

Glamorgan Family History Society
Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluol Morgannwg

Registered Charity No 1059537



*1890 photograph of Big Mill at Dowlais Ironworks,
with housing at Dowlais in the background.*

Ref: DG/PH/2/6/4

© Glamorgan Archives

ISSN 0264 5440

HAFOD COPPERWORKS GIRLS' SCHOOL, SWANSEA, Part 2 - see page 21



The school building is still in use today, although it is difficult to take a good photograph of it because it is surrounded by terraces of houses. It is now a Muslim Community Centre and foodbank.

IRON & STEEL RECORDS AT GLAMORGAN ARCHIVES

Items below from an Event at Glamorgan Archives following the receipt of Iron Steel records in the 1960s – see also Cardiff Branch Meeting and introduction page 7.

1789-99 f352 LETTER, 1799, by William Tait to brother-in-law Thomas Guest, suggesting that to avoid 'Combinations' of Workmen he must have the Ringleaders committee to the "Bridewell" (local gaol). This course was quite a normal one for we find:

1798-99 f228 A PETITION, 1799, by John Davies addressed to Mr Guest from Cowbridge Bridewell, begging "you will get me out of this whole of a place" and "let me come back to your work again".

1800-1 f378a This is a PETITION for an increase in wages, 1801. It is signed by six workmen and ends with a threat to leave the works.

CONTENTS

Journal 163	September 2026	
Title	Author	Page
Society Officers and Committee Members		4
Editorial	Jean Fowlds	5
Secretary's Report	Penny Williams	6
Iron and Steel in Glamorgan	Rhian Diggins	7
Two for the Price of One, part 3	Diane Brook	11
John Hartman Morgan part 1	John P Lethbridge	16
Hafod Copperworks Girls School, part 2	Janet Neilson	21
Maesteg to Michigan	Clive Davies	24
Coincidences	Eirian Edwards	28
Aberfan Recollections	Gerald Jarvis	31
A Journey from Ynysmeudwy, part 3	Enid Lewis	32
Book Review	Ian Black	36
Letters to the Editor		37
News from Glamorgan Archives		38
Society News & Reports		41
Forthcoming Events		49

Society's Objectives

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

SOCIETY OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Diane Brook

Vice President: Nick Davey

Chairman
Vice-Chair

Vacant
Vacant

Secretary/Events Coordinator
secretary@glamfhs.org.uk,

Penny Williams
15 St Brides Road, Aberkenfig, Bridgend, CF32 9PY

Treasurer
treasurer@glamfhs.org.uk

Guy Bevan
Due West, Leaze Road, Marlborough, SN8 1JU

Committee Members: Ian Black, Jean Fowlds, Sue Hamer, Nancy Thomas.
(One vacancy).

Branch Trustees: *Pat Rees* (Aberdare & Cynon Valley), *Sue Tiller* (Bridgend),
Stephen Fairhurst (Cardiff & Vale), *Carolyn Jacob* (Merthyr), *Eleanor Aubrey*
(Pontypridd & Rhondda), *Janet Neilson* (Swansea).

Membership Team
membership@glamfhs.org.uk

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

Editor
editor@glamfhs.org.uk

Jean Fowlds
10 David Street, Blaengarw, Bridgend, CF32 8AD

Website website@glamfhs.org.uk **Resource Centre Team:** arc2@glamfhs.org.uk

Branch Secretaries/Contacts

Aberdare & Cynon Valley
aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk

Mrs Pat Rees ☎ 01685 875528

Bridgend Secretary
bridgend@glamfhs.org.uk

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

Cardiff & Vale
cardiff@glamfhs.org.uk

Stephen Fairhurst

Merthyr Secretary
merthyr@glamfhs.org.uk

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

Pontypridd & Rhondda
rhondda@glamfhs.org.uk

Eleanor Aubrey

Swansea Secretary

Janet Neilson swansea@glamfhs.org.uk

ONLINE (Arlein)

arlein@glamfhs.org.uk

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

EDITORIAL

Croeso, as we find ourselves in the third quarter of the year already!

Since being involved with the Journal I have been so intrigued and fascinated by the family stories that have come in from literally all parts of the world: Glamorgan has spread its tentacles everywhere and virtually every edition has had something to say about the enormous courage and enterprise of those of our ancestors who have left these shores for what they saw would be better lives.

This edition has entries from all aspects and we can see how we are all connected wherever we come from. Below we give a nod to the USA's 250th anniversary this year and its Welsh connection, when Clive Davies of Melbourne writes of his relative, Ann Romney, whose family came from Maesteg, Glamorgan, and who became the wife of Senator Mitt Romney, presidential candidate in the 2012 US election. Enid Lewis writes part 3 of her intrepid family's voyage to Sydney, and coming from other reasons for travel, our book review features accounts of those who went off to Spain to fight in the Spanish Civil War in the 1930s.

At home we have part 2 of Janet Neilson's account of the research she has done into a Swansea school; John Lethbridge gives an account of a political figure of 100 years ago with some interesting and well-known figures appearing, and Diane Brook closes her story of the family bibles in her possession. Eirian Edwards tells us of a chance encounter on a bus that has led her into another world that of the 19th century missionary work of distant relatives in India.

We acknowledge another anniversary this year too, albeit a tragic one, as it is the 60th anniversary in October of the dreadful events of Aberfan, and a short item is reprinted from 10 years ago to remember that.

There is a reminder from Rhian Diggins that Glamorgan is not just famous for coal and she has written an absorbing account of Glamorgan's iron and steel industry, and includes references for more research. Together with our branch reports and what is going on in the Glamorgan Archives and in our resource centre (ARC), I hope you will find something to interest you, and if you feel inspired to send your own family stories, please do so - if we can't print immediately we will keep them for the next edition.

Please try to keep to the word limits so that we can print as many different contributions as possible; longer articles may have to be serialised. 1500 words or thereabouts is ideal! Hwyl Fawr to you all wherever you are, in northern or southern hemispheres.

Jean Fowlds, editor@glamfhs.org.uk

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The main news this quarter is developments in the revamping of the Society's website. This has been underway for quite a while and recently there have been on-going problems with certain features on the site not working and updates causing significant issues. A decision was made to ask our current Bristol based web-manager to sort out immediate problems and to quote for a new website. He has done both of these and hopefully by the end of the year the revamped site will be active. This will allow more resources to be available on-line.

A number of our Trustees and volunteers have recently had to step back due to personal and work commitments. Our thanks from the Executive Committee to Billie McNamara, Anouska Osborne, Jane Graves, Marie Baldwin and Meic Jones for their hard work and commitment to the Society over a number of years.

Sue Hamer has been co-opted back onto the Executive Committee to oversee all things web-based and her knowledge will be invaluable. We need other volunteers to come forward to help with administration of the Society. In particular we still have a vacancies for Chairman, Vice Chairman and one Trustee.

The Trustees are looking into attending one or two Fairs in 2027 as these always prove useful in raising the profile of the Society. Any help would be very welcome. Please contact the Secretary.

The Branches are all working hard, although things do tend to quieten down over the summer months. Do keep in touch with your local Branch and don't forget to join the on-line meetings which are open to everyone. We look forward to seeing everyone back in the Branches as the Autumn takes hold, especially as AGMs will be taking place then and it would be nice to get projects up and running.

Penny Williams, secretary2@glamfhs.org.uk,

For up to date news and links to useful online resources -
don't forget to join our **Facebook** group.
www.facebook.com/groups/glamorganfhs.

IRON AND STEEL IN GLAMORGAN

Rhian Diggins

Background

Iron and steel manufacturing has formed a mainstay of the Welsh economy since the late-18th century, although these industries are often overshadowed by coal.

The early iron industry in Wales was centred on Merthyr Tydfil, developing during the industrial revolution. By the early 19th century South Wales was the foremost iron producing area in the world.

During the late 19th century the switch was made from iron to steel, and in the 20th century we see steel works becoming the focal point of several communities in South Wales, in particular at Port Talbot, Llanwern and Ebbw Vale. All these towns are outside our Glamorgan Archives area, of course, but steelworks did exist within Glamorgan, for example the GKN (Dowlais) works at East Moors in Cardiff.

