

CYLCHGRAWN HANES TEULUOEDD DYFED

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Awst 2025



DYFED FAMILY HISTORY JOURNAL

Volume 15 Number 6
August 2025

Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Dyfed Family History Society

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 513347

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Llywydd

Chairman **Position vacant (tba)**
Cadeirydd

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* TRUSTEES

In accordance with the Charity Commission's regulations
all of the elected Officers are the Trustees of the Society.

Please quote your membership number in any correspondence.

Work on the **December Journal** will begin as soon as this one
finishes but the deadline for copy is **15 October 2025**.

This is my final journal as Editor, I am handing over the reins to Sue Lindsay from the December issue. My last 7 years as your editor have been very rewarding and I have always been heartened by the warm words of praise and encouragement the journal has received. My skills are only as good as the copy I have had the good fortune to receive from yourselves over the years. I hope you will continue to support Sue with providing articles and snippets of interest as you have in the past. Unfortunately, we did not have a lot of articles for this issue but lots of Society news and other interesting bits and pieces have been included which I hope you will find of interest. I will include a lot of the most relevant pieces in the Society Spotlight on the website, especially those with hyperlinks.

You will see that we have already arranged the AGM for next year on 18 April and Bishop Wyn (a past President of the Society) has kindly agreed to host the meeting and to give us a talk afterwards on his current work as the Provincial Advisor on Archives to the Church of Wales.

Please take time to read the item on page 9 regarding the changes to subscription prices.

It was lovely to see a Haverfordwest member, Joan Marshall, on the Pembrokeshire Archives Facebook page. Joan, along with other members agreed to their photographs being taken, as part of an Archives publicity campaign, at their visit to the archives in March. All our local Archives need our support to ensure they can carry on allowing us access to these precious resources, so try to make use of them, even if it is only once or twice a year, it all helps.

Finally, congratulations from the Society to member Glen K Johnson (57191) for being awarded the British Empire Medal for services to heritage, in the Kings Birthday Honours List. If you have an interest in the Cardigan/Pembrokeshire areas and don't already follow Glen on his Facebook page [Glen K Johnson – The History Man] then you are missing out. He also volunteers at the Tower Room, Cardigan Castle several days a week and has vast amounts of data at his fingertips.

As they say in the “motion picture” industry – “That’s a wrap” so its goodbye from me and welcome Sue.

Editor

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Dyfed Family History Society Annual General Meeting Saturday 18 April 2026

In person and via Zoom 11am–12noon

Speaker: Bishop Wyn 12.30am–1.30pm

Talk on his current work as the Provincial Advisor on Archives to Church of Wales

Meeting Room 2, Carmarthen Library, St Peters Street, Carmarthen SA31 1LN

The Agenda, Minutes of the 2025 AGM and Financial statement for 2025 will be available on the DFHS website from 21 March 2026 and will be published in the April 2026 edition of the journal.

Under the Constitution rules any member who desires to bring before the AGM any subject or proposal relating to the affairs of the Society, shall give written notice in specific terms to the Secretary at least 21 days prior to the meeting, being 21 March 2026.

The Society does not accept any responsibility for the views and opinions expressed by individual authors.

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Branch Meetings and Other Events

(The venues for branch events are listed inside the back cover, unless otherwise stated)

Cardigan Branch

Aug	No meeting
15 Sep	Hedd Ladd Lewis
6 Oct	Helen Palmer – “Personal Opinions: Diaries and letters at Ceredigion Archives”
3 Nov	Mark Cole – The Dyfed Shire Horse Farm Story
Dec	No meeting – Christmas Lunch

Carmarthen Branch (now at **2.00pm** at Spilman Hotel)

27 Aug	No meeting
24 Sep	Simon Lamble – Ferryside Lifeboat
29 Oct	Jeremy John – Topic to be confirmed
26 Nov	Speaker to be confirmed
Dec	No meeting

Haverfordwest Branch

13 Aug	No meeting
10 Sept	Archives Afternoon 1–4 pm
8 Oct	Susana North-Bates – 6 Upper Market Street, Haverfordwest
12 Nov	Terry John – TBC
10 Dec	Archives Afternoon 1–4 pm

Llanelli Branch (now back in Llanelly House)

18 Aug	No Meeting
15 Sep	TBC
20 Oct	TBC
17 Nov	TBC
15 Dec	TBC

Upper Towy Valley Branch

27 Aug	No meeting
24 Sep	Speaker to be confirmed

13–17 Oct Visit to Stoke on Trent
Nov Christmas Dinner
Dec No meeting

London Branch – Dates and times of meetings to be confirmed

3–10 Aug Annual visit to NLW
13 Sep 1.30 pm in person and hopefully on Zoom – Members' discussion/talk
15 Nov 2 pm Zoom meeting – Stuart Haywood “Researching in North Staffordshire”

Online Discussion Group (online@dyfedfhs.org.uk)

28 Jul Members discussions
25 Aug Members discussions
29 Sep Pat Hoode Williams – Cardigan Family
27 Oct Bruce Smith – Drover Roads in West Wales
24 Nov TBC
Dec TBC

20–21 Sep **Llandovery Sheep Festival.**

Website <https://llandoverysheepfestival.com>

18 Apr 2026 **DFHS AGM** (see details on page 3)

Where to find out about other Genealogical Events:

Family History Federation

<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events>

GENEVA (**GEN**ealogical **E**vents and **A**ctivities –
run on behalf of GENUKI and the FHF)

<http://www.geneva.weald.org.uk/doku.php>

HELP! I'VE JUST FOUND A WELSH LINE IN MY TREE AND KNOW NOTHING ABOUT WELSH HISTORY!

Do not despair. The BBC to the rescue:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/history/sites/themes/guide.shtml>

General Secretary's report

THANK YOU to all who attended our 2025 AGM on 12th April and a special thank you to Mary Thorley for another entertaining and informative talk.

Our 2026 AGM will be held on April 18th 2026 in the Carmarthen Library and also via Zoom. Our President, Bishop Dorien, is not available, so a past President, Bishop Wyn, will preside and speak about his current work as the Provincial Advisor on Archives to the Church in Wales.

We are nearing completion of our project to make it easier to search our MI database. At the time of writing two of the counties have been completed, we just have Carmarthenshire to complete; that county also happens to contain the largest number of MIs.

There will be over 150,000 names that have been recorded, and more names will be added once new cemeteries have been completed. It is our intention to eventually add photographs, but that won't be for quite a while yet.

I would like to thank Phil Davies and Ken James from the Cardigan branch who have put all the information in the format that our supplier needs. Ken has used as an example his great grandmother Lettice Evans on how to search the database; the name Lettice is derived from the goddess Laetitia of Rome, who symbolizes happiness. I'm sure that's how Ken and Phil will be feeling when this project has been completed.

I would also like to thank Jan Hughes who has been collating the MIs for many years – the project first started in the 1980's. Please go to the MI section of our website to try it out and email misearch@dyfedfhs.org.uk with any comments, good or bad.

Our next project will be updating our website. We intend making our new website bilingual, along the lines of Gwynedd and Clwyd FHS. If you have any experience in creating websites, have any suggestions, or are able to help in any way, then please contact the secretary on secretary@dyfedfhs.org.uk

London Branch Update – At the AGM in June the existing committee members were re-appointed unanimously.

Colin Potter (5576)

MI Search Facility

THE MI SEARCH FACILITY has now been live online for some three months, although only for Pembrokeshire and South Cardiganshire and has attracted 2469 hits.

In total, we have some 160,000 names on the database, every cemetery that has been recorded will be there.

To search the MI database, log in to our website with your membership details and open Monumental Inscriptions, there you will see a page entitled Monumental Inscriptions Project, with four options – S. Cardiganshire, Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Search.

The Search button will take you to a simple form for you to fill, with whatever details you may have. It is divided into First name, Surname, County and Cemetery, with exact searches on the names, which may help find the correct person. The County button has the three counties which will considerably narrow the search, if you know the county where the person is buried.

The Cemetery button will list every recorded cemetery in Dyfed or by county if a county is chosen.

A typical example of a search is Lettice Evans. Enter Evans in the surname, (upper or lower case) and with nothing else entered, press Search.

This will give a page of Evans' and at the bottom of the page it will show how many pages, here it is 204. These are all the Evans' recorded in Dyfed amounting to 6120 entries. Now enter her first name Lettice, that huge number has now come down to seven

From here, if you know Year of Death, Age at Death or the Church/Chapel you can narrow it down to one. For example, if you know that Lettice died in 1916, then there is only one possibility, and she is buried in St Llawddog Church Cemetery. Click the link for St Llawddog and you are taken to our website MI page for St Llawddog. Open the index and scroll down to Lettice Evans, the grave will be found in Area C Grave No 120 Row 1. Open the Monumental Inscription button, scroll down to 120 and there is the headstone inscription "Er serchus cof am ENOCH EVANS Cefngarth Kilgerran yr hwn a fu farw Medi 20 1907 yn 54 mlwydd oed. Hefyd am LETTICE ei briod yr hon a fu farw Mawrth 28 1916 yn 61 mlwydd oed."

At some point in the hopefully near future, there will be another link to download the actual digital photograph of the headstone, and also a Genuki link to show exactly where the cemetery is located. Photographs are some time away, we have 40 years of them to upload, some were taken well before the digital age. Watch out for a future project as we will need help to upload 150,000 images.

Please try the system out, try it in every configuration you can think of, get used to using it, try and catch it out, or see where it falls short for you. Then please let us know your thoughts whether positive or negative, tell us of any errors you find or if something is missing, or if you have any question to improve our MI project. The email for your comments is misearch@dyfedfhs.org.uk. The more you tell us the better we can make it.

New MIs added to the website

Llanfyrnach

Antioch Chapel, Crymych
Seion Chapel Crymych
Hermon Chapel

Kidwelly

St Mary's Church Kidwelly

Index only

Kidwelly Public Cemetery

MI's ready to put on

(if not there when you check ask Janice on MI@dyfedfhs.org.uk)

All Index only

Burry Port / Pembrey

Llandry Church Cemetery
Tabernacle Chapel Trimsaran

Llangyndeyrn / Llangendeirne

Bethel Welsh Independent Chapel Carway
Nazareth Congregational Chapelyard, Pontyates

Llanwnda

Ty Wesely and Salem Chapel

Current MIs that have been Updated

Salem Chapel Trimsaran

Extra index to update

St Tyfi Church, Llandyfeisant

– an excellent website with information about the Friends of the Church and the work they have done: <https://friendsofllandyfeisantchurch.org>

Janice Hughes

Project Co-ordinator

Subscription changes

DUE TO INCREASED printing and postage costs, the annual subscription for **overseas members** has increased as follows:

- Individual membership £20 (was £15)
- Family History Society £20 (was £15)
- Library £25 (was £20).

We have also introduced an E-membership costing £12 wherever you live. This is available only to individuals. So, if you are an overseas individual who currently gets the printed journal, you can change your membership type to E-membership at renewal, where you will instead receive a PDF copy of the journal and save £3 pa, compared to what you pay now.

If you renew online the new subscription prices will be applied automatically. A few overseas members pay by standing order, and you will need to amend yours ahead of your renewal date.

Any questions or queries to David Skyrme, Membership Secretary at membership@dyfedfhs.org.uk

Our Society's Reserves Policy – an explanation

THE SOCIETY'S Annual Accounts for 2024 were published in the April Journal and readers may have noticed the healthy amount of cash reserves built up over the years. Our Management Committee regularly agrees a Reserves Policy which explains how we intend to manage those funds during the near future. Here are the answers to some questions you may have about this together with our latest Reserves Policy:

What are reserves?

In our Society's case, reserves are its funds less any "designated funds". Designated funds are that part of the funds which trustees have earmarked for projects or use, without restricting or committing the funds legally. The designation may be cancelled by the trustees if they later decide that the charity should not proceed or continue with the use or project for which the funds were designated.

Why should we have a reserves policy?

A reserves policy helps us to show members how

- we, as trustees, manage the Society's money
- we aim to ensure that DFHS continues to be financially sustainable
- we justify why we are holding the current level of reserves.

It is a part of our internal financial management and should help us to plan our resources better and to plan for our needs.

Whilst there is no specific legal requirement for charities to have a reserves policy, there is a clear implication that a charity needs a policy to justify the holding of funds in reserves. But there is a legal requirement for charities with a policy to disclose that policy in their annual report to the Charity Commissioner.

What should a reserves policy include?

- A brief description of the charity and its aims and objectives.
- The reasons why the trustees believe reserves are required.
- How the trustees have considered the financial position of the Society, leading to the conclusion about the level of reserves required.
- The level of reserves required.
- How and when the reserves policy will be reviewed.

How should a reserves policy be developed, maintained, and monitored at target level?

- There is no single method or approach to setting a reserves policy.
- The approach adopted varies with the size, complexity of activities, legal structure and the nature of funds received and held by a charity.
- Active and regular monitoring of reserves needs to be matched against targets.
- Changes to the policy should be made if necessary.
- It should not be a static policy because the circumstances or the environment in which the Society operates changes with time
- Trustees should review the policy at least annually.

What if we decide there is an excess of reserves?

We should spend the Society's money to advance its charitable purposes. If we hold excess reserves then we may not be fulfilling our charity trustee duties and may need to consider changing/widening our objectives as set out in the Constitution.

How and when the reserves policy will be reviewed

The Treasurer will actively and regularly monitor the reserves to compare them with the required level. Any changes to the policy that the Treasurer considers necessary will be discussed by the trustees. The policy will be reviewed annually at a Management Committee meeting when the independently examined and approved Annual Accounts are available for presentation.

DFHS RESERVES POLICY 2025 to 2027 APPROVED AT THE COMMITTEE MEETING MARCH 2025

Dyfed Family History Society's aims and objectives

Paragraphs 4 and 5 of our Constitution (version 1d) state:

4. The object of the Society (the Object) shall be to promote the study of genealogy, heraldry, family history and local history within and relating to Dyfed, which comprises the counties of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, and Pembrokeshire.
5. In furtherance of the Object, the Society shall:
 - (a) provide a forum for all interested parties.
 - (b) arrange an educational programme of talks, visits and other allied activities.
 - (c) produce, publish and circulate a periodic journal.
 - (d) design, publish and maintain a website.

- (e) seek out, transcribe, index and, where possible, publish and otherwise make available relevant material and the society may sell such publications and materials.

Definition of our reserves

As defined by the Charity Commissioners, the trustees consider that the Society's reserves comprise its funds less those set aside for essential future spending (designated funds).

