



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



*Statue of David Davies (1818-1890) consulting plans for
the new dock at Barry in front of the Dock Offices (built 1898)*

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Centre Insert: Amendments to Constitution, Standing Order & Gift Aid Forms

Society's Objectives © Glamorgan Family History Society

As a registered charity the main objectives of the Glamorgan Family History Society are to: encourage and stimulate research into genealogy and allied subjects with particular reference to the historic county of Glamorgan: to assist members in their private research; encourage the transcription and preservation of records of family history and the deposit of original documents of value in approved repositories; publish papers of genealogical value and interests; establish, to mutual advantage, relations with other organisations interested in genealogy and allied subjects; maintain a library and regularly publish a journal. The journal is the official publication of the Glamorgan Family History Society. Articles appearing in the journal may not be reproduced without the written permission of the Editor. Views expressed in articles and letters are not necessarily those of the GFHS

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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.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (TRUSTEES)

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS UPDATE

Executive Committee meetings have been taking place online via Zoom during the lockdown restrictions and we have been reviewing the situation monthly since many of our members and volunteers or their relatives fall within the vulnerable and high-risk group within the population.

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

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

Aberkenfig Resource Centre – CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Branch Meetings – CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. – but see Branch Reports for plans and online sessions **including information about Branch Annual General Meetings.**

Society Activities: Society Fair – Saturday 26 September - POSTPONED

Administration of Membership, Finance and Publications: Travelling to our Centre at Aberkenfig and to Post Offices and Banks etc to undertake the administration of the Society is now done on a much less frequent basis than previously. We therefore ask our members and customers to be patient if waiting for an order or payment to be processed.

- **If you have a query on a payment or publications' order please only contact our volunteers by email.**
- **If making a payment where possible this should be done online via our website or BACS transfer rather than by cheque.**

EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING – See Notice following page and Centre Insert.

Mike Jones, Chairman Executive Committee, 1 August 2020

EDITORIAL

At the time of preparation for this edition of the Journal the lockdown is still in place, although easing slightly, but still restricting many people's lives and activities. If there has been a positive side to this, it has shown itself in the amount of articles we have received! We have had so many that some are going to have to be held over until the next edition (the authors will be contacted), as we wanted primarily articles about Barry, so these have taken priority. Apologies are given to any disappointment about the delay if your article isn't in this one, but it WILL go in the next if possible, and you are welcome to check up with me if you wish.

Talking of the next Journal: the other consuming news topic of the past 6 months has been the reaction to the apparently racially motivated riots in America, the UK and elsewhere, with its destruction and defacing of monuments and statues to an imperialist past. I mention this as, although we are not a political organ, we cannot ignore these concerns and feel that it is appropriate for the end of this year to ask for contributions to Glamorgan's Black History. Therefore, if you have any Black, Asian, Mixed Race or ethnicity within your friends and family circles, please write in with your experiences, good and bad, whether in school, growing up, in the workplace, or socially, and if your experience is second-hand, ie you have observed how a BAME person is or was getting along, then please write about it.

Our Journal is lodged with the University of Wales, alongside all publications produced in Wales, and in many years' time our journals will be the source of much useful information to students and researchers on how we, in the 2020s, have evolved our reasoning and response to racial inequality.

Meanwhile, if there is any Summer left by the time you get this, let us hope it is a more relaxing and safe environment in which to enjoy it - I know you will enjoy the multi-layered stories in this Journal.

Jean Fowlds, editor@glamfhs.org.uk

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 7 November at 11 am via Zoom

See Centre Insert for details.

Further information, including how to join the Meeting, will be emailed via Newsletter nearer the date.

If you wish to comment but do not have email – please write to the Chairman/Secretary – see postal address on page 4.

BARRY, MERTHYR DYFAN & CADOXTON

#180 Sue Hamer

The town that we know today as Barry was formed at the end of the 19th century when migrants were attracted to the area due to the building of the docks and railways to provide an alternative port to Cardiff for the export of coal.

There had previously been three small rural villages, each with its own parish church, but within a decade of the first sod being cut for the creation of the first dock new streets had been created for both workers and tradesmen and gradually the green fields between the three villages were gone. Barry Island at this time was within Sully (St Johns) Parish. There were also four chapels: Philadelphia Baptist (1813); Bethel Welsh Wesleyan (1815); Sion Calvinistic Methodist (1815) and the English Wesleyan (1862)¹.

The population of the three parishes in 1881 & 1891 is as follows²:

Parish	1881	1891
Barry (St Nicholas)	85	765
Cadoxton (St Cadoc/St Cattwg)	303	8228
Merthyr Dyfan (St Dyfan & St Teilo)	102	4279

The timeline on the next page provides an overview of the history of the town at this time³. There are extensive records for this development as well as articles in newspapers useful for anyone wishing to investigate further what life was like for ancestors who arrived in the area during this period. Some migrants involved in the construction of the town, docks and railways did not settle in the area but moved on following the work. Once the docks were opened many seamen from all over the world settled in the town some marrying local women. New jobs were created such as that of the coal trimmers who loaded the ships. As the town continued to grow during the early years of the 20th century it even contained Consulates for different countries in the world. Barry (Merthyr Dyfan) Cemetery contains many names from countries all over the world, some of whom had settled in the town, others whose final resting place is far from home.

¹ *Old Barry In Photographs (1997)*, Stewart Williams

² <https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/wal/GLA/Barry#Population>

³ *Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery Barry 'The Early Years (1887-1900)*, Friends of Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery

1881	Population of Barry and Cadoxton (census) is 478.
10 Apr 1883	The first meeting of the Committee of the House of Commons considers the Barry Dock & Railways Bill.
26 Jul 1883	House of Lords Committee throws out the Bill.
17 Nov 1883	A Parliamentary Notice appears for new Bill.
30 Nov 1883	The Colliery proprietors, Shippers and others undertook to pay all expenses connected with the Barry Bill of 1884.
30 Apr 1884	Barry Dock Bill before House of Commons
31 July 1884	Bill passes through Parliament
14 Aug 1884	Royal Assent is given in the House of Lords
14 Nov 1884	First sod is cut by the Rt Hon Lord Windsor
25 Sep 1886	Barry & Cadoxton Gas & Water Co incorporated
22 Aug 1887	Burial Board formed
12 Jul 1888	First meeting of the Local Board for the District of Barry & Cadoxton
22 Nov 1888	The first engine runs from Hafod (Rhondda) to Barry.
20 Dec 1888	The first passenger train runs from Cardiff to Barry.
29 Jun 1889	The first water is let into the new Dock.
18 Jul 1889	The Dock opens and the first vessel SS Arno enters the basin.
24 Sept 1889	Merthyr Dyfan (Barry) Cemetery is opened.
24 Dec 1889	Gas is used for the first time in Barry.
2 Aug 1890	The Post Office at Barry Dock opens.
22 Oct 1890	The Barry & Cadoxton Waterworks opens
1891	Population of Barry, Cadoxton & Merthyr Dyfan 13,000+
May 1891	Bathing places established at Whitmore Bay, Barry Island.
1892	First Free Library opened.
19 April 1895	First Annual Meeting of the new Barry Urban District Council
1 Dec 1897	The Vale of Glamorgan Railway is opened to traffic.
4 Jan 1898	Lady Windsor Dock opened.
10 Oct 1898	No 2 Dock opened.

BARRY (MERTHYR DYFAN) CEMETERY

As you will see on the previous Timeline Barry (Merthyr Dyfan) Cemetery opened on 24 September 1889. The first burial was that of William MARRA (I2)⁴ an 18 year old sailor on the SS Doris berthed in Barry Dock. There would be many burials of seamen over the years who died in Barry and at sea. On 29th May 1893 an inquest was held at the Central Police Station at Barry Dock following the death of a seaman Yohan Alfred LARSSON (F70) aged 40 from Sweden. He came from the crew of a Norwegian ship, the Prince Robert. It was reported that the deceased had accidentally fallen off the ladder from the middle deck to the lower hold.

The Protestant Section was consecrated by Bishop of Llandaff on 7 December 1889. The earliest burials are in sections B and I adjacent to the Chapel which was opened on 23 April 1893. There are also sections for other denominations/religions. The first Muslim burial is believed to be that of Hawon/Harvon KHAUS/KHANS (E25), a Lascar sailor, 38 years old, who belonged to the steamship Dumfell at Barry Dock.

Barry Town Council and Friends of Barry Cemetery are currently installing memorial plaques to famous Barry residents where the original headstone has not survived as well as providing further information about their life.

It is the last resting place of boxer Jimmy WILDE who died 10 March 1969 (N991). We are including an article on another, celebrated artist, Margaret Lindsay WILLIAMS (H1534) in this edition.

Sometimes Barry residents who died elsewhere are commemorated on a family memorial including Gareth JONES, the journalist, murdered in China and David MORDECAI of the SS Trevesa who died in the Indian Ocean in 1923 (I67). The Captain of the SS Trevesa, Cecil Foster, who survived the sinking and sailed 1700 miles in an open boat is buried in the Cemetery (N1086).

Barry Town Council have a database of burials on their website. We have recorded the older memorial inscriptions over the past five years and these will be published as soon as it is possible to return to the cemetery to carry out final checks.

Some of the original plans to individual memorials created during the 1920s have survived and have been deposited in Glamorgan Archives. A few examples are shown on the inside front cover of this journal.

⁴ References are Barry (Merthyr Dyfan) Cemetery grave plot numbers.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORIES OF 19TH CENTURY BARRY #890 Lynne Marsh

I lived in Barry until 1976, when I married and moved to Kent. In 1983 we came to Sevenoaks to live on the Bradbourne Estate, which had originally been bought in 1870 by Francis CRAWSHAY, apparently a very eccentric man! He erected Druid stones on the estate, and there are still many items connected to him to be seen even though his house was demolished in the 1920s, and the area built upon.

In my family records I came across two accounts of Barry events in the 1860s, both referring to Francis Crawshay. I do not remember how I came by them, but they are attributed to "The History of the Iron, Steel, Tinsplate and other Trades of Wales" by Charles Wilkins, 1903, and "The Crawshays of Cyfarthfa Castle" by Margaret Stewart Taylor.

One appears to have been a letter written by a Sergeant in the 53rd Regiment in praise of the organisers of a boat trip day out from Cardiff to Barry, to the newspaper of the day in St Mary Street, Cardiff, on 19th August 1863. (It is incredibly obsequious in its praise of F Crawshay!)

The second is an account dated October 3rd 1862 about a schooner launch from Barry Island.

"Sir, It would be doing violence to my own feelings, and an act of injustice to the portion of the excursion which landed on Barry Island on Monday last, if I did not make some attempt at returning you our warm and heartfelt thanks for your more than kind attentions to us on that occasion. Be pleased, therefore, sir, to accept our humble but sincere feelings of gratitude for the kindness and extraordinary condescension which you evinced towards us and be assured, sir, that your kindness and your humility will not soon be forgotten by most of us. When your genuine goodness and kindness was made known to all, when we got on board to return to Cardiff, the band played 'In a Cottage by the Sea', after which three hearty rounds of cheers were given for F Crawshay Esq, the most perfect gentleman I have as yet met with (if I am any judge) in this part of the country. Hoping, sir, that you have escaped a cold in consequence of your getting your feet wet in landing the women and children into your boat, and again thanking you very heartily, and assuring you that your kindness has taken deep root in our heart, I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

WC Goldrich, Sgt, 53rd Regt."

This next item seems to be taken again from a newspaper article, dated October 3rd 1862.

"On Wednesday the 24th September there was launched from the Beach of Barry Island a fine schooner named 'The Master de Barri', of Barri Isle, port of

Cardiff. She was built by Thomas DAVIES, master builder of Newquay, for Francis Crawshay Esq the proprietor of the island, and registered at about 100 tonnes, but will carry 180 length overall eighty feet. She is an extraordinary strong vessel, the materials are of the first quality, and will be classed at Lloyds. Among the gentlemen present were Henry FOTHERGILL Esq of Aberdare Ironworks (who named the ship), Richard RODEN Esq of Pontypool Ironworks, Captain ELDERTON, commander of the Bermondsey Yacht Club, William Crawshay Jun Esq, Hirwaun, Francis Crawshay Esq of Treforest, and Messrs Edward PAYNE and Joseph ELLIOTT, Cardiff. A large number from the surrounding villages witnessed the launch, and about 60 persons partook of refreshments on board, kindly provided by F Crawshay Esq.”

I have also found a brief mention headed Barry, March 9th 1867:

“The Barry Island property changed hands last Monday morning. Mr Crawshay had everything taken away that belonged to him, and free possession was given to Mr Jenner’s agent. This is an important step in connection with the projected railway to Barry. John DUNSCOMB* of Cadoxton has been appointed keeper of the island.”

**Ed The 1871 Census has John DUNSCOMBE, aged 40, Gamekeeper, born Delverton (sic) Somerset, with his wife Martha (b Penmark), four children and his Mother in Law, Catherine JENKINS (b St Hilary) living at Barry Island. The four children are born Cadoxton apart from the youngest, Barrita, born Sully (Barry Island is within Sully Parish).*

The family are still living on the island in the 1881 Census. There are also five ships listed at the end of the Sully Census under Customs Returns.

*Wild Rose (Steam Tug)
Minnie (Piloting Cutter
Demenstaffuage(?) (Ship Rig)
Charles & Ellen (Sailing Vessel)
Narbella (Steamer)*

Francis Crawshay bought the island in 1856 and built the Marine Hotel. It was bought in 1873 by JD TREHARNE who enlarged it and renamed it the Pier Hotel. After again being sold in 1894 the house was remodelled and renamed Friars Point House. It was Grade II listed in 1991 as are the Lodge and Gates.

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

IRELAND, ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, WALES

Some Founding Fathers and Mothers of Barry

#2 Dr Diane Brook

They came from all around Britain and Ireland and beyond, to build careers and families in Barry, the new boom town of the late nineteenth century. My husband's parents were both born in the town of Barry at the earlier end of the twentieth century but none of his four grandparents were born there. Their origins reflect some of the groups that formed the population of the newly developed town.

