd. John was a collier and already a widower when he married Esther.

The 1891 census records Blodwen (aged 2) with her parents John and Esther, her older sister Elizabeth (aged 6) and brother Tom (aged 4) at 4 Pleasant Terrace, Ystradyfodog. My search for the family in the 1901 census hit a brick wall, but a search for Blodwen located her in Mydrim, a village near St Clears. She was 12 years old and living on the farm with her uncle and aunt, John and Martha EVANS and five cousins; she was recorded as their niece.

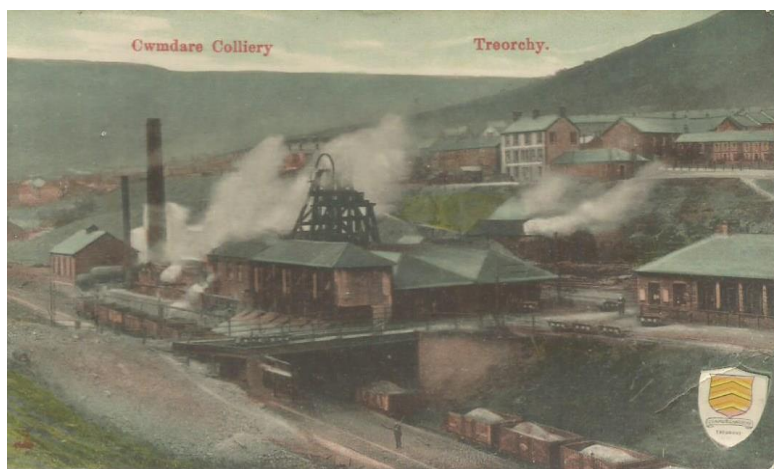
I wondered why Blodwen was in Mydrim. Was it a permanent move; had she moved because of some family emergency or did she just happen to be there on 31st March, the date of the 1901 census? I found a faded receipt dated 14th November 1891 for a coffin and shroud for Esther but there was no record of her death using several of the genealogy sites. Blodwen was just two years old when her mother died which probably explains why she was with relatives in West Wales.



I suspected from the confirmation of her birth in relation to the Factories Act and dated 1902, that Blodwen had gone into service. The 1911 census lists

her as a 22 year old dairy worker still living on her uncle and aunt's farm with seven cousins at Pant, Mydrim, St Clears. I had insufficient information to trace her father and siblings since 1901. I wondered about the relationship between the Evans and Jenkins' family. Was her aunt Martha the sister of John Jenkins, or of his wife Esther or even his first wife who died? Was her uncle John Evans related to John Jenkins first wife? These are questions I cannot answer without investing in a large number of birth and marriage certificates in the hope of tracing the connections.

The 1939 Register records her occupation as Domestic Duties at Bournemouth House, St Clears with my grandmother, Louisa, who was incapacitated and my father, Trevor GRIFFITHS, Headmaster of Llangendeirne School. My grandfather, Thomas Griffiths, had a progressive degenerative condition requiring a great deal of nursing care; he died in 1935. Without access to electoral records for the period, it is impossible to trace Blodwen's whereabouts in the intervening period and it is unclear when she was first employed by my grandmother. Was she employed to help with my grandfather's care or to assist her after his death? A postcard from her brother Tom sent to her in Mydrim carried a George V half-penny stamp that was issued in 1911 but it was impossible to decipher the date of postage. It was a picture of Cwmdare Colliery where Tom worked.



When we visited Bournemouth House, I felt that Blodwen was very much part of the family; I just didn't register that she was an employee. Her cooking was wonderful; she made the most amazing tarts and ginger beer, and always made a fuss of my brother and me. My grandmother, Louisa, developed vascular dementia and died of a stroke in 1953; Blodwen had been her sole carer.

However there was some family jiggery pokery; Louisa had been taken to a solicitor to change her will when she was undoubtedly of unsound mind, and would have lacked the capacity to make rational decisions. The new will excluded my father from any inheritance and left Blodwen homeless. My father said he would contest the will unless Blodwen was allowed to live rent free at Bournemouth House; this was eventually accepted and Blodwen had a home for her twilight years. My father kept copies of all the correspondence about the disputed will; without his intervention, she would have been homeless.

After a major operation, Blodwen stayed with us in Carway until she had sufficiently recuperated. We visited her regularly at Bournemouth House where she lived until her death in 1958. She had few possessions of value and had instructed my father as follows: sewing machine for my mother, gold Roamer watch for me, gold sovereign for my brother and the few hundred pounds in the bank were to pay for her funeral. My father arranged her funeral; she was buried in her birthplace, Treorchy, with my parents and my brother the only mourners present. I don't know whether her grave is marked with a headstone. It is sad to think that there were no relatives there to celebrate her life. I later discovered that her parents had a pauper's funeral; it greatly distressed her to think she might experience the same fate.

I wondered about Blodwen's life in the intervening years. Was her life typical of women who spent a lifetime in service? It was sad to think that there were no relatives to look through her photo album, no papers or letters to link her with her family, and no one except our family at her funeral. There was the odd postcard from her brother Tom, and photos sent to Auntie Blodwen from a niece, Olivia, in Treorchy; I assume Olivia was either her brother, Tom, or sister, Elizabeth's, daughter.

There were lots of pictures of twins somewhere in the family. There were references to Polly and Hetty, her cousins at the farm in Mydrim and a postcard from Maggie Jenkins at 7 Victoria Place, Pensarn who I assume was a relative. An unsigned postcard Cowboy Series – “The Round-up” with a message in Welsh ‘*Ti a fi Noswaith Fair St Clears. Wyt ti’n cofio*’ (You and me at the night of the fair in St Clears, do you remember?) suggests that Blodwen may have had some romantic moments when in Mydrim. Blodwen was in her mid-twenties in 1914 at the start of WWI; the death toll in WWI



Cowboy Series—"The Round-up."

significantly reduced the number of men of marriageable age during the second decade of the twentieth century. Her album contained lots of photos of young men in uniform.

Domestic service has had a prominent role in the history of British Society in the last century. Domestic servants were predominantly female where they not only did the dirty work but also lived out their lives under the same roof as their employer, their contribution to society largely unrecognised and undervalued. We relied and valued Blodwen's care for my grandmother; to me, she was a member of the family. I felt compelled to commemorate her life spent in service, so that it would not pass without recognition.

I was aware from researching my maternal grandparents who were Master and Matron of a workhouse in North Wales that in the past, women like Blodwen who became homeless would have spent their final days in the workhouse. I am so relieved that my father's actions ensured that she had a home for life, a family although unrelated who cared for her and she did not have a pauper's funeral. The photos and postcards in Blodwen's album will be donated to Garw Valley Heritage Society in her memory.

If anyone reading this thinks they may be related to Blodwen, and would like to see more photos, please contact me via the editorial to see digitised copies.