The reasons why the trustees believe reserves are required

The trustees believe that it needs reserves to ensure it could continue if membership numbers and the consequent reducing income persist.

How the trustees have considered the financial position of the Society leading to the conclusion about the level of reserves required

The trustees have agreed to do specific projects over the next two years and have earmarked designated funds for these. They have also agreed that additional funds should be held in reserve to cover three potential scenarios which could arise during the next two years:

- **Scenario 1** – Annual expenditure in a typical year
- **Scenario 2** – Annual expenditure in a typical year with 50% drop in income due to a cost-of-living crisis affecting members and potential new members.
- **Scenario 3** – Annual expenditure in a typical year with no income from members due to worse conditions than in scenario 2 such as a severe economic recession.

The trustees agree that 2024 should be considered to have been a typical year and so have applied its annual income and expenditure figures to the three potential scenarios where income could reduce but expenditure remains at the same level. However, in Scenario 3 it is assumed that there would be no Journal produced if there were no members, but we would still spend to attract new members and entice old ones back. Each scenario would require a different level of reserves.

Designated funds set aside for projects and usage during 2025–27

A major priority must be to keep and increase members. We hope that this will be achieved by using the designated funds as follows:

Enhance and develop our new website including a Welsh Language translation:	£20,000
Journal Editor, Webmaster and Social Media professionals	£14,000
Expansion of our Monumental Inscriptions records for our website and digital indexing	£2,363
Development of the Llandovery, Cardigan and other branch Hubs	£1,680
Additional events and representation at Family History Fairs	£1,680
Equip our branches to undertake local projects and upgrade their existing assets	£1,000
Online Discussion Group – potential upgrading of any software and/or hardware	£500
Storage Room clearance	£500
Society meetings – microphone upgrade	£200
TOTAL	£41,923

Calculation of the amount of our reserves

Total closing balances in the 2024 Accounts	£63,447
Less designated funds	–£41,923
Reserves	£21,524

The level of reserves required

Scenario 1 – Annual income and expenditure in a typical year (2024)

Expenditure:	£19,076
Income:	£16,549
Deficit:	– £2,527

If the next two years are typical then we would need a reserve level of **£5,074** (£2527 x 2).

Scenario 2 – Annual expenditure in a typical year (2024) with 50% drop in income

Annual Expenditure:	£19,076
50% of typical annual Income:	£8,297
Deficit:	–£10,779

If the next two years suffer a 50% income reduction we would need a reserve level of **£21,558** (£10,779 x 2).

Scenario 3 – Annual expenditure in a typical year (2024) with no income from members

Annual expenditure, less Journal expenses:	£10,862
Less projected credit interest from quickly reducing funds:	£100
Deficit:	
	–£10,762

No member income during the 2025–27 would require a reserve level of **£21,524** (£10,762 x 2).

Summary

With reserves of **£21,524** in the 2024 Accounts, the Society could continue for the next two years in all three scenarios.

Gareth Wyn Jones (4122)

Trysorydd/Treasurer

Email: treasurer@dyfedfhs.org.uk

Letters to the Editor

IF YOU ARE SENDING a letter to the Editor or any copy for inclusion in the journal, please note that it needs to be in an electronic format not handwritten. Handwritten items must be transcribed to send to the printers, and this takes up a lot of my time. If you do not have access to email then I will transcribe them, provided it is not too long a piece; but if you do have access to email please just include the text within an email and send it to me at editor@dyfedfhs.org.uk and I can reformat it from there. Many thanks

Editor

THE GREAT BIBLES OF HENRY VIII and THOMAS CROMWELL have been reunited for the first time in nearly 500 years at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth. <https://www.library.wales/about-nlw/press-and-news/press-releases/2025-press-releases/wolf-hall-comes-to-wales-as-the-great-bibles-of-henry-viii-and-thomas-cromwell-are-reunited-after-500-years>

Pembrokeshire Archives

Crime and Punishment

FEW FAMILIES are free of shady characters in their past. There is bound to be an unsavoury story lurking unknown in the crevices of the family tree. Or perhaps there is a long-said but unproven rumour that has kept researchers guessing. Fortunately, the guilty are recorded in court and prison documents, sometimes in surprisingly extensive detail. So too are those on the right side of the law – witnesses, jurors, and of course the victims.

With numerous volumes crammed with hard to decipher handwriting, and boxes filled with bundles of paper, on first appearance the relevant documents at Pembrokeshire Archives & Local Studies can seem daunting to tackle. But for anyone who is researching people who were involved in criminal cases, especially during the nineteenth century, they provide a wealth of information. Here is an overview of the main type of sources relating to the courts and prison, with an explanation of the helpful information that they contain.

Petty Sessions

The lowest part of the legal system, the Petty Court, now known as the Magistrates Court, dealt with minor offences. They were held frequently, usually every two weeks, in each Hundred in Pembrokeshire.

The Court Registers for the Petty Sessions contain the names of those who were present at the proceedings. As can be seen in one for Narberth Petty Sessions from January 1887 to March 1895, the name of the informant is given, as well as the name of the defendant, the nature of the offence, the outcome of the hearing, and the name of the judge adjudicating. Typical charges included being drunk and disorderly, trespassing, bastardy, not sending children to school, vagrancy, larceny, not paying train tickets, libel, and furious driving.

Fines formed the majority of the punishments. Not all guilty parties, however, would have been able to afford these. Consequently, the alternative punishment took the form of hard labour. For instance, Thomas Brown was sentenced on 12th January 1888 to 15 days of hard labour for being drunk and disorderly on the highway. Whereas John Morgans, a year earlier, was fined 5 shillings for the same offence. As such, these entries suggest the financial positions of the defendants, even if they do not state their occupations.

1 In the County of <u>Pembrokeshire</u>		1847		Petty Sessions Division of <u>Pembrokeshire</u>	
REGISTER OF THE COURT OF SUMMARY JURISDICTION		1847		Petty Sessions Division of <u>Pembrokeshire</u>	
Date	Number	Name of Informant or Complainant	Name of Defendant and Age, if under 16	Nature of Offence or Matter for Complaint	Result of Proceedings
1847 Jan 6	1	David Jones	David Jones	Disobedience of Court in returning	no appearance
	2	John Jones	John Jones	Disobedience of Court in returning	Sum. 2/11. and 1/4 costs
	3	David Jones	David Jones	Disobedience of Court in returning	Sum. 2/11. and 1/4 costs
	4	John Jones	John Jones	Disobedience of Court in returning	Sum. 2/11. and 1/4 costs
	5	John Jones	John Jones	Disobedience of Court in returning	Sum. 2/11. and 1/4 costs
	6	John Jones	John Jones	Disobedience of Court in returning	Sum. 2/11. and 1/4 costs
	7	John Jones	John Jones	Disobedience of Court in returning	Sum. 2/11. and 1/4 costs
	8	John Jones	John Jones	Disobedience of Court in returning	Sum. 2/11. and 1/4 costs
	9	John Jones	John Jones	Disobedience of Court in returning	Sum. 2/11. and 1/4 costs
	10	John Jones	John Jones	Disobedience of Court in returning	Sum. 2/11. and 1/4 costs
	11	John Jones	John Jones	Disobedience of Court in returning	Sum. 2/11. and 1/4 costs
	12	John Jones	John Jones	Disobedience of Court in returning	Sum. 2/11. and 1/4 costs
	13	John Jones	John Jones	Disobedience of Court in returning	Sum. 2/11. and 1/4 costs

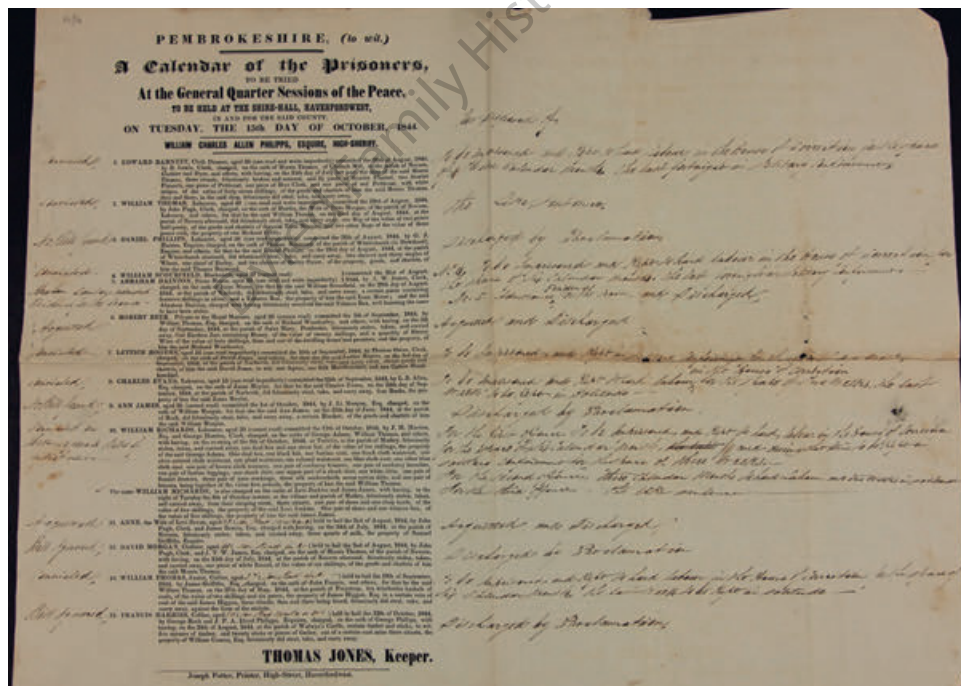
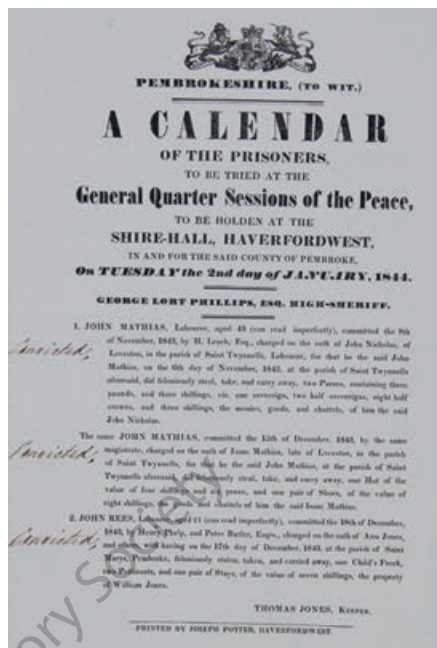
Quarter Sessions

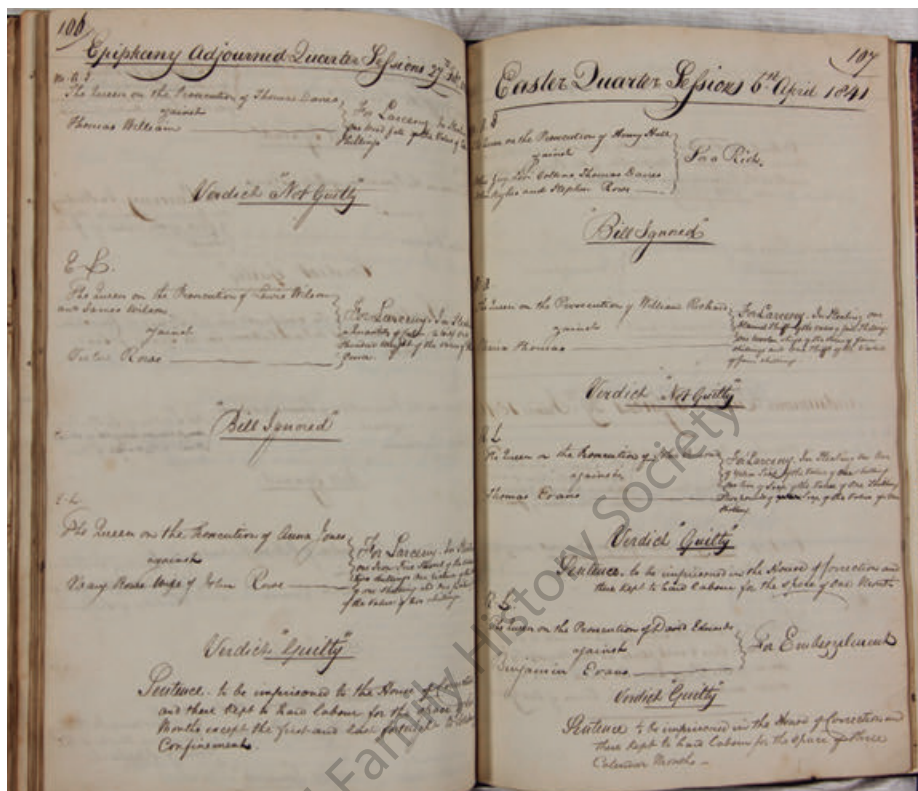
As the name suggests, these were held four times a year (Epiphany, Easter, Midsummer, and Michaelmas) and were overseen by Justices of the Peace. Quarter Sessions were introduced into Wales by the Acts of Union of 1536 and 1542–43. However, apart from an order book covering 1734–1748, no records survive for Pembrokeshire before 1779. It is no coincidence that this is the same year the county leased a room over the Butter Market from the Corporation of Haverfordwest for the storing of records.

Before the court took place, a list of people who would be tried was drawn up, called Calendars of Prisoners. The name of the prisoner, their crime, and occupation is recorded, along with the level of literacy. So too are the names of those who committed the prisoners and of any who swore under oath against them. For example, at the 1844 Epiphany Quarter Sessions held in Haverfordwest, John Rees, a 21-year-old labourer, had been committed on the 18th December 1843 under the charge of stealing clothes.

It can also be seen that in the margin there is a handwritten note: 'convicted'. Indeed, a fair amount of Calendars of Prisoners have been annotated with the outcome of the trial, along with the term of punishment. The Calendar of Prisoners dated 15th October 1844 is the best example of this.

If the result of the trial is not on the Calendars of Prisoners, there is an Indictment Book dating from 1818 to 1843, which lists the parties involved, the charge, verdict, and sentence.





Our Session Rolls collection consist of the written records that were produced during each meeting. These include writs of 'Venire Facias' which were issued to the sheriff ordering him to summon a jury, and recognizances which were essentially written orders for people to attend court. Quarter Sessions, however, were not just for criminal cases but were also where administrative and logistical matters were discussed. This included the payment of expenses and certificates of repair (particularly of bridges and roads), and even certificates of recommendation to support applications to become teachers. The costs involved in bringing people to justice are provided by accounts and receipts found in the Sessions Rolls. One rather chilling instance is a list of costs (over £21) involved in the punishment of Mary and Catherine Jenkin for felony in September 1779.