Many of the later records relating to steel making in Wales are held at the British Steel Archives or with Tata Steel. Papers of the Crawshay family and the Cyfarthfa Ironworks are held at the National Library of Wales.

During recent years, several grant funded projects in Wales have focussed on records of the iron and steel industries, Glamorgan Archives has been a partner in these, alongside other Welsh archive services including Swansea University and West Glamorgan Archive Service, Flintshire (Shotton) and Gwent. The projects have encompassed both cataloguing and conservation.

Dowlais Iron Company

The Dowlais Iron Company was founded in 1759 when an agreement of co-operation was signed by 9 parties, to build a furnace for the production of iron. In its first year the primitive furnace produced 500 tons of iron. In 1763, another 22 acres of land was leased from Lady Windsor, which enabled the company to build more furnaces, mills, forges and housing for the growing workforce. In 1767 John Guest of Broseley, Shropshire, was appointed manager, and in 1782 he became a partner. By 1851, the Guest family had managed to buy out all the remaining partners until the company was brought under the sole ownership of Josiah John Guest. Under the management of the Guest family the company rapidly expanded in the wake of the railway boom of the 1820s and the 1830s. By 1842 over 5,000 people were employed by the company in 17 blast furnaces. By the end of the 19th century, local iron ore reserves were near exhaustion, and iron ore was imported from Spain. The import of raw materials led to a move to the

coast and a new iron works was built on the East Moors near Cardiff Docks. Meanwhile the original iron works at Dowlais managed to consolidate its position as the most important iron works in south Wales, after it purchased the Penydarren works in 1859 and the Cyfartha works in 1898. In 1901 the end of Dowlais as an independent concern arrived when it became part of Guest, Keen and Company. The production of steel at Dowlais came to an end in 1930 when the steelworks closed.

The Dowlais Iron Company Records form a vast collection, dating from 1792-1970, that includes letter books, deeds, plans and drawings, minutes, accident books, schedules of property and rent, land value books, sale books, compensation books, medical reports on workmen, registers of young persons employed, reports on workmen and photographs.

British Steel Records

The British Steel Corporation was formed after the Iron and Steel Act of 1967. It brought together the 14 largest steel companies in the UK, bringing them into public ownership.

Our collection consists of records of the Guest Keen Nettlefold group and its predecessor companies, Glamorgan Hematite Iron Ore Mine Company and Cardiff Hematite Iron Ore Company. The records relate largely to Glamorgan Hematite Iron Ore Mine, Llanharry, but also include material from other significant iron and steel works in south Wales, including the Dowlais/East Moors works at Cardiff and the Briton Ferry works. Guest Keen Nettlefold's plants played an internationally significant role during the war, producing steel for a range of military uses.

The records, which date from 1901-1980, include accounts, sale contracts books, wage records, geological and property records, accident records, output records, blast furnace operating records, and photographs.

Rhydney Iron Works Records

The Rhydney Ironworks had existed since 1800. In 1825 they were bought by Forman & Co, who had built the Bute Ironworks on the opposite bank of the River Rhydney, and they operated both works as one concern, becoming the Rhydney Iron Company Limited in 1874. At first, the main product of the Rhydney Ironworks was wrought iron rails. They started producing steel rails in 1876, and the following year it was estimated they would be able to manufacture five hundred tons of steel rails each week. At this time the company was recorded as owning eight hundred houses, shops and a brewery. The works ceased making wrought iron in 1884. In 1891 they also abandoned steel production when this ceased to be a profitable venture. The furnaces and plant were dismantled in the same year, but the company continued to exist as a coal mining enterprise.

The records date from 1825-1939 and include: minutes books, plans, financial records including pay books and rent books, accident books, compensation records, letter books, and deeds.

Melingriffith Iron and Tinsplate Works Records

The iron forge at Melingriffith in Whitchurch was first established in the 1750s near an old water-mill. By 1760, it had attracted the attention of the Bristol firm of Reynolds, Getley & Co, Quakers, who leased it from the Lewis family of the Van (or Y Fan), Caerphilly, and quickly transformed it into a prosperous tinsplate works. The works managers for five generations were members of the Vaughan family. At the start of the 19th century the works passed to another Bristol Quaker family, the Harfords, who worked it in conjunction with their partners, Partridge and Blakemore. In 1879, the company became bankrupt and was forced to close. It was reopened in 1888, and in April 1939, the assets passed to Richard Thomas & Co. After the Second World War (1939-1945), the Steel Company of Wales incorporated the Melingriffith works as one of its strip mills. It closed in 1957.

The records date from 1770-1970 and include accounts, correspondence, wages accounts, inventories, and photographs.

The Diaries of Henry Fothergill

Henry Fothergill was born in Caerleon in 1837. He was the third son of Richard and Charlotte Fothergill (formerly Merrick) and nephew of Rowland Fothergill of Hensol Castle. Together with his brothers, Richard, George and Thomas, Henry oversaw the family's ironworks which included Plymouth, Penyardarren, Taff Vale, Abernant and Llwydcoed. In 1864 he sold his interest in the ironworks to his older brother Richard and used the money to travel the world.

Our volunteers have transcribed all 22 volumes of Henry's diaries. The early diaries relate to his time running the ironworks, but the majority cover his travels abroad and his later life.

Documents viewed at Cardiff Branch Meeting

DG/C/5/15-16: Report on the Employment of Women and Children in the Iron Works of South Wales; containing details of the number of persons in the employ of the Dowlais Iron Co, by W Menelaus, May 1866

DG/C/5/5/1-39: Details of rates of labour at Cwmavon, Dowlais, Ebbw Vale, Penyardarren, Rhymney, Sirhowy, Tredegar and Victoria ironworks, and comparative tables of pay, Oct 1857

DG/C/5/17: Letter from James Reed, Tredegar Iron Works, to Dowlais Iron Co, requesting them not to employ certain workmen (listed), prominent rioters, 8 Jan 1869

DG/C/8/17/1-5: Bessemer Steel Works accident - Acknowledgements by relatives of payments received from Dowlais Iron Co as 'donations' for losses sustained by deaths of husbands and sons and renunciation of any further claims on Dowlais Iron Co, 1898

DG/3/1: Accident book, 1905-1909

DG/10/47: Cardiff Works and Docks, workmen's compensation book, 1908-1915

DG/11/6: Medical reports - Paperwork concerning medical examinations of injured workmen. The paperwork generally gives the name and address of the injured workmen, details of the accident, resulting injuries and recommendation from the medical examiner concerning eligibility for work. Reports for workmen from various Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds Collieries and ironworks, 1924

DG/12/1: Register of young persons employed - Entries include name, address, date of first employment, date of labour certificate (for persons aged between 13 and 14), name of father, name of mother, date of birth, signature of certifying surgeon, date of signature and remarks, 1913-1915

DG/M/2/91: Dowlais Schools - Lists of eligible children, specifying names, addresses, names of fathers with occupations and places of work, ages of children and total attendances.

DG/P/10: Map of the Iron Works and Collieries and their means of communication by railroad, tram road and canal, with the ports of Newport and Cardiff by John Prujean, 1843

DG/PH/2/6/4: Photograph of Big Mill with Dowlais houses, 1890

DG/PH/8/1-5: Photographs of Cardiff Works, 1890-1965

DG/A/1/285: Incoming letters (313-563), 1854. (NB 473, 479 – letters re. cholera)

D561/1/3/1/5: Glamorgan Hematite Iron Ore Mine, weekly wage book, 1916-1919.

D811/9/1-2: Campaign posters against closure of East Moors steelworks, 1970s

D811/1/1: Newsletters of East Moors Works Council Campaign Committee, 1973-1975

DMG/4/2: Melingriffith iron and tin works, inventory, 1777

DMG/5/6: Aerial view of Melingriffith Works, 1927

DMG/3/3/2: Shop accounts, 1783

DRH/100: Salaries book - Pay sheets signed by employees on collection of weekly wages. Payments made to staff in administrative and managerial roles within the Rhymney Iron Company, Limited. Records of payment for roles such as under manager, cost clerk, pay clerk, requisition clerk, compensation clerk, stores' clerk, draughtsman, clerk of works, porter, surveyor and assistant surveyor. Also includes payments to a number of female employees, however the majority of these entries do not specify in what capacity they worked for the company, 1918-1919.

