



***Glamorgan Family
History Society***

Cymdeithas Hanes

Teuluol Morgannwg



Norwegian Church, Cardiff Bay
Celebrating its 150th Anniversary December 2019
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Centre Insert: AGM Notice & Nomination Form, Members Interests Form, Renewal & Gift Aid Forms, Proposed Amendments to Society Constitution

Society's Objectives

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

The journal is the official publication of the Glamorgan Family History Society. Articles appearing in the journal may not be reproduced without the written permission of the Editor.

Views expressed in articles and letters are not necessarily those of the GFHS.

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

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the last journal of 2019. The previous journal in September, with its theme of immigration into Glamorgan, has certainly sparked much interest and more family histories as a result, which has been very rewarding. Therefore this edition has several articles continuing the theme: Carolyn Jacob provides the second part of her account of the 'Melting Pot' that was Merthyr Tydfil, and related to that is Sue Baker's account of her family's boarding house lodgers in Merthyr. Lyndon Harris writes of his family's intermarriage with the ironmasters of Merthyr, and Peter Spencer tells of how his family came from Greece into Cardiff, via County Cork.

Susan Edwards of the Glamorgan Archives has given us a history of the Norwegian Church in Cardiff, again a story of how people from afar have come to see this part of Britain as their 'home from home'. David Barnard explains how useful Rate Books can be to the family researcher, and Anthony McLaughlin delves into the seamier side of his ancestry, whilst Colin Davies writes of ambition and achievement in a Valleys boy.

As Christmas approaches there are some examples of Victorian recipes for festive fare, if you have rather a lot of guests, so on that note, from everyone at Glamorgan Family History, to all of our readers, Nadolig Llawen, a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i chi gyd!

Jean Fowlds, editor@glamfhs.org.uk

SOCIETY TREASURER NEEDED

As from 29 February 2020

Also Assistant Treasurer and
Book-keeper

For further information contact: Nick Davey

treasurer@glamfhs.org.uk

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

29 February 2020

At last year's AGM a number of our Society Officers wished to step down from the Executive Committee as they had been undertaking these roles for several years. As no-one came forward to take over their roles they gamely volunteered to carry on for another year. Our Treasurer, Nick Davey, has also indicated that he will be resigning at the next Annual General Meeting and advertisements have been placed in subsequent journals and via our Mail Chimp Newsletter asking for assistance with these positions. The Treasurer's role can be split into two or three different parts and be undertaken by different people not necessarily local to South Wales (see advert on page 5).

All Society Officers and Executive Committee Members are elected for one year only. The six Branch representatives are elected at their Branch AGMs.

We are proposing to amend the Society's Constitution at the Annual General Meeting to include a maximum of 5 years consecutive service as a Society Officer. We are also proposing to reduce the quorum needed at a General Meeting from 25 to 15. See Centre Insert for proposed amendments.

The Executive Committee would like to thank the current Society Officers for their commitment and continued endeavours for the Society but now is the time for them to have well-earned break.

To ensure the Society continues it is essential that we receive an indication of any nominations for these vital positions by the New Year. Nomination forms for the Executive Committee are included in the Centre Insert of the Journal and must be returned to the Honorary Secretary by 1 February 2020. Even if you do not feel you could undertake one of the Society Officer roles there are also vacancies for 5 Executive Committee members or you could shadow one of the Officers as an Assistant in the first instance.

Please help - your Society needs you!

MINUTES SECRETARY

This non-Executive role involves:
attendance at the Executive Committee Meetings and the Annual
General Meeting to record the Minutes of those meetings.
(Executive Committee Meetings take place four times a year in
March, June, September and December).

For further information contact: secretary@glamfhs.org.uk

GLAMORGAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

BAPTISMS 'MASTER' INDEX

#180 Sue Hamer

The final 'Master' Index is ready to be uploaded to the Members Only Area of our website. This is the largest of our indexes and contains over 550k entries ranging from 1569 to 1930 for both churches and chapels in the county of Glamorgan.

The delay has been caused by the need to make a number of formatting changes including the need to add surnames to entries where there were none before as in the case of illegitimate children whose surname was only recorded under the mother's name not the father's. With thanks to Stephen Fairhurst of Cardiff Branch who undertook this mammoth task. There were approximately 30K such entries.

As we have been amending the Index of course there are always entries that stand out or catch our interest and here are some that we noted.

As it is Black History Month at the time of writing here are some relevant entries:

Surname	Forename	Occupation	Baptism Date	Year	Address/Age	Church/Chapel
	MARCUS OTHELLO	NEGRO	05FEB	1761	THOS EDWARDS	CARDIFF ST JOHN
FREDERICK	GEORGE AUGUSTUS	A NEGRO	21APR	1772		COWBRIDGE
JONES	JOHN	A BLACK	12JUL	1745		SWANSEA ST MARY
ARGO	BENJAMIN	A BLACK	14JUN	1783		SWANSEA ST MARY
	MARTHA ISABELLA	A POOR BLACK		1784	Aged 22	SWANSEA ST MARY
	ANGELICA	A BLACK	07MAY	1814	NOT KNOWN	SWANSEA ST MARY

Including this entry that was recorded in the original index under the surname: ABLACK!

MOORE	DENIS	A BLACK SEAMAN	01FEB	1786	28	SWANSEA ST MARY
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Baptisms of course do not necessarily need to be of infants and although some entries are just shown as A - Adult. There are a wide range of ages shown in the index. Here is a late baptism from St David Roman Catholic Church, Cardiff. Occupation is given as Ayres although further research would be needed to clarify whether this is her maiden name.

Surname	Forname	Father's name	Occupation	Mother's name	Baptism	Year	Address	Age
PRATT	ESTHER	PHILLIP	AYRES	CHARLOTTE	26DEC	1899	NAZARETH HOUSE	75

Workhouses and schools are also given under Address and frequently there are blocks of baptisms of young adults. Here are just a few whose address is given as Havannah School, Church: Cardiff St Mary.

BOCKLER	WILLIAM	HENRY	CARPENTER	SUSAN	17MAR	1903	15
HAMERTON	GILBERT	EDWARD	ENGINEER		20MAR	1898	15
HARRIS	WALTER THOMAS	FREDERICK GEORGE	LAMP LIGHTER	MARY	17MAR	1893	15
SMITH	FREDERICK				09APR	1879	15
GUY	WILLIAM GEORGE	JAMES	COLLIER	ELIZA ANNE	26FEB	1904	14
TRANTER	WILLIAM GEORGE	GEORGE	COACH MAN		26FEB	1904	14
WEBB	DAVID	CHARLES	CAB DRIVER	MARY	14MAR	1903	14
RUSSELL	THOMAS	THOMAS	LAB		11MAR	1900	14

More information will be available about the index once it is launched, including covering dates and locations. www.glamfhs.org.uk

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Website/Project Administrator(s)

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

More resources like the Baptisms Master Index could be provided quicker with additional support

These roles do not need to be South Wales based.

Roles/Tasks include:

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

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

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

MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL REMINDER

2019 Annual Membership expires on 31 March 2020

12 months subscription: UK £15 Overseas £20

Quite a few members, paying via Standing Order, have not updated their subscription to the new rate introduced in 2017. The expiry date for your membership is shown on your Journal envelope and on your account when you log into our website. If this applies to you please contact our Membership team in order to ensure you receive all four journals and continue to have access to the website.

Renewals can be made:

- online via our website, Genfair or Parish Chest
- by cheque
- by Standing Order or Bank Transfer.

Further details on our website, renewal forms included in the Centre Insert of this journal.

We are now also offering two other subscription rates for members wishing to join/rejoin part of the way through the year.

	<u>UK</u>	<u>Overseas</u>
• 18 month subscriptions from 1 October	£20	£25
• 15 month subscriptions from 1 January.	£17	£22

membership@glamfhs.org.uk

Association Family History Societies of Wales



<http://www.fhswales.org.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/fhswales/>

Volunteers needed at the following events:

Family Tree Live, Alexandra Palace, London - 17/18 April 2020

The Genealogy Show, NEC, Birmingham - 26/27 June 2020

Please contact: Menna Evans secretary@fhswales.org.uk

IMMIGRATION INTO MERTHYR TYDFIL

THE MELTING POT PART 2

#2183 Carolyn Jacob

It was the eminent historian, Eric Hobsbawm, who maintained that the Industrial Revolution began in Britain in the 1780s and was not fully felt until the 1830s or 1840s; other historians differ with the dates being slightly earlier or later. There had been copper, silver, lead and even gold mines in Britain from the times of the Romans onwards, and an ironworks in Pontygwaith in 1583, but it was the founding of the mighty Cyfarthfa Ironworks in Merthyr Tydfil over 250 years ago that has led Merthyr into being labelled one of the birthplaces and cradles of the Industrial Revolution.

The iron industry was supplemented by coal and other industries, followed by the railway which replaced the old canals for transportation, and all this brought huge numbers of people into the area for work and a better life. By the mid-nineteenth century Merthyr and its surrounding industrial settlements could boast an industrial population greater than that of Manchester. Immigrants to the Merthyr area came from near and far; in part 1 of this article I wrote about those who came from within Great Britain, and this second part describes the migration of the Jews, the Spanish, the Italians and the Germans into the area.

The Jews

Merthyr Tydfil had the biggest Jewish community in Wales and at its height there were 400 Jews in the town. This was a very influential and prosperous Jewish population comprising mainly of jewellers, watchmakers, pawnbrokers, and clothiers, becoming very accomplished business owners, in contrast to their humble beginnings as economic migrants from Eastern Europe. As an example of their upward social mobility, the Merthyr Express of 18th October 1884 records a 'Jewish Wedding at Merthyr', which was the marriage of Jennie LEVINSON of Merthyr and Julius GITTLESOHN of Dowlais. It was a very grand affair and the bride purchased her wedding dress from Oxford Street. There were a number of Christians invited to attend the wedding which took place in the Synagogue, and the dinner which followed was held in the Temperance Hall, with Mr SIEDLE's Band playing until four in the morning.

Another illustration of the wealth built up by Jewish traders was given by the Merthyr Express of 16th August 1862, which recorded an extensive robbery of jewellery by Barnett SAMUEL, a hawker of 21 years. 'The prisoner stated that he was a German, and asked to be tried by a jury which contained 50 per cent foreigners. This occasioned some delay, but eventually a number of foreigners were found and a jury empanelled.' He had been charged with robbing Samuel ISAAC, a Jewish jeweller at Merthyr, of 6 gold watches, 52

silver watches, 40 gold chains with a total value of £400, a mighty sum in those days.