The first ancestor linked to Barry came before the town and docks were built, when Barry was a small rural village. James COLLINS was a farm labourer who had fled the Irish Famine. He appears on the 1851 census on Barry Island and married in Cardiff the next year, to another Famine migrant, Catherine HAYES. Their first child, Jane, was born in Cadoxton in 1853, followed by three boys, Thomas, James and Jeremiah. The family moved around the Vale of Glamorgan, living in Bonvilston in 1861 and later in Cardiff and finally Dinas Powis where James died in 1891, now a dairy farmer in his own right. His widow moved to Canton in Cardiff where she died in 1903. As the couple had 33 grandchildren, their descendants are very numerous, a number still in Barry and area, others in America and Canada.

The next generation included another Irish Famine survivor, Thomas GOGGIN, a plasterer, who came to Cardiff with his widowed mother. Thomas met Jane Collins and began courting her. As he was a few years older than Jane, she was sent away to her uncle, Jeremiah Hayes, in Haverhill near Boston, Massachusetts. Thomas followed and they were married in Haverhill in 1871. They lost their first two children as babies and Jane worked as a wet nurse after their losses. By 1876 they were back, first in Cardiff, then Dinas Powis. The last of their 14 children, Beatrice, was born in Barry Dock, in 1895. They outdid Jane's parents, having 35 grandchildren and have many descendants in Barry and area, and more in England, America and Canada.

Alfred William WATERS, a blacksmith from Chepstow, came to Barry to work on the new docks. He met and married Catherine Goggin, daughter of Thomas Goggin and Jane Collins Goggin, in Barry in 1905. Catherine worked as a barmaid before her marriage and ran a sweet shop in later years. All of their nine children were born in Barry. Descendants live in Barry, other places in Wales, and in England and Brazil.

Charles BROOK trained as a printer and bookbinder, initially in his hometown of Ilminster, Somerset, and then in Bristol. He married his first wife, Minnie TICHBON, in 1897 in Bristol. Charles came to Barry to set up his own business, Brook & Williams Printers, with 'Dai' WILLIAMS, first in Broad Street, then in High Street. Charles and Minnie were living in Barry by 1898 when their first

child was born and went on to have two more, all boys. Minnie died in 1907 and Charles remarried in 1910, to Frances Marie BARRY, and they had a daughter and two sons. Frances has a complicated ancestry; Irish, military, and northern English background. She moved to Cardiff with her mother and siblings and worked as a seamstress before her marriage. Their descendants live in Barry, other parts of Wales, and in England.

These ancestors represent the many types of skills that were drawn to Barry, a farm worker from before the days of the docks, and skilled workers for the docks and the development of the town. Their origins in Ireland, Wales and England also reflect Barry's attraction in providing opportunities to many different communities. They became part of a rooted population, all being buried in Barry Cemetery with the exception of James and Catherine (Hayes) Collins, both buried in Cathays Cemetery, Cardiff.

Their descendants include many skilled workers and professionals who took advantage of the wider educational opportunities of the twentieth century.



MY BARRY RELATIVES

#890 Lynne Marsh

On my paternal side of my family two of my great-grandfathers had links with Barry despite one being born in the Rhondda Valley and one being born in Aberdare. Both of them were miners (colliers) in their youth, and both later became shopkeepers.

Morgan WILLIAMS was born c1830 and on many records his place of birth has been given as Mynyddislwyn. On the marriage certificate in 1851 his age was given as 21 and occupation a collier. He married Miriam GRIFFITHS and had 10 children, and by 1871 he was a Grocer and Draper (Post Office South Wales Directory).

In the 1881 Census Morgan Williams was living in Trehafod Shop, Hafodwinog, Llanwonno, Ystradyfodwg. His wife, Miriam Griffiths, died in 1883, in Barry, and was taken back to the Rhondda Valley for burial. By the 1891 Census he was living at Treharne Rd, Barry with his second wife, Sarah, from Falmouth in Cornwall. He spoke both Welsh and English. He died there on 18 July 1896. His funeral was on 23 July and I have an account in Welsh which has been translated. His body was taken back to Hafod, (now known as Trehafod, Pontypridd), and 17 bearers representing the Society of True Ivorites (wir Ivoriaid) were at the funeral.

Morgan's youngest son, David, born 1875, married Phoebe EVANS in 1899, daughter of Daniel Evans. He moved to Barry in 1940 with his daughter

Miriam who never married, (she taught at the end of her time as a Domestic Science teacher at High Street School and died in the Waters Edge Nursing Home in 1997). They lived in a flat at 13 Porthkerry Rd. David died in Caerphilly in 1951. They went to Trinity Presbyterian Chapel, High St, Barry.

Morgan Williams' grandson Evan Daniel Williams (David's son) went to live in Barry in 1939 when he became secretary of The Barry Mutual Building Society in Lombard St, Barry, and lived in Gladstone Road (No 223) until 1951, when the family moved to Tynewydd Road (no 87). He died in his parked car in Pontypridd Road on 2 May 1970. His family went to Bethel Presbyterian Chapel in Cadoxton.

My other great-grandfather Daniel EVANS was born at Mill St, Aberdare on 18 Feb 1852, son of Evan Evans and Catherine RICHARDS. He married Mary Ann MORRIS on 20 Sept 1873 in Pontypridd, when his occupation is given as Collier. He was a collier until 1880, but when his son David Morris was born in 1884 he was a butcher. On 1891 census Daniel was living in Vere St, Barry, and his occupation as given as Builder.

Mary Ann died on 27 Oct 1895 at Vere St, Cadoxton, when Daniel's occupation was given as Corn Merchant. He was still living in Vere St in 1901 when his occupation was given as Boot Shopkeeper. He died in Glynccorwg in 1932 as a retired butcher. I was always told he ran a Corn Stores. Their son David Morris Evans lived in Oxford St, Barry.

I am Margaret Lynne Marsh née Williams, daughter of Evan Daniel Williams, and I am so surprised to know that 11 of my family lived in Barry but were not born there, so cannot be called Barrians.

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

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

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

FROM BARRY TO ROYAL PALACES
AND PRESIDENTIAL OFFICES
The glittering life of Margaret Lindsay Williams
#20046 Karen Heenan-Davies & John Oliver

Margaret Lindsay WILLIAMS was a pioneering Welsh artist whose talents were commissioned by the British royal family, European royalty and presidents of the United States of America.

She was born in in 1888 in Cardiff, near the city's Mansion House; the daughter of Samuel A WILLIAMS and Scottish-born Martha Margaret LINDSAY. When Margaret was three years old the family moved to Barry where her shipbroker father had an office in the docks. Their home at 9 Windsor Road is today marked by a "Pride in Barry" Blue Plaque.

The 1891 census shows a multi-generational family living in the house at Barry. Margaret's maternal grandparents, William and Margaret Lindsay, were also in residence and the family had a live-in domestic servant. While living in Barry, the Williams had a second daughter named Dorothy Farquhar Lindsay Williams although she died in 1901, before her first birthday.

By all accounts Margaret Lindsay Williams was herself a sickly child whose poor health prevented her from attending school so she was educated at home. She spent much of her time drawing and painting, particularly ships.

After 1901 the family, now enlarged with the birth of another daughter called Olwen, moved to Dinas Powis where Margaret continued to pursue her interest in art, using part of the attic as a studio. One of her early works was a painted screen decorated with fruit and flowers that was intended to be sold at a church bazar. The positive reaction of friends and relatives to the screen encouraged Margaret's father to contact the famed Sir Von HERKOMAR at the Royal Academy for advice about his daughter's future. At Herkomar's request, she produced a new work, a ¾ length portrait of her cousin Gwladys. Although Herkomar found some glaring faults in her painting he felt the girl deserved to be trained by the best skill available locally. As a result she became a student at the Cardiff School of Art.

in 1906 Margaret Lindsay entered the Royal Academy where she was taught by John SINGER SERGEANT who told her to "paint people as ugly as they are". Though, as a female student, she was not allowed to attend male life drawing classes, she still won a coveted Gold Medal from the Academy for a painting titled *City of Refuge*. She was not only the youngest winner (at 23 years old) but the first Welsh winner.

Her success enabled her to travel extensively through Europe and then to establish a studio in London. Her parents and younger sister Olwen moved with her to a house at Eaton Terrace, St John's Wood. According to her

(unpublished) memoirs *Life is my Canvas*, she always retained a special affection for her childhood home in Wales. Her father in fact kept a connection with Barry, presumably because of his work requirements - the 1911 census records him as a boarder at 11 The Parade, Barry.

The Artist and War

When war broke out across Europe in 1914, Margaret Lindsay Williams lobbied LLOYD GEORGE, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, to appoint her as an official war artist with the Welsh Division in France. Lloyd George refused, because he didn't feel comfortable with a woman being close to the front line, so Williams turned her attention to creating illustrations for a prose anthology to raise funds for Welsh troops.

She then staged an exhibition in Cardiff to help fund the Netley Military Hospital in Southampton, as a result of which she received numerous commissions.

In 1916 she produced two works connected with the war: *Cardiff Royal Infirmary During The Great War* (a painting now on display at Sandhurst Royal Military Academy) and *David Lloyd George at Cardiff City Hall* unveiling statues of Welsh heroes (currently displayed at Cardiff City Hall).

Starting in 1918 she began work on her largest and most ambitious work, the painting *Welsh National Service, Westminster Abbey*. The 20 by 16 foot canvas comprised portraits of 150 individuals including Queen Alexandra and her daughter Victoria plus leading religious figures and peers. The painting took three years to complete, working at the Abbey as well as her studio. Once finished it was presented to the City of Cardiff – today it hangs in the Crown Court building in the civic centre.

Leaps of Imagination

Towards the end of World War 1, Margaret Lindsay Williams, now an established and successful artist, began a period marked by imaginative works with religious overtones and allegorical significance. One of these works, exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1917, was entitled *The Devil's Daughter*. It attracted considerable attention in the media worldwide for its portrayal of corruption and materialism.

Curiously the reverse of the painting displayed her name and address as Elmgrove, Dinas Powis, South Wales although the Williams family had long left Wales. The painting was subsequently loaned by the artist to the Red Cross Hospital in Dinas Powis where it was placed in a darkened ward and draped in black velvet.

Portrait Artist to Royalty and Presidents

From the mid 1920s, Williams decided to concentrate on portraiture. She was commissioned by prominent Welsh figures including several members of the MORGAN family, owners of the David Morgan department store in Cardiff, and composer Ivor NOVELLO. Her reputation grew internationally to such an extent



that she was commissioned to paint the US President Warren HARDING in Washington. He sat for her 18 times, their sessions often interrupted by officials on state and international affairs. Despite the highly confidential nature of the topics, the artist was never asked to leave the room. The resulting portrait brought her more commissions from notable Americans including Henry FORD and secured her a slot on television.

Margaret Lindsay Williams with her portrait of Warren G Harding, © National Photo Company Collection (Library of Congress),

As her status as a portrait artist grew, her commissions brought her into contact with members of the British

Royal family. A work entitled *St Paul's Cathedral Thanksgiving Service*, produced in 1933 to mark the re-opening of the Cathedral after five years of restoration work included portraits of both King George V and Queen Mary. Williams went on to produce an individual portrait of Queen Mary in 1938, the sittings apparently accompanied by a large box of chocolates provided by the Queen.

Later generations of the royal family were also portrayed by Williams. She painted Princess Margaret, was commissioned for the first portrait of Prince Charles and Princess Anne and completed five portraits of Queen Elizabeth II over her lifetime. In her memoirs she recalled preparing her studio with toys and dolls for the arrival of the four-year-old Prince and his two-year-old sister. But Charles was more interested in the brushes and paints. "I think Charles would

have squeezed out all the tubes, given the chance, they fascinated him,” she recalled.

He took his interest a step further, turning up for one sitting dressed as a mini artist. “He arrived with overalls, his own box of paints, and a special book to paint in. He had decided that he wanted to be an artist and was most serious about the whole business,” she wrote.

“Suddenly he had an inspiration, he decided that he would like to use my paints. So, I gave him my palette, some brushes and two canvas *Painting President Harding* boards.”

He produced two works while she was with him and she presented them to him – one of a forest and another of a house. She described his efforts as “very modern school”, but she had to ask what they were! For his first picture, he replied, “Oh, it’s a forest.”

Wedded to Her Art

Margaret Lindsay Williams never married. Her memoirs reveal that during a sitting with President Warren Harding he asked if she had ever been in love.

“I was taken aback and did not quite know how or what to reply. The best I could manage was ‘Oh, Mr President, I am wedded to my art’. Solemnly he replied, “Then you have escaped some of the tragedy of life.”

Williams mixed with the great and the good, hosting social events at her studio and staging exhibitions of her work. Newspapers referred to her as a society hostess but she did not mingle with other artists. She never joined the Society of Women Artists or the Women’s International Art Club for example. Public recognition came through her royal portraiture and articles in society journals like *Country Life* yet she struggled to gain recognition from the artistic world.

One art historian suggested she had compromised her artistic creativity for a celebrity filled life of portraiture. But Williams felt that portraiture was one of the hardest forms of art because it required the artist to imitate a person exactly.



She also noted in her memoirs: “When I began painting, there were comparatively few women artists. It was the men that mattered. An important part of my story concerns my own efforts to make myself worthy of recognition.”

With fame came financial success and independence. When she died aged 71, on 4th June 1960 at her home in St Johns Wood, London, she left an estate valued at £16220 0s 3d – equivalent today to almost £340,000. Her funeral took place in Windsor Road Congregational Church in Barry, followed by internment in the town’s Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery. Today all that marks her resting place is a simple memorial plaque.

Margaret Lindsay Williams and Dyffryn House

Much of Williams’ work can be seen in town halls and government buildings. Dyffryn Gardens and House, the National Trust property at St Nicholas, Vale of Glamorgan has a collection which was restored during 2019. The items include:

The Imprisoned Soul (1920): This work is approximately 6 ft high and 4 ft wide and was discovered leaning against a wall in the library. It was extensively damaged with 21 holes and tears. The painting depicts a woman tempted by material things and is part of a body of work by Williams which reflected dark and religious themes.