THE JENKINS' OF CADOXTON, Part 2

#6507 John Annear

In Part 1 I described the lives of the first three sons of Elizabeth and Thomas Jenkins (1807-1889), who had nine sons and two daughters in total. Here I write about the other sons and their descendants, with the daughters to follow in Part 3.

The Jenkins' fourth son, John Ventriss JENKINS (1834-1918), was born 24th August 1834 and baptised at St John's Church Cardiff. He 'learned cabinet-making and carpentering', proceeding to work as a Carpenter. John Ventriss married on 26th March 1854 at St James' Church in Bristol to a second cousin, Ann Jenkins (1834-1899), aged 19, born at Cadoxton, a daughter of David Jenkins and Ann HERBERT, though working as a servant in Cardiff. At first they lived in Cardiff, by 1859 in St Andrew's parish; they had four sons and seven daughters together.

On 27th September 1863 John Ventriss and family, amongst 477 passengers, emigrated to Australia aboard the 'Light of The Age'. After encountering unusually rough weather in the English Channel and Bay of Biscay, on 13th December they passed the Cape of Good Hope, and further on more gales drove her south of Tasmania, passing South Cape on 8th January, to arrive at Moreton Bay, Brisbane, Queensland, on 27th January 1864. During the voyage John Ventriss and Ann's youngest child, Thomas Porter John Henry Jenkins, was born, on 24th November 1863. He was named after the ship's Captain JR PORTER; a social tribute to the latter though not necessarily a navigational one, for 1867/68 on a voyage of 16,000 miles from Liverpool to Melbourne, with a cargo of dead weight, salt, slates, iron pipes, hardware, malt liquor, and 42 passengers, 'Light of The Age' went ashore off Point Lonsdale within sight of her destination, shortly after midnight on 16th January 1868. An Inquiry by the Steam Navigation Board of Victoria found navigation and charts were not up to date, there was neglect of navigation and of usual track, and Captain Porter was guilty of drunkenness, which led to cancellation of the latter's Masters Certificate.

After alighting at Brisbane, John Ventriss Jenkins' first engagement was as a carpenter, erecting the Customs Store at the inland port of Ipswich located at head of navigation on the River Bremer 25 miles west of Brisbane. He then opened his own business as carpenter and undertaker, and later established an auctioneering and commission agency for the selling of horses and cattle. He became a lessee of the Corporation Market and Wharf where produce was sold, and also became Inspector of

Weights and Measures. Despite his busy life, he could not resist joining the gold rush to Gympie on the Mary River. In 1874 John Ventris was elected an alderman on the city council for three years, was again on Ipswich City Council 1886-8, and from 1905 a Licensing Justice.

After the sale of his auctioneering business, he became an inspector and valuer of property throughout Queensland. He purchased 200 acres of land at Bundanba to develop blue metal quarries there, and where he resided, representing ratepayers on the council, later selling the mines to municipal authorities. During the 1880s John Ventris Jenkins revisited 'the old country', a bit pompously styling himself a 'commoner' of Cardiff, Caduxox (sic - possibly a newspaper typo), and St Andrews. After returning later to Ipswich, Ann died, aged 65, on 9th November 1899; and aged 83 as 'an Old Ipswich Resident', John Ventris Jenkins died on 7th October 1918. Both were buried at Ipswich Cemetery. Jenkins Street in East Ipswich is named after him.

Of John Ventris and Ann Jenkin's children and many descendants, two are of relevance here. Their firstborn, Elizabeth Jenkins (1854-1915) was born April 1854 in the month after her parents wedding, and perhaps the reason they married in Bristol. Elizabeth married aged 34 on 2nd May 1889 James Smith PASCOE (1837-1932) aged 51. James was eldest son of John Pascoe of Sithney, Cornwall, and Jane STRONGMAN of Helston, Cornwall, who had married on 6th June 1837 at Helston, aged 22 and 28 respectively. James was born two months later on 28th August 1837, and he was baptised twice on 10th February 1838 and 4th September 1842 at Helston. He was brought up by his maternal grandparents after his own parents and four younger brothers moved back to Sithney. Having worked as a tin miner in Cornwall, at age 29 James emigrated to Victoria, Australia, and two years later removed to Ipswich, at that time in NSW. He was said to have had no expectations of obtaining a job but soon did so as a railway fitter and later steam railway engineer. It was there he married Elizabeth. They lived at Lawrence Street, North Ipswich, where two daughters, Alice and Amelia Pascoe, were born in 1892 and 1895; Elizabeth died aged 60 on 19th October 1915, and James aged 94 on 6th January 1932 at Condong; both were buried at Ipswich General Cemetery.

Elizabeth and James's younger daughter, Amelia Pascoe (1895-1972), married on 23rd March 1925 Robert CARR (1896-1980) who was born in Fiji. He became an engineer in Condong Sugar Mill, Milwillumbah. Their only surviving child, Pamela Eunice Pascoe Carr (1929-2020) born 6th October 1929, trained in nursing, migrating to the UK aged 24; a year or so later she was introduced by her second cousin-once-removed Doreen ANNEAR, granddaughter of Nicholas Jenkins, of whom more later, to

Doreen's brother-in-law Michael William 'Bill' Annear (1926-2010). Pam and Bill married on 13th April 1957. Bill worked as a Veterinary Surgeon; had a son and daughter, and for over 40 years lived in Suffolk, UK. There Bill died aged 85 in January 2010, and Pam died aged 90 in April 2020, both buried privately within an 8 acre wood in south Norfolk, which Bill planted in 1997 following his retirement. Their relevance to this article is that Doreen was this author's mother; Bill was his late uncle and godfather, and Pam his third cousin and aunt-in-law.

John Ventris and Ann Jenkins' third and second surviving daughter Edith Jenkins (1870-1954) born 20th February 1870, married on 28th May 1891 in Queensland John Job Crew BRADFIELD, 'Dr Jack Bradfield' (1867-1943), a Civil Engineer and leader in town planning in New South Wales. He had a distinguished academic education and designed numerous large engineering projects, including if controversially, the Sydney Harbour Bridge. An account of his career and achievements, his family's fortunes and misfortunes, and their legacy, would fill several editions of the GFHS Journal, whilst his fame has reverberated within the extended family in conversation, tales, pictures, papers, journals, and travel.

Thomas and Elizabeth Jenkins' fifth and sixth sons Michael (1835-) and Anthony (1836-1838) died in early childhood, the latter buried at Cadoxton. Their seventh son, also Anthony Jenkins (1839-1871) born 5th February 1839 at Cardiff, worked as a ship's carpenter and shipwright, later as a butcher. He married Ann ROBERTS with whom he had a daughter and three sons, and lived in Leckwith Road, Canton, Cardiff. After suffering tuberculosis for two years, he died aged 32 on 29th December 1871; Ann died 26th January 1914, both buried at Cadoxton.