In the 1880s throughout South Wales there was widespread condemnation of the persecution of the Jews in Russia, as recorded in the Merthyr Express of 18th March, 1882. In 1901 because of the Boer War the Dowlais Steelworks was short of labourers and a number of Orthodox Eastern European Jews took up jobs in the Dowlais Works. There was some trouble because the Irish considered the unskilled work at Dowlais as theirs by right. When there was a problem the respectable established Jewish Community used the power of the law, and on one occasion took an Irishman to court for beating up one of the newly arrived 'Russian' Jews. However, the Irish Community generally got on very well with the Jewish one; many of the Eastern European Jews stayed here only a short time and left for Canada in 1906.

The Germans

More research would be needed to give a picture of the German community in Merthyr Tydfil, but there was an area of Merthyr near the Cyfarthfa Ironworks which was named High Germany and at one time there were sufficient numbers of visiting German musicians here to cause there to be numerous complaints about them in the Merthyr Express!

The Italians

The story of modern Italian immigration began with a tide of economic migrants in the 19th century, the majority coming from the mountain villages of the North, often as seasonal workers walking overland to French ports. Gradually more stayed and either saved enough to bring their families here, or married local women and started families here. They encouraged other family members and friends from their villages to join them in a classic pattern of chain migration. The 20th century saw another wave of immigration, predominantly from the south of Italy and Sicily. A significant number passed through London and branched out to establish communities in South Wales. Charlie SPERONI wrote that leaving the family farm and vineyards in Italy was a major upheaval. As a child in 1927 he arrived in Wales unable to speak a word of English but he was made to feel very welcome. As well as attending school he was expected to work in the family business. During the depression the family rented a fish and chip shop in Penydarren and Charlie was in full time employment working on the chip carts in the winter and the ice cream carts in the summer months. He worked in London for a few years but always returned to Merthyr. Charlie never returned again to Italy and said that 'The sky may not be so blue in Wales, but the friendliness of its people make it home.'

The GALLIOZZIE family have been living in Merthyr Tydfil for over 130 years, since Luigi moved here in the 1870s. Martyn Galliozzie, a former Welsh ABA featherweight champion in the 1970s was definitely Welsh. Another family, according to its family history, tells of how as a young boy Dominico BASAGELAO arrived in South Wales in the early 1860s, and finding himself in Pantywaun on a snowy winter's evening he took lodgings with Mr and Mrs THOMAS of the Royal Arms Public House. He found work as a collier in the South Tunnel Drift Mine. Although a poor Italian and a stranger, he married into the prestigious JONES (Ceffyl Gwyn) family who were Welsh-speaking chapel people. They had nine children, the eldest was John Martin Basagelao born in 1868. John became a wealthy man in his own right, becoming the landlord of the Tredegar Arms and the former Red Lion public houses at Dowlais Top, as well as owning a great many properties which he rented out.

The requirement for aliens to register was introduced by the Aliens Registration Act of 1914, with the registration cards kept by the local police force. At the start of World War II Italian nationals were interned as enemy aliens, which many felt to be extremely harsh treatment as they themselves were fiercely anti-Fascist, and they appealed against their internment. Just prior to the Second World War a number of Italian residents in the Borough decided that the time had come to make important decisions and a number made the big step of applying for and achieving British citizenship. Among their number was Giovanni BRACCHI from Troedryhiw, Merthyr Tydfil, who took the Oath of Allegiance in August 1938. There was also Giovanni and Giuseppe OPEL from Treharris and Cesare CORDANI, Merthyr Tydfil. Mr BARSÌ who ran a fish and chip shop in Penydarren was thankfully not interned during the Second World War, having served his adopted country well during the First, in the Welsh Regiment. In June 1940, 14 'eligible' Italian residents in the Borough were interned.

There is still an Italian café in Merthyr Tydfil today, and throughout the South Wales valleys many Italian cafes were known as 'Bracchis', regardless of the real names of the proprietors.

The Spanish

Trade between Spain and Dowlais began in the 1860s, but it was not until 1900 that Spanish families started to settle in Glamorgan. The Spanish workers were very welcome, since the Boer War created a labour shortage in the Dowlais Works, as mentioned above. By 1920 there were over 200 persons of Spanish origin living in the Merthyr Tydfil Borough, making it the biggest single Spanish Community in Britain. The 1901 census reveals that there were 43 persons living in 6 houses in Spanish Row, all of these were born in Spain, with the exception of a young baby, Francisco LINARERY,

born in Dowlais, and a twelve-year-old born in the United States, which seems to indicate that the child's family had been living in America. The Spanish were iron workers, many with skilled jobs such as blacksmiths, ball furnace founder or blast furnace founder.

The Welsh miners have always shown sympathy with the Spanish workers, as is shown by correspondence in Foreign Office Papers. In 1917 there were labour troubles in Spain and the miners of Merthyr Tydfil demonstrated in support of the Spanish Trade Unions, and against the measures of repression adopted by the Spanish Government, and strikes broke out. A serious diplomatic incident occurred when the Spanish Vice Consul visited the Borough to see what was happening and the Merthyr Tydfil Chief Constable was rude to him. The Foreign Office papers headed 'recent labour troubles in Spain' maintained that the most serious complaint is that the Chief of Police made hostile allusions to the recent events in Spain, it seems that because of the large Spanish colony in the borough that the police in Merthyr did have an intimate knowledge of Spanish politics!

During the Spanish Civil War the Parish priest of Dowlais was known to be a strong supporter of Franco and tales are told, which may be exaggerated, that he refused to attend upon members of the Roman Catholic Community whose children had become Communists or joined the International Brigade. Roman RODERIGUEZ, who died in Spain during the battle of Brunete in July 1937, was a native of Spain, but had lived in Dowlais for over 21 years and prior to the closure of the Dowlais Works he had been employed as a 'slagger in the Bessemer'. His wide reading and close observation of political events and the working-class struggle drew him to the Communist Party. He went to Spain in company with local men JS WILLIAMS, Tim HARRINGTON, Griff JONES, Evan PETERS and Lance ROGERS, and his knowledge of two languages made him of especial value to the British Battalion of the International Brigade. The dedication to his memory states, 'He was undoubtedly one of the most popular of the Spanish fraternity of Dowlais, and was renowned for his perpetual smiling expression and happy countenance'.

A Multi-Cultural Society

There are many tales passed down in families which paint a fascinating picture of our multicultural society, but space allows for only a couple: one story concerns Dolores QUESADA and Angel ANTOLIN who were both born in Spain but moved to South Wales. They lived in Dowlas but according to family legend they left in great hurry with angry Italians being in hot pursuit, as they had got hold of a secret Italian recipe for making ice cream! The recipe was lost to the Welsh Italian community and taken up by the Welsh Spaniards.

In March 1950 a War Memorial plaque was unveiled in the Town Hall in memory of the members of the Town Hall staff who lost their lives in the Second World War. Amongst the six was Angelo Benito SOLARI, RAF. At the ceremony the standard of the Merthyr Tydfil Branch of the British Legion was carried by Mr Con MAHONEY, and J DRISCOLL was the standard bearer of the RAF Association. When the annual Remembrance Service took place in Merthyr Tydfil in the November of each year the Rabbi stood alongside the Salvation Army Major and the Vicar of the Parish, and the Merthyr Hebrew Congregation was always well represented in the 1950s by Mr Isaac HAMILTON and the Rabbi A COHEN.

Editor's note: Readers of this article may well have many more stories and information to pass on regarding our mixed heritage in the 'Melting Pot' of South Wales, so please put pen to paper, fingers to keyboard, and let us have them.

ABERKENFIG RESOURCE CENTRE

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

CLOSED - 25 Dec, 1 Jan, 29 Jan, 26 Feb & 25 Mar

Open Wednesday 10.30–1.00 pm
The Pensioners' Hall, Heol Persondy,
Aberkenfig, CF32 9RF (This is not the postal address)
Just off Junction 36 of the M4

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

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

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

MIGRATION

The roots and branches of Ivy Brown of Merthyr Tydfil

#11166 Susan Baker

In the article 'Beyond the Horizon' (September 2019 Journal) C T Davies says that migration is a multi-faceted subject and this is proving to be true of my family in terms of specific connections to Glamorgan.

The history of my family, for at least the four generations before my own, is mostly rooted in the small corner of Kent in the area around Romney Marsh, but there is a fairly recent family history thread that leads from there to Merthyr Tydfil.

The central person in my migration to Glamorgan story is my Nan, my paternal Grandmother, who was born in Merthyr Tydfil in 1908 (Ivy BROWN 3.4.1908 - 12.10.1997). Ivy's parents are Harriet JEFFERY (15.1.1888 - 3rd quarter 1952) and Christmas (later Christopher) Brown (25.12.1889- ?); both were born in Merthyr Tydfil.

Harriet's parents, Frank Jeffery (1862), and Catherine ROBERTS (1871), were born in Suffolk and Glamorgan respectively. Frank's occupation is variously recorded as that of Chimney Sweep/Tinman/Plumber. I have yet to trace the origins of Harriet's grandparents.

Christmas's parents, William (1850-1908) and Ellen CONNOR/S (1851/2/3-(?)1950), were born in City of London/Middlesex and Tredegar, Monmouthshire respectively. I believe I have traced Ellen's parents to origins in Ireland, but more research is needed and work is also needed in tracing William's parents.

A possible picture emerging therefore is that the men of my family, like many others, went to Glamorgan to seek work and settled in the area having married local women. For the purposes of this article however I am concentrating on Ellen and William about whom I have discovered much already.

I started with the census returns in Merthyr Tydfil. In the 1871 census Ellen and William, married in 1869 at Merthyr's Registry Office, are living at 3 Jones Court, Merthyr Tydfil; no-one else is listed as living in the household. William's occupation is that of a Labourer (?Iron Works).

By the time the 1881 Census is taken Ellen and William are living at 6 Pottery Row, Merthyr Tydfil, together with six children. Also living in the household are a boarder and a visitor; the boarder is a 20 year old single man, a labourer, born in Merthyr Tydfil and the visitor is a married 23 year old man,

a chimney sweep, born in Pembroke, and from here Ellen and William's career as lodging providers would appear to begin.

It is a slow start though because the 1891 Census shows Ellen and William are now living at 20 Wool Street, with seven children, but just two years later William makes an application to open a lodging house in Upper Taff Street (*The Merthyr Times* and *Dowlais Times* and *Aberdare Echo*, Friday September 22 1893).

This Upper Taff Street lodging house appears in the papers again in 1899 when a police court heard that a lodger who had rented out one of the furnished rooms for a period of about four or five weeks had given notice and made off with the bed sheets worth 3 shillings. She had taken the sheets to a pawnbroker using a different name but admitted the theft and was fined 10 shillings without costs (*The Merthyr Times*, Friday April 14 1899).

Therefore in 1901 at No 2 Upper Taff Street, in addition to William listed as living at the lodging house, are 28 lodgers; his occupation is that of Mason, he is a worker and he speaks both Welsh and English. Twelve of these lodgers show places of birth as mostly Glamorgan and Monmouthshire, and one from Wrexham. Those born elsewhere show 4 from Ireland, 1 from Scotland, 5 from Germany (German subjects), and the rest from English counties. There were 25 males aged 15 to 63, and 3 females aged 18-43.