Three Decorative Panels (1926): These panels formed part of a set of 24 produced for the ballroom at Birchwood Grange, Penylan, in Cardiff, the home of Sir William James THOMAS. After his wife’s death, 11 panels were donated from the estate to Glamorgan County Council. An album of the panels and paintings of Sir William’s family is now held at Glamorgan Archives.

These paintings formed part of an exhibition commemorating the artist’s life and work which was opened at Dyffryn 2020. For details about access and opening times visit the Dyffryn Gardens website <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dyffryn-gardens>.



STAYCATION, 1940s STYLE

Rhian Diggins, Glamorgan Archives

This summer more of us than ever may be considering a holiday at home. It is only in recent years that ‘Staycation’ has become a popular term to describe stay-at-home holidays. However, the idea of holidaying at home has a much longer history.

During the Second World War the idea was actively championed by the Government in an official ‘Holiday at Home’ campaign. The campaign encouraged the population to stay at home and to avoid travelling long

distances, freeing up the country's transport system from non-military traffic, especially vital during the preparations for the D-Day landings in 1944.

Barry Borough participated in the Government campaign, arranging entertainments for local people to make the 'Holiday at Home' experience more enjoyable. Two files amongst the records of Barry Borough (ref BB/C/8/102,140) illustrate the types of entertainments provided. They also show that the Council was bombarded with promotional literature from would be entertainers and agents from all over the country hoping to secure work in Barry.

The acts ranged from Russian Cossack groups (death jump with sabre in teeth a speciality) to pony displays (with a token goat), Viennese puppets, Jingles the Jolly Jester and ballet shows (Donna Roma and Her Ballets of England and France). The Penyghent Alsatians 'RSPCA approved' are particularly intriguing. Trained by a Miss PARRY, the alsatians performed a variety of tricks, including jumping through hoops and the rather alarming 'releasing a bound and gagged person.'

However, the limited budget of Barry Borough meant that many of these professional acts were out of its price range and the majority of the entertainment provided was of the home-grown variety. The emphasis was on dances with music from local bands such as the Cardiff Corporation Transport Band (the band was paid a fee of £15) and the Salvation Army Band. Local musical groups put on concerts, including pupils of Miss Mae RICHARDS, Miss Hilda GILL and Madame Isabel DAVIES' Party. Panatropes (a panatropes was a large gramophone record player) were held with dancing on the local tennis courts. Sporting events such as cricket matches at Barry Island Cricket Ground were arranged, along with bowls tournaments, boxing competitions and even a Grand Marbles Competition in Central Park. Matinees in cinemas, such as the Tivoli and the Plaza were advertised as part of the campaign, with Hollywood blockbusters such as Judy Garland in 'Babes on Broadway' and future American President Ronald Reagan in 'International Squadron'.

A further money saving scheme saw events being held in the open air at King Square, Victoria Park, Central Park, The Knap, Romilly Park, Parade Gardens, Whitmore Bay, Gladstone Gardens and Alexandra Gardens. Local churches and chapels were also used as venues, although Salem Baptist Church in Beryl Road had to decline the request to use its building as the 'black-out is in very bad condition'.

In September 1944 Sir Robert FOSSETT's 'gigantic zoo circus' visited Romilly Park with 20 star turns including lions, tigers, bears, elephants and performing horses, plus a marquee which could accommodate 3,000. Fossett's Circus is still in existence today in Ireland.

Wartime restrictions also had a bearing on the campaign with the Council receiving warnings from 'Paper Control' about the number of advertising posters which could be produced.

The popularity of the Campaign brought its own problems and in August 1943 the Glamorgan Constabulary had to arrange for a police officer to be present at band concerts 'to see that order is kept' following complaints of children running around and shouting during concerts. Certainly some of the events attracted huge numbers of people, with one correspondent commenting that over 400 children under 12 years of age paid for admission for a dance, but due to numbers it was impossible to hold the event.

We would love to hear from anyone who remembers Holidays at Home or has photographs of any of the events and concerts to share with us.

Images (back cover) courtesy of Glamorgan Archives

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3. Password: *If you have forgotten your password follow the instructions to reset your password. You will be emailed a verification link. Click on the link in the email to reset your password.*
4. *Return to the Home Page and Click on 'How to Join'.*
5. Select the appropriate subscription. *If you are renewing the same subscription you will see a 'Renew' button.*
6. Click on 'Renew' and follow the instructions to pay by Debit or Credit Card. You do not need a Pay Pal account.
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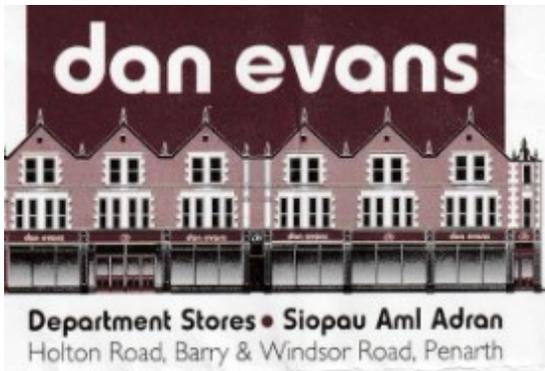
website@glamfhs.org.uk

DAN EVANS – THE BARRY DEPARTMENT STORE

#22 Parry Edwards

I write as a former director of 'The' Barry department store. For many of the older residents of Barry the demise of "Dan's" in Barry was a very sad day, when it closed its doors for the last time. Many had known and shopped in the store from the earliest days, when Mr Dan EVANS opened his ironmongery shop in 1905, in Holton Road, employing two apprentices. From the early days the business grew and prospered and Mr Evans found it necessary to acquire further premises to house his expanding stock.

The fortunes of the business have always been closely tied to those of the town and after 1945 new industries came to the area. With the industries came workers and their families from other parts of UK, with their differing tastes, but the company kept pace and grew considerably during the post war period.



In 1961 the old established local firm of John JONES Ltd was taken over, bringing a range of fashions under the guidance of Miss B HARMAN, who was well known throughout South Wales for her sound fashion sense. At one time it was estimated that some seventy per cent of households had

accounts with the company and these, together with the substantial amounts of accounts from outside the area, enabled the company to grow into the Department Store that dominated Holton Road and King Square.

The following years were good ones for the store, when it expanded into a full range of items from carpets, furniture, to electrical goods, where the first TV's were on sale. The original ironmongery shop had expanded into hardware, wallpaper and paints, shoes, china and glass, fancy gifts, menswear, linens and even a coffee lounge, which in later years became a restaurant on the top floor, when a complete rebuilding brought all the departments into the main block in Holton Road.

There are many good memories of shopping at "Dan's" as it was affectionately known; there was much support for the store when it suffered some disastrous fires, but the repairs brought new exciting departments such

as cosmetics and perfumery, a record section, greatly improved toy and games area. Two escalators were installed to bring customers up to the second and third floors; there were improved lifts, public toilet facilities, a lighting section, and much more as “Dan’s” continued to give the “whole store experience.”

It was the opening of the out of town stores on the reclaimed land surrounding the docks that gradually brought about the demise of this grand old lady that graced Holton Road for so many years. She is sorely missed and Holton Road today is a mere shadow of what it once was, but the memories linger on, and you only have to mention Dan Evans to people today, for people to recall the times and purchases they, their parents and grandparents made over the years it kept its doors open.



BARRY AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS WARDENS OF WW2.

#3853 Audrey and Robert Taylor

In looking for Barry-related items for the September issue, my wife and I found this photograph recently amongst many other photos her father left when he passed away many years ago. Her father was Thomas DARKE and is in the middle row 4th from the left. The professional Photographer was Chas H FARMER, The Studio, 61 Holton Road, Barry, tel 581.



MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER'S CLOCK:

Sergeant-Major James Thomas Atkins of Cadoxton

#10486 Mike Ward



In my family, for as long as I can remember, there has been an enormous, ornate, very heavy black marble clock surmounted by a cannon. As a child, I was keen to get hold of the cannon to use it as the centrepiece of my plastic soldiers' war games in the late fifties. However, it was never to be as my grandmother always put the brakes on such enthusiasm, with a look, as the clock was "special".

My grandmother passed away, my mother inherited the clock and it sat in my parents' house for another decade or two. Over the years I had occasionally glanced at the brass commemorative plaque which was fixed on the base of the clock and stated:

"Presented to Staff Sergeant J ATKINS by the Staff Sergeants and Sergeants of the 2nd Glamorgan Royal Garrison Artillery (Volunteers) 10 February 1906"

The wording planted a seed of inquisitiveness into the story behind this strange looking, black clock. Over the years, my interest in family history has grown and now, having retired, I have both the time and interest to pursue the history of this curious timepiece.

The Staff Sergeant J ATKINS involved is my maternal great grandfather James Thomas Atkins. He was born to William and Elizabeth Atkins in the village of Penn in Buckinghamshire on 11 February 1856. The 1861 and 1871 censuses have James living with his family in Penn and he is described as a Bricklayer in 1871 (probably an apprentice as he is only 15 years old).

Thereafter life changed for James. At the age of 18 he joined the Royal Artillery on 2 November 1874. Private JT Atkins' service number was 32149. His army career took him to Afghanistan and India and in 1889 he moved to Cadoxton, Barry. Seven years later he transferred to accommodation at the Drill Hall in Cardiff. James retired from the army in 1906 on his fiftieth birthday and was presented with the clock.

Searching the records I have discovered a Campaign Medal in the Afghan Campaign of 1878 to 1882 awarded to Corporal J Atkins who is recorded as being a Bombardier and participating in the Siege of Kandahar in Afghanistan. I have to undertake further research on this matter but this does bear out the family story and newspaper reports of James Thomas fighting in the Siege of Kandahar in 1880. His daughter, Ethel, my maternal grandmother, was very proud of her father's exploits and often told stories of him being the quartermaster during the siege, in charge of transport which, at this time and location, comprised elephants and bullocks. Maintenance on these beasts is far removed from modern day servicing and parts replacements!

The siege was during the 2nd Anglo-Afghanistan War. After the British defeat at the battle of Maiwand on 27 July 1880 about 1000 survivors fled to Kandahar and took up position within the fortified walls of the city. There they set about reinforcing the city walls, improving communications, setting traps and positioning gun platforms. Ayub Khan the victor at Maiwand arrived at Kandahar on 8 August with a large army; surrounded the city and laid siege to it for several weeks. This continued until a large detachment of British troops under General ROBERTS arrived after a forced route march of some 300 miles in 3 weeks and relieved Kandahar. It is amazing to think that this area of the world is still a flash point some 140 years after James was active there!

James, it appears, also fought in Burma in the mid-1880s for which he was awarded the India General Service Medal with Burma Clasp.

When James returned to the UK he undertook a gunnery course and on 10 June 1889 he married Emma WATLING in the Parish Church at Woolwich. Following this, James was transferred to the 2nd Glamorganshire Artillery Volunteer Corps as a Sergeant Instructor in one of the three Batteries which were established in Barry. It is interesting to note that several of the Artillery Volunteer Corps were set up as part of the coastal defence of South Wales with the Corps in Barry, Cardiff and Swansea. James and Emma set up home in, Cadoxton, Barry. The 1891 census shows them residing at 9 Kenilworth Road where he and Emma

have had their first child, Lucy Elizabeth. James participated fully in life in the AVC and was also their drill instructor.

His family increased with the birth of Louisa Margaret in 1891 and Lena Rosie in 1893. Certainly Lucy would have attended a local infants school probably Cadoxton Elementary or Primary. In 1895 Florence Emma was added to the family, and Ethel, my maternal grandmother completed the family in 1896. Sadly Florence passed away at the age of only 2 years in 1896, just 6 weeks before my grandmother was born. Florence was buried at Cathays Cemetery in Cardiff in a grave which was to become the family plot, with her sister Lucy (d 1918) Father (d 1914) and Mother (d 1945) joining her there.

During the following seven years or so James and his family settled down to a good life in Cadoxton. It was at this time that the opening of the first basin of the new Barry Docks development in 1889 began to put Barry on the map. The docks certainly started the rapid growth of the town, including the arrival of a branch line railway connecting the town to Cardiff and Barry. The growth of coal transport brought prosperity to the town and the surrounding areas and it must have been an exciting time to live in such a lively, growing town as Cadoxton.

It appears that James, in his role as a Sergeant Major of the RGA, must have done well and the final move in his army career was to the Drill Hall in Dumfries Place in Cardiff. He left Kenilworth Road in 1896 and, with Emma and his four remaining daughters, moved into accommodation in the Drill Hall.

In 1901 the census shows the family continuing to live in military accommodation at the Drill Hall in Dumfries Place. James is now with the Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA) with the rank of Sergeant Major.

In the Army, it appears that personnel had to retire at the age of 50 years. Therefore on February 10 1906, after some 32 years' service, Staff Sergeant James Thomas Atkins retired from the Army and was presented with the enormous, ornate, very heavy black marble clock surmounted by a cannon referred to above. He seems to have been popular with his fellow officers and men and he and his family moved out of the Drill Hall to live at 24 Miskin Street, Cathays, Cardiff.

After his retirement James started a new job as a Checking Clerk in a Brewery; which one I cannot say, maybe my favourite one Brains - I do hope so! He lived until 24 June 1914 dying in the family home at 24 Miskin Street Cardiff aged 58. He had the honour of a Military Funeral in Cardiff which was reported in a number of newspaper articles at the time.

The South Wales Daily News in June 1914 announced the death of James.

“Death of Well-known Cardiff Non Com.

It is with regret that I have to record the death of ex Sergeant Major James Thomas Atkins (RGA), Cardiff, notice of which has already appeared in our columns. Although he rarely spoke of his adventures, Sergeant Major Atkins had stirring experiences when serving as non-commissioned officer in India. During the second phase of the Afghan War he was with the heavy battery, drawn by elephants and bullocks, and he was shut up for a month in Candahar until the besieged were ultimately relieved by Lord Roberts. He possessed the bar medal and bar for Candahar and also the long service and conduct medal. Upon returning to England he went through the gunnery staff course, and was appointed sergeant instructor to the newly formed Barry Company of the Glamorgan RGA, staying with the Barry Company until March 1896, when he was transferred to the headquarters at Cardiff”.