The eighth son of Thomas and Elizabeth Jenkins was Nicholas Jenkins (1841-1920), born 23rd April 1841 at Little Frederick Street Cardiff, St



John's parish where he was baptised. Also a shipwright and ship's carpenter, it was he in the early 1860s who accompanied the Gulnare at Port Adelaide, (seen here in Port Adelaide, Photograph in the Australian family archives), to Port Adelaide where he worked for a while in shipbuilding, although he did not settle, returning to

Cardiff within a few years where he married on 30th June 1866 at St John's

Church, Canton, Mary Alice MORRIS (1846-1911). Mary Alice Morris was eldest of three daughters and four sons of George Morris (1820-1871) and Mary JONES (1821-1904). George Morris was born at Weston Zoyland on the 'island' of Sowey in the midst of the drained and reclaimed Somerset Levels. In his early 20s he removed to Cardiff where he first worked as a builder, later as miller's foreman and journeyman, at Tuckey or Tucking Mill (a Fulling Mill, the final process in the production of cloth) on the Mill Stream diverted from the River Taff at Llandaff Weir to re-enter the Taff above Blackweir.

At age 24 on 22nd March 1845 George Morris married Mary JONES at Tabernacle Baptist Chapel, The Hayes, Cardiff. She was the daughter of Thomas Jones (1799-). Thomas was a farmer at St Brides Wentlog, Monmouthshire, a village on the Gwent Levels close to the banks of the Severn Estuary but protected from flooding by an embankment constructed as a result of the South Wales tsunami of 30th January 1607.

Nicholas Jenkins and Mary Anne (nee Morris) lived in Cowbridge Road then Ryder Street in Canton, Cardiff, and in about 1900 removed to newly built Howells Crescent, Llandaff. They had two sons and five daughters, born successively at Thomas Street and Cowbridge Road in Canton; Sydney George Jenkins (1867-1870), named after Nicholas' excursion to Australia, died aged 2; Alfred Thomas Jenkins (1868-1936) worked as Railway Assistant Accountant, and was an active member of Cardiff Rowing Club; Alice Edith Jenkins (1870-1939) lived in Ryder Street then Cathedral Road, Cardiff; Lucy Dahlia Jenkins (1872-1916) lived at the family home in Howells Crescent, Llandaff; Ethel Mary Jenkins (1874-1930) lived in Ryder Street; Eva Lizzie Jenkins (1876-1907) lived in Ryder Street and was an Assistant Schoolmistress.

Of Nicholas and Mary Alice's children only their youngest daughter, Hilda May Jenkins (1882-1963), married, at age 26 on 8th April 1909 at Llandaff Cathedral and Parish Church, to John 'Jack' Joseph Thomas KING (1870-1940) aged 38, who was originally from Hazelbury Bryan in Dorset. Hilda Jenkins trained as a teacher, and met Jack at the time she matriculated for University of Wales in 1901. She trained for two years at C of E Training college at St Mary's Hall, Cheltenham, then two years pupillage at Whitehaven Pupil Teachers Centre, Cumberland, followed by a post at Calne County Secondary School, Wiltshire.

'Jack' King was from a farming family, which prompted his brother-in-law Alfred to disparagingly refer to him as 'a clodhopper', and yet he qualified at Winchester Teacher Training College and taught in Cardiff from 1891,

from where he had glowing references. Jack became Headmaster at Marlborough Road Council School 1911-1922 and at Lansdowne Road School in Canton 1922-1932, when he retired early with Rheumatoid Arthritis. He was a Worshipful Brother, and in 1933 Master, of Windsor Masonic Lodge in Penarth. He died on 6th August 1940 during the Cardiff Blitz; Hilda died aged 82, on 20th December 1963. Nicholas Jenkins's family, with Jack and the Morris family, are buried in two graves within Llandaff Cathedral Churchyard, immediately south-east of the bridge across the dried-up Mill Stream.

More on the Daughters of Elizabeth and Thomas, and of my mother Doreen, in Part 3.

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EVAN DAVIES MA

#11208 JP Lethbridge

Introduction and early life:

My previous article looked at the 1943 University of Wales by-election and the five candidates who stood in it. Here I look in more detail at one of the candidates, Evan DAVIES, MA.

Evan Davies was born on 4 November 1906 at 8 Aelybryn, Gelligaer. His parents were Lodwick (or Lodwig) Davies a colliery over-man and Edith Maud Davies nee WILLIAMS. The 1911 census lists Lodwig and Edith Maud Davies, both thirty- three, at 8 Aelybryn with Sarah Evelyn Davies eleven, Doris Ceinwen Maud Davies five, Evan Davies three (sic), and Justine Davies, six months.

Evan Davies studied at at Fochriw Primary School in *Bargoed and Bargoed Grammar Technical School, with James Silvan EVANS (1870-1962) as headmaster.

*Bargod and Bargoed have been interchangeable in recent years so both have been used here depending on the source.

In *The Story of Bargoed Grammar Technical School* published in 1960 Evan Davies wrote:

I came to the school in 1919 and left in 1924. My most abiding impression is the awe-inspiring figure of our first headmaster, Mr J Silvan Evans, taking assembly in the sun-lit hall. He was a great Head and it was with pride that I heard a Welsh educationalist say the other day that his fame had spread beyond the bounds of the school. He laid the foundations of a great tradition. He was well served by a fine staff. Two commanded great respect in my time, Mr BJ DAVIES and Mr RT SAUNDERS and both later became very successful headmasters in Glamorgan.



Other figures amongst staff and students crowd in the memory – David THOMAS scoring the important goal in the Soccer Final and the pandemonium that followed; Jim Evans leaping through the air to score a try; Katherine LEYSHON dancing with a grace that I have never seen approached since. A jumble of faces of many who have since laid down their lives mingle with the impressions of lazy summer afternoons in the park, football in the yard in the rain, and grim

battles with the snow, walking over the mountains from Pontlottyn to Fochriw. I fear I could write for a long time.

BJ Davies was Benjamin John Davies (1889-1979) a Cardiff graduate who taught history at Bargod and was later headmaster of Pencoed Central School. RT Saunders was Rhys Thomas Saunders (1889-1976) who was later headmaster at Glyncorrgw.

Evan Davies passed his School Certificate in 1923 and went on to Aberystwyth University, where he obtained a second-class honours degree in Economics, and in year 4 qualified as a teacher. The Professor of Economics at Aberystwyth at this time was Dr Edward Arthur LEWIS (1880-1942), an expert on Welsh economic, social and agrarian history, who had written several books. Evan also edited a college magazine and was Vice President of the Students' Representative Council, and in 1937 was to gain an MA, on the British Iron and Steel Trades since 1920.

Evan Davies became a teacher at Bargod Boys School, described on the 1939 England and Wales Register as a Certificates Teacher (Graded). He was involved in amateur dramatics and was Chairman of the Bargod Old Boys Rugby Team, as well as becoming a Special Constable.