The occupations of these lodgers show 14 as general labourers, 2 are printers, 2 are pedlars, 1 unrecorded occupation, 2 are masons' labourers, and there are 5 musicians (see below). From these, only three, from Dowlais, Merthyr and Wrexham, are Welsh and English speaking.

As the five musicians share the same family name, possibly a father, two sons and a daughter, I wondered if they had been booked to perform at a Merthyr concert. However a brief search of the 1911 Census shows possible matches for some members of this German-born family, these being a street musician living in Birmingham, and a street musician living in Liverpool, which leads me to wonder if the family were also street musicians while in Merthyr Tydfil, and were maybe just passing through. I can find no likely matches in the 1891 Census and thus my curiosity is strengthened.

It seems that Ellen and William may have extended their business premises. The 1901 Census shows William at No 2 Upper Taff Street Lodging House and the Piper family at No 3 but the transcript of the 1911 Census suggests the property then comprises No 2 and No 3 Upper Taff Street, so it would seem at some point between 1901 and 1911 Ellen and William acquire No 3, or just Ellen does (William died in 1908), but the original census document

records No 2 only (searching the census records by address has not been helpful as it seems that Taff Street has been recorded as Upper Taff Street in some transcripts).

As noted above William dies in 1908. In his will William leaves to each of his sons, David and Christmas (my great-grandfather), an ice cream barrow with contents, possibly coming from a family migrated from Italy?

In 1911 Ellen is listed as Lodging House Keeper, but this is jumping ahead a bit because although William is at No 2 Upper Taff Street when the 1901 Census is taken Ellen is recorded as being at Wool Street as wife to the head of the household (who is not listed). Also at the Wool Street address are recorded two daughters, three sons, one servant/housemaid (domestic) and three visitors. The housemaid is a 51 year old widow born in Aberdare. The family of visitors originate from outside of Glamorgan and are a Mason's Labourer (born 1861 Cumberland), his wife (born 1873 in Scotland) and their son (born 1896 Scotland) and I wonder if this is a family of rent-paying boarders.

The 1911 Census shows Ellen at the property in Upper Taff Street, Merthyr Tydfil. She speaks both Welsh and English. Also in the household are Ellen's 16 year old daughter, Elizabeth Jane BROWN, born Merthyr. She speaks only English. Ellen's Servant is 40 year old married woman Margaret POWELL, born Abercanaid, Glamorgan. Margaret speaks both Welsh and English. It is recorded that Ellen had a total of 20 children with only 10 surviving (thus far I have only been able to identify 12).

Of the 34 boarders all are British Subjects apart from one whom is Dutch; 3 speak both Welsh and English and 31 speak English only. 26 are males aged 21-70, and 8 are females 31-54. There are 18 single men, 4 married couples, 1 married couple with their child, and 5 married people without their spouses present (3 men and 2 women).

Their occupations: 23 are Workers/5 work on Own Account/6 are without Occupation.

The range of occupations is wide:

Mason's Labourers/Mason's Stone Labourers(5)	Hawker of fish (1)
Bricklayers Labourer (1)	Flower Market Seller (1)
Builders' Labourer (1)	General Hawkers (2)
General Labourers (9)	Mason's Hawker (1)
Above Ground Colliery Labourers (2)	Tailor (1)
Below Ground Colliery Labourer (1)	Moulder (?Iron)(1)
Timber Yard Labourer (1)	French Polisher (1)

Eleven of these are South Wales born: Aberdare, Merthyr, Dowlais, Rhondda, Llanelly, Neath and Monmouthshire. Five are English, from Clapham, London and Cheltenham. There are 3 from Ireland, 1 from Scotland, 1 from Cape Town in South Africa (a Dutch national), and the rest from all over England.

It would appear that one male boarder, born in Merthyr Tydfil, was a guest at Upper Taff Street in 1901 and 1911.

The Electoral Register of Autumn 1920 shows Christopher (Christmas) is resident at No 2 Upper Taff Street and Ellen at 2 and 3 together with seven others of whom six are men (other Electoral Registers to be explored). The 1939 Register shows Ellen to be living at No 3 Upper Taff Street though by now her occupation is that of being 'Incapacitated'. The Register also suggests that No 2 was still a lodging house, as there are 11 occupants listed and there is possibly a separate household at No 3, this being George Edward and Margaret NASH. There is no sign of Christmas/Christopher living here now.

I cannot help but be curious about the lives of William and Ellen as lodging house keepers, what kind of challenges that may have come their way, the above-mentioned sheet theft being only one such issue that I have uncovered. What of their boarders, what was their experience of lodging in the Upper Taff Street property, what does the evidence that one local man, possibly lodged at Upper Taff Street for at least ten years, show? (though this, of course, would be a huge assumption with no other evidence either way that his tenancy was continuous). The evidence shows that Victorian "common lodging houses" were often overcrowded with rotational bed sharing, and poorly serviced and insanitary, and what was life like for the solitary servant in that apparently busy boarding house of 1911? Generally speaking it is said that being in service in a boarding house is one of the most difficult areas of service to work in simply because it is not only the needs of the family that need to be attended to but those of the boarders too, but I cannot help but wonder if Ellen and Elizabeth were also involved in the work of the establishment.

My own direct story though relates to women migrating from Glamorgan because my Great Grandmother Harriet and Grandmother Ivy move from Merthyr Tydfil either directly or indirectly to London. Harriet remains in London and after a period of working in service in New Romney (Kent) Ivy marries Herbert James Charles (Jim) BARNES (my grandfather) in 1930. As my Nan's life is what it is through her grandfathers' migration to Glamorgan, so mine is what it is through my Nan's migration from Glamorgan to Kent.

I would be interested to hear from anyone with whom my family story resonates.

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- Migrants from Italy and ice cream www.visitwales.com accessed and www.bbc.co.uk (Italians in Wales Blog 22.10.12) accessed 9.10.19.

RESURRECTION CHEESE

#10933 Gerald Jarvis

About the years 1860-64, a Mr PLOWDEN, of Trefenty, nr Llanfihangel, permitted a local shepherd to keep two cows on his land; the milk they gave enabled the shepherd to make some cheese which he sold on to supplement his wages.

The shepherd could not afford a cheese-press (gwasg), but being an enterprising fellow, he looked around for some suitable stone to suit his purpose, as in those days a farmhouse cheese could be up to 2 feet in diameter. On discovering a couple of fallen headstones in the graveyard of a deserted church, he took a couple away, and after a bit of work re-shaping the stones he was happy with the finished job and put them to work immediately. However, he did not see that one of the stone presses bore the inscription 'In Memory of David THOMAS', and it was those words that came out clearly impressed into the new cheeses.

The shepherd took his wares to St Clears Market one day, and it was not long before he attracted several interested customers, one of whom remarked 'You must have resurrected this cheese!' This caused much laughter at the market, which attracted lots more potential customers for the new Trefenty 'Resurrection Cheese' (Caws yr Atgyfodiad).

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THE NORWEGIAN CHURCH, CARDIFF

Susan Edwards, Glamorgan Archivist

Cardiff's multicultural population is by no means a recent phenomenon. The town's rapid growth during the 19th century as a port serving Glamorgan's industrial hinterland attracted workers from Britain and around the world. Many settled; in 1911 the foreign male population of Cardiff was second only to London in Britain. Many more were transient visitors, particularly the sailors on foreign-registered vessels calling at the docks. Among them were a substantial group of Norwegians, Swedes and Danes, and it was to these men that Pastor Lars OFTEDAL of the Norwegian Seamen's Mission addressed his ministry from 1866.

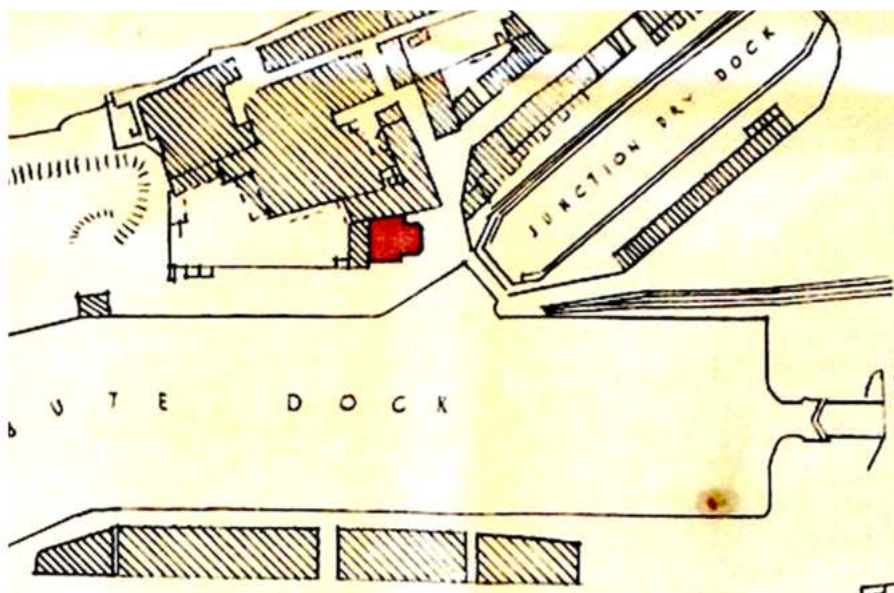
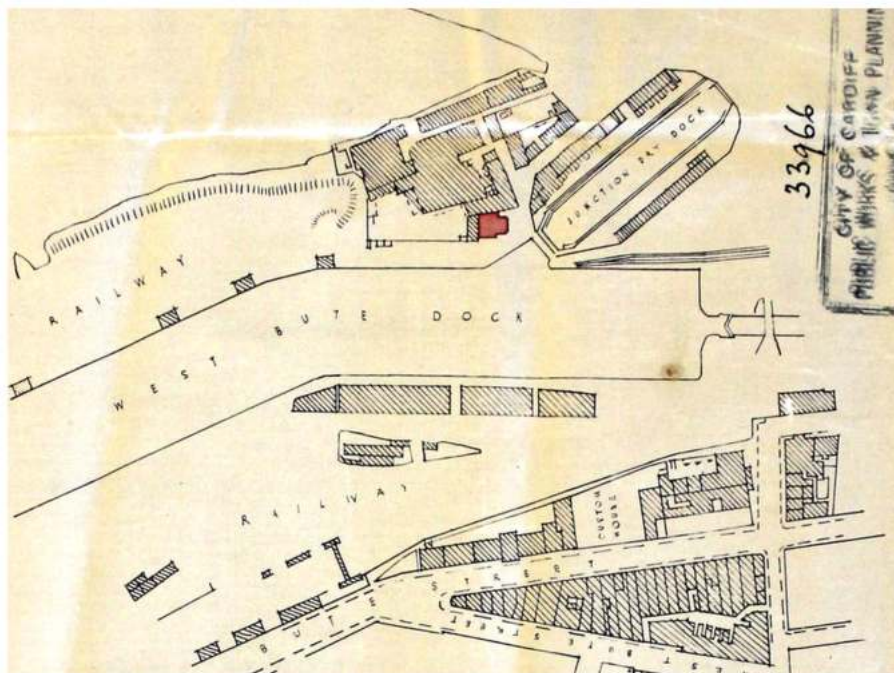
After initially meeting on board ship and in a redundant chapel, the Sjømannskirken was soon erected. Prefabricated in Norway and shipped to Cardiff, it was in typical Norwegian style, although made of corrugated iron sheets. The port authorities had insisted that it should be easily dismantled and re-located if necessary. The church was consecrated 150 years ago, on 16 December 1869, and remained in its original position until its eventual removal in 1987.