An article in the Barry Dock News of 3 July 1914 records James’s death and notes that he was awarded the India Medal with Burma Clasp. The records for this and his decoration for the Siege of Kandahar I have yet to locate confirming these press reports.

My researches into this intriguing man continue. I am no military historian and if anyone wishes to correct or add anything to this story I would be pleased to hear from them.

My Great Grandfather’s clock has opened a fascinating chapter of my family’s history and I would recommend everyone to scratch the itch of fascination of a family object that you may have had a passing interest in - you

never know what you’ll find!

Editor’s Note: Does any other reader have a ‘clock’ family story? There must be a few more stories out there with some fascinating history like this one?

Images next page:

Photo 1: James, Emma, Lucy, Rosie & Margaret c 1893, Cadoxton

Photo 2: James, Lucy, Emma, Rosie, Ethel & Margaret 1910



SOCIETY TREASURER NEEDED

This is an essential Society/Trustee role for which we now have a vacancy following the retirement of Nick Davey at the AGM on 29 February 2020.

Two volunteers have come forward to assist and a Finance Team has been developed in order that elements of Treasurer's role: the day to day book-keeping, payments etc are covered. Sue Hamer has also now been co-opted to the role of Vice Chairman in order to oversee the Finance Team on a temporary basis.

For further information on the Treasurer's Role see job description on website

or contact:

Meic Jones

chairman@glamfhs.org.uk

BARRY REVISITED

#10799 Glenys Witchard Goetinck

My parents began their married life in Dinas Powys, but the Depression and ill health soon brought about a change of plan. My father was a sailor and his prospects for employment vanished while my mother could no longer work because of a difficult pregnancy. They gave up their house, moved back to Barry and, as the saying went, went into rooms with Mr & Mrs JONES, a childless couple who were delighted with the idea of having a baby in the house.

The Depression was hard on everyone and so, when my father left the house wearing his best overcoat and returned without it, my mother was understandably concerned. He explained that he had bumped into an old school friend “and the man was blue with cold, so I gave him my coat.” My mother's response, “Well why didn't you bring him home and give him your second-best coat?” was logical but too late. In any event the old school friend now had a warm coat and my father was not without.

Some years later, in the early years of the war (i.e. WW2) I don't recall the reason, but Barry was flooded with refugees. Lots of people needing to be taken to and from various destinations and my father was asked to drive one of Dan Evans' vans in order to help with the transportation. Driving along Holton Road he had to stop because people were crowding into the street, drawn by some kind of commotion. There were two men in the middle of the road shouting and laughing, embracing and obviously overjoyed. Apparently they were two Frenchmen, each of whom thought the other was dead, and they had suddenly found each other, alive and well, on opposite sides of Holton Road, Barry, Glamorgan. Tears and smiles all round.

Later, during the war, probably during the build-up to D Day, a contingent of American soldiers was waiting outside Cadoxton Station. One of the young men was frightened and panicking and the sergeant, an imposing man, about six feet three in his regulation socks, was berating him loudly. My eldest aunt had arrived, along with several of her neighbours, bringing coffee and sandwiches hoping to bring a comforting touch to the situation. Aunty Nell, who was about four feet and a bit, marched up to the sergeant and said, “You stop that. The boy's upset, he's frightened and he doesn't need you shouting at him.” The sergeant, somewhat nonplussed, merely said, “Excuse me ma'am, just let me do my job.' but Nellie was on a mission of mercy, sergeant or no sergeant. One assumes that reason eventually prevailed.

Mr and Mrs Jones received me as happily as any grandparents and their blend of Talysarn and Aberteifi meant that I was surrounded by a thoroughly Welsh ambience. Mrs Jones had one notable quirk, possibly reflecting her Celtic ancestry, in that she never sneezed once, always three times. Stage one was an ordinary sneeze, stage two was a more robust offering, and stage three was

a genuine rafter rattler. One evening in chapel (Tabernacl, Capel yr Annibynwyr), when the congregation was apparently listening intently to the sermon, the quiet was ruffled by a sneeze. No-one paid any attention, you were allowed to sneeze in chapel. The next eruption raised a few eyebrows, but the third explosion brought everyone smartly back to the upright position. The minister paused briefly and gave the culprit a faintly conspiratorial grin, perhaps the tripartite nature of the interruption reminded him of the way in which the much favoured *pregeth tri phen* was often presented; (i) start quietly (ii) ramp it up a bit (iii) let 'em have it. In any event there was no more dozing off that evening.

Mr Jones had a profound appreciation of his native language and a love of music. He also had a pleasant light tenor voice and he early introduced me to the treasures of the hymnal. My forlorn squeak would never grace a stage or win a competition, but I loved to join in, and where better to join in than the Gymanfa Ganu, that annual melding of harmony and faith. I always waited for one special moment when the conductor raised his baton and gathered everyone's attention, the choir massed in the balcony, the congregation in the pews below, gave the nod to Mister Organydd, and with that first stroke unleashed a soundwave so powerful that the whole building shook.

Hiraeth and I cannot be said to be good friends, but we are certainly old acquaintances.



THE PROBLEM WITH FACTS, NAMES, AND THE CENSUS

Jamie Baker

Names

There are all sorts of problems with names, as all of us that have tried to complete our family histories have discovered repeatedly. When working on databases and family trees in relation to Arab and Chinese seaman I regularly find that the docks office or ship's captain have recorded the wrong last name for the crew member. Arab and Chinese people can have two or three names and, in the time period I usually am examining, many did not speak English, so they simply answered the question with the usual name they responded to, and that name appeared on their Identity Card.

A few years ago, for HAD, a Cardiff Somali Community Organisation, I put together a database of seamen from the Identity Cards held in Southampton Archives. These cover the period 1918-1921 and feature a range of interesting details. These include age, height, scars, names, birthplace, and 50% have pictures and some have next of kin. Clearly this is a hugely important resource; however many of the surnames are entirely wrong (this information is now on Find My Past).

Somali children are usually given a three-part name. The first name is a chosen name. The middle name traditionally is the first name of the child's father. The last name is the child's paternal grandfather's first name. Each of those names to a non-Somali could seem like a surname. For example, in 2019 I created a database of every Merchant Seaman that sailed from Wales who had died in World War 2, extracting from that 52 men from Thompson Street in Barry. Amongst them was Abdul Hamed, who died aboard the SS Parracombe, and who lists his brother Nagi Hamed as his next of kin. His brother died on the SS Parracombe as well and he is listed as Mohamed Hamed. In fact their names were Abdul Nagi Hamed and Mohamed Nagi Hamed.

Now I understand fully that this seems messy, but once you know the problem it is simply a case of looking longer and looking for each of the names you have and not just the last names/surnames.

In terms of people from the West Indies the surnames are less of a problem, as the problem is often one of nicknames. My grandfather's name was Leonard HINDS, but because of nicknames my uncle Darwin, (the former Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan), and my uncle Leonard, were both named after him, as was I (James). The simple reality was that when he got on board ship, they would have asked his name. He was 16 and simply said the name his family used. I did not know his first names until I had been to Barbados and looked in the records for the wrong first name: by the way, my Nan always knew his correct first name but didn't think to mention it when they christened their sons! One lesson I learnt is that it is a mistake to ignore the eldest woman in the family in Barbados when she is telling you family folklore, she corrected me, but I ignored her because I was looking at insurance and other records.

Bigamists and Unmarried Mothers

Divorce has been an expensive and difficult issue for working class women, so many did not bother especially if domestic violence was involved. I have three women in my family tree who, between 1910 and 1940, lived with men they were not married to. All of them did marry those men, but two of those marriages were not legal.

Legality was hardly a problem because county records do not seem to have been linked, so one great-aunt married in Barry and then in Cardiff five years later, leaving her children in Barry with her husband. He then remarried after 7 years. To add to this complicated situation the women would often avoid census night, which would seem to me to be the most likely time to be caught, unless they committed an unrelated crime.

I recently helped an American researcher find a woman called Jane BANNISTER in Barry, only to discover this was the Lucy Jane Bannister that was my Great-Grandfather's first wife who disappeared from records. Now, I mention this problem, not just because it is frustrating but because we ought to be able to do something about it. Unmarried mothers are hardly an unknown issue in the Vale of Glamorgan, in fact in 2013 five million children in Britain were living in cohabiting households and I would suggest that number is likely to have increased. These people will not hide on census night, but if our Government continues to maintain the outdated 100-year rule in terms of making census information available, then this could be a nightmare waiting to be dreamt.

One problem with the census and any other records is how invasive do we want these records to be. Do we collect health information alongside details of our parents and include that in our family trees? I think such a request into any heredity diseases information would mean a few doors being slammed in our faces. On a personal level, as my family (who are Black/Mixed Race) get lighter and their racial origins become less apparent, will a doctor be looking for sickle cell etc?

The Census and the 100 Year Rule.

The big problem with facts as far as I am concerned is that I cannot see the 1921 Census until 2022. What did Barry look like after World War One, what happened to the women who lost their partners: there are so many questions? The problem is that the 1921 Census is the last one for 30 years as the 1931 Census was destroyed in a fire, and there was no 1941 Census because of the war. Five arguments why the records could/should be released:

- 1) The 100-year rule was introduced in 1966, and the 1841, 1851 and 1911 Census were released early.
- 2) Early release of the 1921 Census would generate much needed revenue at a time of austerity. Releases of the 1901 and 1911 census have raised millions for the public coffers. Consider that in 2018 the company Ancestry was worth \$3 billion⁵
- 3) The 1921 Census will not cover much more information than the 1911 Census; it is just a record of who was living at an address at that time: their ages, occupation, and relationship to one another. If there is any information that can be deemed especially sensitive, then it could be redacted, as for the 1911 Census.

⁵ *Find My Past has been awarded the contract for digitizing the 1921 Census taken on 19 June 1921 which will be available on 1 January 2022.*

- 4) Most of the information is out there, but it requires looking through birth, marriage and death certificates, electoral rolls, telephone directories, trade directories, etc.
- 5) It would allow us to ask relatives before they pass about the street, the neighbours etc.

As a family historian my needs are simple, I want the facts, the problem is Governments will avoid embarrassing facts. I have no idea how to resolve this, but I just thought I would raise the issue in case there is a genius with an answer.

Editor's comment: what are members' views of the Government rumours of discontinuing the census after 2021? What if anything could replace it?



BARRY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

#6464 Dave Powell MBE

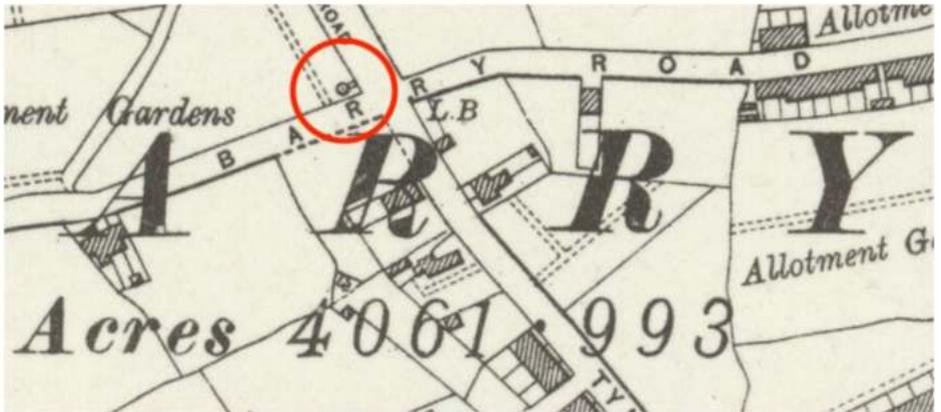
The present society was started in 2016 at the request of several local Barry residents. Before this I had been asked by Dr Bryn JONES if I would investigate the history of the original society that was active 1910-1923. One of its founders was Arthur Mee, a prominent amateur, (not to be confused with the children's encyclopaedia author), this chap was more like the Sir Patrick Moore of his generation: he wrote books on astronomy and has a lunar crater named in his honour. He was the son of a Baptist minister, born 1860 in Aberdeen, and moved to Cardiff when he married Claudia, and worked for the Western Mail, until his death in 1926. He was a founding member of the British Astronomical Association, a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, and a prominent member of the Astronomical Society of Wales.

At the end of January 1910 he wrote in his "Astronomical Notes" column in a local newspaper that "there are some energetic observers at Barry, and there is talk of founding a local astronomical society, which I hope will prove a success". The same newspaper reported a few weeks later that "At a well-attended meeting at Barry YMCA last evening the necessary steps were taken to form an astronomical society at Barry". Dr Percy BILLUPS, a medical doctor living on Barry Island chaired the meeting and a provisional committee was appointed. The new society was formally established at a meeting on 29th April 1910. Dr Percy Billups was elected president.

By 1912 members suggested approaching the local Council to build an observatory. Eventually the Council agreed and granted, for a yearly rent of one shilling, a piece of land on which to build a wooden observatory. It seems that society members then pushed for the observatory to be built of brick, but

when the Council replied that this would have to be funded by the society, the members decided wood would be fine. The site is believed to be in the area of Cemetery Approach, Buttrills Hill, and Ty Newydd Road.

*Top and bottom right: Believed to be the original location of the observatory.
Bottom left: X marks the position of the Observatory in the College Grounds.*



Money was raised by members to finance the construction: for example one newspaper reported that on the Easter Monday evening of March 1913 the society held a concert and dance to raise money for the project. The event took place at St Mary's Hall, Barry Docks, and included musical items performed by several different people. It was successful and enjoyable. I have been unable to find any drawings or detailed plans, and the building does not appear on OS maps of Barry. (photographs above courtesy of Dr Thomas EASTON).