On 27 December 1933 he married Nancy Caroline EVERSON, twenty-five, at Holy Trinity Church of Wales, Ystrad Mynach. It was built in 1855-1857 in Gothic style. Its architect, John NORTON (1823-1904), designed many buildings; one of his projects was the rebuilding of Tyntesfield (now a National Trust property) near Bristol for the guano magnate William GIBBS.

The bride was the daughter of the late Osborne Everson, a colliery blacksmith, of the Graig, Hengoed. She was also an Aberystwyth graduate and had taught at Castleford Grammar School in Yorkshire.

The Reverend John Owen WILLIAMS, a weaver's son, conducted the service. He had studied at Lampeter and was married with two sons: John Geraint Williams, when aged twenty-three, was Third Officer on the cargo ship Lorient, when a German U Boat torpedoed and sank it in the North Atlantic on 5 May 1943, with all forty-six crew lost. His younger son, Arthur James Daniel Williams (1924-2003), became an Anglican parson.

The Rev. Williams was rector of Gelligaer from 1930 to 1951 and organised the building of St Anne's Mission Church in Cefn Hengoed. He died in 1973 in Pontypridd aged eighty.

The bride was given away by her brother Ralph Everson. Their older sister Edith Elizabeth SAUNDERS, nee Everson, was married to Rhys Thomas Saunders who had taught Evan Davies. At the wedding the bride was

charmingly attired in a dress of white ring velvet, with veil, and orange blossoms and carried a sheaf of white carnations. (Merthyr Express, 30 December 1933). The best man was, according to 28 December 1933 Western Mail, Horace J PROBERT of Pontypridd (1906-1971) who was Captain of the Bargod Grammar Technical School Old Boys Rugby team and was in the same year as Evan Davies. His groomsman was his cousin, Evan Glyn WATKINS (1907-1960), a Mining Surveyor who lived at Nelson near Caerphilly, a mining village named after the Lord Nelson Inn, a Georgian pub built on an old droving route.

The two bridesmaids were her friend, Daphne Davies, and Evan's sister, Sarah Evelyn Davies, an elementary school teacher.

Evan and Nancy were to have two sons: Alun Everson Davies, born on 31 May 1935, and Rhys Everson Davies, born on 13 February 1941. Rhys eventually became His Honour Sir Rhys Everson QC, a senior circuit judge, who married Katherine Anne YEATES in 1963. They were to have a son and a daughter.

Evan Davies was a Workers' Educational Association (WEA) organiser and tutor, and in October 1936 he was elected as Secretary of the new WEA Mid Rhymney Valley branch.

Politics and the 1939 Caerphilly by election

Teacher Morgan Jones, educated at Reading, a conscientious objector in WW1, was elected Labour MP for Caerphilly at a 1921 by-election and was Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education in the 1924 and 1929-1931 Labour governments. He died on 23 April 1939 aged fifty-three. At the resulting by-election, Evan Davies sought the Labour candidature, but at the Hengoed Ward Labour Party's vote on whom it should nominate as its candidate, Evan only received two votes. The successful candidate was Ness EDWARDS, supported by the Caerphilly Constituency, who won the seat with 19,847 votes. He held the seat until 1968 when he died aged seventy-one.

Nevertheless Evan Davies continued to work for the Labour Party, and on 18 January 1941 the Merthyr Express reported his election as Vice President of Hengoed Ward Labour Party.

In World War Two Evan Davies joined the British Army, and by 1943 he was a Staff Sergeant at the War Office researching for the Personnel (Human Resources) Selection Staff. He stood at the 1943 University of Wales election as an Independent Progressive- see my previous article for the personnel and results.

Many records have been lost or are unavailable due to coronavirus. I do not know when Evan Davies was demobilised or when he joined Glamorgan County Council's staff, but by 27 February 1947 he was Neath Divisional Education Officer. That day the Western Mail reported him as defending the value of night classes at technical colleges, which had been challenged by Dr Alexander Harvey (1904-1987), the physicist who was Principal of Cardiff Technical College (now the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology).

Life after the war: On 4 October 1947, aged thirty-nine, Evan's wife Nancy died at the West Glamorgan Hospital, Neath, of recurrent hepatitis. This left him to care for two boys, aged twelve and four, while doing a demanding job. Evan's official duties as Neath Divisional Education Officer were administrative. He reported to the Glamorgan County Council Education Authority, Neath District Executive Committee. He co-ordinated the appointment of non-teaching staff and was involved in contract management including advertising for tenders to supply Neath schools with coal (Western Mail, 2 May 1950); and advertising for tenders to supply special transport of pupils, transport of school dinners, piano tuning and chimney cleaning (Port Talbot Guardian, 27 June 1966).

In 1951 Evan Davies had defended the eleven plus (Western Mail, 18 February 1951), supporting the Reverend Alderman William Degwel THOMAS (1882-1962), a Baptist minister, who chaired Neath Divisional Executive Committee, but by 1961 he supported comprehensive education (Port Talbot Guardian, 14 April 1961).

His efforts often meant clashing with the teaching unions. He advised the Neath Divisional Executive Committee that it need not report its meetings to the Neath and District Association of Schoolmasters, a decision supported by committee member Councillor Reginald Francis HOAR (1916-2002), a dentist (Port Talbot Guardian, Friday 30 June 1961).

In July 1967 Evan Davies attended the retirement 'do' for Miss Beatrice Victoria JAMES (1904-1975), who taught at Melyn Junior School Neath for forty years. She had played hockey for Wales, and tennis, badminton and cricket. In July 1970 he also attended a presentation at Neath Girls Grammar School in honour of a pupil Miss June HIRST, a contestant in the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games. She came thirteenth out of nineteen competitors in the Women's Pentathlon. He attended and spoke at events including Old Age Pensioners gatherings, Head Teachers meetings, Trades Council meetings, the local Youth Eisteddfod and Boy Scout functions.

One of Evan Davies's fans was the miner and author Bert Lewis COOMBES, originally Bertie Louis Coombs GRIFFITHS, (1893-1974),

whose books included *These Poor Hands: the autobiography of a miner working in South Wales* (Gollancz, 1939). In an article in the 8 May 1964 Port Talbot Guardian he praised Evan Davies for telling a pensioners' meeting that *many lovely aspects, in and around Neath, were being neglected*.

Evan Davies retired in July 1970, aged sixty-three, after twenty-four years. His testimonial luncheon was held at the Castle Hotel, Neath, an old coaching inn dating back to 1695. The guests included Alderman George ADAMS (1895-1978) an ex-miner and rugby player who was the Chairman of Glamorgan County Council. Another guest was Llewellyn HEYCOCK (1905-1990) ie Lord Heycock, who was a life peer, a Glamorgan County Councillor for Port Talbot, and chaired Glamorgan Education Authority.

In his retirement Evan Davies kept in touch with Neath area schools and was the Neath District Chairman of the Boy Scouts. He died at Neath General Hospital on 7 January 1986 aged seventy-nine of a stroke.