The Norwegian Seamen's Mission's 25th Annual Report highly commended the location which:

...could not be improved upon, as it is situated between the two docks, at the point where they converge towards the inlets. The church is thus positioned in amongst the ships, so that it is at only a short walk's distance from many of them, and easy to find for all those who would like to visit it.'

The absence of possibly more enticing attractions on the dockside was a major point in its favour, as the seamen *...do not need to go into the town and expose themselves to its temptations, only for the sake of a visit to the reading room.*

The church developed with the increase in Scandinavian, and particularly Norwegian, shipping in the Bristol Channel ports. Missions were established at Newport, Swansea and Barry Dock, served by Assistant Missionaries under the Pastor at Cardiff. By 1920 the Pastor lived in the Norwegian vicarage, 'Prestegaarden', at 181 Cathedral Road. The number of Scandinavian ships using the area's ports rose from 227 in 1867 to 3,611 in 1915, and annual statistics for communicants and visitors rose correspondingly from 7,572 in 1867 to 73,580 in 1915. The industrial and economic problems of the 1920s and 1930s affected the Norwegian churches. By 1931 the Mission was reduced to its churches in Cardiff and Swansea only.



The original location of the Norwegian Church
Images courtesy of Glamorgan Archives

During the Second World War Cardiff's resident Norwegian community increased and many more Norwegians passed through the port as seamen or refugees. The Iron Church and its staff worked with the local branch of the Norwegian Seamen's Union and other organisations to provide for its people during these difficult years. The Norwegian merchant navy played a significant role in the Allied war effort, but many ships and lives were lost. The bombing raids on Cardiff made even shore leave unsafe. A number of men were killed when the Scandinavian Seamen's Home on Bute Street was hit and destroyed.

At the end of the war Cardiff's Scandinavian communities joined together to celebrate the peace. From that time on, however, activity in the Seamen's Mission declined, staff were reduced, and the Norwegian community itself dispersed as Cardiff ceased to be a major port. The Iron Church closed in 1959, the last service taking place on 17 May, Norway's national festival, Grunnlovsdagen, Constitution Day.

The church remained standing, in an increasing state of dilapidation, for almost thirty years. In the 1980s South Glamorgan County Council sponsored the establishment of the Norwegian Church Preservation Trust to save the church and integrate it into the re-developed docks. Roald Dahl, the author, was the Trust's first President, as a Cardiff-Norwegian himself. In 1987 the old church was dismantled and stored for re-assembly. However, the church which was eventually opened in a splendid new location overlooking Cardiff Bay in 1992 was almost entirely a new creation. As much of the original building as was useable was incorporated into the new church, but most of the materials were new, donated by companies in Norway and in Cardiff, or purchased with the donations raised by public subscription in the Bergen area. Many companies gave their services free to complete the church, which is now built of wood, except for the roof of sheet steel, especially produced by a local firm to fit the building.

The church was officially opened by Princess Märtha Louise on 8 April 1992 as a cultural centre. Although it is not consecrated as a church, art exhibitions and concerts are held in the building and a café serves food and drink.

This article has drawn on an unpublished lecture by Professor John Greve and on 'Med Norsk Sjømannsmisjon I hundre år' [100 years of the Norwegian Mission to Seamen], by Gunnar Christie Wasberg

Errors and Corrections

Our last journal, no 135, page 22, line 4, should have read Evans Street, Aberkenfig, and not Evans Road. Thanks to Len Cooke for spotting it.

FROM GREECE TO CARDIFF VIA COUNTY CORK

#10737 Peter Spencer

My great grandfather, Nicholas SVOMBO, was born about 1827 on the Greek island of Hydra. The 1861 census described his occupation as ship agent. The 1871 census described his occupation as ship broker.

On 9th November 1854 he married my great grandmother Ellen (née BARRY) at St John the Baptist Church (now demolished) in Queenstown, County Cork. Queenstown was previously called Cobh (pronounced cove), known as the “Cove of Cork” being close to Cork City. Cobh was popular with Queen Victoria hence it was renamed Queenstown but after Irish independence its name reverted to Cobh. Queenstown was the last port that *RMS Titanic* called at and there is a museum in Cobh dedicated to the Titanic. Queenstown was also the port where survivors of the sinking of *RMS Lusitania* on 7th May 1915 by U-20 were taken. In 1868 work began on building St Colman’s Cathedral on the site of the former St John the Baptist Church. Below is an extract from the parish register which includes my grandparents’ marriage.

<u>Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915:</u>			
<u>Cloyne; Cobh; 1812 - 1877</u>			
Year 1854			
Date	Persons Married	Witnesses	Clergyman
11/11	John Nicholas & Ellen Barry	Garrett Barry & Mary McCarthy	John Barry
12	Nicholas Svombo & Ellen Barry	Garrett Barry & Mary McCarthy	John Barry

Cobh, Cork, Ireland. 8th November 1854:

Marriage of Nicolas Svombo to Ellen Barry.

Witnesses: Garrett Barry & Mary McCarthy

In 1911, probably by my paternal grandfather, the following extract from the marriage register was obtained from St Colman’s Cathedral.

Marriage Certificate.

EXTRACT FROM THE MARRIAGE REGISTER, St. COLMAN'S CATHEDRAL, Queenstown

PERSONS MARRIED.	DATE OF MARRIAGE.	WITNESSES.	CELEBRANT.
Nicholas Swambo Ellen Barry	9 th November 1854	Garrett Barry Mary Mc Carthy	Rev. Murphy

I hereby certify the above to be a correct extract,

Signed, Thomas Hadden M.A.

Dated at St. Colman's Cathedral, Queenstown, this 1st day of March 1871.

Ellen BARRY was the daughter of Garrett and Mary Catherine (née CONNELL). She was baptised on 5th February 1832 in Queenstown. Her record of baptism is below.

February Year 1832				
Date	Name	Parents	Sponsors	Clergyman
5	Mary Connell	Nick & Mary Barry	John & Mary James	P. Duff
5	Ellen Barry	Garrett & Mary Connell	John & Mary James	P. D.
6	Bridget Moran	Nick & Ellen Barry	David & Mary James	P. D.

Nicholas and Ellen's first child, Lazarus, was baptised on 29th July 1855 in Queenstown.

In 1855 or 1856 Nicholas Ellen and Lazarus moved to Cardiff, to 59 Bute Street, where their second child, Mary Ellen, was born on 13th November 1856. Mary Ellen was baptised on 27th November 1856 at St David's Catholic Church, Cardiff, where all their subsequent children were baptised. They then moved to 61 Bute Street, where in 1858 George arrived and was duly baptised on 4th July of that year.

On 29th May 1860 David Emmanuel was born, and baptised on 22nd July 1860, the family address just written as Bute Street.

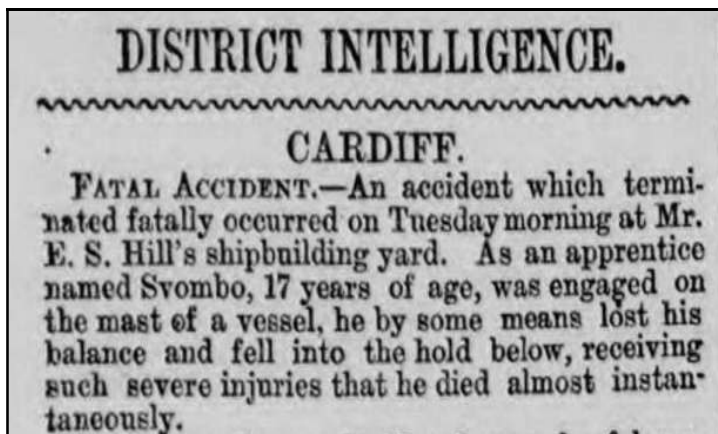
The 1861 census lists the SVOMBO family living at 64 Bute Street, but by December of that year they had moved to 10 Mount Stuart Square, where on 16th December Ellen gave birth to Constantine Garrett, who was baptised on 15th February 1863, but the address this time was 47 Mount Stuart Square.

The family moved again, this time to 29 Working Street, where Stimati was born in 1864, baptised on 3rd December that year, and still at that address in 1866 Emily Augusta arrived, baptised on 15th May 1866.

After yet another move, to 4 Duffryn Street, Ellen gave birth to Anthony in 1868, baptised on 13th January 1869, and on 4th February 1871 my grandmother was born. She was registered as Margaret and listed as such in the 1871 census, but she was baptised on 17th October 1871 with the names Maria Calliope, which she was known by for the rest of her life. Ellen's last child arrived in 1873, and was baptised Anne Cleopatra on 24th March 1873, with the family's address given as 85 Adam Street.

On an unknown date the family moved to 22 Adam Street where on 4th February 1876 Nicholas SVOMBO died. He was buried in plot E96 of Cathays Cemetery.

On 9th October 1876 David Emmanuel SVOMBO died when he fell into the hold of a ship on which he was working. Below is an extract from the Western Mail, dated 11th October 1876.



When the 1881 census was taken Ellen SVOMBO was living at 19 Sandon Place. The head of house was listed as John CALLAGHAN and Ellen was listed as his wife. No record has been found of their marriage. Living with them were 3 of her children: Emily, Anthony and Calliope (my grandmother);

her older children had all left home. But what about Anne Cleopatra who was only 3 when her father died? According to a descendant of Constantine, who had been away at sea at the time, Ellen told him that his sister had been sent to Greece to live with relatives. Was that true, or had she been given to a foster family in Cardiff? That is anybody's guess.

Ellen died on 26th January 1912 at 51 Tyndall Street, with her death being registered still as Ellen Svombo.

The surname SVOMBO has over the years been changed to SWAMBO, SWANBO and SWOMBOW, probably depending on how it was pronounced by the speaker and understood by the person who heard it. There are living descendants of Nicholas and Ellen residing in Glamorgan and some in North Wales.