D553/1: Diary of Henry Fothergill, 1860-1861.

TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE, Part 3 The EATON FAMILY OF THE GOWER #2 Diane Brook

In parts 1 and 2 of this article I told of how I came to possess two old family bibles, one in Welsh and full of THOMASES which I researched and wrote about. The other Bible was for the EATON family of the Gower and in English, with family records going back into the 1700s, a real bonus in Welsh family history where parish registers can often give little detail amongst many people of the same surnames. And, the two families of Thomas and Eaton were indeed linked so the two books are a pair. Anyone descended from these Eatons would also be related to the Thomas families as cousins so might want both books, and although we remind ourselves that our surname is only one of very many ancestral lines, there is often a stronger feeling for items with our own surname recorded.

I now had to hope there were descendants of the Eaton family. At least, as an English-origin name in a Welsh setting, it should be easier to trace the various lines.

The Eaton Bible entries: (I've kept the spelling I found)

Mary BOWEN the Wife of Griffith Eaton and Mother of the Under Mentioned Children was Born in the Year of Our Loard 1754

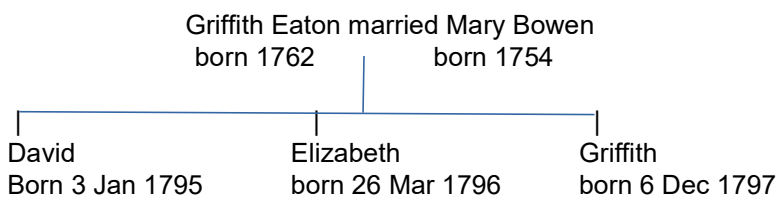
Griffith Eaton Senior was Born in the Year of Our Loard 1762 and the Father of the Under Mentioned Children

David Eaton the Eldest Son of Griffith Eaton by Mary his Wife was Born the 3rd Day of January in the Year of Our Loard 1795

Elizabeth Eaton Daughter Griffith Eaton by Mary his Wife was Born the 26th day of March In the Year of Our Loard 1796

Griffith Eaton Son of Griffith Eaton by Mary his Wife was Born the Sixth Day of December In the Year of Our Loard 1797

The tree thus reads:



Elizabeth married Thomas Thomas later of Ty Isaf, Llannon. No living descendants found as set out above in Thomas of Ty Isaf. What about David and Griffith?

The Eaton family were rooted in Llanrhidian parish where records of this particular family begin with the marriage of Griffith Eaton and Mary Bowen:

Marriage at Llanrhidian of Griffith Eaton, yeoman, of this parish, to Mary Bowen, of this parish, 12 Feb 1793, by Licence. Both signed. Witnesses David Thomas, Henry Eaton.

Griffith Bowen the elder left a will, proved in 1835, confirming the correct burial, of Griffith Eaton, of Three Crosses, buried 31 Oct 1834 at Llanrhidian, no age given. The will mentions only his wife, Mary, and son, Griffith Eaton. Witnesses were Jno Evans, Samuel Eaton, and William Eaton. His daughter Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Thomas, Tyissa, was still alive in 1871 but is not mentioned in the will.

Were there any descendants of the two Eaton sons who might want the Bibles? The younger son, Griffith Eaton, born 1797, died in 1847. He did not leave a will but the Administration was key to tying up this side.



Administration was for "Griffith Eaton late of the Three Crosses, in the Parish of Llanrhidian ..., Farmer a Bachelor Intestate. Deceased "who died without leaving a parent" with administration granted "...to David Eaton of the Three Crosses, in the Parish of Llanrhidian in the County of Glamorgan, Quarryman, and, Elizabeth Thomas the Wife of Thomas Thomas of Tyissa, the Parish of Llannon in the County of Carmarthen Farmer. The former being the only Surviving Brother, and the latter the only Surviving Sister and next of kin of the said deceased." Thus, another possible branch ended with the younger Griffith.

What about the elder son, David Eaton, born 1795? This time I was in luck. David, of Llanrhidian, married Ann Gibbs, by licence, at Loughor on 25 Feb 1817. Ann died young, aged 28, in 1826 and was buried at Loughor. David, widower, married Mary Morris, spinster, in 1829 at St Mary's, Swansea when they both said they were 'of the parish'. David had four children with Ann, and another eight with second wife Mary. Surely this time there would be living descendants.

I have created a very long table of certain and possible descendant lines although a number follow the 'tradition' of never marrying or having no children or no grandchildren. Some of the lines are descendants of daughters so no longer surnamed Eaton.

Of the first four children, of David Eaton and Ann Gibbs, three appear to have no descendants and the fourth, if any, go through a daughter so not surnamed Eaton.

Of the eight children of David Eaton and Mary Morris, there were four sons and four daughters. Of the four sons, two, possibly three, never married. I decided to concentrate on Thomas Eaton, born 1830. He married Margaret Rice on 22 January 1858 at Llanyrnewydd church, Penclawdd (*see above, photo by David Brook*).

Not being an expert on the Gower churches, I hadn't heard of Llanyrnewydd. It is a chapel of ease to Llanrhidian parish church and is just outside the small town of Penclawdd. As it was a medieval chapel it may be where the Eaton family worshipped for centuries rather than at the main parish church at Llanrhidian.

Thomas and Margaret, in turn, had at least seven children including three sons, William, David and Henry Seys. The second forename Seys (or Says or even Sayce) turns up regularly on the Gower and indicates a maternal line somewhere.

Henry was baptised on 2 May 1878 as Henry Seys Eaton, at Llanyrnewydd, son of Thomas Eaton and Margaret, Killan Fach. Henry appears at the family farm, Killan Fach, with his widowed mother and siblings, in 1881, 1891 and 1901, then in 1911 with his wife and children. He married Gwenllian Perkins in 1901, registered in the Gower district. The couple were listed in the 1939 Register; Henry was born 2 November 1877, dairy farmer, and, Gwenllian was born 21 January 1870.

Henry and Gwenllian had six children, from late 1901 to 1914, three sons and three daughters. Son William died young, aged only 22 but the other two sons were the executors of their father's will in 1960: Henry Eaton, died 9 Jan 1960 at the General Hospital, Swansea, probate, of Eaton House, Dunvant, to Griffith Seys Eaton, farmer, and David Aubry Eaton, surveyor, £16,103 9s 5d. Thus Henry was a substantial farmer, and this continues what was a higher than usual status in the Eaton family. Deeply rooted in Llanrhidian, the Eatons married by licence, held large farms, left wills back into the early 1600s, and, in the case of son, David Aubrey Eaton, was educated into a profession.

Griffith Seys Eaton married and may have had children but no family trees on Ancestry were found.

David Aubry Eaton was born 27 June 1906 in Llanrhidian. On the 1939 Register he was living in Southampton. He married Elizabeth Dulcie Davies at Killay church, 16 January 1934, when he was a marine engineer, of Killan Farm. He died 14 Dec 1974, Cheam (probate index record).

I did not find any likely children on FreeBMD but did find family trees in Ancestry which suggested David had two daughters. I started by contacting Vicky, one of those with David on her tree. This time, I had an immediate response, "... My husband is David Aubrey Eaton's grandson and he actually knows very little about his family history - hence my dabbling with Ancestry to try to build some kind of picture. ...I think his grandfather was the first in the line to move away from Wales and we currently live in Yorkshire." The next message was "I passed your message onto my husband's mum - David

Aubrey Eaton's daughter and she was delighted to hear about the bibles. She is in fairly regular contact with her sister too. We're wondering who in the family they belonged to?"

David's daughter, Irene, then wrote to me, 'Hello Diane, I am Aubrey Eaton's daughter and have just received the 2 bibles. I can't thank you enough for all the research you have done. I am so looking forward to studying them as will my sister, Mary. Our dad was a very special man and after 50 years we still miss him terribly so the bibles mean so much to us.