Sources

I must specially thank Jeff Coleman and Carolyn Jacob of Glamorgan Family History Society; and Annie Owen and other Gelligaer Historical Society members. They found out vital information about Evan Davies without which I could not have written this article.

I must also thank the staff at Glamorgan and West Glamorgan Archives; librarians in Bargoed, Merthyr Tydfil, Neath and Swansea; Aberystwyth University Archives and Records Management staff; the lady I contacted via Ancestry; 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.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article has been abridged from a longer version which will be shown on the website in due course.

1921 Census – January 2022

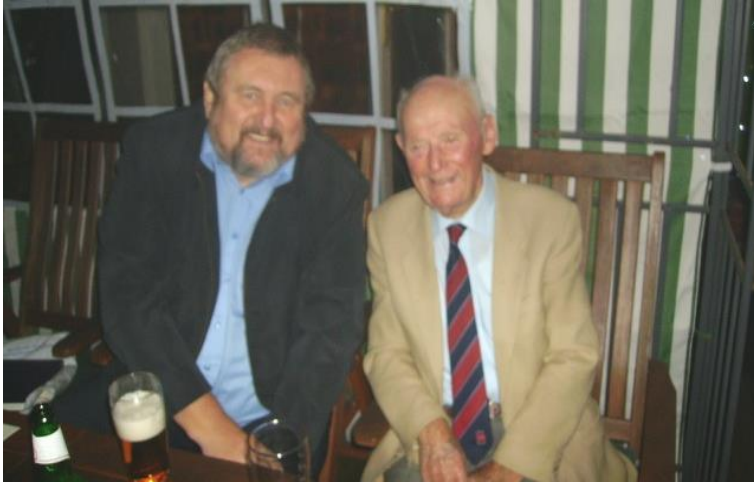
We are all eagerly awaiting next year's release of the 1921 Census.

More information about what it contains etc is available in a recent article in the Who Do You Think You Are Magazine – link below

<https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/news/when-will-the-1921-census-be-available/>

THOMAS “TOMMY” FORSE

#3934 David JK Jones



I had the good fortune and privilege to spend an evening in the company of the then oldest living Cardiff City player, Thomas “Tommy” FORSE. Tommy and his brother Edward (Jnr) were initiated in to the Gwalia Masonic Lodge 4213 as Lewises in 1947 where their father Edward, was a Past Master of Gwalia and who had also bought and presented the Lodge banner to the Howardian Lodge 5317. Edward (Jnr) is still a Subscribing Past Master of Gwalia today.

Tommy recalled, “I only ever got as far as Master Mason as I ran the family milk business and used to get up very early in the mornings. I used to get so tired with the early start that I once fell asleep through an entire third degree ceremony!”

Tommy was born on a farm on Leckwith Hill in 1916 and attended Severn Road School in Canton. He walked there and back daily as there was no public transport on that route in those days. He recalls listening to the 1927 FA Cup Final on “Cats Whisker Radio” when Cardiff City beat Arsenal to bring the Cup to Cardiff for the only time.

He later attended Canton Secondary School and left at sixteen years of age to work at the family milk round business and joined Cardiff City as an Amateur in 1934.

In 1935 the then Manager of Cardiff City, Bartley WILSON offered Tommy a professional contract. Tommy asked for £5 per week as that is what he

was earning on his milk round. Bartley almost fell off his chair in shock and horror as the Cardiff players were only getting paid thirty shillings per week! So Tommy stayed as an amateur.

One person who he delivered milk to was Hughie FERGUSON who had scored City's winning goal at Wembley in the 1927 final. Hughie lived on Lansdowne Road and Tommy recalled him as *"a perfect gentleman"*.

Tommy gained three amateur International caps in 1937, 1938 and 1939 and spent six years at Cardiff City playing between 350 and 400 games for the Welsh league side, the Reserves and eventually the First Eleven. One season he played 74 games for the three sides that Cardiff ran in those days. His early finish from the milk round always meant that he was available and eager to travel and play in any midweek games that they had back then.

His first game in the blue shirt was for the Reserves against Wattstown and his first game for the First Eleven was against Notts County and his last against Coventry City. He says that the best player that he ever played against was Johnny HANCOCKS of Wolves and England who he played against in a wartime match against Shrewsbury Town. Tommy recalls, *"He gave me a right outing and I couldn't get near him. We lost 4-1 and he scored two and made the other two. It was no surprise when I later heard that Wolves had signed him"*.

He played against all the greats of the day including Sir Stanley MATTHEWS and Tom FINNEY etc and rates Cyril SPIERS as the best City manager ever.

After the war several professional clubs offered him terms including Bath City but he then opted to stay local and he captained the famous amateur club, Cardiff Corries for five seasons.

After playing he became Manager of the Corries and became proficient in football administration, so much so that he became the President of the Football Association of Wales, a fantastic accolade for such a sporting stalwart. Tommy recalled, *"I went to every country in Europe with Wales and also to America and even Japan for the World Cup draw. They were great days"*.

Still sprightly at the age of 99 years, Tommy was still walking four miles each day and still attending Cardiff City and Wales matches.

MAESCYNON UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

#20100 Pat Rees

The following article was given to me, and on reading it I found it brought back many memories of how the Valleys football teams were organised and run, by enthusiastic amateurs with community support, and in printing this I hope it brings back memories for others too.

It was written by Gary and Mike WILLIAMS, with reports from the Aberdare Leader of the time.

"We were a group of lads who loved a game of football, so in 1959 we formed the team: no clubhouse, no kit, no pitch, and no adult involvement, BUT, we did have Mike Williams of Hirwaun Travel as our Secretary. We would travel up and down the Valley, even as far as Pontypridd, playing any team of a similar age group. At this time all of our matches were played away, and we would hold training sessions on the green in Old Maescynon where the telephone kiosk used to be. We would warm up by having a kick-about on the green, illuminated by street lighting and the phone box, no complaints from the neighbours. After the kick-about we would embark on a run, paired up and set off at intervals, being timed out and in by Mike. We set off from the phone box down towards the start of Johns Lane, carried on towards the Bodwigiad pub where we took a right up through Cefndon Terrace down to the steps between numbers 90 and 91 New Maescynon, down through Old Maescynon, and back to the phone box where Mike recorded our times.

By 1960 we had built up quite a reputation for ourselves both on and off the field. On the field we were rarely beaten and off the field we acquired a clubhouse - the old Miners' Lodge wooden building at the bottom of Tower Road. This was dismantled one Saturday morning and transported on the back of Gary Joseph's coal lorry, delivered to Number 1 Maescynon and lovingly put together by Mr DAVIES (Ken's Dad), and sited at the top of his garden under the conker trees.