We know from a newspaper report that the Observatory had a revolving roof, with opening shutters, a donation made by a Mr R MONROE, Dinas Powys. We also know from the newspaper that the building was erected by Messrs, GIBLEY and CLEAK, Contractors, Barry Docks.

The observatory was opened in a ceremony on 20th May 1914, just weeks before the outbreak of WW1, by Arthur Mee, who donated a telescope. The local newspaper sent a reporter, but no photograph was taken of this event.

Two Barry citizens remember during WW2 a Range Finder operating from the observatory to assist the Harbour guns. We have no idea why the society ceased to be active in the 1920s, although I am sure the war played a big part, or what became of the telescope.

The observatory was moved, and I am grateful for information supplied by Mr Gareth TYLEY for this. A 1950s aerial photograph shows the observatory in the grounds of the teachers training college on Buttrills Hill, Grid ref, ST 11249-68324. (See images previous page).



We also have a brass plaque found by Mr Gareth Tyley and donated to the present society. It reads, "The Arthur Mee Telescope, presented by Arthur Mee to the Barry Astronomical Society 1914". Mr Tyley explained, "It occurred to me this was important - something associated with Barry's past".

What became of the observatory, and Telescope? When were they removed?

We would also like information on some of the early members, such as

- William HILL, born c1851, a Tin Worker, of 152 Holton Road, Barry.
- Rev John Duvant (or Dynfant) WILLIAMS, born c1857 Swansea, Minister of the Weston Hill Congregational Chapel, Barry.
- John ROCH who lived in Woodlands Road, Barry, a Librarian, born Pembrokeshire, c1862.
- Rev David Hugh WILLIAMS, born Llanbrynmair, Montgomeryshire, 1865, a Congregationalist Minister.
- Mr WH WAILE of 56 Woodlands Road, Barry.

Photographs, and information about when they died would be especially useful, as would hearing from descendants, who may have surviving papers, diaries, or observational logbooks.

The present society meets at the Community Centre, Friars Road, Barry Island, alternate Monday evenings.

Our website <http://www.barryastronomical.wordpress.com>

Finally, I should like to extend my sincere thanks to Dr Bryn Jones who supplied a good deal of the history. Much of the information presented is from



FLEEING THE FAMINE-

from Tipperary to Glamorgan

#20311 Tony O'Neill

*"It's a long way from Tipperary
To a place where spuds will grow
So I must leave my mother Mary
And to Aberthaw I'll go.*

*Farewell Cashel and Emly
And the Munster folk I know
My future is in Glamorgan
Where blight-free spuds still grow." (Anon.)*

In the 1850s the Irish potato crop suffered year after year of severe blight with devastating results for the peasants whose staple diet it was. Many also grew corn but, although they were starving, they wouldn't eat the corn because it was accepted by their landlords in payment of rent and they feared eviction more than hunger. They survived on whatever they could find and boiled nettles, weeds, grass etc for sustenance.

Thomas CONNERY, my great-great-grandfather, and his wife Mary (nee CROKE) struggled to survive while rearing two children, John and Bridget, in their home in Thurles in the diocese of Cashel & Emly. I don't know when John left home but the first record I have of him in Wales is his marriage certificate dated 29th July 1866. He married Mary BARRETT in St Peter's RC church in Cardiff, settled in Aberthaw and spent the rest of his working life at farms within a 3 miles radius.

Initially, I studied documents and searched the internet for information on John, then I contacted local history societies, community organisations etc in the Vale of Glamorgan and received quite a lot of help. After that it was time for the fieldwork, hoping to find some traces of where John and his family lived. We live about 100 miles from Aberthaw so we (me, now aided and abetted by my wife and grandson) used our campervan as accommodation and took advantage of a scheme where businesses with spare parking space allow you to park free overnight. There is no obligation to support these businesses but we do, particularly when they include such gems as the Blue Anchor in Aberthaw, where we can spend the site fee we save on a decent evening meal.

We were spoilt for choice as the Fontygary Inn, Six Bells Inn and the Watermill all belong to the scheme!

Our first project was to take a section of the 1871 census that covered nine properties starting with the Fontygary Inn (then a farm) and finishing with the property which has been rebuilt and is now called Mon Repos. Each property had a schedule number and the only two named were the Fontygary Farmhouse(1) and the Pleasant Harbour Farmhouse(8).



Pleasant Harbour Farmhouse showing front boundary wall which was level with old sea wall. This sometimes caused flooding at high tide. Work appears to be progressing on the new sea wall.

The distance between the first and last is only about half a mile, strung out around the coast road, so our job was to identify the site of John's cottage (No 7). Our guess was that all but the first property stood on the site of Pleasant Harbour but after John's day lime kilns had been operating and although they now exist only as a grade 2 listed building the Aberthaw Power Station project had entailed massive engineering works in the area as well. A new sea wall and coast path had appeared and the River Thaw which previously had twin outlets had been diverted through the centre of the power station and now had just one outlet. A giant caisson was also built out at sea for seawater to be pumped in at low tide. A large area which had at one time been sea-bed was drained and is now a nature reserve with one large pond. Our biggest headache was pinpointing the exact location of Pleasant Harbour but although we asked a lot of people very few had even heard of it. I decided to write to the owner of Mon Repos in case he could

help me and he phoned to give me some information. This enabled me to locate the site of the farmhouse (just a few stones in the undergrowth now) and the approximate location of John's cottage which would have had great views across the Bristol Channel and across to Somerset.

Over the course of a few visits we spent time in the three other places he lived in but only one could be positively identified and that was up a private road and had been extensively modernised and extended. Nevertheless, we had a wonderful time exploring all the villages.



Old sea wall and lime kilns. Pleasant Harbour Farmhouse was immediately to left of the sea wall as we look at it and its front boundary wall level with it.

This brings me on to the Connery family. The first-born was John who went to America and met his future wife but her father refused his blessing unless John changed his name to theirs to keep the name alive. He apparently agreed and lost all contact with his own family. Then came Margaret who never married and died at 36. Next was Mary (known as Minnie) who is reputed to still be haunting a cottage in Barry where she once lived: some memories of her follows this article.

Lastly, my grandmother, Ellen Jane, who stayed on at a village school as a student teacher and later moved to Cardiff where she taught at St David's Catholic School. There is one mystery about her that's worth recounting: Ellen's birth certificate shows date of birth as 31 July 1875 and the St David's Catholic Parish Register transcription (GFHS CD) shows her baptism as 2 October 1875, but her parents' names and address are not shown. This

delay in baptising is very unusual and had me baffled so I obtained a copy of the original entry in the register. This showed the names of the sponsors and a different date of birth, 21 August 1875, but still no parent names or address. I can only conclude that the parents were too ill to attend and they arranged for the sponsors to take Ellen to the church. I have checked the sponsors and they were John's near neighbours so I'm confident I have the right records.

Ellen lodged at the home of a fellow teacher in Newtown, Johanna WELSH, and later married Johanna's brother Thomas. When John retired he and his wife Mary went to live with Ellen and Thomas where they saw out the rest of their lives.

MINNIE THE PROWLER

Mary (known as Minnie) Connery (1871-1952)

Minnie was the only great-aunt I knew but my memories of her were of when we went to New Farm Cottages in Port Rd, Barry to visit her in the 1940s. To us city children these visits, though few and far between, were a great adventure although Aunty Minnie always frightened me a bit and I thought she might have been a witch. Her cottage was the left one of a pair dating back to the early 17th century and we were warned not to annoy the neighbours. We played in the fields and, after being fed, we explored the house but I was intrigued because I couldn't find a staircase. When I asked about it she told me they didn't have stairs but I pointed out that I'd seen upstairs windows from outside. She then said that when they wanted to go to bed they used a ladder to climb through the windows. I believed her because I had no other explanation and was afraid to argue with her.

Now, that would have been the end of Minnie's story but for a chance sighting of a sign when I was driving home after researching her family in the Vale in October 2018. A client of mine had lived in Cwmciddy Lodge in Barry so I knew it well and I remember my mother saying that Aunty Minnie lived near Cwmciddy. Furthermore, I'd recently seen a 1911 census form showing Minnie (now Mrs NASH) at New Farm Cottages. That day, as we neared Cwmciddy and I spotted the sign for New Farm B&B I sensed I was about to discover something. I wrote to the owner and within days had a telephone call from Mike HARDY who confirmed that Mrs Nash had certainly lived there and was still prowling about. He suggested I call in for a chat and a tour when next in the area and I readily agreed. I didn't know we had a family ghost!

In March 2019 I set off for New Farm with Gill and my sister Mary and as we turned into the drive I spotted straight ahead a ladder up against a barn wall – Was Minnie playing tricks with me?

Sara, Mike's daughter-in-law, came out to meet us and we were soon joined by Mike and his son Ian who'd been called in from the fields. We had a full tour of both cottages, including the stone staircase I couldn't find in the 1940s, and then the stories of Minnie the Prowler. Mike had known Minnie from an early age because he visited the farm to graze the horses used in his father's dairy business. In 1957, long after Minnie had moved out, Mike and his wife Dorothy moved into one of the cottages and eventually incorporated the other (Minnie's) into their home to accommodate their growing family. During the conversion of Minnie's cottage Mike remembers a lot of creaking noises and he used to say "Mrs Nash is on the prowl again". He also recalled going to attend to a loose window during a storm and a lightning bolt shot past him and blew a hole in the staircase. Was Minnie warning him not to mess with her old home? In 1983 after Ian married Sara the house was converted for use as a B&B.

During its time as a B&B a few people reported strange sightings or happenings to the extent that staff didn't like cleaning Minnie's room and one lady wouldn't go in there. On one occasion a contractor from Yorkshire who was staying there when working nights at Cardiff Airport asked Sara if they had "Ghoulies" in the house. He then explained that he woke up early for no reason and saw an old lady standing at the foot of his bed. After staring at



him for a few minutes she lost her human form and rose through the ceiling. That story was from a down-to-earth Yorkshireman so must be treated with respect. If you're sceptical go see for yourself – it's a lovely area for a break and you may be able to stay in Minnie's room!

2019 - New Farm Cottages (Minnie's on left).

THOMAS TEMLETT, MY GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER #5533 Jim Temlett

My great-grandfather Thomas TEMLETT was born in the village of Chipstable in Somerset, the son of John Temlett, a blacksmith, and his wife Joan, nee THORNE. Joan, sometimes known as Jane, came from Timberscombe, Somerset and had a child out of wedlock baptised as John Thorne on 20th May 1832. John was taken in by Joan's parents to live with them.

John Temlett came from Wiveliscombe, Somerset and married Joan in Chipstable on 28th Jan 1836. They already had a daughter called Sarah who was born in 1834. (I've been unable to find a birth or baptism for her under either surname). The family grew, with Maria baptised 3rd July 1836, James 25th March 1838, John 15th March 1840, and Thomas on 6th April 1842. The family then moved to Upton, about 3 miles away, where Elizabeth was baptised on 26th May 1844 and William 25th December 1845, a popular day for religious ceremonies. Another move, this time to Wiveliscombe, the birthplace of John senior, about 6 miles away. Here, Emily was baptised on 1st April 1849.

The 1851 Census shows most of the family living in North Street, with John being described as a journeyman blacksmith, which probably explains why he moved around a lot. The enumerator has entered Wiveliscombe under 'where born' for all of them. Did he find it easier to write 'Do' seven times, or was it John being forgetful? James is living at Combe Florey with his grandmother, Hannah, and Maria, aged 14, is employed as a servant to William COLLARD, a baker, in High Street, Wiveliscombe. In 1861 the family are still living in Wiveliscombe but have moved to a blacksmith's establishment in Russell Place. Elizabeth, William and Emily are still at home and Thomas, aged 19, is now a blacksmith helping his father.

In a small village called Skilgate, about 6 miles from Wiveliscombe, a young pauper, Maria CLEEVE, gave birth to an illegitimate baby girl who was baptised Charity Perriam Cleeve on 12th July 1835. I haven't found where the second name came from; sometimes it's the name of the father. Almost 4 years later, still in Skilgate and still a pauper, Maria gave birth to a 'base child' who was baptised Edmund on 14th April 1839. In 1841 the two children are shown living in Skilgate with John and Mary VENN and their three children. The children's mother, Maria, married farm labourer Thomas THORNE and in 1851 Charity aged 15 is living with them and their 3 children in Wiveliscombe. By 1861, Charity aged 24, has left home and is working as a house servant for James WALDERN, a 75 year old attorney in Wiveliscombe.

Somehow she and Thomas the blacksmith became acquainted and she fell pregnant. They got married on 22nd September 1862. Her father's name was not entered on the certificate: perhaps she was never told it. Witnesses were Thomas's father John, who made his mark, and Thomas's married sister Maria PRESS who signed her name. The couple left it rather late to get married, as

my grandfather, James, was born on 7th October 1862. This gives the impression that there was a reluctance, possibly by Thomas, to get married. There may have been friction between the two families, as Thomas and Charity moved to Upton where on 15th October 1865 John is baptised, and William on 13th May 1867. William was a sickly baby and died when only 10 days old. Thomas took his family on a bigger journey now, across the water to Glamorgan, where in 1871 they are living in the village of St Nicholas, 2 miles west of Cardiff. Their residence is shown as Cottage N^o 11, and Thomas is working as a blacksmith.