Pembrokeshire 9 The County of Pembroke
 Spring Sep. 1771 To the Sheriff

The King - - - - - 9 for felony
 Mary John and Catharine John

The prisoners being sentenced to be whipped - Paid - 10- 6
 putting the same in execution - - - - -

P^d Ale for Sheriff's men and Bailiffs Attending - 1- 6
 execution - - - - -

To Sheriff's Trouble & attendance to see the said
 sentence properly executed - - - - - 5- 5- 0

Gibbet & Gallows - - - - - 5- 5- 0

Blacksmith for Irons - - - - - 10- 0- 0

21- 1- 0

The prisoners were whipped at a cost of 10 shillings and 6 pence. For this, a gibbet and gallows were needed, along with a blacksmith for irons. The sheriff also claimed for his 'Trouble & attendance to see the said sentence properly executed'. Not forgetting of course, the 'Ale for Sheriff's men and Bailiffs Attending Execution'. Crime was costly, not just for the victims and perpetrators (if caught), but also for the authorities.

Assizes

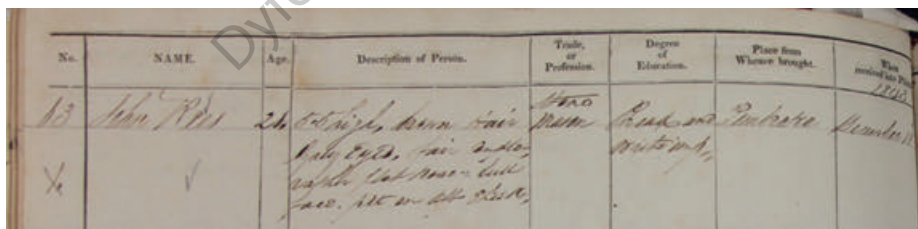
Assizes were courts held in the county towns and presided over by visiting judges. Pembrokeshire Assizes, held in Haverfordwest, were part of the South Wales Circuit and were held in the spring and summer every year from 1830 (they replaced Great Sessions), until they were abolished in 1971. A high number of criminal cases, as was the case in 1844 due to the Rebecca Riots, would necessitate a winter 'special' court. In terms of sources, those for the Assizes are of similar nature to those of the Quarter Sessions, with jury summons

and Calendars of Prisoners. For the latter, we hold a collection which covers the period 1814 to 1900. For information on individual cases, newspapers should be consulted as the Assizes were reported in great detail.

Haverfordwest Gaol Records

Where did the people who were found guilty at these sessions end up? The majority were sentenced to incarceration in Haverfordwest Gaol, or 'House of Correction'. This was located at the castle and served both the County of Pembrokeshire and the Town and County of Haverfordwest until 1879.

Upon arrival, the prisoners' details were taken and entered into registers. We hold the registers for 'felons, misdemeanants, and other warrant prisoners' covering the period 1828 to 1857, over four volumes. There are also two volumes of debtors between 1813 and 1836, another two of those committed under summary convictions between 1846 and 1863. These provide a great amount of biographical detail, with name, age, parish, occupation, and degree of education, alongside details of the sentence. But the most revealing part of the entries fall under the heading 'description of the person', which usually provides their height, eye colour, and hair colour. Distinguishing features such as scars and missing digits are also often noted. The aforementioned John Rees who stole clothing in Pembroke, was described as 5 foot 5, with brown hair, grey eyes, fair complexion, rather flat nose, full face, and a cut on the left cheek. The register also specifies that he was a stone mason and reported that he was released on 31st August 1844 having served his time.



No.	NAME	Age	Description of Person	Trade, or Profession	Degree of Education	Place from whence brought	When received into Prison
13	John Rees	24	English, born in the parish of St. Mary, Haverfordwest. Fair complexion, rather flat nose, full face, and a cut on the left cheek.	Stone mason	Reads and writes	Pembroke	December 1843
14							

During their time in the gaol, the prisoners feature in the administrative documents kept by the different staff. We hold a character book that was kept by the Chaplain between 1840 and 1856. This records whether they were 'good' or 'bad' during their time in prison, along with noting how many times they had been sentenced and their marital status.

No.	NAMES.	Age.	Trade or Occupation.	Condition of Prisoners.	When received.	From whence brought.	Character.	Whether previously convicted, and how often.	Further Observations.
					1793				
54	John Stiles.	41	Labourer	Monstrous	Sept. 2.	Stoke	Good		
55	Andrew Pearson	37	Bookbinder	Bookbinder	" "	Stoke	Good		
56	Joseph Roberts	37	Labourer	Labourer	" "	" "	" "		
57	Thomas Hunt	37	Labourer	Bookbinder	" "	" "	" "		
58	William Taylor	33	Labourer	Labourer	12 "	Stoke	Good		
59	John Roberts	37	Labourer	Bookbinder	15 "	Stoke	Good		
60	James Rogers	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
61	William Roberts	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
62	John Roberts	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
63	Robert Stiles	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
64	William Rogers	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
65	Joseph Roberts	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
66	Thomas Hunt	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
67	Michael Jones	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
68	John Roberts	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
69	Robert Stiles	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
70	William Taylor	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
71	John Roberts	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
72	Thomas Hunt	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
73	William Rogers	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
74	John Roberts	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
75	Robert Stiles	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
76	William Taylor	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
77	John Roberts	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
78	Thomas Hunt	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
79	William Rogers	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
80	John Roberts	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
81	Robert Stiles	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
82	William Taylor	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
83	John Roberts	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
84	Thomas Hunt	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
85	William Rogers	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		
86	John Roberts	37	Labourer	" "	" "	" "	" "		

In the case of John Rees, he was recorded as good. Meanwhile, the surgeon kept a record of those on the 'sick list'. The table of information makes a distinction between whether they were debtors or criminals, gives the number of their ward, and describes their ailment before explaining what treatment or provision – of food or clothing – was to be provided.

The Governor kept a register in which he recorded the names, ages, occupation, and sentences of the inmates. We hold three of these between 1813 and 1828. Of particular interest is a page on which he has crossed out 'felons' and replaced it with the word 'lunatics'. Consequently, the page contains information of people charged with lunacy between 1788 and 1822.

JOURNAL, kept by the Surgeon of the Gaol of the County of Pembroke.								
Names.	Delict or Criminal.	Ward.	Disease.	When entered on the Sick List.	When discharged from the Sick List.	What extra Food.	What extra Clothing.	Observations.
John Richards	Debtor	5	Paralytic	18 th October	5 Jan ^y 1821	W. Bread and Milk		
John Williams	Debtor	6	Indigestion	18 th October	—	W. Bread and Milk		
Richard Richards	Criminal	8	Hæmoptoe	18 th October	—	W. Bread and Milk		
Sarah Jenkins	Debtor	14	Cough	18 th October	20 Nov.	W. Bread and Milk		
Stephen Martin	Criminal	7	Colic	18 th October	23 Oct.			
David Griffiths	Criminal	8	Int. Humors	18 th October	1 st Novem.			
Thomas Enoch	Criminal	8	Fete	18 th October	23 Nov.			
William Williams	Criminal	8	Colic	18 th October	29 Oct.			
Mary Saville	Criminal	1	Costive	18 th October	—	W. Bread and Milk		
Edward Martin	Debtor	14	Int. Fev.	16 Novem.	Dec 30			
James M. Donald	Criminal	1	Indigestion	16 Novem.	1 st Dec.			
David Griffiths	Debtor	14	Costive	16 Novem.	26 Dec.	W. Bread and Milk		
John Jones	Debtor	5	Indigestion	26 Novem.	—	W. Bread and Milk		
Martha Roberts	Criminal	1	Colic	26 Nov.	1 st Dec.			
John Smith	Criminal	8	Colic	26 Nov.	1 st Dec.			

The Prisoner which the Criminals have, I think are too thin for the winter and will be the prizes of any person who steals. The poor people will be evicted.

W. M. Jones }
S. B. Jones }
J. Jones }

Final Thoughts

The records mentioned above by no means constitute an exhaustive list. Especially when it comes to the variety of cases heard in the Quarter Sessions and the administrative records relating to Haverfordwest Gaol. But they indicate the helpfulness of court and prison documents in helping to provide further biographical information. Prison registers in particular can bring us closer to our ancestors by helping us construct an accurate image of their appearance, with details that most other family history sources lack. More generally, a reading of these sources help our understanding of the demographic and effectiveness of the courts in Pembrokeshire. As such, at least in helping family history researchers, crime does pay!

Elliot MacMillan

**Cynorthwy-ydd Archifau & Astudiaethau Lleol /
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Pembrokeshire Archives

Great Western Railway – Trains and Boats and Planes

The 1965 song by Bert Bacharach tells how trains and boats and planes took his love away but ends on a positive note: “The trains and the boats and planes, will bring you back, back home to me, whoa, whoa”. Many of us have ancestors in late Victorian times who worked on the railways in South Wales. Easier travel boosted trade and helped migration to places like Cardiff, while allowing families to keep in contact. In doing my research, I discovered that the South Wales train company which became dominant over time – Great Western Railway – also had interests in boats and planes. This article discusses the evolution of the network and gives examples from my own research.

Great Western Connections

The railway in South Wales was initially created by the need to ship coal from the South Wales Valleys to London. In addition, Brunel had a vision of linking London with New York. A prospectus for the South Wales Railway was published in 1844. It would link with the Great Western in Gloucestershire and end at Fishguard where it would connect with ships to Ireland and New York.



The first section between Chepstow and Swansea was completed in 1850. But due to financial problems and the lack of connecting railways at Waterford in Ireland, the western terminus of the line was changed from Fishguard to New Milford (now known as Neyland). The chronology of the main line openings in Dyfed is shown in the table below, along with the year that the railway company was absorbed into GWR.

In its heyday at the turn of the century GWR employed over 100,000 people so it was inevitable that it would touch the lives of some Skyrmes. It did so in three main ways. Skyrmes were employed on the railways, others served on GWR ships, and a few wealthier Skyrmes were shareholders.

Railway	Started	Opened	GWR
South West Railway – Swansea to Carmarthen Reaches Haverforwest Reaches Neyland Branch to Milford Haven	1850	1852 1854 1856 1863	1863
Carmarthen and Cardigan Railway – Carmarthen to Conwil Extension to Llandyssul Extension to Newcastle Emlyn	1857	1860 1864 1895	1882
Pembroke & Tenby Railway – Pembroke Dock to Tenby Extension to Whitland	1853	1863 1866	1897
North Pembrokeshire Railway – Narberth Road to Rosebush Rosebush to Fishguard	1873 1878	1876 1895	1898
Whitland and Cardigan Railway – Whitland to Glogue quarries Extension to Cardigan	1870	1873 1886	1890
Llanelly Railway – Llanelly Docks to Llandeilo (passenger trains) (there were goods trains on several from 1833)		1850	1873
Vale of Towy Railway – Llandeilo to Llandovery	1854	1858	1884

Railway Employees

Much of the following uses information from GWR staff records that are now online at Ancestry. Newspaper reports also add interesting context.

Alfred Skyrms (1862–1945) was one of six sons of William Skyrme and Margaret Griffiths. They had moved from Manorbier to Castlemartin the year before Alfred was born. The first record showing his involvement with the railways is his marriage certificate of 1886. He was then living in Blaenllechau, Glamorgan, and was a railway fireman. His local station would have been Ferndale on the Rhondda branch of the Taff Vale Railway. Other than census data we know little of his railway employment. But it was his move that probably prompted his younger brother Evan to follow in his footsteps. Of Evan's railway employment we know much more.

Evan Skyrms (1864–1928). The first we learn of Evan's employment on the railways is from his GWR staff record. He was appointed a foreman porter at Ferndale on 17th June 1889. Previously, like some of his other brothers he had been a farm worker. The 1881 census records him as living at the 184-acre Lambeath Farm at Pwllcrochan, just outside Pembroke. There are eight further appointments listed in the GWR staff register 1910. It shows him as a porter

at Penarth and Maerdy. In October 1902 he became a brakesman (guard) on passenger trains, first at Cardiff, then Merthyr Tydfil and finally back at Meardy. His wages started at 3s 6d a week and peaked at 87s 6d a week in October 1920. The last entry shows he earned 65s a week in July 1922.



The photo shows a GWR brake passenger van of the sort that Evan might have worked in. This one is preserved at Didcot Railway Centre.

Of particular interest are the entries in the ‘Cautions and Fines’ column of the staff register. Five incidents are listed, all when he was a brakesman:

- June 1902 – admonished for being careless; a 3rd class coach was derailed at Pontypridd.
- December 1903 – “cautioned for neglecting to give a signal to the driver”; damage to the brakesvan.
- April 1904 – “suspended 5 days for refusing to go to Police Court to give evidence”.
- November 1904 – cautioned for failing to give a proper signal while manoeuvring carriages in the carriage shed; a broken buffer shell.
- September 1915 – cautioned for releasing automatic brake and not applying sufficient force manually; two vans derailed.

There are several references to Evan in South Wales newspapers. This one is from the *South Wales Star* of 22nd January 1902:

“A man named Thomas Morgan, residing at Ferndale, was brought up charged with travelling without a ticket and insulting passengers in the train on Saturday last. Ticket-collector Evan Skyrmes said that on the arrival of the 6.16 p.m. train on Saturday he saw the defendant descend from the train, but he refused to give up his ticket. He also gave a false name, and on being remonstrated with took off his coat and attempted to strike witness.”

In another case reported in the *Cardiff Times* 12th December 1903, a commercial traveller was accused of defrauding the Taff Vale Railway by not having a ticket for the section of line he was travelling on. Part of the report reads:

“Evan Skyrmes, brakesman on the train, stated that he saw the defendant in a compartment at Merthyr a quarter of an hour before it started. When he was asked for excess from Merthyr at Llandaff the defendant produced a pass and then a third-class ticket, which was out of date.”

But it was during Evan's first job (at Ferndale) that he really hit the headlines. The headline of the *Western Mail* of 18th May 1894 reads: “Attempted Murder at Ferndale”:

“John Bufton, a railway porter, was in custody before Cymmer magistrates charged with attempting to murder another porter Evan Skyrme at Ferndale railway station.”

The *Evening Express* gives more details:

“The evidence showed that the two men were on duty on the day in question, and Bufton came up to the complainant and threatened to push him under the train. After a struggle he got free and reported the incident to the station-master, who cautioned the defendant. The next day, however, Bufton rushed upon Skyrme with an open knife, with which he tried to stab him, saying, ‘I will murder you, and then throw myself under the train’. With difficulty Skyrme got away from the would-be murderer, and lodged a complaint with the police, who forthwith arrested him.”