Miss BRAY the sweetshop became our President, always supplying us with goods to raffle; she and George took a great interest in us. Then, in 1960, it was the inaugural competition of the Aberdare Junior League Knockout Trophy, organised by Jack ACOCKS the sports master of Maerdy school. The Aberdare Leader dated April 30th 1960 reported: *The most remarkable participants of the Aberdare Junior League Knockout Trophy are the Maescynon (Hirwaun) lads who are operating without an adult committee and with very few facilities. The competition organisers*

accepted the Maescynon lads' entry in the hope that someone would take an interest in them. Indeed support has come from all quarters; parents have rallied round, Hirwaun YMCA offered their services and Hirwaun Welfare FC offered a second pitch (The infamous bog) when convenient. Mr Fred O'BRIEN, father of goalkeeper Tony, became their adult supervisor.

Not having secured a bye at the start of the tournament (a bye refers to when there was an odd number of teams entered and the odd team that was not selected to play in the first round would automatically go through to the next round), our first opponents were Maerdy House school, with Jack Acocks in charge. Jack was also in charge of the Aberdare Schools U14 and U15 teams, where a lot of us knew him from. We beat them 4-2, and with teams having a bye in the first round now joining, we drew Belle Vue, whom we also beat 4-2. As there were only 12 teams in the competition, the next game would be a semi-final match, and we drew our old foes Blaengarw Boys Club.

We knew this would be a tough game, and so it proved. We held them to a 3-all draw on the Welfare ground in Hirwaun, in what the Aberdare Leader described as a great thrill to be playing in front of an appreciative crowd of some 200 people. The replay took place in Aberaman YMCA ground on Monday evening, May 2nd 1960. After an end-to-end game we came out worthy winners at 3-1. The big question now was, 'Who were we up against in the final?' It turned out to be Hirwaun YMCA and the game was to take place on Monday May 9th at the Welfare ground, kick-off at 6.30pm. In front of another large crowd we battled it out for 90 minutes, plus extra time, but we couldn't be separated, and the final score was a 2-2 draw.

The Aberdare Leader reported: *Both captains received the cup on behalf of their teams from Mr D NICHOLAS, headmaster of Cwmaman school and Secretary of the Association. The teams will share the cup for six months each.*

We won the toss to hold it for the first 6 months and took it down to Miss Bray's where it was promptly filled with lemonade for us. Sadly we couldn't repeat our previous performances in the newly-formed junior league of 1961, having lost players to age restrictions and Aberdare schools duty. It was to be our last season as MUFC, but I like to think that we played a big part in getting junior Under 15 football underway in the Valley. Some of our older boys are no longer with us, but they, like those days, won't be forgotten".

CHESS PLAYING ANCESTORS

#169 Martyn Griffiths

Chess became a popular game in the late 19th century. Before that most people just didn't have the time to play organised games though no doubt it was played in the confines of one's home. The earliest known dates for chess clubs in Glamorgan are: 1850 Swansea, 1854 Cardiff, 1872 Merthyr, 1883 Aberdare, 1886 Penarth, 1886 United Rhondda, 1886 Pentre, 1887 Ferndale. Later, clubs appeared in most towns and even smaller communities like Tonyrefail, Ogmore Vale and Kenfig & Pyle had clubs in the 1920s and late 1940s.

The profile of chess players has changed over the years. Everyone's idea of a Victorian player is of a bearded octogenarian. That was not quite true but the game was played more by those from privileged backgrounds, having the time and money to indulge in the game. Doctors and clerics were present in most clubs of the day.

By the 1920s the development of Working Men's Institutes brought the game to the masses and leagues were organised right across South Wales. This came to a grinding halt after the General Strike and during the years of Depression, the game not totally recovering its popularity until the 1960s.

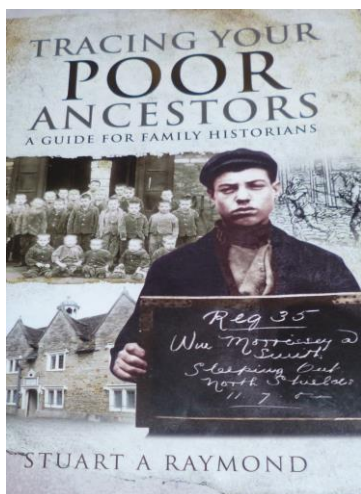
The game received a major boost in 1972 when the American Bobby Fischer wrested the world title from the Russian's representative, Boris Spassky. Teenagers were a rarity before the war but in the 50s and particularly in the late 1960s children began to join clubs, the impetus often being chess 'clubs' held in schools during lunch breaks and after school. Today children are not so evident and have been suborned by the attractions of computer games with an instant 'put 'em up, knock 'em down' facility. The thought of sitting down for an hour (or three) concentrating solely on one game seems to be anathema to the modern generation.

My own interest in the game took several forms and one of those was an interest in the history of the game in Wales. I researched and wrote a manuscript detailing the game's progress, but it wasn't until 2008 that the book was revised and actually published under the title, 'Chess in Wales'. This may seem an odd inclusion in a family history journal but several researchers may be interested as the book includes a 12 page index of players. If anyone believes they had chess playing ancestors anywhere in Wales then I am prepared to look them up. The book ends in 1970, (when Wales as a chess nation became independent), but apart from the index I have other records of those who played in the various leagues.

BOOK REVIEWS

The following two books are linked because Poverty and Insolvency are often bound together. Both come from Pen&Sword Books, 47 Church Street, Barnsley, Yorkshire, S702AS. Telephone orders 01226 734222, email www.pen-and-sword.co.uk. Each book is £14.99 plus postage.

TRACING YOUR POOR ANCESTORS A Guide for Family Historians. Stuart A Raymond



Stuart Raymond, a former librarian of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, looks at how family historians can trace their poor relatives who lived between the 16th and the 20th century. The author gives a well-researched account of what life was like for the poor and how the odds were stacked against them. He reviews the Poor Law and how it changed over time, and also includes details of the main charities involved with the poor and where to find their records. The author also looks at researching crime records, including transportation records. He suggests many other ways for a family historian to find information on their ancestors such as

bankruptcy, friendly societies, record offices, libraries and on the internet. Some of the records he suggests I had not even heard of. The book has a useful index and I particularly liked the notes section where for each chapter he gives details of references that he has used.

Paperback, £14.99, ISBN 9781526742933.

Ian Black

Glamorgan Family History Society
will have a 'Live' Stall at the

Family History Show on Online on Saturday 19 June
10.00 -4.30

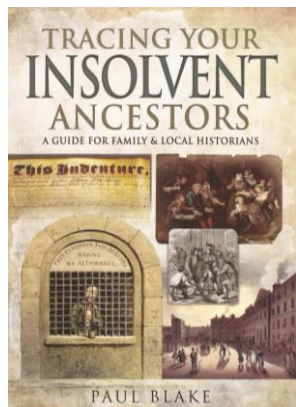
<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online/>

The talks are available for 72 hours.

Research Queries can be posted in the Chat or Face to Face.