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Society Name	Title of Newsletter/Magazine
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Suffolk FHS	Suffolk Roots
Wales New Zealand FHS	Newsletter
Waltham Forest FHS	Roots in the Forest
Weston Super Mare FHS	Buckets & Spades

RATE BOOKS TO THE RESCUE

#10891 David Barnard

I cannot recall ever having used Rate Books in earnest before but they certainly came in useful when researching a Gardener recently. George WILKINSON was born on the Cresswell estate in Northumberland in 1837. George's father was employed as Wood Keeper on the estate and at the time of the 1851 census, his son George, was a 14 year old gardener on the estate.

I was fascinated to find George in the 1861 census working as Under-Gardener at Mottisfont in Hampshire. He was living, alone, in the Garden House of the Mottisfont Abbey estate which currently is home to the National Trust collection of historic roses. One has to wonder how George got there at a time when the nation's rail network was still being developed. And what sort of gardener's grapevine let him know there would be a job over 300 miles away?

It was while George was working on this estate that he met and married Martha TAYLOR, a kitchen maid at the Abbey. That was in 1864 and presumably cost them their jobs since we next meet up with them in Carmarthenshire – again, by land, about 200 miles. George and Martha had their first child, Henry Cecil Wilkinson, in 1867 at Middleton Hall which, of course, is now home to the National Botanical Gardens of Wales. He couldn't have worked there long as at the next census he is living at Cowbridge Road, Ely, Cardiff. It was there that their first daughter was born but Lucy May died at two years of age.

In 1881 George and Martha are living on the Abernant Estate on the outskirts of Aberdare where George is Head Gardener to the FOTHERGILLS, ironmasters of Abernant. Searching at Welsh Newspapers Online I found that he was one of two judges at the Llwynypia Horticultural Show, and also at the Cefn show. In each write-up he is credited as Head Gardener.

This was George's final employment as at the 1891 census he is described as Market Gardener living at Villier Street, Briton Ferry. This is where George ends his days. He did well: after working on a number of distinguished estates he is able to retire with his own Market Garden. In February and March of 1891 there are newspaper advertisements for a man to help in the market garden. Of course, that wasn't quite enough – it never is with family history – as I then wanted to know where exactly this market garden was situated and how large it was.

I paid a visit to Swansea Library to check the trades directories for the area. I found three references in the 1890s as greengrocer, fruiterer and greengrocer, and as seedsman. The directories only give his residence address and it was clear from a map in the library that Villiers Street would not have been home to a Market Garden. I next went to West Glamorgan Archives which is in the same building as the Library. I outlined my quest and an archivist confirmed that they had the Rate Books for Briton Ferry. After a short wait I was presented with two books for March and September of 1891. For those who haven't used rate books I should explain that they list every property in address order giving the names of the Occupier, the Owner, a description, the rateable value and the rate charged.

I opened the March rate book and there on page 1 was Villier Street with G Wilkinson as Occupier of No 2 which was described as House and Shop. On the archivist's advice I then browsed through the rest of the book looking for references to G Wilkinson. I found him on page 34: three parcels of land with a total area of 5 acres. The owner was the Earl of Jersey and the area even now is called Jersey Park. I then turned to the September rate book and was surprised to find that George was now shown as the occupier of three consecutive properties Nos 2, 3 and 4. The rate columns showed the further two houses as vacant so I gather that George's shop now extended over the three properties with the family living in one.

I then turned to page 34 and was again pleasantly surprised to find the three parcels of land now described as Market Garden, Market Garden and Field. So, 1891 turned out to be an important year for George and his family (and for yours truly, a very satisfactory introduction to the use of Rate Books). Of course, in a bare bones sense, the rate books told me no more than the census – that George was a Market Gardener living at 2 Villiers St, Briton Ferry; but, the real joy of family history research is putting the flesh on the skeleton, so to speak. The rate books told me where the market garden was situated, and how large it was. They also told me that George's business justified him in renting three consecutive shop fronts.

Footnote: Gardeners is the latest mini-project for members of FACHRS (Family and Community Historical Research Society). The starting point is the 1881 census entry for a gardener in a member's area; in my case, Aberdare.

Website: www.fachrs.com

MARY WARD

"Nymph of the Swansea Pavement".

#2915 Anthony McLoughlin

A few years ago Glamorgan FHS in its journal published my article about how I traced my MCLOUGHLIN ancestors in Merthyr, and back to Ireland in the 1830s. This was largely due to GFHS publishing the 1851 census and the parish registers for St Illtyd's RC church in Dowlais.

Thanks to GFHS I now knew a very considerable amount about my McLoughlin ancestors, but nothing (except her name, and approximate date of death) about my great-grandmother Mary WARD. As became evident later she lived with my great-granddad, Patrick McLoughlin "Paddy 'Loughlin", for several years in Merthyr, but they were never married. She gave birth to my granddad in Iron Lane, Merthyr in 1892.

I was entering Paddy's information in my "Ancestry" site one day recently when up came the tip "See Swansea Gaol Records". Up came a whole list of convictions for him in the 1880s and 90s. It seems strange to say, but I was delighted to find this as it gave me an insight into his character, as well as giving me his height and his hair colour.

It then occurred to me that the criminal fraternity was just that. They tended to know each other, so I keyed in Mary Ward, Glamorgan and bingo! There was a whole list of convictions for her as well. Once again her height (4ft 11 inches) was given and her hair colour (brown). Her place of birth was given as Liverpool, and her age given in the various records indicates a year of birth between 1852 and 1857. Amazingly her occupation was given as prostitute, although this was never the subject of her convictions, which were usually for robbery or being drunk and disorderly.

I then turned to the excellent site Welsh Newspapers On-Line*. This proved to be a treasure chest of information about both Mary Ward and Patrick McLoughlin. Mary is first mentioned in a newspaper in 1869. She is described as being of Swansea and was accused of picking a pocket at Llandaff fair. In 1871 she is again accused of the same crime, and is accused of using the aliases THOMAS and HUGHES.

Mary progressed from petty to more serious crime in the 1870s. In one newspaper article she is described as "A nymph of the Swansea Pavement". In 1877 Mary was charged with another woman with keeping a brothel in Regent's Court, a notorious part of Swansea.

The first time Patrick and Mary are mentioned together in a newspaper is in September 1886, when they were prosecuted for sleeping out in a haybarn. Patrick on this occasion is described in his prison record as "A rogue and a

vagabond".

In 1887 Patrick was imprisoned for three months with hard labour for an aggravated attack on Mary, on whose prostitution he had been living. Mary said she had to do something or one would end up in the grave and the other would be hanged.

Amazingly Patrick and Mary evidently stayed together, at least much of the time. In 1889 they appear to be Merthyr's answer to Bonnie and Clyde, being convicted of highway robbery.

Mary died in 1894. All this makes very sad reading, but from a family history viewpoint is fascinating.

My DNA suggests that Mary's ancestry was from Mayo and Sligo. I found a number of Mary Wards born in Liverpool who could be mine, but have yet to identify which one, so if anyone thinks they may be able to help, I would be delighted to hear from them.

** Ed: Welsh Newspapers Online - free access on the National Library of Wales website www.llgc.org.uk*

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VAYNOR, MY PATERNAL SOURCE

#5175 Lyndon Harris

Vaynor Parish, situated in Merthyr Tydfil County Borough, extends over a wide area from the Llwyn Onn reservoir in the north to Pontsticill and Cefn Coed y Cymmer. My research into my father's HARRIS line took me to the beautiful and secluded Cwm Capel on the banks of the River Taf, near Cefn Coed y Cymmer. Here I discovered my 7x great grandfather Llywelyn SHON (1660-1730), who led a rustic life as a farmer and blacksmith. His son, Shon LLYWELYN (1690-1776), my 6x great-grandfather was born on November 9th 1690, at Ty'r Fynnon a homestead a mere stone throw from the present disused ex-railway Cefn Viaduct.

Shon was an extremely strong man, a blacksmith and farmer like his father. At the age of 72 he scythed a three acres hayfield on his own in one day. At the mature age of 82 he, together with his son, grandson and great-grandson, mowed the meadow in Maesyfaenor, the site of the current Vaynor agricultural show. However, I discovered that his intellectual achievements even surpassed his physical prowess.

Shon Llywelyn was a staunch Unitarian and was active in establishing the Hen Dy Cwrdd in Cefn Coed y Cymmer in 1747. An accomplished poet and writer, he published a 60 pages book resulting in four impressions, such was its popularity. Copies are in the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth. He fathered eight children, one of whom was my 5x great-grandfather Harry SHON (1730-1790).

It was with Harry Shon that my Harris surname came into being. He had three sons; Edward, Gwilym and Dafydd. All went by the surname of HARRY or HARRI and for official purposes HARRIS or HARRIES.

Harry left his father's home at Cwm Capel and settled in Gellia a farm in Cwm Taf before moving on to Garw Dyle a farm in Penderyn. Here he and his wife Mary had a son, my 4x great-grandfather Gwilym Harry, (1763-1844). He in turn, after marriage, took over Llwn Onn Farm, where most of their children were born. Llwyn Onn was actually in Cwmtaf Fawr in Vaynor Parish, though bordering Penderyn.

Gwilym continued in his grandfather's footsteps, becoming a noted bard and poet. Some of his religious compositions won prizes awarded by the Philosophical Society at The Crown, Merthyr Tydfil. He died at his son's house in Dowlais in July 1844 aged 80. His daughter Eliza married Henry CRAWSHAY, the son of ironmaster William Crawshay 2nd of Cyfarthfa Castle. Both Gwilym and his wife Anne are buried in Penderyn churchyard.

Eliza's brother-in-law, Robert Thompson Crawshay, was buried at St Gwynno Church, Vaynor. A stone slab weighing ten tons covers his grave.

My 2x great-grandfather Thomas Harris (1800-1857) was also born in Vaynor Parish and was the brother of Eliza Crawshay. After his father Gwilym died he lived in Cefn Coed y Cymmer. His three sons, Thomas Jr, William, and Henry (my 2x great-grandfather), spent time with their aunt Eliza at the Crawshay seaside estate at Langland Bay, Swansea. My cousin, the late Margery THOMAS of Holford Steet, Cefn Coed, used to intrigue me with tales of secret messages being sent from Hirwaun where Eliza and Henry lived prior to marrying.

As for me, I was born in Merthyr Tydfil, as my maternal folks were part of the huge immigration into Merthyr Tydfil, as written about in Carolyn Jacob's article above.

Editor's note: Copies of Lyndon Harris' autobiography entitled 'My Public Relationships' are kept at Merthyr Central Library and in the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

ROCK OF AGES

#3450 CT DAVIES

David George EVANS was born in Blaengarw, the son of Evan Evans and Mary, nee LLEWELLYN, who had come up from the Llansamlet area where they had married in late 1884. Mary was the 2nd child of David Llewellyn and Sarah, nee ROLFE, who had made the move from Llansamlet to Blaengarw about 1886.