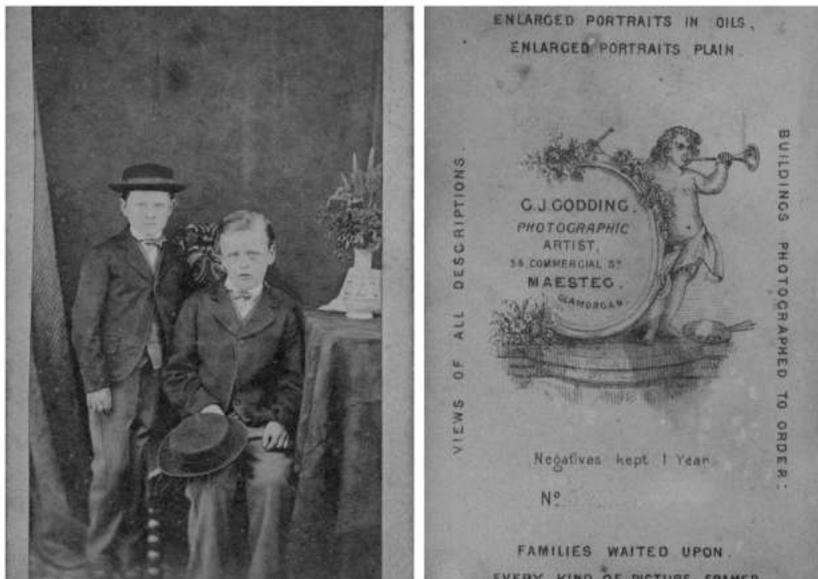
Charity wasn't destined to have a long and happy life. She is back at Russell's Place with her in-laws in 1876 where on the 7th October she is examined by John Wyatt PRATT, a surgeon. This was instigated by the Reverend George Augustus CALEY and Frederick FLOOD, Relieving Officer of the Wellington Union. The surgeon states that she is of unsound mind and should be taken charge of and detained under care and treatment. He gives his reasons: her husband and mother-in-law state that she tears up her clothing and bed linen, has broken crockery, destroyed good books, tried to get out of a 2nd floor window, has threatened to poison herself and uses filthy language. She has taken a dislike to her mother and gets violent when she sees her.

Charity is admitted to the Wells Lunatic Asylum on 9th October 1876. The case book starts with her personal details such as: aged 42, married with 2 children, religion C of E, can read & write, and was living in Tonyrefail near Llantrisant, Glamorgan with her husband. It goes on to say that she is restless and violent, conversation is irrational, wandering memory, dangerous to others, but general health is good. There are entries on 18th Oct and 1st Nov where there is no improvement on her mental health. Entry 9th Dec – very noisy, mentally rather worse. A letter of inquiry from her husband. Then 17th Jan 1877 she is very weak and is removed to the infirmary. 21st Jan the night attendant reports that she is getting fits, and on 23rd Jan she dies at 9.15pm. Then there are details of the post-mortem concluding that the cause of death was softening of the base of the brain.

The photograph on the following page was found in a calf skin pouch in my grandfather's writing box. Looking at the young lad on the right and where the photographer was based, I am convinced that this is a photograph of my grandfather, James Temlett, and his brother John when they were living in Tonyrefail.

By 1879 Thomas has moved back to Somerset. We know that, because he gets married again, on 31st May 1879 in St Andrews, Dinas Powys, to Emily THOMAS, a 26 year old spinster, and his residence is shown as Fitzhead in Somerset. Their first child is born in Fitzhead and baptised as Howell Thomas Walters Temlett on 16th May 1880. He's named after his mother's father Howell

Thomas, a farmer, and possibly his own father. The family are shown on the 1881 census living in Fitzhead.



The family continues to grow. Twins Mabel Jane and Archilaus are baptised 14th January 1883, Elizabeth Emily on 20th July 1884, Maud Isabella on 29th March 1886, Ernest John on 3rd June 1888, all in Fitzhead. There's one sad loss when Elizabeth dies when she is one year old. Thomas decides to go back to Wiveliscombe, where his parents are still living, taking the family with him, and Ethel Ann is born there in 1890. The 1891 census records Thomas as being the Landlord of the White Horse Inn in North Street. He is also said to be a blacksmith, as is his son, James, aged 27, who is living with him. His wife Emily is not shown but six more of his children are, including the youngest one, Ethel, who is shown as one year old. However, she is also shown with her mother in St Andrews, Glamorgan, where Emily is visiting her parents, Howell and Jane, Thomas in their home, Brecon House. So, why did Thomas say she was with him?

Thomas's father, John, died early in 1891 before the census was taken, aged 78. His mother Joan is shown on the census as a blacksmith, still in Russel's. She is 83 years old and her grandson Clement PRESS is 27 and working for her as a blacksmith foreman. He'd been working for his grandparents at least since 1881. Joan survived for another 4 years, dying on 21st May 1895.

Thomas moved his family to Russel's and in 1901 he is a blacksmith on his 'own account', with Howell, using his 2nd forename Thomas, working as his father's assistant. The rest of the household are Mabel, Maud, John, Ethel and Emily.

Emily was born in 1892 and was named Elizabeth Emily after the sister who died in 1885: she was known within the family as Babs. Archilaus, now 18, is living in Glamorgan, working as a railway porter. He is in lodgings at N° 16 Maesteg Road, Ynysawdre, a small hamlet just North of Bridgend.



Thomas gets the wanderlust again and decides to go back to Glamorgan where the family are seen, in 1911, living at N° 7 Glamorgan Street, Barry. His occupation is as a fitter, working on 'own account' in a railway company engineering works. The children living with Thomas and Emily are Thomas (Howell) who is an automobile engineer, John a gardener, Mabel a dressmaker and Emily who is working in a hairdresser's. Archilaus is now back with the family, he is an insurance agent. There is one final move, still in Barry, to 3 Victoria Road. My auntie Edith, who was born in 1907 in Wotton-under-Edge Gloucester told me that as a young girl she used to visit the family there. She was James's daughter. She said that her grandfather Thomas used to work on the Wenvoe Estate.

Thomas purchased a grave space at Merthyr Dyfan (Barry) Cemetery for £1-2-0 on 7th June 1917. Emily had died 3 days earlier aged 65 years. Above, is a photograph of Emily taken in later years. The burial fee was 13/- and the officiating minister received 5/-. The funeral took place on the following Friday at 12:45.

My Aunt said that Thomas didn't like having his photo taken, which is a shame as I would like to see what he looked like - apparently he had white whiskers. The receipt for his funeral shows that the cost as the same as Emily's. He died not long after his wife, on 21st February 1918 aged 76, and was buried the following Monday at 12:45.

I visited the cemetery in 1996 and was shown the grave, however there was no headstone. The advert below was published in the Wenvoe *What's On* issue for December 1995. Unfortunately no information was received in response.

Wenvoe History: INFORMATION WANTED

Information is required on a Thomas Temlett who died on 21st February 1918 aged 76 who is interred at Barry cemetery. Does anybody know if he worked on the Wenvoe Estate, he was believe to have been a blacksmith and lived at 3 Victoria Road, Barry?

LOCK-DOWN - WHAT DID I DO?

#1979 Mervyn R Pugh

I am sure that we have all found something to do during “lock-down”. I decided to spend more time on researching my Family History. The more research I did the more excited I became as events and information came to hand. I bought the 2019 version of Family Tree Maker and paid a subscription to Ancestry and I was on my way again.

I first became involved in family history research in 1972, after a long conversation with my grandfather Augustus RICHARDS. He told me about his life including fighting in the Boer War and being stabbed through the wrist with a stiletto. I realised that there must be very many people researching the same people in their family trees, so I decided to set up a branch of the Glamorgan FHS in Aberdare.

I remember being told early on in my research that I should not concentrate only



on who were my ancestors, but to learn about what they did, where they lived and why they moved from one place to another. It was refreshing to look at my family tree again and to concentrate more on the individuals. A few surprises were in store for me! I found TWO awards of the Distinguished



Flying Medal (DFM) which had been awarded during the Second World War, one on each side of the family; an uncle on the RICHARDS side and a cousin on the PUGH side.

Left: Kenneth G Richards DFM

Right: Kenneth R Pugh DFM

My discovery of having two DFM medals in our family now made me want to know why they were awarded to these two young members of my family. The DFM was awarded initially to non-commissioned officers and men for “exceptional valour, courage or devotion to duty whilst flying in active operations against the enemy”. See how young these airmen look! They make us very proud to have them in our family.

After a discussion with my Richards cousins and researching war records, I found that in May 1940 Leading Aircraftman Kenneth Goodfield Richards was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal (DFM) for courage and gallantry. He was a gunner on a flying boat in No 240 Squadron. On his return from a mission over the North Atlantic, his aircraft was attacked by German fighters. The pilot was killed and my uncle, Kenneth Goodfield Richards, was shot in the leg.



Despite this he was able to fly the aircraft back to base and save the rest of the crew. He was not a pilot and just 24 years of age at the time.



A long search through the London Gazette eventually revealed an entry recording his award of DFM. My enthusiasm to find out information about my family members has started to affect some of my cousins also and I have them

searching their attics for more "life information".

Recently, one of my Richards cousins sent me some newspaper cuttings. One report from the South Wales Echo shows Air Chief Marshal Sir John BARRACLOUGH discussing the events that lead to Kenneth G Richards' DFM in 1940. It appears that Sir John was a pilot in No 240 Squadron at the same time. Another article dated Saturday 20th June 1970 shows my uncle Kenneth G Richards DFM handing over the 300th V-Bomber after an overhaul at St Athan. He was a Warrant Officer in charge of the servicing of Vulcan aircraft at St Athans at that time.

Kenneth G Richards - 240 Squadron

240 Squadron was a flying boat squadron that spent the first half of the war serving in home waters and the second half operating from India. At first it was equipped with the Supermarine Scapa, but converted to the Short Singapore seaplane before becoming operational in January 1939.

In May 1940 the squadron moved to Pembroke Dock, from where it flew patrols over the Western Approaches. In June a detachment was posted to Oban to widen the area being patrolled. In March 1941 the squadron finally received a modern flying boat, when the first Consolidated Catalina arrived. The squadron spent the next year flying patrols over the Atlantic from Loch Erne, Northern Ireland.

In May 1941 240 Squadron took part in the hunt for the Bismarck and an aircraft from the squadron shadowed the German battleship at a key part in the battle, just before the Swordfish attack that crippled its steering. The long range of the Catalina was demonstrated later in the year, when the squadron helped protect Convoy PQ 18 on its way to northern Russia.

Another interesting fact that I found, was that Kenneth Goodfield Richards had since the age of 14 lived with an aunt and uncle, who were childless. Apparently it was the practice for large families to “farm out” a child to a relative to relieve the burden on the family during wartime. I wonder how many families had this experience?

Kenneth R PUGH - 283 Squadron Air Sea Rescue?

Through Ancestry I found a Family Tree that included some of my Pugh relatives. After an exchange of a few emails with the owner of that tree, we had a long telephone conversation about Kenneth Royden Pugh. It was quite a surprise to see that both men were named Kenneth and both had served on flying boats.

The pilots of 283 Squadron flew Walrus Flying Boats and knew of the dangers of landing on the sea. It was a dangerous task attempting to rescue downed airmen as they often had to operate in bad weather and near to hostile coasts. Missions were always treacherous. The Squadron was responsible for rescuing airmen who had ditched their airplanes in the sea.

It transpired, through my emails with my new Pugh contact (Allister WINTER, son in law to Kenneth R Pugh) that a book entitled “Beyond Courage“ by Norman FRANKS, includes nine rescues involving Kenneth R Pugh who served in 283 ASR Squadron. Many excerpts were written by fellow officers. I have since bought this book and here are a few extracts reproduced by kind permission of Grubb Street Publishing:

“The first successful rescues by 283 Squadron were in fact all Germans, mostly airmen brought down over Allied ship convoys, just as Tunisia fell. Many of the “customers” of the Mediterranean Air Sea Rescue squadrons were Americans. The 5th US Fighter Squadron, 52nd Fighter Group, shot down two Messerschmitt 109s on 12th July. The next day Sergeants LAMBERT and PUGH, escorted by Spitfires, rescued Unteroffizier Franz SCHMIDT, one of the 109 pilots, north of the Tunisian coast.”

On 31st May for instance, HOPKINSON and MORIBITO in one Walrus seaplane shared in the rescue of seven US airmen from a B.17 Flying Fortress, in two dinghies, with Flight Sergeant LH NEWMAN and Sergeant Pugh. My first rescue with Pugh - always known as “Puff” or “Puggy”, who was Welsh, very young and very boyish, nice fellow - was off Cap Sidi Ali. We found the men with no search needed. Seven in one dinghy, one of them, a gunner, with his

nose hanging on by a thread of skin. Their skipper had taken off his jacket and placed it around him and was cuddling him in an effort to keep warm. Dried blood covered the gunner's face. The picture of that skipper and gunner always remains with me."

Another extract was "On the 5th June Sergeants Lambert and Pugh picked up four men from an American B.25 Mitchell just 15 miles south east of Pantelleria, three of them being wounded. Heavy seas prevented the Walrus Flying Boat from taking off again but later a minesweeper came to their aid, off-loaded the Americans and took the Walrus in tow. The crew came from 379th Bomb Squadron, 310th Bomb Group and were, 1st Lieutenant SC SCHLITZKUS (Pilot), 2nd Lieutenant RG WERNER (Co-Pilot), Staff Sergeant TEEPLE and Staff Sergeant EDWARDS."

The citation for Kenneth R Pugh reads:

1282765 Sargeant Kenneth Royden PUGH R.A.F.V.R. No.283 Squadron.

"This Airman has on several occasions attended to wounded members of the crews under extremely difficult conditions. On one sortie, he gave attention to three severely wounded airmen and worked vigorously at the pumps in the intervals. Later he took part in the rescue of a pilot from a rough sea and when the dingy became entangled with his aircraft's undercarriage tied himself to a rope and cut the dingy free. Although meanwhile he was partly submerged by waves, he managed to haul the pilot aboard the aircraft. Sergeant Pugh has invariably displayed the greatest courage and devotion to duty."

Part Two of Mervyn's article will appear in the next journal



NEW LIST AND DATABASE
OF WELSH INSOLVENT DEBTORS
Bill Griffith-Jones & Anna Brueton (#2493)

The London Branch of the Welsh Family History Societies is releasing a list of Welsh Insolvent Debtors as a free download. This list covers all insolvents with addresses in Wales (including Monmouthshire) who put Notices in the London Gazette during the years 1811 to 1861, with partial coverage of the years 1800-1810. See the end of this article for instructions on obtaining a copy.

This list builds on previous work by the Branch to extract the names of Welsh Insolvents in gaol who petitioned the Court for Relief of Insolvent Debtors; the Relief obtained was release from gaol. That list was published on microfiche in 2001.