Thank you once again'.

I suggested she and the family might like to write something about her father, their last Welsh ancestor. She replied, 'Wow, so lovely to hear from you. I think my mum who had me at 40 suffered from post natal depression. She spent a lot of time in bed so somehow my dad brought me up. He was a wonderful man and because of him I survived and went on to have quite a few successful jobs, teacher, running a store, duty manager at a shopping centre!! He was also a very successful director for shipping company Holder Brothers'.

Religion and Poetry

This was an interesting exercise in Welsh genealogy, assembling the trees from all the usual sources and looking into possible descendants' trees online. The extra benefit of the family Bibles was items tucked between the pages; two newspaper cuttings, a memorial card, and some printed and some handwritten religious items. We tend to forget in our secular age, how devout many people were. This clearly included the Thomas families. Not only was Henry Eaton Thomas a minister, but there was an extensive obituary for the Rev Thomas Thomas, curate of Llannon and Llanddarog, who died in 1865 at the age of only 31. He does not appear to be a relative. The Welsh language obituary set out his education and career. Added to it was that other most important aspect of Welsh culture, poetry. The many stanzas were written by G Thomas, Ty Isaf. This must be George Thomas, son of Thomas Thomas and Elizabeth Eaton. All we had known about him before were his vital records and census entries, and that he had never married. Now we know he was a sensitive poet and devout Christian.

There was another Welsh language cutting, an obituary for Mary Thomas, Hendy. Although it is undated, it is for Mary Thomas, Red Cow Inn, who died in 1899, as it says she was the sister of the Reverend H Eaton Thomas. In addition, there is a poem. We don't know who wrote it but we now know what her family and friends felt about her. In translation it says:

*She died when the flowers were Open to smile so happily;
June under sunny rays. Spreading joy from the breast,
Her career ended early, Like a flower withering so completely;
But today the highest sorrow of the land, It's over there in the evening light.*

*The mourners of the valley in tears. That wets the glade of her grave;
Look at Mary in the light. A better life in a country full of peace;
She expects the family to be united. Come home from the grip of all pain,
To a city, where there will be no more weeping;
In the family of the Throne of the Lamb.*

HENDY - On Sunday night, June 4th, the young girl Mary Thomas from the place above breathed her last in this world. Her affliction was short but hard; and the sudden news about the death created much excitement in the place. She was a virtuous girl, and one of the Hendy Church members. The following Wednesday a crowd gathered to transport her remains to Llanedi cemetery. The occasion was officiated by the Reverend E Jones, BD, curate of Hendy. Last Sunday night a funeral sermon was delivered by the Reverend E Jones, and appropriate hymns were sung by the Church choir. May the Lord comfort the relatives in their grief, the deceased was the sister of Reverend H Eaton Thomas, curate, Denbigh.

Nearly Lost

Who in the Thomas family kept the Bibles? I don't think we can work this out. As always when I purchase any historical item, I asked the seller about any details of the Thomas Bible's origins. He replied he had bought a trunk at auction in Leicestershire and it contained the Bible and in addition, another Bible in poor condition which he thought he might discard, unless I was interested. I said I was indeed interested so he sent both books. This second was the Eaton family Bible. Thus this original family record, now with interested descendants, was very nearly lost forever. What if I hadn't asked, or said "no" to it? Instead I have had the pleasure of the research and the Eaton family have a very special, early record of their Glamorgan family.

JOHN HARTMAN MORGAN

#1028 John P Lethbridge

Part 1

Family Background and Early Life. John Hartman MORGAN was born on 20 March 1876 in Ystradyfodwg, Glamorgan, the son of the Reverend David Morgan and his wife Julia Morgan, nee WETHLI, who was born in 1852 in Zurich, Switzerland. They married on December 14th 1871 in Newport, Monmouthshire, and went on to have at least five children besides John: Elfrieda (1873), Margaret (1879), Gwendolyne (1883), Eva (1886) and David Idris (1887).

The Reverend Morgan had been born in 1841 in Penderyn, Breconshire and became the Congregationalist Minister of Ystradfellte, Glamorgan. His father John Morgan was a farmer and his wife's father Feliz Wethli was a jeweller.

The Reverend Morgan died aged sixty-six on 22 September 1907 at Tongwynlais in Glamorgan. His widow commanded the Red Cross 56th (Wiltshire) Voluntary Aid Detachment in the First World War. She died on 4 October 1929, aged seventy-seven, in Wootton Bassett in Wiltshire (now Royal Wootton Bassett).

John Hartman Morgan studied at Caterham School in Surrey, a Congregationalist Institution founded in 1811. He gained a scholarship at the University College of South Wales (Cardiff) and another scholarship at Balliol College Oxford, obtaining a University of London MA in moral science, political science and economics in 1896. He became particularly interested in diplomatic history, researched in French archives, and was a noted debater at the Oxford Union's debating society. He gained a Second Class Honours Modern History Degree in 1900.

After graduating Morgan joined the Inner Temple and began to read for the bar to become a barrister. He was a literary journalist for the *Daily Chronicle* 1901-1903. Meanwhile he did postgraduate history studies under William Albert Samuel HEWINS at the London School of Economics.

On another, research, scholarship at the University of Berlin, he studied the operations of business trusts, ie cartels or rings, and of tariffs. On returning to Britain he was a *Manchester Guardian* leader writer 1904-1905.

Marriage. On 4 July 1905 John Hartman Morgan, aged twenty nine, married the actress Clara Maud HERTZ, aged thirty, whose stage name was Margaret HALSTAN, at the Anglican parish church of South Marylebone in London. She was born on Christmas Day 1874, the daughter of Heinrich Anton Hertz, a tea broker.

The marriage was childless, and the pair soon drifted apart; I have found no records of their divorce and she kept the surname Morgan to her death when she did not use her stage name. Until 1937 adultery was the only legal grounds for divorce.

The Academic and Politician. In 1908 Morgan was appointed Professor of Constitutional Law and Legal History at University College, London. In January 1910 he contested Edgbaston, Birmingham, as a Liberal. He got 2,850 votes. His Conservative opponent, Francis William LOWE, who had held the seat since 1898 got 7,951 votes and held it until 1929 when he stood down to make way for Joseph CHAMBERLAIN's son Neville.

Methuen published John Hartman Morgan's *The House of Lords and the Constitution* in 1910. The House of Lords had vetoed David LLOYD GEORGE's budget and Irish Home Rule. It was soon to have its absolute veto reduced to a two-year one.

John Hartman Morgan stood at Edinburgh West at the December 1910 General Election and gained 4,252 votes. His Conservative opponent, James Avon CLYDE KC, a barrister, got 4,952 votes and was elected at the May 1909 Edinburgh West by-election and held it until 1918.

Hodder and Stoughton published Morgan's book *The New Irish Constitution* in 1912. Irish Home Rule was then the single biggest British political issue. In 1913 he was appointed Rhodes Lecturer to the University of London in the Law of the Empire.

The First World War. After war broke out in August John Morgan Hartman, aged thirty-eight, volunteered for combatant service, but was attached to the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) Headquarters in France as Home Office representative on the Adjutant General's Staff and becoming a Captain. His remit was investigating the conduct of the Germans on the battlefields.

In 1915 Morgan was called to the Bar and appointed Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of London, a post he held until 1941. Thomas BATY deputised for him until 1923 when Morgan returned to civilian life.

John Hartman Morgan translated the German Army War Book into English in 1915. It is full of high sounding statements and hypocritical qualifications and makes grim reading. That year the Parliamentary Recruiting Committee published Morgan's '*Germany's Dishonoured Army*'; and John Murray of London published Morgan and Baty's '*War: its conduct and Legal Results*'.