Bufton was ordered to keep the peace for six months, or, failing that, to be imprisoned for three months with hard labour.

Details of several other Skyrmes indicate the variety of jobs that they held on the railways.

Henry Ward Skyrme (1877–1945) was a cousin of Evan. Born near St Clears. His mother was Barbara née John. By 1901 Ward (as he mostly called himself) had moved to the outskirts of Cardiff where he became a platelayer.

Charles Skyrmes (1854–1951) was a third cousin of Evan Skyrmes. He was born on the Corston estate at Hundleton, a few miles south-west of Pembroke. He started work as a gardener in Monkton, but by 1899 had moved to Pontypridd and was also a platelayer. He was based at Hirwain, another station on the Taff Valley line. Records of The Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants lists his admission to the union in 1907 as a ballast guard. The Society's records show that he received the princely sum of £30 on his retirement on 17th May 1939 (aged 65).

David John Skyrme (1865–1936) was the son of cabinet maker James Skyrme and Martha Richards, and a third cousin of both Evan and Charles above. He was brought up in Pembroke Dock and originally started work as an apprentice in his father's trade. But in October 1881, age 15, he became a railway lad clerk at New Milford (one of the termini of the Great Western in Pembrokeshire) at a salary of £20 per annum. By 1884 his salary had doubled to £40. By 1891 he was based in Corwen in North Wales (then in Merionethshire) as a railway goods clerk. In February 1901 David was appointed stationmaster at Albrighton, a station on the GWR line from Paddington to Birkenhead via Birmingham Snow Hill. He later served at Bala, Dolgelly and Chester.

Ship's Crews

If a person said they worked for Great Western you would assume that they worked on the railways. But this was not necessarily true in the late 19th century. After all, earlier in the century it was Brunel's vision to connect London to New York via railway. This gave rise to the Great Western Steamship Company and its first ship *SS Great Western*. As noted earlier the railway company extended its routes into Wales and to the port at Neyland for connection to Waterford in Ireland, then operated by the shipping company Ford and Jackson. It was the Great Western Railway (Steam Vessels) Act of 1871 that allowed GWR to operate its own ships on this route, which it did from 1872.



The first ship to be built specifically for GWR was *SS Pembroke* built by Laird's of Birkenhead. It started as a paddle steamer in 1880. After an accident in 1895 it was converted to a twin screw ship that started operating in 1896.

It was at March 1895 that GWR records show Peter Skyrme (1872–1954) of Pembroke Dock as a second engineer and a crew member of *SS Pembroke*. His wage was £2 5s a week. Peter's ancestors were from Llangwm on the River Cleddau. He lived only a few streets away from another GWR ship employee named Skyrme.

This was James Skyrme (1876–1945) whose ancestors were from Manorbier. He was a ship's fitter.¹ GWR records

show that in 1907 he enlisted on a GWR ship probably the *SS St David*, one of three ships that operated on the Fishguard – Rosslare route that had started in 1906. His record shows that although he is rated as very good, that he deserted Fishguard 22 Feb 1908! By then he had four children. Perhaps he missed them or simply fell out with his superiors. The 1911 census shows him at home in 66 Meyrick Street, Pembroke Dock, still as a ship fitter, but at the Royal Dockyard.

¹ Similar in nature to that of a shipwright, a ship's fitter worked in iron. There are various reports of demarcation disputes between these two allied trades.

What about Planes?

On a publication on my family website I wrote: “Regrettably the Great Western Company did not get airborne”. How wrong I was! In fact, GWR was the first of the four amalgamated rail companies of the 1920s to take to the air.² In 1933 they started a service between Plymouth and Cardiff, which was later that year extended to Birmingham. Imperial Airways provided the planes and pilots. It was a summer only service and got permission to carry mail. In 1938 they opened a route with Southern Airways

to the Channel Isles. The Big Four railway companies’ ambitions to expand into Europe came to an end when the government-created British European Airways that took over all the railway airlines on 1st April 1947. No Skyrme involvement with the GWR airline while it existed has been found. But you may be more lucky.



² In 1921 there were over 120 British railway companies. These were amalgamated by the Railway Act of 1921 into the ‘big four’ – as well as the Great Western (GWR) the others were the London, Midland and Scottish (LMS), London and North Eastern (LNER) and Southern Railway (SR).

GWR Shareholders

Although few railway shareholders exist, one collection that has survived is for GWR from 1835–1932. It is a set of ledgers detailing all shareholding transactions, other than by simple sale. Since 94% of records relate to inheritance after death it's called the 'Register of Probate and Other Documents'. It has details of 440,000 individuals that include shareholders, executors and legatees. Shareholding in GWR was widespread, with the largest two shareholders around 1900 being the Department of Public Works (1.5%) and Phoenix Insurance Company (0.2%). After the 1889 and 1893 Trust Investment Acts, railway shares were allowed in trust funds, and being regarded as 'blue chip' led to a surge in investments by a wider public in GWR debenture stocks. By 1900 40% of the investors were women, compared to just 11% in the 1840s.

Although several of the Skyrme I found lived in Glamorgan or Monmouthshire, they were all descended from Edward Skyrme (1789–1857) born in Dewsall, Herefordshire and his wife Ann (née) Watkins. So I looked wider and found listed 70 residents of Pembroke Dock, 119 of Pembroke, 206 of Haverfordwest and 286 of Carmarthen. Quite by random I chose two register entries that led to interesting people.

The first was one of the earlier entries – the death of the Revd. Thomas Warren who died on 22nd November 1862. Listed as a “dissenting minister, late of Carmarthen” his executor was Robert Brodie of Guildhall Square and his shares were inherited by Thomas Burdett Warren, Algernon William Warren and William de Gruchy Warren. It turns out he was born in Jamaica, the son of Captain Algernon Warren, who owned a coffee plantation with 70 slaves.

The early register entries do not list share holdings, but later ones do. The one I stumbled upon was for Henry Halford Vaughan of Upton Castle who died on 19th April 1885. The GWR raised capital in many ways, some of which are indicated on his

1/4 1/2 6% Rwd Charge Stk	1212
1/4 1/2 6% Rwd Charge Stk	600
1/4 1/2 6% Rwd Charge Stk	225
1/4 1/2 6% Rwd Charge Stk	100
1/4 1/2 6% Rwd Charge Stk	109

record entry. The Rent Charge Stock was debt raised to pay for rolling stock. Sir Henry Halford Vaughan was a historian, one time Regius professor of History at Oxford University.

Summary

The Great Western Railway would have touched the lives of most of our South Wales ancestors, at least as passengers for which it opened up new horizons in travel. In this article I have used a range of sources that go beyond passengers to those with a closer involvement with the company. Hopefully, you too will find some GWR (and other railway) ancestors of yours using the sources below.

David J Skyrme (3924)

Email: davidskyrme@yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.skyrme.info

Some Sources

The Story of the GWR – www.railwaywondersoftheworld.com/gwr.html

Didcot Railway Centre, ‘The Living Museum of the Great Western Railway’ –

<https://didcotrailwaycentre.org.uk/>

The Great Western Archive – <http://www.greatwestern.org.uk/http://www.greatwestern.org.uk/>

GWR Shareholders Registers 1835–1932 – available with images at

www.findmypast.co.uk/

UK Railway Employment Records, 1833–1958 – <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/1728/>

Railway Employee Injuries and Deaths, 1911–1915 – <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/70855/>

The Railway Accident Archive (details of 9,213 accidents including 667 for GWR) –

<https://www.railwaysarchive.co.uk/>

Railway Accident database, Excel spreadsheet of several sources, 1889–1939) –

<https://www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk/the-accidents/>

Trade Union Membership records – [https://search.findmypast.co.uk/](https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/britain-trade-union-membership-registers)

search-world-records/britain-trade-union-membership-registers

Note

The passenger van photo and poster images are released under Creative Commons Licence CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>.

John Beddoe and the "Breeches Bible"

There are many good reasons for collaborating with other genealogists to research shared ancestry. Sometimes though, one strikes gold and discovers someone who has inherited a precious document or artefact from a shared ancestor. Amongst the items that are most treasured and preserved is the family bible, in which a distant ancestor has carefully noted details of their family. This can include priceless information which is not available in any archival source. This is the story of one such family bible.

For many years I have corresponded with a lady from Utah by the name of Christine Challis. We share descent from John Beddoe of Egremont, Carmarthenshire (1732–1814). He was a member of the Baptist congregation at Rhydwlwym Chapel which stands in a beautiful location on the banks of the Cleddau in Llandissilio. The gravestone of John Beddoe can still be seen there in the churchyard. Christine's ancestor Richard Howell, son of a weaver from Spittal, Pembrokeshire left for America in 1888. My own family lingered for a little longer in Pembrokeshire, before settling in England. Over many years, Christine and I have traced the descendants of John Beddoe, where the survival of records has allowed. A few years ago, she made contact with Charles Morgan, a retired British Army officer, another distant relation. His family had inherited John Beddoe's bible and he supplied us with details of the notes inscribed within.

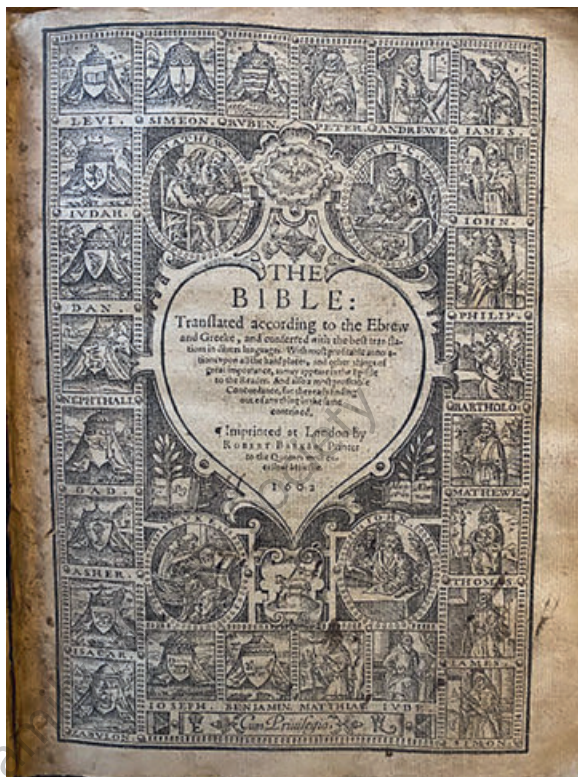
Before going on to the genealogical information, the bible itself has an interesting story. It was already old when it passed into John Beddoe's hands, having been printed in 1602. It is an example of a Geneva bible, first published in 1560. The translation from early Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek manuscripts was completed in Geneva in the 1550s by a group of British exiles and became the primary bible of 16th century English Protestants. It was commonly known as the "Breeches Bible", owing to the translation of Genesis 3:7 which relates to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden:

Then the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed figge tree leaves together, and made themselves breeches.

In the later King James Version bible which became the official bible of the Church of England, the word "breeches" is replaced by "aprons".

The Geneva bible was the first English translation to include verse divisions to facilitate quotations. It was also printed with extensive marginal notes and explanations. These annotations were influenced by Calvinist and Puritanical

ideas and came to be seen as anti-clerical and even republican by the ruling elite in England, especially King James I. It was this that caused James to commission a new translation of the bible. This was first printed in 1611 as the Authorized Version and is commonly known as the King James Bible. The Geneva bible remained popular, even after King James banned it from being printed. Further issues were printed up until 1625 with the spurious date of 1599 placed on the new bibles. With its forceful and vigorous language, the Geneva bible remained popular amongst dissenters and several copies accompanied the Pilgrim Fathers when they sailed to America on the Mayflower in 1620.



It is perhaps not surprising to find a “Breeches Bible” in the hands of a member of a dissenting congregation in Wales in the 18th century. It was likely a prized possession and the contents were no doubt studied frequently. It must have had several owners before John Beddoe and some of them at least inscribed their name within. On one page we find “Mary Hipsly Her Book” with a verse she wrote: “God give her grace therein to look and when the bell for her doth toll, the Lord of Heaven receive her soul”. Below is inscribed “William Blake, his hand 1704”. Mr Blake used the space below for more worldly matters, jotting down a sum of some measurements. There are a number of other letters below which may be the initials of other owners or just doodles but John Beddoe wrote his name in full. It has not been possible to trace the identity of any of the

previous owners of the bible but Hipsly, more commonly spelt Hippiisley points towards the west of England and I suspect that the bible probably came to Wales from Bristol.

We do not know when John Beddoe acquired the bible. The first family information recorded is the birth of his eldest son in 1758. However, this does not necessarily mean that the bible was in his hands at this time: the information could have been entered into the bible after the event. We can be sure though that the bible was in Wales by April 1771. An inscription on one of the pages records that the book was bound at this time by John Harries of Narberth, Schoolmaster, and John Beddoe seems to have owned the book by then.

I will now turn to the genealogical information. We know that John Beddoe was a member of the Rhydwylym congregation at least later in his life. The minister of Rhydwylym, Rev. Thomas Jones was a trustee of his will and John was buried close to the chapel. The registers for Rhydwylym record the admission of his wife Mary to the congregation in 1763. Baptists did not typically practice child baptism. Some chapels did keep registers of births, although not Rhydwylym at this time. This is one of the difficulties faced by those tracing dissenting ancestors. The Beddoe bible records the births of the children of John and Mary Beddoe and also includes dates of baptism for each of them, a short time after their birth. This is likely to have been an Anglican baptism and suggests that the religious affiliation of the family was mixed, or changed over time. John and Mary Beddoe lived at Llwyncelyn farm in the small Carmarthenshire parish of Egremont, on the border with Pembrokeshire. The parish registers for Egremont do not survive before 1813, another common problem for genealogists. It is possible that the babies were taken there, to the now ruined church of Egremont, to be baptised.

Details from the Beddoe family bible:

John Beddoe of Llwyncelin Egremont; Died May 1st 1814 Aged 82 years.

Likewise Mary his wife; Died at Llwyncelin June 3rd 1787 Aged 55 years. Buried at Rhydwylym.

Eldest son: John Beddoe; Born on Thursday 11th January (old style) 1758; Baptised January 14th 1758; Died May 26th 1773 Aged 15 years. Buried at Rhydwylym.

Second son: Evan Beddoe (Excise Officer); Born Friday November 5th 1759; Baptised November 13th 1759.