We have added records from a new source of Debtors' petitions; beginning in 1842, they could petition other Courts and thereby avoid being gaoled for debt. This became the preferred means of resolving the affairs of Insolvent Debtors and these petitions raise the total number of names to 12,000, an increase of 60% over the 7,500 on the fiche.

Bankrupts are *not* included, as bankruptcy was technically a different concept. Bankrupts were subject to Statute Law, laws passed by Parliament and given the Royal Assent; in contrast, Insolvent Debtors were subject to Common Law – unwritten laws defined by custom and practice. All this is explained in the Notes accompanying the list of names.

We are providing this resource for free to encourage family historians to check whether their ancestors were affected. A surprisingly large number of people got into difficulty with debt, especially small manufacturer/traders who had to give credit, such as shoemakers and tailors. Publicans also appear frequently in the list.

There are over three thousand entries for people from Glamorgan; here are a few examples:

There are short entries, for instance in June 1831:

James DANIEL, late of Swansea. Victualler.

David LEYSHON, late of Gabolva, p. Llandaff, gamekeeper.

John REES, late of Merthyr Tydfil, miner, grocer, general shopkeeper & retail brewer.

Some entries mention relatives. An entry from July 1852 referred to:

Llewellyn REES, residing at Bailyglase Farm, hamlet of Rhigos, p. Ystradvodog, Haulier and Lab, lately in co-partnership with Morgan Phillip REES, deceased, Richard REES, and Phillip REES, Iron, Stone, and Coal Contractors, Colliers, Miners, Farmers, and Grocers, as Morgan Phillip REES and Sons. All three REES brothers now Insolvents.

Some had moved a few times or changed their occupation. An entry of March 1850 lists:

William Thomas LEWIS now in lodgings with David HARRIS near the Royal Oak Public-house, Rondda-valley near Newbridge, out of business, prev of the Holly Bush Public-house, Rondda-valley, Surveyor and Publican, during a portion of time a Coal Dealer with Morgan THOMAS, afterwards with Edward MILES, previously of Mill-st, Newbridge, Surveyor and Coal Dealer, in Partnership with said Morgan THOMAS.

For a short period the Debtors had to list their Creditors. In November 1813, John DAVIS of Swansea, GLA, jeweller was one of the four creditors of Joseph VEAL, a Swansea chemist.

Some Welsh Debtors were gaoled in London, for example Joseph Veal mentioned above was a prisoner at Kings Bench Prison, Southwark.

We are issuing an Introduction and a List of Debtors as separate files; we will distribute them by email as attachments. The Introduction describes the records and provides an insight into the workings of the Courts. It is sent as a pdf file. The List comes in two forms which both contain the same data:

- (a) as a pdf file sorted by last name, a format similar to the original fiche, which can be read by any pdf reader program;
- (b) as a Table in which records can be filtered as desired, the file is in Excel .xlsx format and can be read in Open Office (a free suite) and in MS Office, for example.

*To request a copy, please send an email marked **Insolvent Debtors** to billqj@aol.com (Bill Griffith-Jones). There is no charge.*



DON'T FORGET GOOGLE!

#9970 Gail Wright

I have now been researching Family History for about 15 years and I joined the Glamorgan Family History Society because my father's family originated in this area. Over the years, I have submitted various articles to the GFHS journal, usually asking for some sort of assistance in finding family members or asking where I should look in my quest. Being on the other side of the world sometimes makes things quite difficult. I have been very fortunate in having some wonderful members contact me and their assistance has been given in my quest to break down some brick walls.

My last such appeal to members of the GFHS entailed my search for a Rhys HOPKINS from the village of Llansamlet. To begin with, Rhys was just a name, a brother of my grandfather, but I knew absolutely nothing about him for many years. The fact that Rhys had changed the spelling of his name from "REES" to "RHYS" had been quite a stumbling block – especially as there were just so many of them!!!

When I eventually found a death certificate for this man, I also found the name of the person who had reported/registered his death and that he was listed as a "son-in-law".

With the release of the 1939 register, I was able to look up Rhys, and found that one of his daughters married the name of person on the death certificate of Rhys. However, having found this, I had another brick wall as I just could not find out anything else. I looked just about everywhere – all the known search engines, the various family history websites, the BMD records in the UK and still nothing! Well, that was not quite true, as I could have stumbled across him many times and just did not know it.

Finally, after another day full of researching every way in which I knew how, in sheer frustration, I entered the FULL name of Rhys' daughter plus her unmarried name into Google and VOILA - I found her funeral notice! Although it was a huge disappointment to find I had missed contacting this lady by only a couple of years, this funeral notice gave me the name of her son together with his address.

I then sent a very detailed letter to this gentleman explaining our family connection and asked if he would be interested in contacting me? Within a week I had an email and we have been emailing and Skyping ever since.

It has been lovely to get to know this gent who is my second cousin. It is my hope that next year, when all these horrible restrictions are lifted, I will finally get to Wales and meet up with him.

So, the moral of this story is – Don't forget to Google that elusive name – you just might have the same success that I did.

Printed Family Trees and Charts

Do you want your Family Tree printed for you on one sheet of paper? We can print your tree from your own computer genealogy program files no matter what program you use.

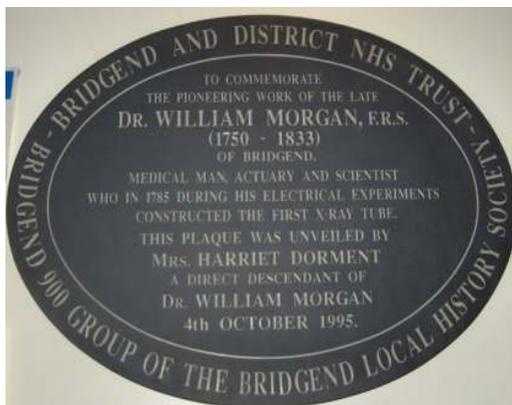
FREE tree design service, FREE colour printing. FREE preview service.

See your tree before you buy or pay a penny. Every customer previews their tree on their own dedicated website before deciding to buy or pay a penny. Prices start from as little as £25 for a 500 person tree. We also produce a wide range of other Family History charts, books and gifts for the genealogist. FULL MONEY BACK GUARANTEE if you are not satisfied with any of our products. Please visit our website for further details or e-mail us your phone number and we'll call you to answer any questions you may have, you don't even pay for the call.

E mail: info@genealogyprinters.com

‘A SKIMMINGTON RIDE’
By DOCTOR WILLIAM MORGAN, FRS, (1750-1833)
#10566 Nicola Bennetts

If ever you need to have an X-ray at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend you will see, on the waiting room wall, a plaque commemorating the pioneering work of the late Dr William MORGAN (1750–1833) who in 1785 created the first X-ray tube. The plaque describes him as a ‘medical man, actuary and scientist’. That’s quite a list but it tells only part of the story of his remarkable life.



William Morgan was my great-great-great grandfather and my account of his life is due to be published in October. It’s a biography which began with a clutch of letters – part of a legacy from a maiden aunt. Most were from William Morgan to his children and, as I researched his public life, they coloured the canvas by giving an insight into his private life.

One letter which didn’t make it into the biography is from William’s son, John, to his niece (William’s granddaughter). It describes the ancient custom of a Skimmington Ride and it seemed too entertaining not to give it a wider readership. If you’re familiar with The Mayor of Casterbridge you’ll recognise the name and see parallels with the event which Hardy describes in the novel. John’s letter is undated but must have been written in the 1820s; this is what he tells his niece:

I was present at a curious ceremony at Bridgend a few days ago which for want of better news must fill the rest of this letter – it is called a Skimmington or some such name. It is as follows.

Husbands and wives in Wales are very quarrelsome and it not unfrequently happens that the wife is the best fighter of the two. Now, when this is the case and by threshing her poor jerry of a husband she has drawn blood, the ceremony I allude to takes place. It is intended to expose this unnatural pugilistic contest.

It begins by the neighbours setting up a mock court of justice in a barn or some such place to inquire into and try the case. They first appoint a Judge who is generally the most witty fellow they can select. He is dressed in an old wig and a robe which is generally a red quilt of some old bed. He sits

raised above the rest at the end of the barn. They next appoint twelve counsellors each side, who are also dressed in wigs and are ranged on each side of his Lordship. Twelve jurymen are also chosen to give the verdict.

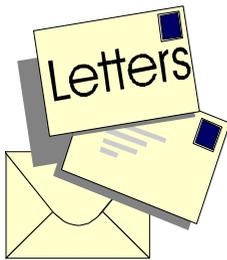
*The counsel for the prosecution begin. They open the case and call their witnesses. The counsel for the defendant then reply and after this the learned brothers on the other side finish their case by replying to them. The Judge then sums up the evidence and the Jury invariably find the man and wife **Guilty**. The whole trial occupies the space of two or three months. They meet twice a week and the nonsense which the judge jury and counsel spout forth is hardly credible and the greatest decorum is kept up throughout the trial. His Lordship now passes sentence and the ceremony is performed which I was witness to.*

Two men who have personated the man and his wife during the trial have now to pass in procession through all the neighbouring villages. The procession is as follows. First comes the Judge and counsel and jury, fantastically dressed bearing wands of white willows. Next comes a man bearing two large horns on a high pole, and then follows the sham couple they are tied back to back in a cart or on horseback and are dressed in a manner truly ludicrous. The man has on a petticoat over his breeches and the woman has a pair of leather breeches under her petticoats which she takes care to exhibit (you must remember all along they are two men dressed up to represent the real man and his wife). The rest of their dress beggars all description, it is composed of all manner of finery wigs etc. During the whole procession the woman continues to beat her husband on the head and body with a ladle and money is collected as they pass along to reward the Lawyers for their time and trouble. The procession is attended with drums, marrow bones and cleavers, fifes etc, etc and an immense crowd of peasants and blackguards.

You may easily conceive how much ashamed the real couple are of themselves while this is going on. On this occasion they were respectable shopkeepers at Coity. The whole ceremony terminates in Judge, jury counsel etc getting drunk and dividing the collected money. Perhaps you may find an account of this in a book I think is called 'Customs of Wales' or some such name.

There are several books on the customs of Wales (and beyond) but I don't know which one John had in mind. Today he might have turned to the Internet where there is a wealth of information about Skimmington rides and their origins.

Nicola Bennetts – the biography of William Morgan is to be published by the University of Wales Press <https://www.uwp.co.uk/book/william-morgan/>



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHIPPING AWAY AT A BRICK WALL:

an update to my family story
 (A small positivity from the Lockdown!)
 #11124 David Gordon

I'm sure you remember the (short) contribution I made to the March 2020 edition of the GFHS magazine about the death of John EUSTIS – my Great-Great Grandfather. Well I have a minor update that I thought might make you smile.

In the article I mentioned that I had been unable to find him in the 1841 census. I also sent a copy of the article to the Derbyshire Family History Society (of which I am a member) for inclusion in that Magazine. Then came the Lockdown – followed a couple of weeks later by an email from Ruth Barber, the DFHS Magazine Editor. It said that because of the lockdown she had become bored, so had searched for this elusive 1841 census entry, and had found it. I don't know how!

City or Borough of _____
 Parish or Township of Langetolach 5
 Enumeration Schedule

PLACE	HOUSES		NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born	
	Uninhabited or Building	Inhabited		Males	Females		Whether Born in same County	Whether Born in Scotland, Ireland, or Foreign Parts.
Monkton No 111/12			John Eustis	30		Miner	N	✓
			William Shagg	25		Miner	N	✓
			John Palmer	42		Miner	N	✓
P.O. 8 m/18			Thomas Morgan	30		Superman	Y	
			James D		35		Y	

He appears at the top of the image. HO107/1419/02

It looks as if he and two others are living in digs but unfortunately the quality of the image is poor. It would have been good to have been able to understand who he was living with and the address. Still - Lockdown did it for me on this occasion so I cannot grumble.

Ed. If anyone can help David decipher this census entry please let us know.

I am writing to correct and clarify some points made in the above article. The author has referred throughout to Aberaman, but Aberaman before the 1860s was known as Treaman - useful to know for anyone tracing relatives from that time and area.

To add to Barbara's notes on railway development in the area:

- The first railway in Aberaman/Treaman was built by the Aberdare Railway, opened in 1846, which was worked, leased and eventually owned by the Taff Vale Railway Company. They provided a station at Treaman, later Aberaman, which I remember well. It was never a major station, just a very small one on the TVR Cynon Valley line. In 1857 the Vale of Neath Railway opened a branch from its line at Hirwaun (Neath-Aberdare) to Cwmaman, which passed close to Aberaman, but there was no passenger service until 1906.

- The GWR did not come onto the scene until 1865 when having taken over the West Midland Railway from Pontypool in 1863 it also absorbed the VNR, giving the GWR a through route to Swansea. The Severn Tunnel was opened for traffic in 1886 and the first train was a coal train from Aberdare.

All these lines became part of an enlarged GWR in March 1922.

With regard to Barbara's statement that houses were built as needed up to 1910, the reality was that there was a severe housing shortage in the Aberaman/Cwmaman area, leading to much overcrowding.

#03696 Terry McCarthy



One of the new Memorial Plaques installed at Barry (Merthyr Dyfan) Cemetery

Image Courtesy of Victorian Barry Experience @DockBarry

I have just been reading the current journal and spotted a request for help from Raymond Watts re William John Watts. Please could you pass the following on to him. I have 2 pieces of information that may be relevant in my index of Rhondda service men and women.

[1] The Absent Voters' List 1918, Parliamentary Borough of Rhondda, East Division, page 83

no.3462. Watts, William John, 5, Gwernllwyn Terrace Tylorstown. [Service number] 14742; [rank] Lance Corporal; 11th Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

Incidentally there is another Absent Voter at this address, Joseph Edgar Brady. [2] Roll of Honour listing the members of Tylorstown Conservative Club who served with the colours. When the 'Con' club closed the Roll of Honour was hung in the porch of Holy Trinity Church where unfortunately it sustained water damage. However the names are still readable. WJ Watts is the fifth name up from the bottom on the far right hand column.