In 1916 Macmillan published Professor Captain Morgan's book '*Leaves From A Field Notebook*'. According to the Wednesday 17 May 1916 *Daily Telegraph*: *the author is of course a discreet chronicler; but he dissembles his reserve with engaging frankness; betraying indeed an instinct for apposite analogy; that Tragedy and Comedy peep out alternately in his pages; and that the result is a volume which takes a high place in modern war literature.*

This book contains instances of German brutality during their advance in 1914. They include the case of Eugene ODENT the Mayor of Senlis in Northern France. He was arrested at his office, accused of encouraging civilian resistance to the Germans, and murdered at the Chaumont headquarters of General Alexander Heinrich Rudolph VON KLUCK. He had nothing even faintly resembling a trial.

Sir Roger David CASEMENT was born in 1864 in Ireland, then British ruled. He became a British diplomat and exposed Belgian atrocities in the Congo and in Peru before being knighted in 1911. When the First World War began he was in the USA but then moved to Germany. He recruited fifty-two Irish POWs into an Irish Brigade and became involved in plans to send Irish rebels German arms.

On 9 April 1916 the German ship *Aud* left Lubeck loaded with arms for Ireland, but after several mishaps involving a missed rendezvous and the Royal Navy's interception only Casement and two others, nationalist Robert MONTEITH and Irish PoW Sergeant Daniel BAILEY, landed in Ireland, on 21st April 1916. Robert Monteith escaped to the US but Casement and Bailey were arrested and charged on 17 May 1916 at Bow Street Magistrates Court with High Treason.

The four-day trial opened on 26 June 1916. The judges were the Lord Chief Justice, Rufus Daniel ISAACS, the 1st Viscount Reading; Sir Horace AVORY; and Sir Thomas Gardner HORRIDGE. The King's Coroner Leonard William KERSHAW sat on the bench with them.

The prosecution counsel were the Attorney General Sir Frederick Edwin SMITH KC MP, a very strong opponent of Irish Home Rule; the Solicitor General Sir George CAVE MP; Archibald Henry BODKIN; Richard SOMERS, Travers HUMPHREYS, and George Arthur Harwin BRANSON (Richard Branson's paternal grandfather). The Director of Public Prosecutions Sir Charles Willie MATTHEWS instructed them.

The defence counsel were Alexander Martin SULLIVAN KC, an Irish Nationalist, Artemus JONES, and John Hartman Morgan, both Welsh. George Gavan DUFFY, a London solicitor and the American Michael Francis DOYLE instructed them. George Gavan Duffy lost his job and moved to Dublin as a result.

Casement's defence rested on the fact that the offences were not carried out on British territory as outlined in the 1351 Treason Act of Edward III which only covered British-ruled countries, and Ireland was not Britain, Casement was not British but Irish, and he had not wanted the Irish Brigade to fight for Germany but for Ireland (John Hartman Morgan's advice). The Lord Chief Justice explained that assisting the enemy was treason and condemned him to death.

A two-day appeal followed on 17 July 1916. The judges were Sir Charles John DARLING known as *the Jestling Judge* for his inappropriate jokes; Sir Reginald More BRAY, Sir Alfred Tristram LAWRENCE, Sir Thomas Edward SCRUTTON, and Sir James Richard ATKIN. The prosecution and defence counsel were as before.

Mr Sullivan again argued that the 1351 Treason Act only covered British ruled countries. The court upheld Casement's conviction. On 3 August 1916 Sir Roger Casement was hanged in Pentonville Gaol despite a petition for his reprieve signed by many prominent people including Arthur CONAN DOYLE of Sherlock Holmes fame, George Bernard SHAW and William Butler YEATS.

Sergeant Daniel Julian Bailey was released; he died in Canada, in 1968, aged eighty. Robert Monteith died in Ireland in 1956, aged seventy-six.

Centurion. A Friday 26 July 1918 *Daily Telegraph* advert announced that Heinemann had published Captain Morgan's book *Gentlemen-at-Arms* under the pseudonym *Centurion*: and that *Centurion is the pen name of an officer who has served on the staff in France and most of his stories are based on personal experience*. Doubleday published it in the USA.

On Sunday 6 October 1918 the *Sunday Dispatch*, a London paper, revealed that *Centurion* was Captain Morgan's pen name. By this time British, Canadian, Australian and American forces had broken through the Hindenburg Line and were advancing through open country.

The Sunday 17 November 1918 Birmingham, Alabama, *Post Herald*, reviewed *Gentlemen at Arms*. It wrote that its twenty-one chapters described *actual events in France, Belgium and England and on the stormy waters of the North Sea*; and showed *laughter as well as tears, high courage and cheerful patience*.

John Hartman Morgan in this book camouflaged the names of the characters and units whose actions he described, otherwise the stories were true. He dedicated it to the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, the Dorset Regiment, the Somerset Light Infantry, the Wiltshire Regiment and the Devon Regiment. It was reissued in 2016 and is available on Amazon.

In part two I will look at John Hartman Morgan's later life.

Author's note: *The paragraphs referring to Sir Roger Casement are of necessity only a summary of his life and his very complex trial. Readers can find much in the public domain about Sir Roger and his allies and the fight for Irish independence that will put this into context.*

COMING SOON

Ancestral Chart Project

J Barrie Davies Projects including: Advenae, Price Sisters

For more information see our December edition.

HAFOD COPPERWORKS GIRLS' SCHOOL,
SWANSEA, Part 2
#8289 Janet Neilson

In part 1 of my article in the last Journal (no 162) I wrote about education in the HAFOD district of Swansea, which I and my colleagues at GFHS have been investigating and transcribing from the records we have found. That account ended at a time when Hafod and the surrounding districts were becoming industrialised.

This part describes the names and places we found, and some of the difficulties experienced when deciphering handwritten records.

At that time there seemed to be no set terms, as we know today – Autumn Term, Spring Term and Summer Term - with a six-week summer holiday (still common in most areas of the UK). Children could be admitted at any point in the year.

In July 1882, girls entered the school in July, aged 7–13 years. Of the first twenty-four entries, it was noted that eight of them, aged seven and eight, had “letters not known” alongside names, meaning they were unable when asked to say or write the letters of the alphabet.

The register begins in 1899, when girls were admitted on August 19th, all aged 7+, from Hafod Infants School. More girls were admitted in early September, ranging in age from 8 years to nearly 14 years. They had come from other Swansea schools and much further afield, including Prendegast (near Haverfordwest), Aberdare, Llanelly(sic), Liverpool, Llantrisant, Pembroke Dock and Bristol.

Looking at the girls' names there were, of course, many names such as Margaret, Ann(e), Elizabeth, Mary and Jane, but also more unusual names included, such as Prudence, Arianwen, Hattie, Margareta, Esther, Octavia, Naomi and many more. Again, common surnames predominated – JONES, DAVIES, WILLIAMS, THOMAS, LEWIS et al.

But what happens when you come to a surname when it is difficult to read the handwriting? As transcribers we are asked to put square brackets around the name, to show we are uncertain. However, we often consult the archives team or look in the BMD registers on the shelves or check on FMP or Ancestry.

Recently we had an unusual father's name. His first name was REEKES. but did the surname begin with a T or a J? We puzzled for some time over this and decided, eventually, to use square brackets. However, after researching online his name was REEKES JEAVONS.

The surname JEAUVONS is of English origin, from the Old French word for “young” (juvène) and, in a Welsh context, a combination of the names JOHN and EVAN. There are other variations of this surname. Other unusual surnames included HUSSEY, TIPPINGS, TREVIVIAN, COPPLESTONE, CHIPP, SCHRAMM, SANGUINE, OLSEN, ZACHARIAH and many more.

There is a problem when you start transcribing records, at least there is for me, whether they be school records, BMDs or MIs. You begin to think – who were these people? What were their lives like? Although you should avoid being side-tracked, sometimes you cannot help it!

The Hafod Copperworks Girls’ School is divided into columns – headed:
DATE – ADMISSION NUMBER – NAME – AGE – RESIDENCE – PARENTS
NAME – OCCUPATION – DENOMINATION – LAST SCHOOL.