Eldest daughter: Sarah Beddoe; Born on Saturday February 3rd (old style) 1763; Baptised February 12th 1763; Died June 16th 1827 at 6.30 am Aged 64 years; Buried at Rhydwyilm.

Third son: George Beddoe; Born Tuesday June 21st 1765; Baptised June 30th 1765.

Second daughter: Margaret Beddoe; Born May 24th 1768; Baptised June 4th 1768; Died Feb 28th 1787.

Third daughter: Rosamund Beddoe; Born Monday September 10th 1772; Baptised September 21st 1772; Died at Tregendeg March 27th 1840; Aged 67 years.

By the time John Beddoe died in 1814, just two of his children were still living, his daughters: Sarah and Rosamund. Being the youngest daughter, Rosamund had remained unmarried, living at home with her father. A few months after his death she married John Beynon, a farmer who lived nearby at Tregendeg in the parish of Bletherston. By coincidence, Tregendeg had been the family home of Rosamund's Beddoe ancestors in the 17th century. John and Rosamund both inscribed their names in the family bible. Rosamund was a staunch supporter of the chapel at Rhydwyilm and provided hospitality to visiting preachers at Tregendeg. A detailed eulogy praising her virtues was published in the Welsh language newspaper *Seren Gomer* in 1841. She had no children but had a close relationship with the children of her sister Sarah, who were remembered in her will.

John Beddoe's eldest daughter Sarah was the only one of his six children to have children herself: eight in total. We know that the treasured family bible passed to one of her sons, George Morgan (1793–1863) and then from him to his youngest son George Morgan jnr. (1834–1915). The younger George settled in Carmarthen and became an architect specialising in Chapels. He has been described as the most influential designer of chapels for the Baptists in south Wales. His greatest work was his first commission, the English Baptist Chapel in Carmarthen, which has been described as “one of the most architecturally-ambitious classical chapels in Wales”. The bible is mentioned in a letter written in 1891 to the *South Wales Daily News* by Rev. T. Witton Davies, a tutor at Haverfordwest Baptist College. The excited Davies writes that he had managed to purchase a “Breeches bible”, dated 1610 but that his friend George Morgan, architect had an earlier one dated 1602. He even mentions that it had belonged

to John Beddoe, although inaccurately goes on to say that John was the cousin of Dr Beddoes, a renowned English physician and scientist.

The Breeches bible, which once belonged to John Beddoe is now over 400 years old. This precious artefact has been kept safely by the descendants of his great grandson George Morgan and has now remained in the family for over 250 years. Thanks to this, details of John Beddoe's family have been preserved for his modern-day descendants.

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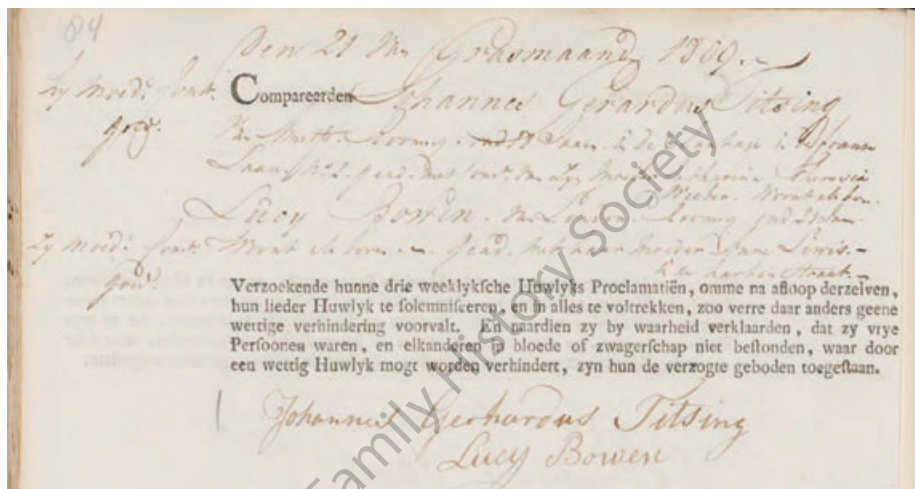
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The Lesser Known Bowens of Nevern

My ancestry search started in 2008, when my mother asked if I could access records in the UK, because from the Netherlands, at the time, it was difficult to access these records and on her journey to discover her ancestors, she had stumbled upon her 3rd great grandfather Johannes Gerardus Tissing (1791–1833) who had married a Lucy Bowen, born in London, England, according to the Dutch records. Lucy Bowen was my 4th Great Grandmother.



The copy of the record my mother found is a form of marriage banns; loosely translated it says something along the lines of:

“The 21 of Grassmonth [May] 1809 ~

Companions Johannes Gerardus Tissing of Amst.[erdam] Roman [Catholic], old 18 years, from The Plantation at De Franse Laan No 2. Under assumption of approval of his mother Catharina Theresia Weber residing here. Lucy Bowen, from London, Roman [Catholic], old 21 years, lives as above. Under assumption of approval of her mother Anne Lewis of Harten Straat.

Request their three weekly marriage banns [marriage proclamations / announcements], after which they wish to solemnise their marriage, and to perform in all, for so far as there are no legal obstacles to do so. And after they declare by truth, that they were free persons, and not found each other in any blood- or lawful relations, for which their marriage would legally be

obstructed, are their requested commandments allowed.” Signed by Johannes Gerhardus Titsing and Lucy Bowen.

Not much else was known about Lucy, only that records of her mother Anne or Anna’s death are available from a Leiden death registry, which states that she passed away on the 13th of January 1836 aged 80 years old. The death register declares that Anna was first married to Owen Bowen and later to Augustus de Witwiski. She was the daughter of William Lewis and Martha Julis [or Julia?] both passed away. I suspect that Martha’s surname is Giles, which if heard in Dutch might sound like Julis.

Lucy Bowen passed away the same year in Amsterdam, on 20th September 1836, aged 46, which may well be a guess by the person who registered her death, since she was 21 in 1809 when she married, which would put her age at 48, so two years older. This would put her date of birth at around 1788, which is more in line with her siblings, although it still leaves a big gap between her and her youngest brother William who was born in 1779, her older brother Thomas Lewis was born in 1778 and her oldest sibling, sister Francis Ann was born in 1776.

Her father was Owen Bowen and this is where my Owen Bowen search started ... Owen and Ann Bowen.

Owen Bowen Junior

Owen Bowen, my 5th great grandfather, I refer to him as Owen Bowen junior, died in Bengal in or around 1790, but he was married to Ann Lewis and they had (at least) 4 children, Frances Ann (1776–?), Thomas Lewis (1778–1830), William (1779–1868) and Lucy (1788?–1836), the latter 3 are all mentioned in Owen Bowen’s 5-pages Will and Final Testament that we have found.

I wouldn’t be surprised if there are other children between William and Lucy’s birth, since there is such a large age gap (1779 to 1788) and it also wouldn’t surprise me if Lucy was born earlier, I’ve been in contact with some distant cousins and we think she was possibly born in 1786 or earlier, we have yet to find evidence of her year of birth. I also still have to transcribe Owen Bowen jr’s will which at 5 pages long is quite a job.

Owen Bowen (jr), was a Diamond Merchant in London and travelled to Bengal to mine for diamonds, which is sadly where he died young in 1790, Lucy must have been an infant at his death. Owen jr. was ‘sent to London’ for an apprenticeship with John Francis Bourrelier, a jeweller, at Arundel St,

St Clement Danes, London, on 7 November 1763. Owen would have completed his apprenticeship in the mid/late 1770s. Sadly other than one line on an apprenticeship's pay record, we cannot find any information on John Francis Bourrelier, jeweller in London at that time.

Owen Bowen of Ambleston – a brick wall

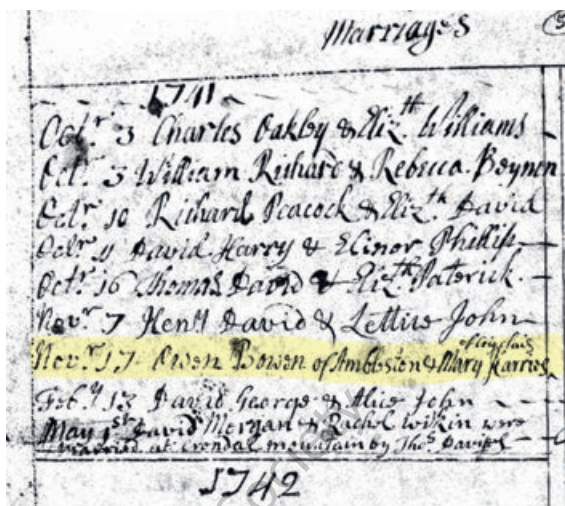
Owen Bowen senior, as I refer to him, was my 6th Great Grandfather.

I had found records of him as Owen Bowen of Ambleston, being married to Mary Harries of Crygglas [Crug Glas], daughter of Samuel Harries. The Harries family was easy enough to find, but I really got stuck on Owen Bowen of Ambleston, so much that last year in February Half Term we booked a trip to Pembrokeshire to see if we could find him. It just so happened that there was a meeting of the Dyfed Family History Society that week on the Wednesday, so I thought to pop in. I was advised to come earlier and book in with the archives, which I did and it was the best thing for breaking down that brick wall.

The Bowens of Llwyngwair? Nah, not my Bowens

Arriving at the archives I was made to feel very welcome and was greeted with a book by Dillwyn Miles, a little red book with a photo of a grand stately home on the cover with the title *Llwyngwair*. My immediate reaction was “No, that’s not my Bowens, I’m looking for miners, someone who has evolved from maybe coal mining into gold mining and his son landed in the jewellery and diamond trade, not a family from a stately home. Besides, he was from Ambleston, not Llwyngwair ...”

Yes, it took some convincing that my family could be related to the Bowens of Llwyngwair. It took some explaining of local knowledge of the Harries of Crug Glas and Trefacwn, being large land owners and tenants in large parts



LLWYNGWAIR



DILLWYN MILES

of Pembrokeshire, and as such would not just let their sons and daughters marry into just any family; landed gentry married into landed gentry, and so, my ancestor who married Mary Harries, daughter of Samuel Harries of Crug Glas, had to be of a family of standing.

Showing me an old document of the Harries family tree, which listed Mary's marriage to Owen Bowen as well as Owen junior and his sister Alicia or Alice, and finding Mary Harries' will online brought me to the realisation that I must be somehow descended from the Bowens of Llwyngwair ... but how? Where does Owen Bowen of Ambleston fit in? To date, no records

have turned up that show any link to Ambleston, no stately homes or important farms. So parking that for now, I looked at the details on Mary Harries' will and that turned up some interesting information.

Glanduad Fawr

As we know from records that Mary Stephens née Harries, daughter of Samuel Harries of Crug Glas, widow of Owen Bowen of Ambleston, my 6th grandmother, died at Glanduad Fawr, Meline, Pembrokeshire in 1799. Owen Bowen senior died young in 1751, only nine years after they married and both Owen junior and Alice were born at this time. Mary remarried to James Stephens as mentioned before and they had at least 3 daughters; Ann, Esther and Grace. Mary's will was signed by two Bowens, one a James Bowen, Clerk, and the other M. Bowen of Penybenglog.

Owen Bowen jr. was the son of Mary Harries and Owen Bowen (Senior) and we have since found records that Glanduad Fawr was left to Owen jr, after his father died. Owen jr, sold Glanduad Fawr to his mother's second husband, James Stephens, for £1,000. Both Esther and Grace inherited Glanduad Fawr.

We stayed at Glanduad Fawr over Autumn half term last October 2024, as it is now a holiday rental for up to 12 guests, and we visited Nevern Church and the graveyard in search of the Bowens.

Before we went I had contacted Steve, who does tours of Nevern Church, who pointed me to another book by Dillwyn Miles, who wrote the book



Glanduad Fawr as it stands today

Llwyngwair. This other publication *A Book on Nevern* has a section about fifteen of the roughly twenty two gentry residences and their residents, as written by George Owen of Henllys, which tells me the relatives who lived at Glanduad Uchaf before and including at that time in 1603–1604. We now know Glanduad Uchaf is an alternative name for Glanduad Fawr, as are Glandead, Glandyad and Llandyad.

From this I know now that Owen ap Mathias ab Owen of Ricardston ('Treicert or Treickart or Dre Eckert?') was the first 'Bowen' to live at Glanduad, by marriage to Margaret daughter of Rhydderch Warren'.

Rhydderch Warren was the son of Llywellyn, and Llywellyn was the son of Gwilym ap Rhys ap Rhydderch. This Rhys ap Rhydderch owned Cemgloyn, Crugiau Isaf, Penybenglog and Glanduad Uchaf. Penybenglog and Glanduad were passed through the male line to Gwilym and Llywellyn and then split between Llywellyn's two sons, Penybenglog to David ap Llywellyn and Glanduad to Rhys ap Llywellyn.

From Rhys ap Llywellyn it went to his daughter and heir, Morfydd who married Rhydderch Warren. Margaret Rhydderch Warren then married Owen ap Mathias ab Owen of Ricardston.

The link to Bowen of Llwyngwair

Owen ap Mathias ab Owen was the son of Mathias ab Owen ap Llywellyn of Pentre Ifan and Jonet, daughter of John ap Harri of Gumfreston, this makes Mathias a brother of Sir James Bowen of Pentre Ifan and Llwyngwair, knight. They had at least two more siblings; Elizabeth and Thomas Bowen of Trellwyn. From records it would seem James was the eldest born, then Elizabeth, Mathias and Thomas.

Sir James ab Owen of Pentre Ifan, knighted for his support of Henry Tudor in the War of the Roses, acquired Llwyngwair from the Cole family, who were said to have come with the Normans, for his heir by his second wife, Mary Herle, and they also had a son Mathias, who was their heir and inherited Llwyngwair.

Pentre Ifan was inherited by the descendants of James' first wife, Jane Perron of Caerforiog, nr Solva. They had at least eight children, their first born son William died young, so either their second son, William the Younger (wen ingaf?) or John or Owen who were born after them, took on Pentre Ifan.

I'm really confused about the dates noted for these people, because the Book on Nevern and other sources state that Sir James Bowen of Pentre Ifan and Llwyngwair was awarded and given a knighthood for his part in helping Henry Tudor, who landed at Dale on 8 August 1485, get to Bosworth Field. The battle of Bosworth took place on 22 August 1485, so numerous reports of James having been born around 1480 or 1485 seem highly unlikely. It then makes

many other dates I've found online very much skewed, so I have not included them here. My guess is that he was born closer to 1450 and his parents, Owen ap Llywellyn of Pentre Ifan and Jonet ap John ap Harri of Gumfreston



Pentre Ifan – the old Bowen homestead would have stood in exactly this place in a similar configuration

around 1420, which makes sense when researching the Gumfreston line, which puts Jonet at born around 1425.