TRACING YOUR INSOLVENT ANCESTORS

Paul Blake



The grim pictures on the front cover give a flavour of the contents. This book explains the court system, punishments available and the prison arrangements for the debtor, and does much to enlighten the lives of those who often through misfortune rather than criminality end up in debtors' prisons. There are many details of the records that researchers can use if they are investigating any ancestors who have been caught up in the insolvency system.

Paul Blake is a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists and President of the East Surrey

Family History Society, and has lectured on many aspects of British family history. Paperback, ISBN1526738651.

Jean Fowlds



EXCHANGE JOURNALS

We have a growing list of Societies worldwide that now exchange an electronic copy of their journal available in our Members Only Area.

Here is the current list:

Alberta FHS – Chinook
Austalian Institute of Genealogical
Studies – The Genealogists
Bedfordshire FHS
British Columbia – Genealogist
Cheshire FHS – Cheshire Ancestor
Dorset FHS
East Yorks FHS – Banyan Tree
Genealogical Society of Victoria –
Ancestor (Aus)
Herefordshire FHS
Hertfordshire FHS
Hillingdon FHS

Manchester & Lancs FHS –
Manchester Genealogist
Northern Territories – Progenitor
(Aus)
Powys FHS – Y Cronicl
Richmond Tweed FHS (Aus)
Society of Australian Genealogists
Suffolk FHS
Waltham Forest FHS
Western Australia Genealogical
Society
Wales/NZ Newsletter (Monthly)
Weston Super Mare FHS – Bucket
& Spade
Yorkshire Archaeological Society

JOAN - LADY of WALES

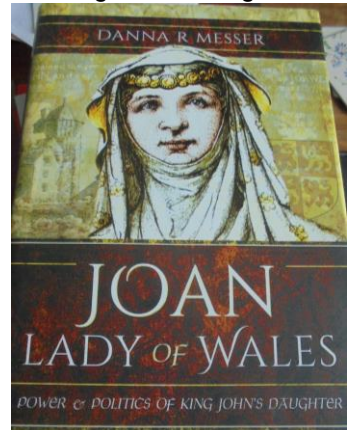
Danna R Messer

Joan, Siwan in Welsh, known as the Lady of Wales, illegitimate daughter of King John and wife of Llywelyn the Great of Gwynedd, has been portrayed several times in fiction by writers such as Sharon Penman (*Here be Dragons*), Ellis Peters (*The Green Branch*), and Barbara Erskine (*Child of the Phoenix*), and also by Saunders Lewis in his play *Siwan*, but there has been no detailed biography of this intriguing woman until now.

Author Dr Danna Messer, a Series editor in Medieval History for Pen & Sword Books, has tackled Joan's life using what little sources that exist, and given an intriguing portrait of an influential and courageous character, setting her in a gendered perspective of medieval Welsh politics. She has placed Joan's life in the context of what it meant to be a medieval queen, and a medieval queen in Wales, and there is much discussion on Welsh customs, including the Welsh laws concerning illegitimacy and primogeniture, which were different from England's, and which could bring about unwelcome outcomes. Those of us who have been brought up and educated in Wales will know that Welsh history was rarely taught, so for the reader this is an insight into the in-fighting between the Welsh princes, often related to one another, and their ongoing fighting against the Norman/English overlords; (genealogical tables for both Joan and Llywelyn would have been very welcome in understanding the complexity of these relationships).

However, the book suffers from many mis-spellings, missing prepositions and other anomalies, which become irritating after a while so that the reader loses concentration on the text in favour of spotting the next error. (I question if the publisher had the services of a proof-reader during lockdown!). If the reader can get over these, then there is good coverage of the people and politics of the often-chaotic relationship between England and Wales in this period, and a glimpse into the life of one of our ancestors, born into the Plantagenets, but a true 'Lady of Wales'.

Hardback, ISBN 1526729296 £25.00, Pen & Sword Books, address as above.



Jean Fowlds

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Ann Round #6102

Being originally from Treboeth, I was very interested in the article by Janet Hudson in the March edition of the Journal. David DAVIES was a contemporary, and indeed a friend of my 3x great-grandfather, Samuel SAMUEL of Penlan Fach Farm, Tirdeunaw. One item in the article isn't quite correct. In 1839 there was indeed an infamous scandal at Mynyddbach, due to the drunkenness and fraudulent behaviour of the minister, one Isaac Harding HARRIES. The congregation voted to expel Harries, but despite everything, a sizable proportion of the membership supported him, and left with him. Unfortunately this included my ancestor Sam and David Davies, Bookbinder. The 'Splitters' did join the Baptists, but that was not their original intention; rather, they attempted to regain ownership of Mynyddbach chapel - apparently armed police were involved. Until Caersalem Newydd was built, services were held at the 'spacious home' of Sam PENLAN. Within a few months of the establishment of the new chapel, the membership at last recognised that Harries was a rogue and he was kicked out. In David Davies's register, Sam's name is first on the list, his wife Gwladys is number 52!

Source: D. Hugh Matthews: Dechreuadau Caersalem Newydd, 1839-1841. Trafodion Cymdeithas Hanes y Bedyddwyr, (1991). (The origins of Caersalem Newydd, 1839-1841, Proceedings of the Baptist Historical Society)

From Mervyn Pugh #1979 FUNERAL RECORDS

You might like to note that I have the Funeral Records of JM Jones & Son Funeral Directors of Hirwaun. I have three books from 1907 to 1929, 1942 to 1969 and 1969 to 1975. My father-in-law was an undertaker with the company which is how I have the books. Unfortunately the book covering 1929 to 1942 is missing. However, the funeral account shows:

- a) Name and date of death of the person plus age at death.
- b) The name and address of the spouse, executor, relation or Solicitor plus their address.
- c) From 1947 grave plot number is included.
- d) Other information like "killed in the Senghenydd explosion".
- e) If a Family Notice was placed in Local Newspaper.
- f) In my case an aunt was "conveyed from Ann Street in Cylfynydd to Penderyn Cemetery"!!
- g) Detail of the expenses etc
- h) The Funerals cover mainly the area of Hirwaun, Rhigos, Cwmdare, Penderyn, Ystradfellte

The 1907 book is quite fragile, but I am happy to check the books for any member wanting a copy of the funeral account.

From Penny Pullen #9465

I really enjoyed the interesting articles about the Welsh in London in the last Glamorgan Family History Journal, particularly those about London Welsh and Sport. But I would like to add to the article regarding the London Welsh Hockey Club. I was surprised to read that the club was formed in 1964.

London Welsh Hockey was started and organised by my father, Iory (Iorwerth) Roberts in 1958. The London Welsh played matches against all the leading London Clubs. At that time we were living in Basingstoke and some home matches were played there. As the article says several players were internationals or aspiring internationals. I remember the excitement when we travelled to support our players in the international team. Iory Roberts organised London Welsh Hockey for at least 5 years and was responsible for bringing on young players. Many went on to play International hockey for Wales and even for Great Britain. I particularly remember one young man who was selected for the Great Britain Olympic team and played in Rome in 1960.