The column which indicates DENOMINATION (already presuming that all or most families at this time are nominally Christian), include mainly Wesleyan and Bible Christian Methodists (Hafod Methodist Chapel was a Bible Christian Chapel on Neath Road - now private housing) (*see map 2 in part 1 in the last journal*); and the nearest Wesleyan Chapel was in Goat Street, central Swansea, until the Blitz); Anglicans; Baptists; Independents and Mission Hall attendees (*see map 2*), with a smattering of Roman Catholics; Congregationalists; Salvation Army; Christadelphian; Plymouth Brethren; Pegler’s Chapel (Pegler’s Chapel was an English Baptist Chapel, whose minister, in 1895 was Rev Fred W PEGLER), and several Jewish girls.

The Jewish girls in the register were: Rosa FREEDMAN, Leah DENNIS, Rose Dennis, Hannah ROFFSTONE, Rachel BLOCH, Nellie BADDIEL, Rachel DEGGOTS, Kate ROSENSWICK, Eva JOBB, Sophia COLUMUS (probably COLUMBUS), Hettie EHRENBURG and Sophia LAWRENCE.

One particular surname may stand out in that list: BADDIEL.

Nellie was the daughter of Kala/Cala (a widow by 1911), aged fifty, who was a draper and hawker (own account), born in Russia, as were her children: David (26, picture framer) and Harris (20, drapery traveller). Nellie (18, tailoress); Leah (16); Isaac (11) and Moses (9). Nellie and her younger siblings were born in Swansea. They lived at 3A Neath Road.

Kala’s husband was probably Israel or Benjamin, but as he was born in Latvia and there is no birth record it is not possible to be certain.

In the 1921 census the BADDIEL family lived at 19 Prince of Wales Road, Swansea. Kala is still listed as a Russian resident, but it also lists her birthplace as Dvinsk (Daugavpils), Latvia. We know that the borders of these countries changed from time to time and were not always independent from Russia. Living with Kala were: Harris (31), also born in Dvinsk, picture frame maker for MJ COFFMAN; Nellie (29) home duties; Leah (26) tailoress with B

KARLIN, tailor; Dora (24) teacher, Swansea Education Authority; Isaac (20) portrait enlarger and Moss (Moses) (18) shop assistant, plus two boarders, one of whom was a rabbi.

In the 1939 register: Nellie (b 29/04/1893) was single and head of the household; Leah (18/03/1895) tailoress; Kate (14/10/1859) widowed, unpaid domestic duties; Isaac (03/09/1900), jewellery manager; Moss (Moses) (04/03/1903) commercial traveller; Rachel (25/09/1900) shop assistant. Nellie died in Swansea in 1972.

How is Nellie related to David BADDIEL? Her father's brother had a son, HENRY. Henry's son was Colin BADDIEL. Colin was David's father. They were cousins to several degrees.

Tracing the other Jewish girls on the admissions register proved elusive for various reasons, including Anglicising their names, marriage and moving away from Swansea.

But one puzzle remains, for me. Which school did my maternal grandmother attend? She lived in Vernon Street, Hafod, but, as yet, I have been unable to find her in any school records. My search continues!

References and acknowledgments:

Tithe Map – National Library of Wales

Map 2 – Glam XX1V.1, 25 inch map England and Wales 1842-1952, published 1919

A Brief History of the Hafod Copperworks School from its foundation by WG Williams (1905, Trerise, Printer, Prince of Wales Road, Swansea

Hafod Copperworks School (Memories and Associations, Centenary Edition, 1905, reprinted 2002, by Hafod History Society

The Hafod 1920s–1950s, published 1996

Photographs – Janet M Neilson (copyright)

Articles for inclusion in the journal should be sent **via email** to editor@glamfhs.org.uk. It is useful if you can quote the sources used so that other members can benefit from your research findings. **Articles should be approximately 1000-1500 words in length.** We reserve the right to serialise articles which are over a certain length.

Contributors should ensure, if submitting images and documents, that they have obtained the permission of the copyright holder(s). The copyright holder of digital images used on websites will be different to the original copyright holder and their permission is also needed to enable us to reproduce the digital image in the journal. The Editors reserve the right to remove any images from articles where permission to use has not been obtained

MAESTEG TO MICHIGAN - A FORTUNE FOUND

#1801 CLIVE DAVIES

An article about Mitt ROMNEY, the Republican presidential candidate in the 2008 election mentioned that the father of his wife, Ann DAVIES, was a Welshman. It deserved further investigation.

Ann Romney's father, Edward Roderick Davies, was born in Maesteg, Llangynwyd parish, Glamorgan in 1915. Davieses are numerous in Wales, but the Rodericks are few. My great-grandmother, Elizabeth RODERICK, 1852-1925, was born in Kenfig, some eight miles from Maesteg. Never one to shy away from a rich relative, I delved further.

On the 1921 census at 1 Coronation Terrace, Nantyffyllon in Llangynwyd parish:

David T Davies, 38y 9m, Motor Mechanic, born Maesteg.

Anne Davies, Wife, 34y 4m & children:

Margaret May Davies 7y 2m &

Edward R Davies 6y 1m. All born Nantyffyllon.

David Thomas Davies had married Annie EVANS in 1913. He was found on the 1901 census at 32 Meadow Street, Llangeinor (Llangynwyd parish):

David Davies, 45, Collier, b Maesteg,

Elizabeth Davies, 44, and children:

Mary 24, David T 18,

William E 16, Egren 13 and

Emrys 10. All born Llangynwyd.

David Davies had married a namesake, Elizabeth Davies, in 1875. Her parents, Thomas and Jane Davies, nee THOMAS, were from west Wales.

David Davies' parents were William Davies/David born in 1825 at St Brides Major and Margaret Thomas who married at Llangynwyd in 1848. No Rodericks were found in the paternal line so I researched Edward Roderick Davies' maternal lineage.

His mother, Annie Evans, was born in 1890 at Llangynwyd as were her parents: Evan Evans 1851-1892 and Ann HARRIS 1852-1939. They had also married there in 1870.

On the 1861 census at the Colliers Arms, Cwmdau, Llangynwyd:

Evan Evans, 35, Collier, b Llanguick (Llangiwig), Glamorgan,

Ann Evans, wife, 35, and children:

Janet (Jennet) 13, Edward 10, Margaret 8, Elizabeth 5 and David 1.

All born Llangynwyd.

Living next door was Jennet Roderick, Widow, 77, Victualler, b Margam, and a young servant.

This looked promising and so it proved. Evan Evans had married Ann Roderick on 1st September 1846 at Llangynwyd. Ann Roderick's parents were Edward Roderick 1783-1840 and his cousin, Jennet Roderick 1798-1859. Both were born in Margam and died in Llangynwyd. Edward Roderick's brother, David Roderick 1788-1867, was my 3x great grandfather.

David Thomas Davies lost a kidney when he was crushed by a coal cart at Coegnant Colliery in Nantyffyllon. The family then moved to Porthcawl and in 1927 David left Wales for Detroit. He found work at the Ford plant in the burgeoning car industry. His family followed in 1929. Their son Leslie was born there in 1930. David Davies was not the first of his family to leave for the USA. His father's brother, Edward Thomas Davies 1851-1927, his wife and five children, had left in 1887 to join other Welsh settlers from Llangynwyd in Orange County, Kansas.

1930 census: 1561 Parkview Avenue, Detroit:

David T Davis (sic) 48, Pipe Fitter Auto Parts, wife Annie, 40, and children: Margaret 15, Edward 14, David 6 and *Edward Williams, nephew, 28, unemployed. All born in Wales.

*Edward John Williams 1902-1974, a nephew of Annie Davies, returned to his wife and daughter in Wales and remained there.

1940 census Detroit

David Davis, 52, Unemployed,

Wife, Ann Davis, 50, and sons:

Edward R Davis, 24, Engineer, 4 years at college, 1939 income \$2,400,

David Davis, 16 and Leslie 9 born Michigan.

All others were born in Wales.

Edward Roderick Davies married Lois POTTINGER (1917-1993) in Detroit in 1947.

1950 census Oak Park, Oakland, Michigan

Edward R Davies, 35, Engineer in Design Company. Worked 45 hours in previous week. Born Wales.

Wife Lois Davies, 33, and children:

Roderick D, 1, and **Ann Lois Davies**, born in April.