From Owen ap Llywelyn of Pentre Ifan via Mathias Bowen of Treicert (Ricardston) to the Bowens of Glanduad Fawr, Meline to Amsterdam to Aylesbury

Having done more research on Glanduad Fawr when we were visiting and the documents that the new owners have managed to find in the Welsh Archives, using various versions of the excellent books *The Francis Jones Historic Pembrokeshire Homes and their Families*; I have managed to trace back all the Bowens of Glanduad Fawr and linking them to the Bowens of Llwyngwair and Pentre Ifan. From here on we can follow a lot of historical family trees linking the Bowens of Pentre Ifan with Gwynfardd Dyfed and his son Cuhelyn Fardd. So my direct line of descent is as follows:

Owen ap Llywelyn of Pentre Ifan 1420?–1500 (14th great-grandfather)
Mathias ab Owen of Treceirt/Ricardston about 1454? – (13th great-grandfather)
Owen ap Mathias ab Owen of Treickart / Ricardston abt. 1510–
(12th great-grandfather)
Thomas Bowen of Glanduad Uchaf abt. 1550– (11th great-grandfather)
Ievan ab Thomas ab Owen of Glanduad Uchaf abt. 1580– (10th
great-grandfather)
John Bowen abt. 1622– (9th great-grandfather)
Owen ‘John’ Bowen Of Llandyad, Meline abt. 1654– (8th great-grandfather)
Evan Bowen abt. 1686–1742 (7th great-grandfather)
Owen Bowen abt. 1720–1751 (6th great-grandfather)
Owen Bowen abt. 1745–1790 (last born Bowen at Glanduad Fawr, 5th
great-grandfather)
Lucy Bowen abt. 1788–1836 (born in London, married a Titsing in
Amsterdam, 4th great-grandmother)
Thomas Lewis Titsing 1810–1888 (3rd great-grandfather)
W. B. Titsing 1843–1922 (Great-great-grandfather)
C. Titsing 1880–1957 (Great-grandfather)
H. Titsing (private) (Grandfather)
R. Titsing (private) (Mother)
Nicolette Smith

Nicolette Smith (42411)

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Help Needed

Tracing Relatives in Llanelly

MY GREAT, GREAT GRANDPARENTS, John and Mary THOMAS lived at Llanychaer, near Fishguard, Pembrokeshire. John was a master carpenter.

Mary's parents were Ebenezer and Marha LEWIS of Llanychaer Mill, Ebenezer was a miller. John and Mary had 12 children and two of their sons moved to Llanelly for work.

1. Lewis Thomas 1847–1912 married Mary OWENS (1848–1899) and they had 5 children. On the 1911 census the family lived at 15 Ralph Terrace, Llanelly. Lewis was by then 64 years old, a widower and a mason. His daughter Annie Thomas was 19 years old and a milliner. Daughter Martha was 35, married to John BOWEN (39), a carter for a local grocer, he was born in Laugharne parish. They had 5 children born but only 4 living by 1911. Martha had died about 1899 and another son John Owen Thomas died about 1892. Lewis Thomas dies 7 February 1912 at 15 Ralph Terrace, Llanelly.
2. Ebenezer Thomas (1850–1901), married Hannah CLEMENT (1853–1934) in Llanelly. On the 1901 census they lived at 77 Dilwyn Street, Llanelly. Ebenezer was 50, married and a carpenter. His wife Hannah was 48, born in Llanelly. They had 4 children: Willliam, Kate, David and Thomas.

Anyone with connections to this Thomas family please get in touch.

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Does anyone know John P Thomas?

MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER, John P. Thomas, was born in Capel Iwan, Carmarthenshire, in 1873. I have included a brief biography below. My grandparents paid a visit to Wales in 1953 and met with distant relatives on his mother's side. The following is a list of names of those with whom they met in 1953, and I would be very interested to connect with any of their descendants:

- Sam Thomas (Newcastle Emlyn)
- Stephen Williams (Penlangarreg Farm)

- Ben Jones, Gladys Jones and Kenneth (Newcastle Emlyn)
- Mrs. Mair Evans (née Thomas) (Boncath Post Office)
- Rev. and Mrs. Aled Jones (Amgoed, Whitland)
- Mrs. Edith Anslugh and Carol Davis (Henllan)
- Mrs. Gladys Jones (and Ray and Ivor Phillips N.C. Emlyn)
- Mr. and Mrs. Gwyn Jones (Newcastle Emlyn)
- Samuel James & Rosalind (Penrherber)
- Johnny Jenkins and Hannah, Llinos and Myfanwy (Boncath)
- Freddy Jenkins and Doris (Boncath)
- Ivor Phillips and Ray (Penrherber)
- John Harries and Lizzie, Penboy (Llandysul)

I am also interested in finding any descendants of the following individuals, who were my great-grandfather's first cousin, uncle, and grandfather, respectively:

Samuel Thomas, b. 1874 in Cilrhedyn

- married to Elizabeth (b. 1846), occupation listed as agricultural laborer
- Residences: 1881 – Cilrhedyn; 1901 – East Cilrhedyn, residence name Bank; 1911 – Pantyrhaidd, Brongwyn, Newcastle Emlyn, with wife Elizabeth, and children David John (1898), Hannah Sophia (1900), Mary Ann (1903), Ellen Catherine (1906), Lizzie Rachel (1907), Sarah Jane (1908)

David Thomas, b. 19 Jun 1847 in Cilrhedyn

- Agricultural laborer; Married to Anna Thomas (b. abt 1842)
- David and Anna's children: Rachel (b. 1868), John (b. 1870), Samuel (b. 1874), Benjamin (b. 1878), Catherine (b. 1880), Mary (b. 1883), Anna (b. 1886)
- Residences: 1851 – Cwm Tyddyn; 1871 – Llyws Celyn (?); 1881 – Rhiw Las; 1891 – Plasau No. 1; 1901 – Lodge Morlogws Uchaf; 1911 – Lodge Morlogws Uchaf, East Cilrhedyn (widowed, living with daughter Catherine and her son David John, age 4)

John Thomas, b. 1811 in Cilrhedyn

- Son of Anna Thomas, father's name not known; occupation: agricultural laborer/road laborer
- Married to Catherine (b. 1818, d. 1874)
- Residences: 1841 – “over the cow house” (by Glaspant), 1851 – Cwm Tyddyn; 1861 – 1881 – Clwb
- John's Siblings: Margaret Thomas, b. 5 Aug 1806; Benjamin Thomas, b. 11 Jun 1813; Esther Thomas, b. 19 Jan 1817; Rachel Thomas, b. 2 Oct 1820

Brief biography of John P. Thomas

My great-grandfather, John P. Thomas, was born at Clwb, Capel Iwan (near Newcastle Emlyn), in November 1873 to Rachel Thomas and an unknown father. Earlier that year (January 1873), at the age of 22, Rachel left her chapel at Capel Iwan and was admitted to the Independent Chapel in Carmarthen. There she resided in the house of one R.M. Davies (possibly Richard Morgan Davies, a chemist and Druggist in town). She would have become pregnant shortly after moving to Carmarthen. Before the end of that year, she left the Carmarthen chapel by certificate and was admitted back to the chapel at Capel Iwan by letter. She gave birth to her son in November 1873.

The identity of John P.'s father is not known. The father's name is not listed on the birth certificate and baptism records have not been found. We know that the father's last name began with the letter "P".



Rachel Thomas b. 1850

John P. Thomas was raised at Clwb by his mother Rachel and Rachel's father, also named John Thomas. When he was a boy John P. started apprenticing to be a carpenter. As a young man he lived at "Plyg-y-rhiw" near Capel Iwan. His boyhood friend, John David Williams (b. 1875, Penlangarreg, Capel Iwan) apprenticed in carpentry with him and they later moved to Nottingham (in 1897) where they married sisters, Charlotte and Emmeline Harris. Both families immigrated to South Dakota. John P. immigrated to the US with his wife, three children and mother Rachel in 1915.

I came across *The Glaspant Diary 1896: A Chronicle of Carmarthenshire Country Life* by Leslie Baker-Jones, which is a transcription of the 1896 diary of Henry Williams Lloyd Howell (1872–1916), who lived at the Glaspant estate in Capel Iwan. The diary is an interesting picture of daily village life. Rachel and John P. are mentioned in the diary multiple times, particularly regarding the harassment and assault they faced from a local resident. This conflict may have played a part in their departure from Wales (to England in 1897, and later the US).

After moving to Ipswich, South Dakota, John P. Thomas was active in civic life, including as a member of his library board, city council, and the board of trustees of his church. According to a 1918 issue of *Y Drych*, he and his brother-in-law were in great demand as builders of houses and barns throughout the area. He passed away in 1945 at age 75.

Before John P. Thomas' time, the Thomas family lived at Cwm Tyddyn, near Cilrhedyn/Capel Iwan, in 1851. In 1841, Rachel's father (also named John Thomas) lived at a residence near Glaspant, an estate in the area. His occupation is listed as "agricultural laborer." John Thomas' mother Anna (b. abt. 1778) lived with him and is listed in the 1841 and 1851 census. Anna was listed as a widow in the 1841 census, and no information is known about her husband's identity.



John P Thomas (seated)

I would be interested in connecting with anyone who might have more information about the family, or any suggestions for further research, particularly regarding the Capel Iwan/Cilrhedyn area.

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Ezer Davies Memorial Card

SOMETIME DURING last year at an antique and collectables fair, I purchased a memorial card which has been placed on a special mount in a picture frame. The card reads as follows:

Er cof anwyl am Ezer Davies, 18 Hill Street, Aberaman, yr hwn a fu farw Gorph 2^{ail} 1902, yn 45 mlwydd oed. Claddwyd ef yn Mynwent Llwynyrhwrdd, Gorph 6^{ed} 1902

Translation: In loving memory of Ezer Davies, 18 Hill Street, Aberaman, who died July 2nd 1902, aged 45 years and who was buried at Llwynyrhwrdd Cemetery on the 6th July 1902.

On researching for Ezer Davies and his family, I quickly established that Ezer was not a native of Aberaman, but was from Pembrokeshire. There follows what I have been able to discover about him.

Ezer was born in 1857, the son of William Davies and his wife, Sarah nee Lewis, of Ffynnon Gaseg in the parish of Clydey, Pembrokeshire. His birth was registered (as Ebenezer Davies) in the June Quarter of 1857 in the registration district of Newcastle Emlyn. No baptism record has been found.

On the 24th September 1874 at the Parish Church of Penrith with Castellan, Ezer marries Mary Davies, the daughter of Benjamin Davies and his wife Anna nee Jones, of Llangenau Fach in the parish of Penrith, Pembrokeshire. The marriage register states that they were both 'of full age', but Ezer was only 17 and Mary was about 20!

Fast forward to the 1911 Census for 18 Hill Street, Aberaman, where although by now a widow, Mary Davies has stated on the Census form that there were 12 children from the marriage of which 9 are still alive in 1911 and 3 have died. I have only been able to find 10, namely Benjamin c1874, Sarah Ann c1876, Anna c1879, David c1881, James c1883, John c1885, Margaret c1887, Mary Jane c1888, Elizabeth Ada c1891 and Martha May c1894.

Martha May is the only child born in Aberaman, the others in Pembrokeshire with their birthplace varying between, Clydey, Penrith and also Llanfyrnach. As a family therefore they left Pembrokeshire for Aberaman sometime between the birth of Elizabeth Ada in 1891 and Martha May in 1894.

And that is as far as I have gone. I am struggling in my attempt to establish what became of the children. Although I have found several possibilities for some of the children but cannot find definite proof that I have the right person

Therefore, I am wondering if any member of Dyfed Family History Society would have any knowledge of this family or even be descendants. Any information would be gratefully appreciated.

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Members Interests

(This list contains the details of new members interests added since the last journal was printed)

Member	Surname	Forenames	Occupation	Place	County	Country	Event	From	To
78618	Davies	David	Ag labourer	Llanarthney	Carms	Wales	Son birth	1838	1838
78618	Davies	David	Ag Labourer	Llanarthney	Carms	Wales	1841 census	1841	1841
78618	Davies	Archibald	Miner	Aberdare	Glam	Wales	Marriage	1854	1854
78618	Davies	Archibald	Son of David	Llanarthney	Carms	Wales	1841 census	1841	1841
78618	Jones	Anne	Wife David Davies	Llanarthney	Carms	Wales	Son birth	1838	1838
78618	Davies	Anne	Wife of David	Llanarthney	Carms	Wales	1841 census	1841	1841
78618	Edwards	Margaret	Servant	Aberdare	Glam	Wales	Marriage	1854	1854
78618	Edwards	Benjamin	Miner	Carmarthen	Carms	Wales	Birth	1800	1805
73775	Prydderch	Rhys	Independent minister Schoolmaster	Ystradwallter	Carms	Wales		1605	1699
73775	James	Benjamin		Llandingat	Carms	Wales		1750	1820
73775	Jones	David	"The Welsh Freeholder"	Llanwrda	Carms	Wales		1765	1816
73775	Jones	John	Welsh Unitarian Minister	Llandingat	Carms	Wales		1766	1827
73775	Jones	Ebenezer	Independent Minister	Llandingat	Carms	Wales		1768	1829
73775	Williams	William	Hymnist	Llanfair-ar-y-bryn	Carms	Wales		1717	1791
1546	Llewellyn				Pembs	Wales	Any		1850