1911 Census of Llangeinor, at 23 Brynbedw Street, Blaengarw

David G Evans	head	mar	23	coal hewer	born Blaengarw
Susan J Evans	wife	mar	19 m 1y	2-2-0	born Tredegar
Mary Evans	mother	mar	44 m 27y	3-1-2	born Llansamlet
Dengar R Evans	son		01		born Blaengarw
Cyril (?)Evans	son		1 month		born Blaengarw

As you will notice Evan was not at home that evening. Mary was born in Llangyfelach and not in Llansamlet. Later the Evans family moved to the Energlyn district of Caerphilly where David George became a local councillor. It is two of David and Susan's sons that I would like to bring to your attention. The elder of the two was Dengar Robinson Evans, MPS, FRPharmS, who was born in Blaengarw in 1909.

1939 Register at 15 Broad Street, Port Talbot MB

**D Robinson Evans, male, b 10/11/1909, married, pharmacist*

Mgt H Evans, female, b 30/10/1910, married, unpaid domestic duties

John P Evans, male, b 26/07/1934, single, at school

Dengar died on 10th January 2002 at his home in Cardiff, and from his Obituary and his colleagues' tributes I learnt that he registered in 1933, having studied in Cardiff where he met his future wife Margaret. He was a proprietor pharmacist retiring in 1987. He held the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Charter Silver Medal, and was awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal. He was a committed servant to the forwarding of Pharmacy in Wales and was involved in various Welsh Pharmaceutical and Health endeavours, being a Chairman at one time or another.

The younger brother was William David Evans, who was born on 25th December 1912, in the family home at 23 Brynbedw Street, Blaengarw. His mother, Susan Jane nee ROBINSON, registered the birth in the following year.

1939 Register at Trisant House, Energlyn, Caerphilly UD

David G Evans, male, b 06/04/1887, married, relieving officer

Susan J Evans, female, b 10/05/1891, married, unpaid domestic duties

Wm D Evans, male, b. 25/12/1912, single, geologist

Mary E Evans (Barrass), female, b 27/06/1922, single, student

Evan Evans, male, b 11/12/1864, widowed, coal hewer retired

William David continued to excel, becoming a professor of geology, and was created a life peer as Baron Evans of Energlyn in 1968. I am fortunate enough to have been given a clear copy of a letter he wrote in 1984, the heading of which is on House of Lords paper. He unfortunately died in 1985, having no children; but mentions his nephews and nieces.

House of Lords - Westminster

Lord Energlyn, DLFEng, DSc, PhD, MSc, FIMM, FGS, FRGS, FRSA.

Goodness, more letters than the alphabet! My father, also Blaengarw born and Energlyn's 2nd cousin; began his working life down the "Carn", however later on as an aero-engineer he did get to be an AMIEI.

Although not as well-known as some characters from the Garw such as Dr Richard Price, Tynnton; the brothers represent the advancements in education and opportunities that some collier families never had.

PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

Roasting a Swan - a recipe from 1738

Take 3 quarts of best vinegar, 1 quart of Lisbon wine, 3 large onions sliced, a handful of shallots, 4 bay leaves, some whole pepper, a little mace and cloves and a handful of salt. Boil all this together then pour this pickle over your swan, leave for 12 hours, then put the swan into bake, basting it with the pickle.

Mincemeat - A recipe dated 1850 belonging to the cook of the Duke of Devonshire. This was made every year at Windsor Castle, one month before Christmas. Note the amount of beef, which was an original ingredient of mincemeat.

240 lbs of raisins, 400 lbs of currants, 4 bushels of apples, 30 lbs of cedret, 200 lumps of sugar, 3 lbs of cinnamon, 3 lbs of mace, 60 lbs orange peel, 3 lbs of nutmeg, 3 lbs of cloves, 350 lbs of suet, 240 lemons, 300 lbs of beef, 2 lbs of ginger, 72 bottles of brandy, 60 lbs of lemon peel, 3 lbs of allspice.

And to wash it down:

Sloe Gin

1 gallon of unsweetened gin, 4lbs of ripe sloes, 3 1/2 lbs of sugar candy. Put the ingredients into a jar, tightly corked, and at intervals give it a good shake. Bottle in 6 months.

Dandelion Wine

3 quarts of dandelion flowers. Pour over them 1 gallon of boiling water and let them stand for 24 hours well-covered. Strain, and to every gallon of liquid add 3lbs of lump sugar, 1 lemon, and 1 orange, sliced. Boil the mixture for half an hour and let it cool. Add a slice of toast covered with yeast and let the liquid ferment for 48 hours. Then bottle leaving the corks loose until fermentation has ceased, then cork tightly.

The recipes come from "Traditional Fare of England and Wales" published in 1948 by the National Federation of Women's Institutes.

Don't miss the 'Cut-Off Dates'

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

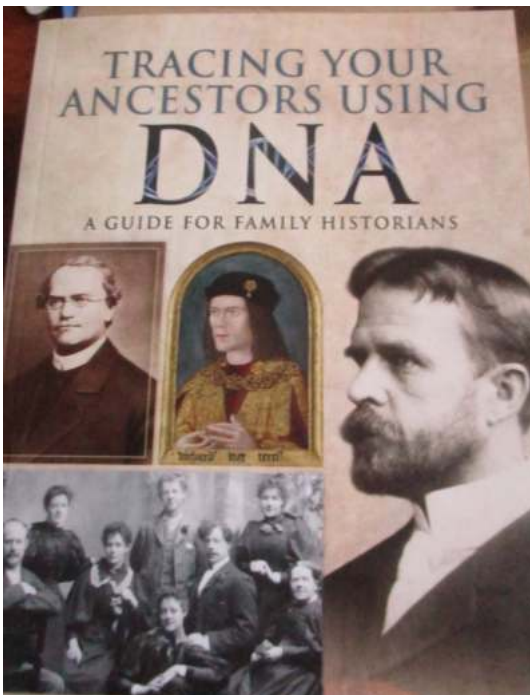
March Issue	20 January	June Issue	20 April
September issue	20 July	December Issue	20 October

BOOK REVIEWS

We have chosen two books for review this quarter, both from Pen & Sword, who can always be relied on to supply useful tools for the family researcher. "Tracing your ancestors using DNA" is self-explanatory, but the second, "Voices of the Second World War, a child's perspective", may not be so useful in that respect, but the stories contained within may resonate with those of us whose parents and grandparents have told us of their lives growing up during the Second World War in the various countries involved - a fascinating anthology.

TRACING YOUR ANCESTORS USING DNA

edited by Graham S Holton



If you have taken a DNA test and are not sure what it all means, this book will provide a very thorough grounding, not just a simple introduction. Published in June 2019, it is an entirely up-to-date guide and discussion of DNA testing for family historians. For example, it includes the very recent topical issues around sharing data online, referring to the detective work used to catch the 'Golden State Killer' using GEDmatch and other such cases.

Using a panel of devoted experts, each chapter describes the science and its relevance to genealogy, illustrated with case studies.

There are very detailed chapters on atDNA (autosomal testing for finding and confirming close relatives to distant cousins back about 7-8 generations), Y-DNA (tracing the male line and its relationship to surnames), mtDNA (maternal lines), projects (surnames, specific kindreds, population groups, geographic groups), and, aDNA (ancient DNA from archaeological, historical and forensic evidence). It also has chapters on using DNA in genealogy,

ethics and legal aspects, testing principles, choosing testing companies, and the future of the subject.

As someone who has followed the subject for decades having tested with Oxford Ancestors in the 'old days' and AncestryDNA, FamilyTreeDNA and LivingDNA since, I wondered if I would learn anything new. By the third chapter, on Principles, I realised this book had plenty to tell me. For example, I had not seen a diagram of tracing strategies for X-DNA (mothers' lines, different from mtDNA). The topics are illustrated with many diagrams, including screenshots from online resources, all in black and white. Some would have benefitted from colour and/or larger typefaces (for my ageing eyes!) The internet-based nature of the testing companies and DNA results as well as the authors' links to ISOGG (International Society of Genetic Genealogy) means any reader should expect to follow up with work on the internet. That said, this is an informative, clear and serious book for anyone interested in getting to grips with this important aspect of tracing and linking relatives and ancestors. Although, as the authors admit, the text will date, as an introduction to principles it will no doubt stand the test of time. The text is complemented by a Glossary, so useful when getting lost in the many abbreviations (what is an MDKA? - Most Distant Known Ancestor), followed by a Further Reading section with a great many online links, and an index. Highly recommended.

Diane Brook

Paperback, ISBN 978-1526733092, 255 pages, £14.99 plus postage, from publishers Pen & Sword Books, www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/, Order Hotline: 01226 734222, Postal Address: 47 Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S702AS. Also available in Kindle and ePub formats online. Lower prices shown by the publishers and by Amazon in September 2019 so check prices before purchasing.

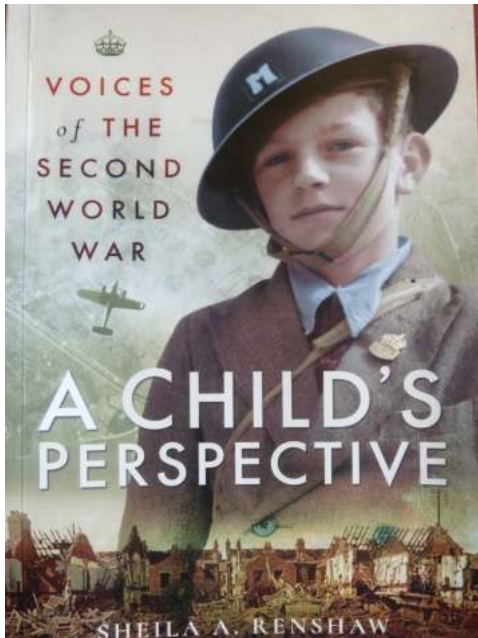
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VOICES OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

A Child's Perspective

Sheila A Renshaw



Sheila Renshaw was inspired to write this book having talked to her neighbour who had lived in the USSR during the war but had never told anyone her story before. Sheila was amazed at the story she was told and wondered how many other stories were untold. This book is the collection of the memories of people who were children during Second World War, collected during her investigation.

The book does not only include childhood accounts of children living in different parts of the United Kingdom and its islands but also other countries in Europe including the invading countries (Germany and Italy), the neutral countries (Sweden) and the occupied countries (like Poland, The Netherlands, Czechoslovakia and the Ukraine). This gives one an all-round picture of children's lives during the war. Most of the chapters are about one child's memories although there are three chapters which are a collection of shorter accounts. There are also photographs of some of the children whose stories are told.

I found the collection covered most aspects of life in Europe when it was being ravaged by war. These memories are not all bad as some children enjoyed their experiences of being evacuated to more rural locations where they had many pleasant experiences. Some evacuees remained in contact with the families they stayed with for many years. Many aspects of life are covered in the war, like mothers feeding their families with little food, being careful what you said in public, and helping the war effort. There were many acts of kindness and examples of people working together, including some by the Germans. The other side of life in the war is told as well, the fear of not knowing what was going to happen, cruelty, destruction and loss of life.