All born Michigan and

Edward's brothers: David H Davies, 27, Engineer b Wales and

Leslie Davies, 19, Engineer b Michigan.

In 1938, Edward completed an engineering degree at the General Motors Institute of Technology. From 1941-1945 he served in the US Naval Corps. He co-founded Jered Industries in 1946, a highly successful maker of heavy equipment initially for marine use. His company also worked on NASA's Gemini space programme during the 1960s.

Jered Industries was acquired by Vickers, the British industrial conglomerate in 1980. Edward also served as the mayor of Bloomfield Hills, a prosperous northern suburb of Detroit.

Edward Davies was both an innovator and inventor. He held patents for an automated window washer for high-rise buildings, a high-performance golf cart, a scuba speargun and a type of lawn sprinkler.

Edward died in Stuart, Florida on 8th September 1992. His successful business career and wise investments enabled him to leave an estate worth millions of dollars. At the time of his death, he owned large properties and a 65-foot yacht.

Edward Davies rejected religion and was an avowed atheist. Before Edward married Lois Pottinger, he insisted she give up organized religion and later his son said, "Dad considered people who were religious to be weak in the knees." There was controversy when 18 months after his death his wife and children arranged for his baptism in a Mormon ceremony.

According to Romney biographers Michael KRANISH and Scott HELMAN, authors of *The Real Romney*, Mitt Romney's father, George, the late Michigan governor and GOP presidential hopeful, guided Ann Davies and Mitt's future wife through the elaborate Mormon conversion process over the initial opposition of Ann's father, Edward.

Governor's son takes a bride

WED recently in the U.S.A. was Miss Ann Lois Davies, of Bloomfield Hills, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Roderick Davies, and great grand-daughter of a former Maesteg councillor, the late Mr. Dafydd Davies ("Bro-gwr") of Nantyffyllon, Maesteg.

The bridegroom was Mr. Willard Mitt Romney, of Michigan, the son of Governor Romney, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in President Nixon's cabinet, once a strong contender for the presidency of the U.S.A. Mr. Edward R. Davies, the bride's father, is a prominent industrialist, president of Jered Industries, a plastics manufacturing firm, and former Mayor of Bloomfield Hills.

The ceremony was the first civil one at the home of the bride's parents, while the religious ceremony took place in Salt Lake City—in the Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ, of the Latter Day Saints.

Chartered planes took the members of the both families to the Temple ceremony. There were 300 guests at the wedding reception.

Both the bridegroom and bride are University students. They spent their honeymoon in Hawaii, and will set up home in Provo, Utah.

Glamorgan Gazette June 13 1969

Former Porthcawl Boy's Success at New York World's Fair

Mr. Edward Roderick Davies, a former Porthcawl boy, is engaged in research work at General Motors factory in Detroit, U.S.A.

Mr. Davies, who is only 23 years old, has been instrumental in designing the



General Motors' show at New York World's Fair.

The General Motors' exhibit was considered by experts to be the best of the Fair, and the result of a poll among the fairgoers gave the General Motors first place.

Mr. Davies is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Davies (Brooker), late of Westbourne-place, Porthcawl, and is a nephew of Mr. H. R. Evans, Central Garage, Porthcawl. The family left Porthcawl 10 years ago for Detroit.

PORHCRAWL MAN'S ACHIEVEMENT AT WORLD'S FAIR

His Grandfather Was Maesteg Councillor

Mr. Edward Roderick Davies, a former Porthcawl boy, who is engaged in research work at the General Motors Factory in Detroit, U.S.A., has taken a prominent part in designing the General Motors' show at New York World's Fair.

He is only 23 years of age, and the exhibit at the World's Fair was considered by experts to be the best. As a result of a poll among the fairgoers General Motors were given the first place.

Mr. Davies is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Davies, formerly of Westbourne-place, Porthcawl. The family left Porthcawl for Detroit about 10 years ago.

Mr. Davies comes of an old Nant-yffyllon family. His grandfather, on his father's side, was the late Councillor David Davies (Broger), who was a well-known public figure in Maesteg for many years, being a member of the Maesteg Urban District Council. Mr. Davies' mother was formerly Miss Annie Evans, whose mother, the late Mrs. Ann R. Evans, died at an advanced age at Nant-yffyllon a few years ago.

The late Mrs. Evans was a native of the district and came from one of its oldest families. For many years she kept the Colliers' Arms, Nant-yffyllon.

2027 Renewals

See Centre Insert for:
Renewal Form
Standing Order
Gift Aid Form

COINCIDENCES

#8631 Eirian Edwards

Several years ago, when I went on a bus journey, the person sitting next to me asked me what interests was I following after retirement, which led to a discussion about family history. But whereas I am looking for common surnames in Wales such as EDWARDS, THOMAS, DAVIES, JONES etc, she said that it was easy for her as anyone with the surname 'MENDUS' was bound to be related. Imagine her surprise when I said that I remembered the Revd Lewis Mendus (1888-1982), who was a member in Crwys Road Chapel, Cardiff at the end of his life. She and her close family had lived in the north of England for most of their lives and did not know much about his history. Her father, Mervyn Mendus (1924-2018) had been brought up on a small-holding on the outskirts of Coety, near Bridgend in the 20s/30s and was one of the Glamorgan Mendus family rather than the Pembrokeshire branch like Revd Lewis Mendus.

The relationship between the families went back generations. As my new friend did not understand Welsh, and did not know where to look for the history of the missionary, Lewis Mendus, I enjoyed locating the collections associated with both him and his wife in the National Library, and in finding and translating the tribute to him in the Yearbook of the Presbyterian Church of Wales, 1983. I also pointed them in the direction of the passenger lists that recorded his journeys back and fore to India, including the time that he came back to marry Gwenllian M PRYS (1898-1984), the daughter of Dr Owen Prys, a theologian, who became the Principal of the Theological College in Aberystwyth. I was also able to locate a copy of his biography, *The diary of a Jungle Missionary* (1956), and Mervyn Mendus, who was in his 80s at the time, was very proud to read about the life of such a notable relative.

Lewis was ordained in 1913 with a view to becoming a missionary, but because he had weak eyesight this was not possible until 1921 when he was accepted to go to Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram in the north east of India (formerly a part of Assam, on the borders of Myanmar and Bangladesh today). In the meantime he became a minister in Treforest and in Grangetown under the aegis of the Forward Movement. He had to leave the mission field and return to Wales in 1944 because of his failing eyesight.

It is said that Mr Mendus had heard Rev DE JONES, Llandderfel (1870-1947), the founder of the church in Mizoram, whilst he was visiting Wales, saying that he was in charge of 174 churches. As someone who intended to become a missionary, Lewis offered himself for the work on the spot, and then lived in Mizoram, his name there being 'PU MENA'. Whilst there he undertook the most important work of his life, building on the foundations that his predecessor had established. According to a tribute to him by Rev Samuel

DAVIES, who had also worked in Mizoram, *'he was full of humour and he had the knack of treating all sorts of men in such a way that he earned their love and respect, and he succeeded through grace and patience and through the strength of his personality to keep the church united through various difficulties.... He prepared generation after generation of teachers for village schools; evangelists and ministers to take care of the churches. The production of appropriate literature was another important aspect of his work, he was the editor of the monthly publication of the church throughout his time there, he published commentaries and booklets as the need arose, but most importantly he continued to translate the Bible. Through all this the church was being built. His aim always was to prepare the church to be self-sufficient in all matters and to raise suitable leaders who in due course would be capable of taking on the work of the missionaries. The history of the church there today pays tribute to the success of these preparations.'*

As indicated above, Mervyn Mendus, with his brother David (1915-1934) and two sisters, Mary Ann (b 1917) and Glenys (1929-1945) had been brought up on a small-holding near Coety where they had five cows, some chickens and a pony and trap to distribute milk locally. Life was hard for them in the 20s/30s and in 1934 they were devastated when Mervyn's older brother died aged 19, and a few months later his father David J Mendus (1874-1934) also died.