1546	Hancock					Pembs	Wales	Any		1850
82445	Istance									
46359	Lloyd	Charles Henry	Ironmonger		Pembroke Dock	Pembs	Wales	Life	1856	
46359	Lloyd	Maria			Pembroke Dock	Carns	Wales		1849	1915
46359	Lloyd	William Morgan			Pembroke Dock	Pembs	Wales		1876	1936
46359	Lloyd	John G F			Pembroke Dock	Pembs	Wales		1878	1961
46359	Lloyd	Albert Edward	Farmer		Manorbier	Pembs	Wales		1881	1964
46359	Lloyd	Charles Henry	Butcher		Pembroke Dock	Pembs	Wales		1879	1931
46359	Lloyd	Frank Freeman							1883	
46359	Lloyd	Walter Benjamin	Chemist		Pembroke Dock	Pembs	Wales		1884	1964
46359	Lloyd	Sidney Mervyn	Farmer		Manorbier	Pembs	Wales		1890	1966
46359	Lloyd	Morgan Llewellyn	Butcher		Pembroke Dock	Pembs	Wales		1892	1964
46359	Lloyd	Ernest Gwynne	Butcher		Pembroke Dock	Pembs	Wales		1886	1957
46359	Lloyd	Frederick Freeman	Journalist		Haverfordwest	Pembs	Wales		1859	1953
46359	Lloyd	William			Haverfordwest	Pembs	Wales		1820	1884
46359	Lloyd	Jane			Bosherston	Pembs	Wales		1818	1873
2335	Bowen	John	Tenant farmer		Ffynnoncynll Farm	Carns	Wales	Burial	1793	1882
2335	Bowen	Richard	Tenant farmer		Kilgetty Farm	Pembs	Wales	Burial	1835	1932
94245	John	Jacob				Pembs				

17545	Prickett					Pembs				1900
67589	Rees	John	Woolweaver		Betws	Carms	UK	Birth	1789	1795
62894	Bowen				Brynberian					
87732	Badger	David				Carms		Death		1852
87732	Morgan									
87732	Badger	John	Collier		Pembrey	Carms			1851	
87732	Badger	John			Llanelli	Carms		Birth	1820	1822
87732	Badger	John Morgan			Llan	Carms		Birth	1850	
87732	Badger	Mary Alice			Llanelli	Carms		Birth	1853	
48445		Gambold						Any	Any	Any
15159	Roberts	Rees	Shoemaker		Llangadog	Carms	Wales	Lived	1817	1885
15159	Harris	Ann	Shoemaker wife		Llanboidy	Carm	Wales	Lived	1824	1891
5023	Richards	John	Master Marinerr		Pwll	Carms			1833	1870
5064	Jenkins	Thomas	Gentleman farmer		Llanfihangel-ar-arth	Carms	Wales	Death	1772	
58899	Thomas/ Davies	Evan	Ag Lab		Llandyssiliogo	Cardi	Wales		1806	1884
58899	Davies	David	Ag Lab		Llanarth	Cardi	Wales		1838	1911
5453	Barrah				Langwm					
5453	Medwell	William	Cape Horner & Shipwright		Swansea & PD				1863	1927
5453	Richards				Burton & Freystrop				1820	1900
53641	Howells				Martlerwy	Pembs	Wales			

63326	James	Jones	Davies							
72826	Watts	Thomas		Marloes			Wales	All	1730	1790
77545	Williams	William	Dairyman	Llanbadarn Fawr			Wales	Marriage	1835	1850
77545	Williams	John	Farmer	Llanbadarn Fawr			Wales	All	1785	1855
16183	James	David	Labourer	Cilgerran			Wales	Birth	1787	1790
15151	Thomas	Rachel		Capel Iwan Cilrhedyn			Wales	Lived	1850	1910
15151	Thomas	David	Farmer	Capel Iwan Cilrhedyn			Wales	Lived	1847	
15151	Thomas	Samuel	Farmer	Cilrhedyn			Wales	Lived	1874	
92948	Davies	Enoch	Farmer	Ystrad			Wales	Marriage	1810	1820
92948	Davies	Ann		Ystrad			wales	Baptism	1817	1820
92948	Davies	Jane		Ystrad			Wales	Baptism	1825	1828
73561	Griffith(s)	Mary and Dan	Ag. Lab.	Llanddewi Felfre			Wales		1821	1914
73561	Griffith(s)	Stephen	Drover	Llanddewi Felfre			Wales		1850	1920
68817	John	Ann	Farmer's daughter	Trimsaron			Wales		1850	1871
68817	Anthony	Mary	Tailor's wife	Pembrey			S.Wales	Marriage	1840	1871
91642	Welch	Mary Anne	Servant	Pembroke			Wales		1840	1870
91642	Davis	John	Labourer	Llanboidy			Wales		1830	1865



Around the Branches



LLANELLI

OUR MARCH meeting featured Debra John, a freelance actress and storyteller, who gave us a truly fascinating insight into the life of Amy Dilwyn (1845–1935). Debra was born and brought up in Swansea, she studied Drama and English at Aberystwyth University.

Amy was born on 16th May 1845 near Swansea, one of four children. Her father, Lewis Dillwyn, was an industrialist and a director of the Great Western Railway. In 1855 he became the Liberal MP for Swansea, a seat he held until his death 37 years later. Amy was brought up in an upper-class household where she was taught by a governess.

At the age of eighteen she became engaged to Llewellyn Thomas, the heir to a coal mining fortune. Sadly, he died of smallpox shortly before the marriage. Not long after his death Amy's mother died and she took over the management of the household. In London Amy met, among others, the politician William Gladstone, and the poets Robert Browning and William Makepeace Thackeray. During this period of her life, she became a close friend with Olive Talbot and the two spent a great deal of time together.

By the end of the decade Amy began to spend more time at Hendrefoilan the family home near Swansea. At Hendrefoilan she began writing novels, her first book being *The Rebecca Rioter*. She also wrote articles for *The Spectator*.

The death of her father in 1892 took her on a different path. At his large funeral she wore a purple skirt and an embroidered jacket arguing that people



Debra John our speaker

frequently were forced into debt by being obliged to wear what could be expensive black mourning clothing.

At this time Amy's life changed again. Her father's business, the Llansamlet Spelter Works was in a dire financial state, the family home became the property of her nephew, and she became homeless. Amy took over the management of the spelter works and moved into lodgings. After a period of years, the works became profitable, and Amy was praised for the work she had done and for improving the lives of those in the community. Her commitment to making the business a success involved her in being very much in charge and required her to operate in a very male dominated workplace. She very much believed in equality of the sexes and comments were frequently made on her style of dressing. She wore plain clothing which was suited to her working environment. In 1901 the *Western Mail* commented on her habit of smoking in public, the following year the newspaper in an article on her as a successful businesswoman, again commented on her style of dress and the fact she smoked.

In addition to her work at the spelter works Amy was involved in a number of organisations committed to improving social care. Amy worked with the Swansea School Board and helped fund raise for the hospital. Amy became more involved in fighting for social justice, improving working conditions for all as well as promoting equal rights for women. When Amy died in 1935 her death was widely reported, and she was recognised a pioneer for women in the industrial workplace. Debra truly made the story of Amy Dilwyn come to life.

No meeting in April as it clashed with Easter.

At our May meeting Graham T Emmanuel, one of our members, gave us a presentation on the use of IT in all it's forms to aid with research into family history. Many of the members have used Ancestry to access their DNA and were interested in finding out if they could use their results on different platforms. Graham kindly explained the process and members left with all the information needed to complete their task. Graham also explained how some of the newer software such as CHAT and Copilot can be used to make searching and presenting information much easier. As some of these software programs are unfamiliar to members it was thought that at a future meeting, we could use Graham's research and have it displayed on large screens where Graham could enable us to see the software in action and perhaps, using our own hardware, do some of our own investigating. Research into family history has changed greatly over the years and it was fascinating to explore new technology. Thank you, Graham.

The June meeting involved members discussing plans to visit the archive in Carmarthen. Some have been before, but others have yet to visit. We set a date for Tuesday 8th July. A discussion then followed on possible speakers for the coming year. A number of suggestions were made, and contact is being made with speakers for the autumn. As is the usual case there won't be a meeting in August.

Linda Martin (5468)

CARDIGAN

THE CASTLE reopened fully to visitors at Easter after opening for a short period at school half term. The visitor numbers depend greatly on the weather. Visitors are from all over the world, some with local connections and others just intrigued by the ancient building in the middle of the town.

We had a well-attended meeting in April where our guest speaker Mr Glen Johnson gave a very interesting talk about the local gentry house called Priory House which became the local Cardigan Hospital.

In May, Mr Emyr Phillips spoke about Ffynone Mansion. This was a John Nash design and is one of the finest gentry houses in the area. Home to the Colby family and until recently, the grandson of David Lloyd George PM.

Our final speaker before our summer break was Mr Huw Thomas, Curator of maps at the National Library of Wales. He introduced a number of techniques using maps, that he had used himself while researching his family tree, which was of interest to many of us.

The MI search project is near completion with Cardiganshire and Pembrokeshire ready for members to search. Carmarthenshire is progressing well and will be available soon.

We continue in assisting the local history group in scanning and transcribing the Barbara Wood letters. She was the last private owner of the castle. This is a long-term project, and it will take some time to complete. We support the Castle in their activities by stewarding some of their events and as guides to the visitors and other groups. We have begun our MI recording season with our first cemetery, The Public Cemetery at Newport Pembs. And have several sites earmarked for this summer.

Ken James

CARMARTHEN

APOLOGIES are in order! I don't know what happened to the report from the Carmarthen branch for inclusion in the last issue, however, I will update now!

It has been a quiet year, we held the A.G.M. as usual in January (see April journal report). Our February meeting took the form of a members meeting. Betty brought along a large chart showing great detail of her family tree. We discussed DNA testing, I have a friend who discovered close family in America after DNA tests, they have since met. I have found family through posts on good old Facebook! We were just six members present.

Our speaker in March was Rev. Mary Thorley. This was a most interesting talk, as it concerned a family member, local man, who Mary decided to research further. Mr Davies, as most of us recognised, a local insurance collector, this was the case many years ago! He is remembered as a quiet, unassuming man, always very pleasant. However, his war story was told by Mary, and it turned out he had been through very hard years. We were seven members present, plus two friends.

Our meeting on April 30th was a tour of Newton House, the NT property in Llandeilo. We were taken on a tour of the house, which was very informative. Unfortunately, we were just four members, plus two friends. Some members were unable to be with us due to illness.

We did not meet in May, mainly due to holidays. The June meeting had to be postponed and rearranged for September 24th, the speaker will be Simon from the Ferryside lifeboat. It is not easy to find speakers, as we are so few in number. Attendances at our meetings are very low, but there is enthusiasm from the ones that do attend.

Janet Slate (6020)

ONLINE DISCUSSION GROUP

IN OUR MARCH meeting we were able to provide local knowledge and advice to one of our American members who was planning a research trip to Wales in May. The following month we highlighted useful book resources and helped with various queries including the location of the property belonging to the ancestor of one of our London based members.

In our May meeting one of our newer members, Nicolette Smith, took us on

her journey of discovery from the Netherlands to Nevern following her Bowen ancestors. A West Wales family venturing to London and further afield.

Denise Beddows used her experience in border control to give us a very interesting talk in June on facial recognition and how to apply it to identifying family members. We will all be checking the alignment of ears and eyes to help track our ancestors in old family photos.

July and August will be an opportunity for our new members to introduce themselves and ask for advice with their family research. Even with all the records available on the internet, local knowledge can be key to confirming or disregarding information.

Lined up for September and October is Pat Hoode Williams talking about her Cardigan family and Bruce Smith on Drover roads in West Wales.

If you would like to join us please tick the box Online Discussion Group box in “My Details” under your DFHS login. Similarly, if you wish to unsubscribe then untick the box and it will remove your name from this specific mailing list. Doing that will not remove you from your DFHS general membership list.

Rosaleen Boardman (6495)

HAVERFORDWEST

THERE WAS no meeting in January, but February saw us back with a talk on FREEBMD and the GRO which seemed to go down well and invoked much discussion and sharing of other sources.

March was our usual Afternoon at the Archives with a slight twist as the Archives asked us to participate in a photography session, the idea is that the photographs will showcase the Archives work and their interaction with the public which we were happy to participate in. As yet the photos have not appeared on their website, but they were featured on their Facebook page on 9 June “Archives Day” – we must find out from Joan what had tickled her fancy in her research!

In April we had a fascinating talk from Angela Probert Jones on Gumfreston and its people, she managed to bring the village and surrounding area to life with stories of the many families and properties in the area, many thanks to Angela.

In May we were treated to a brief introduction to Colin Potter's family tree; from the 5 years it took for him to find his father's birth certificate to his wonderful granny Alice who was a remarkable woman of her time and nothing like the little old lady that Colin knew in his younger years. I will be encouraging Colin to write this one up for the Journal so that you can all enjoy his research.

June saw us back in the Archives for an afternoon of research. Unfortunately, the July trip was unable to go ahead and August we do not meet anyway so our next meeting will be in September where we will be back in the Archives once again.

Cate Hobbs (2872)

UPPER TOWY VALLEY

OUR SPEAKER for February was Terry Norman, who gave us an illustrated talk on "The Bridges of Llandeilo."

The first known bridge was built in the 1500s and lasted until 1798 when it collapsed after a flood, though it is likely the Romans would have built a bridge for their military fort of 500 soldiers in Dinefwr Park. Dressed stone and bricks from the Roman era have been found in the Towy. The first mention in writing of a bridge in Llandeilo is 1570 – "a fine stone bridge" by William Lambarde, 1536–1601, a lawyer, M.P., historian and traveller who wrote the first history of an English county – Kent – in 1570. Elizabeth I made him keeper of the Records of the Tower of London. Rhys ap Thomas, as the richest man in South Wales was probably responsible for the building of the bridge, possibly before 1525.

Nicholas Pocock painted Llandeilo's original seven-arch bridge in 1789. Further away from the church, its slim pillars would be vulnerable to flood water. Turner also painted the bridge, in 1795, showing two supports had been washed away. A year later M.A. Rooker's painting shows another support had gone and the bridge collapsed completed in 1798.

A temporary ferry was used until the new bridge was built in 1803. A view of the Towy Valley and Llandeilo painted by L.G. Wood in 1812 shows this bridge and an engraving in 1814 by Emilius Nicholson shows its three main arches. Cottages in the engraving, such as The Dell, are still recognisable today and Moreb House, built by Lord Cawdor's agent in 1816 can be seen above the right-hand end of the bridge in a contemporary drawing.

Concerns were voiced about safety and the mother and daughter of Dr. Williams, surgeon to the Derwydd family, returning from church in 1840 were killed at the bridge. After the 1846 flood a hole seven foot deep appeared under the north-east pier and the road sagged visibly. In his diary, kept for forty years and now in the National Library of Wales, Thomas Jenkins said the ancient spandrel was cracked right through.

The new bridge was built by first erecting a wooden form and putting precisely cut stones on the arch with a keystone in the centre to lock everything into place to take the weight of the bridge with its traffic. Terry showed us a video of a garden arch being built to illustrate this. In 1848 the form was washed away by floods and had to be rebuilt. Its huge oak planks were found in the mud under Llandeilo Bridge and given to carpenter Alwyn Williams of Llangadog who used them to make the bardic chair for the Llandeilo Eisteddfod of 1996.