No complete list of Rhondda Servicemen exists. In the early 1920s a list of the early volunteers in mid Rhondda was published and I think this formed the basis of a Roll of Honour published several years ago by Chris Barber and the British Legion. I probably have nearest to a complete list, close to 10,000 names which I have finally begun to put into database form from several different sources.

I hope this is the man you are looking for.

Kind regards, #8431 Angela Hughes

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ASSISTANT SECRETARY & MINUTES SECRETARY

This is another area where we wish to develop
a team of volunteers to cover the following:

Attend quarterly Executive Committee Meetings as Minutes Secretary

Assist with Society Administration, eg Newsletters/Mail Chimp

Assist with Society Marketing, including Social Media

Research queries – a team of volunteers needed to answer
members' research requests

Further role descriptions are included on our website: www.glamfhs.org.uk

SOCIETY NEWS & REPORTS

ABERKENFIG RESOURCE CENTRE [ARC] REPORT

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

A Covid-19 risk assessment has been carried out and plans are being developed to enable the ARC to be reopened for volunteers. When the time comes to reopen to visitors a further risk assessment will be carried out and depending on the Government guidelines at the time adjustments may include compulsory use of masks, limiting the number of visitors at any one time, visits by appointment only and enhanced cleaning between all sessions. We are looking at reconfiguring the layout to enable computer/research access as well as installing screens. We will update you via the journal, website and Facebook pages when reopening is possible.

While the ARC remains closed our volunteers are still available to help you with research. To make accessing help and advice easier for you a "VIRTUAL HELP DESK" has been set up on the website www.glamfhs.org.uk. Just click on the link, complete the form and your request will be forwarded to an appropriate volunteer. We are also still processing orders via GENFAIR www.genfair.co.uk as we know you are all using this lockdown to tackle those Brickwalls!

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

arc@glamfhs.org.uk



ABERDARE/CYNON VALLEY BRANCH

Hope this journal finds you all well. It has been a strange year with a lot of events unfolding. The free time has enabled members to continue with their family history research and I have been pleased to have been able to support people in this.

Whilst we are unable to put out a programme for the forthcoming months, the following is being put in place for the Aberdare branch:

- Aberdare branch Facebook page for members to support each other with their research;
- Mailchimp newsletter to be sent out monthly keeping members informed on what is happening within the branch.

Members will be contacted individually once we are able to resume our branch meetings and research afternoons, along with a date for our next AGM.

A recent questionnaire was sent out to branch members if you did not have one please can you contact me on the e-mail address below.

A number of projects are starting up if you interested in participating then contact me to discuss further, all project work is being shared online.

Keep safe everyone, hope to see you soon.

Pat Rees, aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk



BRIDGEND BRANCH

We hope all our members are keeping safe and well. During these difficult times the Bridgend Branch have been kept updated with regular newsletters. Unfortunately, we do not have a date for re-commencing our meetings. The committee will have, by now, been in touch with local members to explore their ability to join a ZOOM video meeting for the October AGM. We are monitoring the situation and will notify members when we consider re-commencing meetings will be safe. We will also place notices on the Society website and on the Facebook page.

Once again, we recommend members who do not have email to contact the Branch Chairperson to enable us to provide alternative forms of updating.

It is with sadness we are announcing the passing of a loyal long-standing member of this branch, Mrs Wendy Lewis [Gronow], passed away on Friday 27th June. Our thoughts are with her family at this sad time, she will be missed at our meetings.

On a happier note, Dilys Morgan, a founder member of the Bridgend Branch celebrated her 100th birthday in July. We send our warmest wishes to her at this special time.

We hope you are all keeping safe and well.

*Chair: Nancy Thomas 01656 862762
bridgend@glamfhs.org.uk*

CARDIFF & THE VALE BRANCH

We are delighted to announce that we will be restarting our Cardiff branch meetings from September, sadly not at Insole Court but via the wonderful technology of Zoom. We do realise that unfortunately not every member may be able to access the presentations, but we do look forward to welcoming as many people as our branch licence will allow!

A Mailchimp Newsletter will be circulated to members in late August about how to register for the various talks which will be: -

1 September – Scrofula, Scarlet Fever and Sudden Visitations: how did our Victorian ancestors die? - **Jenni Phillips**

6 October – Branch AGM and 'Online family history opportunities during lockdown including the GFHS website and member resources - **Sue Hamer**

3 November - An Insight into Wills and Probate - **Katharine Fairhurst**

1 Dec - Stars in Battledress: Famous Faces in Wartime - **Jeremy Konsbruck**

The branch committee will take a decision about possibly returning to Insole Court in the new year in time for an announcement in the next journal.

NEW - Online "Coffee and Chat family history"

@7-8 pm GMT

Thursdays – 17 September / 15 October / 19 November / 10 December

With a branch Zoom licence from September onwards we are keen to make the most of the opportunities this offers, and we will be organising a monthly early evening "Coffee and Chat family history" session where you can drop in and share your interesting finds, books, websites, resources or ask a general question.

NEW – Online "Brickwall" session

@11 am -12:00pm GMT

Saturdays – 5 September / 3 October / 5 December

Further details to be circulated via the newsletter.

Information regarding the Branch AGM on 6 October

One of the tasks at the AGM is to elect branch committee members.

The following current members have agreed to stand for the following roles: -

Chair: Jane Graves

Vice Chair:

Treasurer: Stephen Fairhurst

Secretary:

Programme Coordinators: Jane Graves, Sian Stenner

Committee Members: Diane Brook, Sue Hamer (and Sully Group Leader) and Ann Konsbruck

The committee would very much welcome new members and additional nominations can be accepted until Tuesday 15 September.

The process to nominate a committee member via emailing cardiff@glamfhs.org.uk

1. Obtain agreement from the member that they are prepared to be nominated, an email giving their agreement will be accepted
2. The nominator should email stating
I (nominator's name) nominate (nominee's name) for the position of (Chair/Vice Chair/Secretary/Treasurer/ Committee Member (as appropriate)) for the GFHS Cardiff Branch committee 2020-2021
3. The seconder should email stating
I (seconder's name) second the nomination of (nominee's name) for the position of (Chair / Vice Chair / Secretary / Treasurer/ Committee Member (as appropriate)) for the GFHS Cardiff Branch committee 2020-2021

If you are a branch member but not a computer user, you will receive a copy of the branch reports in the post in September.

Trips to the National Library of Wales and Cardiff Reform Synagogue

Our planned visits organised to The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth (Saturday 16 May) and to the Cardiff Reform Synagogue (Tuesday 9 June) were both cancelled, and we are now looking to reschedule these for 2021.

You can follow the branch via Twitter: [@Cardiff_GFHS](https://twitter.com/Cardiff_GFHS)

Sully

Unfortunately, as The Old School has still not reopened it is not known when the Group will be able to meet again and what measures we will need to put in place when it is reopened. We are keeping the situation under review and will advise members when more information is available. Our Cardiff & Vale 'Coffee and Chat' 'sessions are scheduled for the dates when the Sully meetings would have been held - these are open to all members of the Society.

Jane Graves, cardiff@glamfhs.org.uk

MERTHYR TYDFIL BRANCH

The Merthyr Tydfil Branch has had some interesting enquiries during the lockdown period, many from America, Canada and Australia. There was an interesting one relating to a Jewish family who were always assumed to have emigrated to America from Germany but it seems that they made a long detour to Merthyr Tydfil first. In 1851 the family lived in Wellington Street, where for a time there was a synagogue. Their grandson was born in Merthyr Tydfil and a daughter married here but then the family left for America. Another enquiry was fairly typical in that a family living in Dowlais moved by 1900 to the developing Rhondda Valley for more work opportunities. We do tend to get quite a number of enquiries from descendants of the large Irish community here who emigrated to America, Canada or Australia.

We would like to congratulate the National Library on their interesting Zoom Sessions which have been informative and useful. The session of 16th July: 'How to ... Information Session: Search our Collections Effectively' was especially practical.

Andrea Heggie and Michael Donovan continue to make good use of their time now by working on the Merthyr Tydfil Family History Branch obituaries from the Merthyr Express Newspaper. There are separate files for soldiers killed in WWI and sadly this war greatly increased the death notices for the period 1910 to 1920.

It is still difficult to predict the future as meetings have been impossible since March. We do not normally have an August meeting and it seems too early to go back to indoor talks just yet. We optimistically still hope to have a meeting in the autumn but we will take heed of all official advice and rely on Soar's professional approach and advice on what measures need to be put in place. As the situation is still uncertain we will postpone our AGM until December and hopefully be able to combine it with mince pies and one of Carl Llewellyn's wonderful talks.

Carolyn Jacob, merthyr@glamfhs.org.uk



PONTYPRIDD & RHONDDA BRANCH

Not a lot to report unfortunately. Like everyone else we are unable to meet. Not just because of the Covid virus but also because the Museum is not ready. Work had been started to repair damages after the floods, but then everything was halted because of lockdown. Some repairs have been done but at the moment they are waiting for the insurance company to give the go-ahead to continue. A very frustrating time for everyone. So, for the present we are not

intending to hold a meeting, at least until January 2021, as everything is still up in the air.

We cannot make definite plans for holding our AGM which is normally held in October, but so far everyone on the present committee is willing to stand again. Therefore we will contact everyone in the branch to check that they are in agreement for the committee to continue as it is at present.



SWANSEA BRANCH

At the moment there are no plans to reopen the Civic Centre or the Library in Swansea and so all branch activities are still suspended.

The Branch are investigating holding the Branch AGM by electronic means by Zoom (on Monday October 1st). Members will be contacted as soon as possible with further details.

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

Family History Federation

The National Archives, Free Copies of historical Wills

The Family History Federation has advised us that Free copies of historical wills are available whilst the National Archives (TNA) is closed to the public during the Corona crisis. It is allowing people to download up to 50 digitised items per 30-day period free of charge - the usual price is £3.50 per will. Only 10 items can be downloaded at a time but when you have done so you can go back and collect some more, subject to the above limit.

Scanned PDF images of the office copies of wills proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury are available on this basis from the TNA site. There are over a million wills to choose from - you can search for those of interest on this page:

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/wills-1384-1858> .

In order to use the service you have to sign up for a free TNA account (or use your existing one). Setting up an account is easy - the link to do so is: <https://secure.nationalarchives.gov.uk/login/Register>.

The Prerogative Court of Canterbury was the senior probate court for England and Wales until 1858.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Surname/Forename	Place	Cty	Dates	#
BEVAN William	B Pembs d Pontypridd	PEM/ GLA	1830- 1915	20546
DAVIES, Elizabeth Emma	Blaecncwm	GLA	1887 +	20435
DOWN, Thomas	Aberfan	GLA	@ 1911	2043
EVANS, Benjamin	Narberth	PEM	1834-1891	20435
EVANS, Elizabeth (Lily)	Treherbert	GLA	1880-1966	20435
EVANS, Emma	St. Brides Major	GLA	1841-1921	20435
EVANS, James	Swansea	GLA	1737 +	20435
EVANS, Phillip	Swansea	GLA	1766 +	20435
EVANS, Phillip	Narberth	PEM	1798-1839	20435
FAIR/FAIER Anne	Narberth	PEM	1798-1870	20435
JAMES	Caldey Island	PEM	1880's	2709
JAMES	Nantymoel, Blaenrhondda, Llanhilleth	GLA	1880's	2709
LEE, John	Blaecncwm	GLA	1837-1935	20435
LEE, Margaret Elizabeth	Ystradyfodwg	GLA	1866-1920	20435
PITT George	b. Breconshire d. Pontypridd	BRE & GLA	1860-1925	20546
RAISON		GLA	1880's	2709
ROGERS, Margaret	Swansea	GLA	1770 +	20435
TEWKESBURY		GLA	All	11203
THOMAS, Anne	Narberth	PEM	1833- 1891	20435
WILLIAMS, Margaret	Swansea	GLA	1741 +	20435

If you wish to have a Help Wanted Item or your Members Interests published in the journal and in our **online Members' Interests Directory** they should be sent to:

interests@glamfhs.org.uk.

Postal address: c/o Megan George, 29 Perrers Road, London, W6 0EY

Download a Members' Interests form from our website or send to us in the following format. Remember to include your Membership Number.

Surname	Forename(s)	Place	County	Dates
<i>JONES</i>	<i>Alun</i>	<i>Barry</i>	<i>GLA</i>	<i>1855-1900</i>

HOLIDAYS AT HOME

SIR ROBERT FOSSETT'S
GIGANTIC

ZOO CIRCUS

WILL VISIT

ROMILLY PARK
BARRY

SEPT.
4TH, 5TH, 6TH

FOR THREE DAYS ONLY
THREE PERFORMANCES DAILY

2-0, 4-0 & 6-0

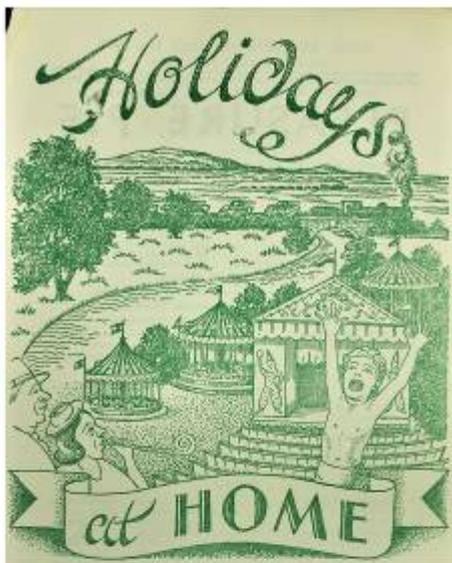
20 STAR TURNS
INCLUDING
LIONS, TIGERS, BEARS, ELEPHANT
and Wonderful PERFORMING HORSE

ADMISSION:
ADULTS: 1/6, 3/6, 4/6, 5/3 & 7/
CHILDREN: 1/-, 1/9, 2/6, 2/6 & 3/
BOX OFFICE OPEN DAILY FROM 11-0 TO 1-30

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On SUNDAY, SEPT. 3rd from 2 o'clock
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