I would have preferred some of the memories to be expanded rather than have the shorter accounts. Two of the stories in particular are so moving that I felt they should have been told in much more detail. Firstly, the story of Nadia, a 14 year old girl in the Ukraine who was in a school preparing for a career in medicine, and who was left with a friend to fend for themselves when their school suddenly closed. The two very brave young ladies who looked after both Russian and German injured soldiers came close to death before escaping to safety. Secondly, Sara's heart-breaking account of life in Czechoslovakia, being sent to Auschwitz where most of her family perished, and her journey to safety from that dreadful place.

This book was definitely worth publishing as these accounts are now going to be available to future generations. I found this book an informative and interesting read. It would suit anyone with an interest in ordinary people's lives during war time or students studying World War 2.

Paperback, 158 pages, £12.99 plus postage ISBN152670059X
Pen & Sword Books - see above for order hotline and address.

Ian Black

ARTICLES NEEDED!

March - Sport - Let us know about your **Sporting Ancestors**.

Deadline: 20 January 2020



June - General - Deadline: 20 April

September - Spotlight on a Place: **Barry, Vale of Glamorgan** -

Do you have any stories to share about your ancestors from Barry (including Merthyr Dyfan, Cadoxton and Porthkerry)?

Deadline: 20 July

MEMBERS INTERESTS

Surname/Forename	Place	Cty	Dates	#
WITHEY, Isaiah Rendell	Llwynpia Tonypany	GLA	1871 - 1880	11186
PEARCE, Morgan	Treherbert	GLA	1871-1891	11186
WILLIAMS, William Angelo	Canton, Cardiff	GLA	1900 - 1954	11186
WITHEY, John	Llwynpia	GLA	1886 - 1901	11186
REES, John	St Brides Minor	GLA	1800 – 1950's	706
EVAN (S), Thomas	St Brides Minor	GLA	1740 – 1788	706
LEYSON, Anne	Bettws	GLA	Early 1700's	706
REES, Lewis	Llansannor	GLA	1700's	706
BRYANT, Morgan	Coychurch	GLA	1700's	706
EDMOND, Jane	Coychurch	GLA	1750's	706
DWYER, Richard Norman	Merthyr Tydfil - Wools Street, Caedraw	GLA	DOB 1920	20393
HEPPELL, George Beard	Bridgend & Ponsticill	GLA	Served in Police in Glamorgam c 1885-1920	20393
HEPPELL, George Thomas	Merthyr Tydfil - Worked for J Guest & Anthony Hill	GLA	DOB 1804 - arrived in Merthyr from Northumberland c 1845-50	20393

A full list of Members' Interests is published on our website which is updated twice a year. Please let us know if any amendments/additions need to be made to your interests online. If you wish to make contact with someone regarding an entry on the online list, please send us an e-mail or letter, quoting that membership number as well as your own membership number and we will ask them to contact you.

When submitting your member's interests
please use the form included in this centre insert and forward to:

Megan George, Glamorgan FHS Members' Interests Coordinator

email: interests@glamfhs.org.uk OR

29 Perrers Road, London, W6 0EY.

quoting your membership number and the words 'Members Interests' in the subject line if submitting via email.

You also need to confirm how you wish to be contacted.

As we now need to have a member's consent to the use of their data we will only publish Members' Interests submitted on the Members' Interests Form.

HELP WANTED

Try to keep these queries as brief and to the point as possible, preferably less than 100 words. Please quote your membership number and the words 'Help Wanted' in the subject line if submitting by email.

3948 Carwyn Hughes. I am researching the backgrounds to some of the first 1865 Welsh colonists to Chubut, Patagonia. Two young brothers, William and Thomas AUSTIN, were taken from the Merthyr Union Workhouse. Later one went into farming and one became a director of the Co-op. Their sister, Mary Austin, remained in Merthyr and in 1871 was a domestic at the home of the EVANS family in Merthyr. Mr Evans was a jeweller. This is the only information I have on Mary and would be delighted if anyone out there can help.

20404 Elizabeth Newcombe I am searching for any records of my uncle, born Lionel NEWCOMBE, 1 December 1905, Station House, Bedlinog, South Wales. Lionel is my father's (Roy) twin brother. Parents: James Henry and Elizabeth Ann. I have his birth certificate, and extract in 1911 UK Census but then, nothing. I have been searching for over 10 years. He may have left the country, changed his name, but records show nothing. Thank you. Elizabeth

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Aberkenfig Resource Centre

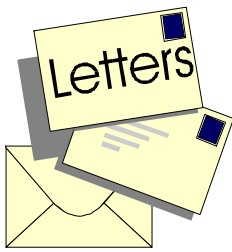
We need to recruit some additional volunteers to help with research and administrative tasks and to cover for holidays at our Resource Centre at Aberkenfig.

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

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

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

It does not need to be a regular commitment and many tasks can be undertaken at home



Letters to the Editor

BARRY TOWN COUNCIL
MERTHYR DYFAN CEMETERY

Request for stories

We have received an enquiry from Barry Town Council whether any of our members have interesting stories about their ancestors buried at Merthyr Dyfan (Barry) Cemetery. They are developing a new website and would like to include such stories. Below is a memorial to one of Barry's famous inhabitants.



Here lies the dust/Gareth Jones, Beloved Son of Edgar and Gwen Jones, linguist, traveller, peace-bearer, killed in Mongolia August 12 1935 aged 30.

Gareth JONES was a linguist, journalist and personal aide to David LLOYD GEORGE, who was shot whilst captured by bandits in Mongolia. He had previously gained access to high ranking Nazis in Germany including travelling on Hitler's aeroplane, and helped expose Stalin's 'holodomor' policy of deliberate starvation while working undercover in the Ukraine during 1932/33. There were strong suspicions that Gareth's murder had been engineered by Soviet agents. For further information see:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gareth_Jones_\(journalist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gareth_Jones_(journalist))

Send any interesting Merthyr Dyfan (Barry) Cemetery 'stories' to:
editor@glamfhs.org.uk.

SOCIETY NEWS & REPORTS

ABERDARE/CYNON VALLEY BRANCH

In September we were treated to a talk by Malcolm Cowper, attendance was very good and everyone present thoroughly enjoyed the talk on National Service. Lively discussions followed when Malcolm opened the floor for discussions from members who themselves had undertaken national service. Malcolm also sold a number of signed copies of his book.

In October we held our Annual General Meeting. The turnout for this was very low. All members present agreed to continue in their present roles.

A good day was had in Merthyr for our annual fair. We had a very busy time and dealt with a lot of enquiries relating to Aberdare and Cynon Valley.

Beginner's sessions were held in Aberdare Museum throughout October. All present found the sessions to be very helpful and informative. Clear guidance and support was given on how to research your family history.

Research afternoons were held each month as usual in Aberdare Library, support was given to members/non-members who had hit a brick wall.

14,500 burial record transcriptions for Aberdare Cemetery have been completed to date and added to our database.

Work has started on recording and indexing Monumental Inscriptions for Brynngaer Cemetery. If there is anyone wishing to participate in this project please contact me to discuss further.

Pat Rees, aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk



BRIDGEND BRANCH

August's meeting was a member's research night. This was well attended and thanks to our committee and a few dedicated volunteers we were able to help most of those present. It is planned to hold at least two more of this type of evening in the coming year.

September was our Branch AGM. Reports were distributed to members as they signed in and these were read and agreed at the meeting. There was an attempt by the Chair to step down from the role due to a conflict of events in the Branch calendar and the Chair's personal life, however following discussion and a vote by those present a solution was found to reduce the

conflict by moving the next Branch AGM to October for the next year. Following this all committee members were re-elected and at the end of the evening a new volunteer stepped forward to join the committee, this person was co-opted at the next Branch meeting.

The AGM was followed by a talk from one of our own members, Mr John James. His talk was on "Growing up in Bridgend", a fascinating talk backed up by pictures which were passed around. This talk generated much interest from the members as many present could relate to the events being discussed.

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



CARDIFF & THE VALE BRANCH

With no meeting in August we closed the 2018-2019 programme with a fabulous talk from Dr Ian Beech, Swansea University on '*Whitchurch Hospital: Life for patients and staff 1908-1930*'. With more than 30 attendees the room was completely full as members and visitors learnt about the creation of Whitchurch Hospital by Cardiff Borough Council. Prior to 1908 those deemed Pauper Lunatics from the Borough of Cardiff were boarded out in the Glamorgan Asylum and further afield, eg North West England, but with the opening of this hospital in 1908 these patients could be cared for in the locality. The first Superintendent Dr Edwin GOODHALL encouraged and promoted new ideas such as therapeutic work and outside visits. There was a humorous aside with the Matron's blunt appraisal of her staff. The hospital was used during both World Wars to treat the effects of shellshock. At the end of the talk, Ian answered questions from the audience expanding on what records may be available.

The October meeting was a busy evening, with firstly the branch AGM where the following members were elected:

Branch Chairman – Jane Graves

Treasurer - Stephen Fairhurst

Committee Members – Diane Brook, Ann Konsbruck, Sue Hamer & Graham Read

Programme Co-ordinators – Sandra Robinson and Sian Stenner.

Thanks to Ted Richards and Nick Davey (co-opted) for all their contributions to the committee during the last year.

We are keen to welcome new Committee members, so if you were not at the Branch AGM but are interested in finding out more about the committee then please do contact Jane Graves.

Secondly at our October meeting, we had a welcome return visit from Robert and Gillian Lawson who gave the second part of their talk on 'E Turner & Sons: Building Cardiff's heritage': a beautifully illustrated talk which reflected the huge number of buildings in South Wales that the company had built. In its heyday the company employed 1000 workers who possessed all the skills required to create some magnificent stone – and some not so inspiring - modular buildings. There were certainly some surprises amongst the company's constructions which included some buildings long demolished and some still standing including the impressive three clock towers for Cardiff (City Hall), Newport (Civic Centre) and Swansea (Guildhall).

Ted Richards represented the branch and delivered a session on Family History research at the 50+ Active Body Healthy Mind Event organised for September by Cardiff Council and held at Rhiwbina Library. Ted had the opportunity to inspire the next generation of family history researchers as the majority of the attendees were local primary school children accompanied by their teacher.

On Saturday 5 October, several branch members and friends enjoyed a day trip to the National Archives (TNA), Kew or alternatively Kew Gardens. For some it was their first experience of TNA and for everyone who had requested documents, there was the eager anticipation of just what the resource would reveal.

Saturday 12 October was of course the Society's Family History Fair in Merthyr Tydfil. Many thanks to Mavis Gibson and Graham Read who, along with Jane Graves, 'manned' the branch's stand.

You can follow the branch via Twitter: @Cardiff_GFHS.