SOCIETY NEWS & REPORTS

At the time of going to press a number of our branches are reviewing the possibility of re-opening in the Autumn but currently it is difficult to plan to resume face to face meetings where venues are not yet open. Further information will be made available via the monthly Mail Chimp Newsletters and on the website. Contact details are also shown at the front of the journal.

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.

Publication Focus:

While the resource centre is closed, we are once again highlighting lesser-known information about a publication that you may find interesting and possibly useful for your research. The focus this month is Bridgend, the publication is the:

English Wesleyan Methodist Circuit for Bridgend

This publication contains indexes of Baptisms between 1844 – 1925 and Marriages between 1905 – 1920. We have to emphasise that being indexes there is not the detail that would be in a register. The register can be consulted at Glamorgan Archives: <https://glamarchives.gov.uk>

Many people when researching a name will focus on an area but in reviewing this publication it becomes clear that as it is a Methodist Circuit the indexes cover a very wide area. Baptisms listed are organised by; Bridgend Circuit, with separate sections for Aberkenfig and Tondy areas.

However, in addition entries can be found for areas as far afield as:

Blackmill, Cefn, Cowbridge, Fountain, Kenfig Hill, Pontycymmer (Garw Valley), Llantwit Major, Maesteg, Pontradu, Porthcawl, Tynewydd.

Marriage indexes do not identify the area where either Bride or Groom resided but as it states to cover the whole of the Bridgend Circuit, it is probable that marriages occurred in the same locations as baptisms.

So, if you have Methodist ancestors and cannot find them where you expected, try something like this as it broadens your search area. Good Luck

This is available via www.genfair.co.uk

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



ABERDARE/CYNON VALLEY BRANCH

As we come out of lockdown, our thoughts start turning to when our branch meetings can resume. At this present time Aberdare Library is open on a phased return in line with Government guidelines. It is unlikely that we will hold our research afternoons until the late autumn. The library is open for referencing purposes with restrictions on numbers and time allocated. Cynon Valley Museum is also on a phased re-opening, they have advised me that at this time they are awaiting government guidelines on the next re-opening phase and are hoping to consider opening their hire rooms from late summer.

Members will be contacted individually when it is safe to return to Branch meetings. However as we are aware Government restrictions can be re-implemented very quickly and at short notice.

Anyone member who is interested in project work, please contact me on the email address below, we currently have 2 projects that have been transcribed but need to be typed up in an Excel and Word document.

Any member, who needs assistance with their family research, can also contact me of the email address below. Keep safe and well everyone,

Pat Rees, aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk

BRIDGEND BRANCH

At the time of writing this we were just starting to come out of lockdown in Wales. I certainly hope this can continue. The Bridgend Branch continue to be kept updated with regular newsletters. Unfortunately, we do not have a date for re-commencing our meetings. We will continue to monitor the Covid19 situation and alert you when it is safe to consider returning to meetings. In the meantime, you may like to consider joining the Cardiff Branch for their ZOOM meetings, they have some very interesting talks and lively discussions on their "Coffee & Chat" sessions, see the website for details.

We hope you are all keeping safe and well. Should you have any questions or research queries the "virtual Help" button on the website remains available.

Nancy Thomas, Chair, bridgend@glamfhs.org.uk



MERTHYR TYDFIL BRANCH

We hope that everyone and their families are keeping well in these difficult times.

The Merthyr Tydfil Branch are fortunate in having an excellent meeting venue in Soar and we have complete faith in this body. We will arrange a meeting there as soon as it is possible and of course follow all the rules and regulations in place. However, the Soar cafe is now open for people to sit outside and so it will be a good informal meeting place for branch members. As it seems much safer to meet in the open air we have decided to have a guided walk around the town. Our first on 6th May will visit the places associated with the Merthyr Rising and Dic Penderyn. These are strange times and before anything else is arranged we will have to see how this works out. A meeting inside may even be allowed and possible in June or July, but we need to take one month at a time. For information on walks or meetings contact Carolyn Jacob on

carolynjacob@btinternet.com

CARDIFF & VALE BRANCH

Online 'Zoom' meetings will continue until Spring 2022.

Sully Branch - Although The Old School Sully will be reopening for some activities from Monday 10 May we have been advised that the room we use for our meetings is not large enough to enable adequate social distancing. We shall keep the situation under review but it is not anticipated that we shall return to The Old School until Spring 2022 since the Coffee and Chat online sessions on the third Thursday in the month have replaced our face to face meetings.

GLAMORGAN FHS ONLINE		
Book via Eventbrite https://www.eventbrite.com/d/online/glamorgan-family-history-society/		
Date	Time	Title
Tues 1 Jun	7.30 pm	Tracing a House History - Gill Blanchard
Sat 12 Jun	11 am	Brickwall – 'To Edward one shilling' Using Probate Records for Family History Research - Jenni Phillips
Thurs 17 Jun	7-8 pm	Coffee & Chat
Tues 6 July	7.30 pm	Marriage Law for Genealogists TBC Prof Rebecca Probert
Sat 10 July	11 am	Brickwall – Battalions and Brigadiers? Interpreting Military Records (rescheduled) – Jeremy Konsbruck
Thurs 15 July	7-8 pm	Coffee & Chat – Writing your Family History
No Meetings August – Online Sessions restart in September		

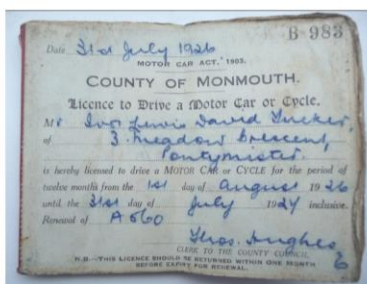
OTHER ONLINE EVENTS

The Family History Show (Online) Saturday 19 June
<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online/>

Friday/Saturday 25/26 June The Genealogy Show – Virtual Event
<https://thegenealogyshow.uk/>

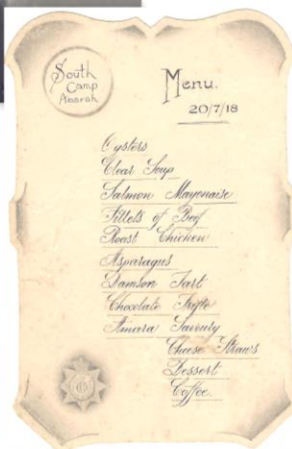
28 August Mayflower International Genealogical Conference
<http://www.devonfhs.org.uk/shop/mayflower.php>

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



Article, Gwen Witham, p.20

Top: Isaac outside The Rising Sun 1914, Bottom Left: Driving Licence, Bottom Right: The Police house in Gelligaer, Isaac in uniform with Lavinia and Ivor and Gordon



Margaret Walker Bevan, p 22

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