At the age of 33, Thomas Jenkins was involved in building the new bridge. He was a carpenter, coffin maker, mason and foreman at the bridge, responsible for scaffolding. He designed a crane and a machine to measure the hardness of the stone, and appointed the subcontractors. Good quality stone was obtained from Cilrychen kilns but in 1847 a quarry was opened up in the churchyard. In 1848 it gave way and buried five men, one of whom died. The original tender was £6,000. The bridge was eventually built for £20,000. The keystone was placed on 25th November, 1847 but the weight of the masonry caused stress and three days later the centre was carried away. It was completed in 1848. A plaque commemorates the hundredth anniversary of this 145 foot single arch bridge. A straight road was built to avoid the hump-backed nature of previous bridges. The original twelfth century medieval church was demolished, and a new church was built in 1850. At the time the bridge carried only carts, animals and pedestrians. A 1910 photograph in the National Library by D. C. Harries of Llandeilo shows sheep being herded over the bridge. It was the longest single span bridge in Wales at the time and is still the third longest in Britain.

Another of Llandeilo's bridges is the Swing Bridge. The first footbridge was built in 1857 by the Stepney Gulstone family to connect rail passengers from Ffairfach to Llandeilo station. The railway bridge was built in 1856 and the Swansea to Shrewsbury trains reached Llandovery in 1858.

From 1864 to 1964 Llandeilo also had a line to Carmarthen, through Llanarthney and Abergwili. The Llanelli Dock Company's railway reached Pontardulais in 1838, Pantyffynnon in 1840 and Tirydail in 1841, going through

Mackay's Crossing to Pontlash, Blaenau, Caerbryn and Penygroes to Cross Hands in 1850. Our very grateful thanks to Terry for such an interesting talk.

In March Noel Rees of Llanelli spoke to us on "Entertainment – Misty Memories". Noel began by showing us a memento – a souvenir piece of the revolving stage of the London Palladium which was in operation from 1937 to 2002.

Leslie A. MacDonald ran the Palladium. He was from Llanelli, and went to school with Noel's father, as did Sir Tom O'Brien of the National Association of Technical and Cinematographic Employees. He was a cinema projectionist and Secretary of the Union for the whole country, later becoming M.P. for Leicester. A link with Llandovery is that actor Peter Penry Jones, husband of Angela Thorne from "To the Manor Born", attended Llandovery College. For some years Noel put on productions at Pantycelyn School.

Eleanor Daniels, born in Llanarthney and brought up in the Fountain Inn, Thomas Street, Llanelli, for some time was the world's oldest living actress. She was made a member of the Gorsedd of the National Eisteddfod and acted in productions on Broadway during the silent film era. She encouraged Welsh and Welsh language drama and died at the age of 107. Her co-star, Gareth Hughes, from Dafen in Llanelli, was a leading man in Hollywood films. In 1941 he became a missionary and was known to the Native Americans of Nevada as Father David. He returned briefly to Wales in 1958 but died in America in 1965.

Dorothy Squires of Pontyberem worked in the steelworks and sang in nightclubs. She was taken on by Charlie Kunz, later becoming associated with bandleader Billy Reid. They opened and ran the Astoria in Llanelli, but the licence of the bar was given to someone else who made all the money. Dorothy was involved in a number of legal cases but she found success at the London Palladium. She was married for sixteen years to Roger Moore who paid for her blue plaque in Llanelli after she died in poverty after being taken in and looked after by a fan in the Rhondda.

A son of the jewellers in Llanelli was Ronnie Cass, a screenwriter who composed a number of musicals, such as "Summer Holiday". Next door to Noel lived a Russian Jewish family, whose son was Donald Swann – half of the duo Flanders and Swan.

Actress Rachel Roberts was the daughter of a minister of one of the Llanelli Chapels. She was married first to actor Alan Dobie then to Rex Harrison. Actor Clifford Evans, who tried hard to establish a National Theatre of Wales, ran a repertory company in the Grand in Swansea.

As a pupil at the Graig, Noel's Headmaster, Stan Rees, told him he and his wife thought Noel would make a good drama teacher. Noel became a student in London where he saw *Man of La Mancha* with Keith Michell and Olive Gilbert from Carmarthen who was a friend of Auntie Gertie who had been Ivor Novello's maid, and Noel was invited to the matinee and tea afterwards. Stan Rees was formerly Head of Pontardawe Grammar School. Noel spoke to Sian Phillips and found they had a friend in common, Mr Stanley G. Rees; she said, "that is the man who put me on the stage."

Mervyn and Glynis Johns came from Pembrey though originally the family was from Pembrokeshire. The song "Send in the Clowns" was written for Glynis. As a widower, Mervyn Johns lived in Denville Hall, a home for actors, and married actress Diana Churchill. Glynis Johns' ashes are in Jerusalem Chapel in Burry Port. Another star was Donald Peers, from Ammanford, who gained fame with his song "By a Babbling Brook".

Noel told a story regarding Angharad Rees at Richard Burton's memorial service at St. Martin in the Fields in 1985. Noel, on his delayed journey from New York met with an unfortunate incident with Jeyes Fluid. He sat with Robert Hardy and Angharad who said to him, "Noel, I do like your aftershave!" Her father was Lynford Rees, a psychiatrist from Llanelli.

Other local stars include opera singer Dennis O'Neill from Pontardulais who is now coaching in his own opera school, actress and writer Catherine Tregenna and dramatist and screenwriter Juliet Ace, who wrote *East Enders*, both from Llanelli, and John Owen Jones of Burry Port who sang the part of Phantom of the Opera more than anyone else.

Cerys Matthews' father was a doctor in Swansea, and Frankie Howerd used to holiday in Felinfoel where his friend worked for Buckleys Brewery. Both Mary and Noel remembered seeing Laurel and Hardy at the Empire in Swansea. Sybil Thorndyke and her husband Lewis Casson, who was Welsh, toured Britain, putting on plays in many villages. Moira's father remembered seeing Sybil Thorndyke in Caerbryn, near Llandybie. Our grateful thanks to Noel for such an interesting, nostalgic and entertaining talk.

In April we had a fascinating talk on Welsh Suffragettes by Mary Thorley, and our Research Room at the Heritage Centre reopened on Wednesdays and Fridays. Over the Summer we are transcribing the monumental inscriptions at Tabernacle Chapel, Ffairfach.

Moira C. L. Evans (39)

New Members

This list contains the details of new members who joined since the April journal was printed.

Member Number	Member Name	Address	Email Address
91642	Mrs Heather Knights	Mittagong NSW Australia	hknights24@gmail.com
26713	Mr Gerald Allen	Bedford UK	
17545	Mr Leigh Prickett	Franklin Tennessee USA	leighprickett@live.com
78618	Ms Charlotte Ann Sale	Chernside Queensland Australia	charsale10@gmail.com
38966	Mrs Lynne Rees	Bath UK	lynnerees@hotmail.com
29466	Mrs Catheryn Tracey Jones	New Inn Carmarthenshire Wales	J1tcy@aol.com
43838	Mr Clive Llewellyn	Milford Haven Pembrokeshire Wales	clivelllewellyn9@gmail.com
21388	Robert Watkins	Long Ashton Road Bristol UK	bobwatkins10@hotmail.com
92948	Mrs Elizabeth Merron	Leighton Buzzard Bedfordshire UK	
18129	Mr Adrian Martin	Weston super Mare Somerset UK	ademartin@gmail.com
22992	Mrs Joy Burrowes	Tynreithin Tregaron Ceredigion Wales	
58899	Mrs Sharon Close	Eglos Road Cornwall UK	sharonclose63@icloud.com
98431	Mr Andrew Patterson	Newport Pembro Wales	andrewvhp@gmail.com
14168	Wendy Xerri	Bridgend UK	wendy@xerri.wales
29385	Mrs Alyson Argument	Llanfair Caereinion Powys Wales	alysonargument@aol.com
74972	Mrs Katie Lench	Penmaenmawr Conwy Wales	Katiejlench@gmail.com
75651	Ms Sian Richards	Chorlton Manchester UK	sianrichards55@gmail.com
22986	Christian Ball	Pembroke Dock Pembrokeshire Wales	
19566	Alan Waterhouse	Spennithorne Leyburn UK	alan.h2ouse@brinternet.com

57516	Mrs Kay Morgan	Ceredigion Wales	
16183	Ms Ranae Calderon nee Morgan	Lake Worth Palm Beach USA	ranaemariisa@bellsouth.net
87732	Mrs Debby Greenlaw	Prosperity SC USA	debbygreenlaw@usa.com
82445	Mrs Joan Chopping	Cherry Willingham Lincolnshire UK	2choppings@gmail.com
44837	Caroline Hickman	Newcastle Emlyn Dyfed Wales	carolinejh9@gmail.com
67589	Mr John Dylan Rees	Ammanford Carmarthenshire UK	j_dylan_rees71@hotmail.com
53641	Sid Howells	Freshwater East Pembroke Pembrokeshire Wales	showells538@btinternet.com
43488	Mrs Heulwen Ann Barlow	Ceredigion Wales	hannbarlow@btopenworld.com
15167	Chris Marshall	Watford Hertfordshire UK	chris.marshall20@btinternet.com
38687	Mr Robert James	Cardigan Ceredigion Wales	
36147	Mrs Lisa Lawson	Prenton UK	Lisalawson@sky.com
51846	Dr Peter Hendy-Ibbs	Exeter UK	peter.ibbs@hotmail.co.uk
67127	Mr Andrew Bevan	Llandeilo Wales	bevanaj@hotmail.com
46359	Mrs Diana Louth	St Mawes Truro Cornwall UK	
48445	Miss Megan Roberts	Chorley Lancashire UK	meganroberts.bc@googlegmail.com
63326	Mrs Carol Jones	Carmarthenshire Wales	cjberllan@hotmail.co.uk
53824	Mr Richard O'Brien	Knutsford Cheshire UK	
56462	Mrs Philippa Jones	West Wellow Hampshire UK	
59647	Mrs Wendy Edwards	Foelgastell Carmarthenshire Wales	
56377	Mr Frank WH Moreton	Middle Stoke Kent UK	fmoreton@mc39.co.uk
73561	Mrs Lynda Ralphson (nee Griffiths)	Fearnhead Warrington Cheshire UK	hralphson@yahoo.com
51674	Mr Nigel Herbert	Johnstown Carms Wales	herbey79@hotmail.com
73775	Gareth Knowles	Gilwern Monmouthshire Wales	genealogy@vivaldi.net

18487	Mr Finn Jones	Brighton East Sussex UK	
42586	Mrs Louise Oakley	St Julians Gwent Wales	
35251	Mrs Beth Thomas	Christchurch Dorset UK	Bethmasteryon89@gmail.com
14575	Stuart Walker	Pencwm Sarnau UK	stuartwalker2023@gmail.com
95122	Mrs Deborah Levison	Brantham Manningtree Essex UK	
77545	Mrs Angela Harris	Edinburgh UK	Angelajharris@gmail.com
31137	Mrs Linda Jones	Llangoeimor Ceredigion Wales	lindajones8585@yahoo.co.uk
12242	Mrs Ursula Saszynski	Southampton Hants UK	
42122	Gwyneth Price	Myddfai Llanymddyfri Sir Gâr Wales	gwynethrhcet@googlemail.com
19861	John Walters	Ffairfach Llandeilo Wales	johnwalters1609@gmail.com

Obituaries

Membership No.	Name	Joined
51	Stephen P Benham	1982
2436	Gwyn Smith	1998
Wife Margaret is continuing her membership		
2679	Dr Mary E Tate	1999
26919	Mrs KH Ashwood-Jones	2022
92133	Peter Williams	2022

Peter lived in Swiss Valley Llanelli, with his wife Sandra. He was a member all the time I have been going along to Llanelli. Back in 2013/14 I think he was treasurer very briefly, I had volunteered to be minutes secretary and he and Keith Skivington were on the committee. Both men left soon after, which is why I became Secretary/Chair. Madge was Treasurer. Peter hadn't been well for some time but did come to meetings. I don't think he ever came back after Covid. Peter was a very gentle person, I think he was also involved with the Scarlets. His wife Sandra is currently a member under the same number – *Linda Martin (5468) Llanelli branch representative*

Branch Meetings

Branches organise regular meetings to which all members and the public are invited.
Meetings usually take place at the times and venues below, but check with the named contact.

Cardigan Aberteifi

The first Monday in each month at 7.30pm
Tower Room, Cardigan Castle.

Contact Mr Ken James - Tel: 01239 710829. Email: cardigansecretary@dyfedfhs.org.uk

Carmarthen CAERFYRDDIN

The last Wednesday in each month at 2.00pm
Spilman Hotel, Spilman Street, Carmarthen.

Contact Mrs. Janet Slate - Tel. 01267 782099. Email: carmarthen@dyfedfhs.org.uk

Haverfordwest Hwlffordd

The second Wednesday in each month 6.00pm until 8.00pm
Pembrokeshire Archives, Back Lane, Prendergast, Haverfordwest SA61 2PE
Contact Ms Cate Hobbs - Tel. 07777 695865.

Email: haverfordwest@dyfedfhs.org.uk

Llanelli

The third Monday in each month from 2pm
Plas Llanelly House, Bridge Street, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire/Sir Gâr SA15 3UF
Contact Mrs. Linda Martin - Tel. 01267 267039. Email: llanelli@dyfedfhs.org.uk

London Llundain

On four Saturdays each year at 2 pm by Zoom or in person at
The Kwanglim Room, Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 4AU.
Contact Mrs. Anna Brueton - Tel. 0207 9230302. Email: london@dyfedfhs.org.uk

Upper Towy Valley Cwm Tywi Uchaf

The fourth Wednesday in each month at 7.15pm
Our Lady Catholic Church Hall, College View, Llandovery
Contact Miss Moira Evans - Tel. 01269 592278.
Email: uppertowyvalley@dyfedfhs.org.uk

Contacts

www.dyfedfhs.org.uk

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Matters relating to the Management Committee and the AGM

General Secretary: Mr. Colin Potter.
25 Milton Meadows, Milton, Tenby, Pembrokeshire, SA70 8PL
secretary@dyfedfhs.org.uk

Matters relating to membership

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Cherry Gate, Tubbs Lane, Highclere, Newbury RG20 9PR
membership@dyfedfhs.org.uk
Contact the Membership Secretary for contact detail of other members.

Matters relating to the journal (articles, photographs, letters, help needed, advertising)

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Matters relating to Memorial Inscriptions

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