Sully Group

Sully Group attended the Open Doors event at the Chapel at Merthyr Dyfan (Barry) Cemetery in September when members of the public were invited to see the original burial books and to gain help with their family history.

See 'Letter to the Editor' from Barry Council about their new website and request for 'Stories from the Stones'.

September Meeting: This consisted of discussions about plans for the coming year as well as requests for volunteers to join the Group Committee. The aim this year is to look at different methods of recording our family histories and how to pass on our research to the next generation. Members were requested to

bring along examples of 'how they record' to the October meeting (see images inside back cover).

October Meeting: We only had time for two of our members' examples of 'how to record' and neither method was primarily using technology. Both had collected material from relatives and we ended up having more questions than answers about what to do with such material! The discussions will continue at our November meeting.

There is no meeting in December, January will be our Xmas/New Year Social.

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

Visit to Glamorgan Archives - Thursday 6 February at 2 pm

We have booked a **visit to Glamorgan Archives** for Thursday 6 February at 2 pm to look at the 1910 Domesday (Valuation) Survey records as well as an introduction to the resources at the Archives including how to find resources in their catalogue, how to handle and photograph documents.

The visit will last approximately an hour so there will be time to either use the computers in the foyer afterwards (access to Find My Past, Ancestry and Welsh parish registers) or enter the Search Room to order documents (Reader's Ticket needed, bring two forms of ID if you wish to register).

Anyone wishing to join this visit please let me know on by 31 January so that I can confirm numbers.

email: sully@glamfhs.org.uk.

MERTHYR TYDFIL BRANCH

Once again Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Centre was the venue for the annual Glamorgan Family History Fair. The event seemed busier than in other years and the Merthyr table had a constant queue of some most interesting 'brain teasing' inquiries. Two people had come all the way from London to trace families. Congratulations to Jane and Mike for organising everything so well.

In September Lisa Powell spoke to the branch about Wales from 1900 and industrial disputes leading up to WWI which lead to much discussion. The AGM was held in October. There were no changes on the committee with the

important exception of Joan Bennett, one of the founders of our branch, who resigned as Treasurer after well over 35 years of reliable and conscientious service, for which many thanks. Fortunately, she will remain as an important member of the branch. Viv Pugh was voted in as the new Treasurer.

After the AGM the chairman, Carolyn Jacob, gave an account of her great, great grandfather, Donald MACKENZIE, a decorated soldier, photographed in 1854 at the request of Queen Victoria who wanted pictures of 'My brave Highlanders who fought in the Crimea'. After being present at the battles of Alma and Sebastopol in the Crimea and the siege of Lucknow in the Indian Mutiny; his retirement was short lived when he was murdered outside John Knox House on Edinburgh's Royal Mile.

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



PONTYPRIDD & RHONDDA BRANCH

In September Malcolm Cowper came to speak about the service people who did their National Service in the Army, Navy and Air Force between 1945 and 1960. Many enjoyed their time in the Forces but there were some who did not take kindly to it. His talk was accompanied by a photographic presentation. He has also written a book, which was available on the evening.

Our AGM was on the Tuesday after our Fair in Merthyr. The Committee was returned unopposed.

The Glamorgan FHS Fair on 12th October at Merthyr Leisure Centre went very well. Neil helped Deborah with research. Jan and Eira did the raffle and tombola again, and raised £113 for Society funds. Thanks to everyone who helped on the day.

Jane Jones, rhondda@glamfhs.org.uk

SWANSEA BRANCH

Our September meeting was a Research Session in Swansea Central Library. Despite encouraging beginners to come along, disappointingly, no new family historians took advantage of the session. We are there to help, or if you just want to use the Family History Internet sites consider making use of these sessions.

At our AGM in October our Chairman, Jeff Coleman, as expected resigned. We are very grateful for Jeff's contribution to the branch and recognise that due to health concerns he wished to lessen his commitments. He has promised to continue his interest in our activities and I am sure we will be consulting his expert knowledge on occasions. We are now without a Chairman as no one has come forward to fill this post.

Following our AGM, Mr Ivor Rees gave an informative talk on five prominent men from Morriston. They were, John Jones JENKINS, who became Lord Glantawe, William WILLIAMS, Brynmor JONES, Jeremiah WILLIAMS and lastly, David MATTHEWS. They all played significant roles in the industrial, political or religious life of Swansea during the second half of the 19th Century and beyond.

October is a busy month for our branch. We attended the Society Open Day at Merthyr and will be manning a table at Swansea Book Fair at the Royal Institution.

We are looking forward to our last speaker of the year in November. Janet Neilsen will continue with Part 2 of her talk on 'Blue Swansea'. Many of us walk by these Blue Plaques dotted around Swansea and district and don't notice their existence. Thanks to Janet we have no excuse to pass them by.

There will not be a meeting in December but in January we will be having a talk and tour of West Glamorgan Archives led by Kim Collis, County Archivist.

Sadly, we have to announce the death of one of our members, Mr Geraint Morgan. Geraint's funeral was held at Grovesend, it was very well attended, an indication of the esteem in which he was held in his community.

*Cherry King,
swansea@glamfhs.org.uk*

EVENTS REPORT

The Dyfed Fair in Carmarthen was attended by Merthyr Branch. The event was well attended and they had a good day with a number of enquiries.

Our Fair at Merthyr went off very well with approximately 2-300 visitors. We were very grateful for the help we were given on the previous night setting up and on the day itself.

We had a few new exhibitors this year and they were all very pleased and have asked to come again next time. The speakers too were very well received by everyone as was the new bookable 'Ask the Experts' panel. Volunteers commented that the fair was busier than on the previous few years.

We are currently planning what Fairs to attend in 2020 either as a Society or as part of the Association of Family History Societies of Wales. If anyone is available to help at any of the fairs show below, if you live local to the event or intend visiting please let us know when you will be available so that you can support the individuals or teams travelling from South Wales.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - 2020

8 Feb	The Family History Show, South West, Bristol https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/south-west/
29 Feb	Glamorgan FHS Open Day & AGM, Aberkenfig https://www.glamfhs.org.uk/events
17-18 Apr	Family Tree Live, Alexandra Palace, London https://www.family-tree.co.uk/family-tree-live/
26-27 Jun	The Genealogy Show, NEC, Birmingham https://thegenealogyshow.uk/

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

PEN-Y-GRAIG AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Meetings take place 1.45pm until 3.30pm at

The Soar Ffrwdamos Centre, Pen-y-Graig (by the roundabout).

Admission is £3 per person, with refreshments included.

Participation in the Raffle is optional.

Meetings take the form of talks by invited

speakers on various subjects, most with an historical connection.



Illustrated presentations at our 2020 Winter/Spring Meetings

- **Wednesday January 8th Malcolm Cowper**
Memories of National Service (1945-60) Mr Cowper reminisces about the time when all eligible young men had to do two years of National service
- **Wednesday February 12th C Sims**
Tonypany in Old Photographs, Part 2 of pictures of Tonypany from 1900 to the present.
- **Wednesday March 11th Alan Underhill**
Legends & Shipwrecks of the South Wales Coast. A look at shipwrecks and practices that occurred locally, intermixed with some local ghost stories and legends.

RHONDDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMME

Date	Speaker	Topic
7 Dec	Glen Booker	American WW2 GI Brides from Rhondda
January	NO MEETING	
1 Feb	Edwin Parry	Surviving Auschwitz
7 Mar	Alun Morgan	Miners' Institutes

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

WHEN? the first Saturday of every month except for August and January
 WHERE? **Porth Library, Porth Plaza, Pontypridd Road, Porth, CF39 9PG**
 TIME? 11 am (please be prompt, to ensure you get a seat)
 COST? £2 entrance fee per talk or £10 for annual personal membership

FURTHER DETAILS:

<http://www.rhonddahistoricalociety.wordpress.com> email:
rhonddahs@yahoo.com tel: 07810277048

BRANCH MEETINGS

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

6 Dec	Victorian Xmas - Ann Watts
Jan	NO MEETING
7 Feb	The Taff Valley Tornado 1913 - Steve Brewer
6 Mar	TBC - Carl Llewellyn

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

Dec	NO MEETING - NADOLIG LLAWEN
20 Jan	Social evening with quiz
17 Feb	The Normans in South Wales - Ceri Joseph, Porthcawl Museum
16 Mar	Sarn Fawr - Paul Howell

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

3 Dec	Christmas Social and Family History 'Top Tips'
7 Jan	TBC - see website for details
4 Feb	Voices and Images of the South Wales Jewish community Jewish History Association of South Wales
3 Mar	The Work of the Coroner's Office Rachel Knight, Assistant Coroner, South Wales Central

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

December	NO MEETING - NADOLIG LLAWEN
16 Jan	Xmas/New Year Social
6 Feb 2pm	Visit to Glamorgan Archives - 1910 'Domesday' Valuation Survey

Merthyr Tydfil (AFTERNOON MEETINGS) 2nd Tuesday of the month – 2 pm Canolfan Soar, Pontmorlais, CF47 8UB (Welsh Centre)

10 Dec	Merthyr Tydfil Murders - Janet Karn
14 Jan	The Holocaust - Edwyn Parry
11 Feb	Merthyr's Lost Buildings - Steve Brewer
10 Mar	TBC - see website for details

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

Dec	NO MEETING - NADOLIG LLAWEN
21 Jan	TBC - Please see our website for details
18 Feb	www.glamfhs.org.uk

Swansea: Meetings: 2nd Monday of the month, 7 pm, Committee Room 2, Civic Centre, Swansea, Research & Help Sessions, Thursday 5-6.45 Discovery Room, Swansea Library**

Dec	NO MEETING - NADOLIG LLAWEN
Mon 13 Jan	Tour and Talk in West Glamorgan Archives - Kim Collis, County Archivist.
Thurs 13 Feb	Research & Help Session: Discovery Room, Swansea Library
Mon 9 Mar	Jewish Heritage - Jewish History Association of South Wales

Sully Group - How Do You Record Your Family History?



Producing a timeline when concentrating on one of your ancestors - Karen is writing about one of her Welsh ancestors who fought in the American Civil War and his brother who was a Baptist Minister. She had attended a 'Writing Your Family History Course' at the British Library and gave us some excellent tips.



Liz had gathered a wide range of material from relatives and explained how an entry in a family bible had helped locate a now missing Guernsey gravestone commemorating a drowning on a day trip between St Peter Port and Herm. Old and new photographs of the cemetery were used by a local researcher to locate the missing gravestone and it was possible to enlarge the older image to confirm the inscription.

ABERKENFIG RESOURCE CENTRE

OPEN DAY

Saturday 29 February 2020

From 10.30 am

Talks

Brickwall and Help Sessions

Individual Research

For more information contact:

arc@glamfhs.org.uk

Tel: 01656 728531 (Wed 10.30-1.00)

Library/Resources Catalogue available on our website:

<https://www.glamfhs.org.uk/resources/glamorgan-fhs-resources>



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