Despite trying valiantly to run the small-holding with three young children, Mervyn's mother, Ethel M STAGG (1895-1978) eventually had to move the family to Bridgend. During WWII Mervyn, in the army and posted to Lancashire, met his wife in the ballroom of the Blackpool Tower. He worked for the Ambulance Service for twenty years, later moving to Guisborough where he worked as a Safety Officer on building sites. It meant a lot to him that two of his three daughters had moved to Cardiff and Penarth to retire, very close to the area of his youth.

A very different history to that of the missionary and his wife in Mizoram, therefore, but there were similarities. When Lewis Mendus and his wife returned on a visit to Mizoram in 1949 they received a very warm welcome. And when Mervyn Mendus paid a visit to Coety with his two daughters in 2014, when he was in his 90s, looking for the house that his father had built, he found the path leading to the house and there was a man standing outside. As they were in Wales none of them were surprised that he extended a warm welcome to them, and Mervyn could see that the inside of his former home was much as he remembered it. As the owner was about to change and extend the house it was a miracle that he had visited at that particular time. The owner was pleased to speak with Mervyn as he had heard that there used to be an old well near the house, but he had never been able to find it. As there was no running water in the house in the 30s, of course Mervyn could

lead him straight to the well – his job in his youth was to carry water for the family and for the animals.

Another pleasure he had that day was a visit to his old school in Coety, bringing back fond memories (including that he had played in a gazooka band there), and all this happening shortly before the school closed, transferring to Parc Derwen. A strange co-incidence again. And another happened as the family's last visit was to the cemetery of St Mary's Church, Coety to see the family memorial. As Mervyn only had daughters, and his brother and sisters had no children, no-one with the surname Mendus from this family from Glamorgan will be able to trace his roots back to this spot in future.

In Mizoram in 1949 when Lewis and Gwen Mendus paid a visit, they had to visit the grave of the first minister of Mizoram called CHHUAHKKAMA, someone who had been a great support to Lewis Mendus when he had to deal with the complexities of the local people. This is the man he wrote a book about, *My Friend Chhuahkkama*, and it was no surprise, therefore, that they laid the flowers that had been presented to them in welcome on the grave of this special man who had died just before their visit.

It was a pleasure for me to read some of the history of Lewis Mendus and to hear the history of Mervyn Mendus. The inheritance left by missionaries like Lewis Mendus is very strong, with about 90% of the population of Mizoram today being Christians, and it is their missionaries now that visit countries all over the world, including Wales.

One other coincidence surprised me when I was looking through various books about missionaries in India when I noticed the name Evan Kenfig JONES (1863-1950). Although this man had not worked in India, he was the Chairman of the Baptist Missionary Society and the author of *Hanes Cymdeithas Genhadol y Bedyddwyr* (1944), (*History of the Society of the Baptist Mission*). After a little bit of research I found that he had been born in Bryndu, Kenfig Hill – a stone's throw away from Ardwyn, the house where I spent the first two years of my life!

Newsletter

If you wish to receive our Mail Chimp Newsletter with additional tips, sources and up and coming events you can Opt In using the form on our website. You can also 'unsubscribe' at any time by clicking 'Unsubscribe' at the bottom of the Newsletter.

www.glamfhs.org.uk/newsletter-opt-in-form

ABERFAN RECOLLECTIONS.

Gerald Jarvis

My first memory of Aberfan was on the 21 October 1966. I was 18, and working at Method Centre Line, a light engineering company on the Bridgend Trading Estate. We had stopped work for the tea break, and were all standing in a queue for our toast, bantering away as usual. I'd started to tell a joke and was about halfway through and a 'Shush!' rang out. The news had just come on the radio, and we all listened in stunned silence.

Afterwards, we discussed where exactly Aberfan was, and more importantly we talked about HOW? How could a tip just slide down a mountain? Most of us lived in valley towns dominated by coal tips, so what had just happened to Aberfan could potentially happen to us! We stopped every time a news bulletin came in, rushed home to see the devastation for our own uncomprehending eyes. This was not just another mining disaster, we, in Wales were all too used to them; this was another kind of disaster. What happened that morning at Aberfan, sent a shiver through the collective psyche of a nation. For days, weeks and months afterwards, all conversations seemed to start with "Did you hear about Aberfan? I was when I heard", as if providing an alibi for ourselves.

The next time I came across Aberfan was 18 years later, after becoming a retained Fire Fighter with the Garw Fire Brigade. In the summer of 1977 we were in the middle of a heatwave and the Fire Services were desperately fighting forestry and heath fires all across Wales. We were called to the Pontycymer Fire Station at about 10.30 pm, and on arrival we were told that we were going to be sent to Troedyrhiw, to relieve firefighters who were trying to control a huge fire on the mountainside. We set out from the Garw in pitch darkness, and in due course with us sleeping in the back we arrived at our destination.

We were given our instructions, and detailed off. Mine were to get a two-man pump down to the river (the Taff) in the valley bottom, create a dam, and then use the pump hoses to fill fire tenders higher up on the main road (A4050), which were deployed in relays to supply the firefighters on the mountain. We were busy all through that night working by torchlight, maintaining the flow of water and refuelling our pump; the only other source of light was the cherry-red glow of the pump's exhaust. By dawn we could see very little because a mist had settled during the night, and as this mist burned off with the morning sunlight it revealed a series of playing fields with rugby and football pitches across the river.

My first thought on seeing these was that they could do with having the grass cut because it was about knee high. By now the mist was rising quickly and the lower slopes of the opposite side of the valley were becoming visible.

Along the river bank there came an old man and a dog. I shouted out above the noise of the pump "Morning mate! Where are we?" . He did not speak, but raised his stick and pointed back across the valley. I followed his direction and then I could see for the first time the stark white arches of the Aberfan Memorial on Mynydd Merthyr, only now being revealed by the morning mist. I turned back to talk to the old gentleman but he had carried on walking. We were eventually relieved later that morning; some of the Pontycymer crew had been working on the fireground, others were on traffic control, and were full of stories about their night's work. I wearily listened in and thought about the unmown playing fields, unmown because there were no children to use them now?

EDITOR'S NOTE: *this article was previously printed in Journal 124 of December 2016, after the 50th anniversary of this terrible event, but as another 10 years have passed and this year marks the 60th anniversary, I felt it was fitting to reprint it.*

A JOURNEY FROM YNYSMEUDWY TO SYDNEY (Part 3) #20932 Enid Lewis

Parts 1 and 2 of this account showed the sorrow of the Bevan family at leaving their home in the Swansea valley and the start of their journey to Sydney, New South Wales, in 1884. Their voyage was detailed in the newspaper Tarian y Gweithwr, in Welsh. The end of Part 2 left them waking up on April 18th after sleeping on deck because of the heat. This part carries on with life on board, with some of the entries in both English and Welsh.

April 20th - Got up early today to enjoy ourselves before sunrise, as we detect the unmistakeable signs of a fiercely hot day. The sea, however, is rather wild, and the ship begins its old routine. A shower of rain about ten o'clock. After that, it's hot! The sun shines so fiercely, as if it wants to burn us alive! Church of England service at half past ten. After lunch, as usual, I get to talk to my sister Serviah. If we had not had a sister on the ship, we would not have had an introduction to a single young woman throughout the entire voyage. Boys, remember to bring a sister with you. Another passenger has been struck with brain fever, but mercifully, not very severely. The ship waiting to pick up steam at two. Religious service at 7.30. Travelled 241 miles today.

Ebrill 20fed - Codi yn foreu heddyw i gael mwynhau ein hunain cyn y codo'r haul, canys yr ydym yn canfod arwyddion digamsyniol o ddiwrnod angerddol boeth. Y mae y môr, er hyny, dipyn yn wyllt, a'r llong yn dechreu ar ei hen arfer. Cawod o wlaw tua deg o'r gloch. Ar ol hyny, dyma wres! Tywynna yr haul mor angerddol, fel pe bae am ein llosgi yn fyw! Gwasanaeth Eglwys Loegr

am haner awr wedi deg. Ar ol ciniaw, fel arfer, cael siarad â Serviah fy chwaer. Oni buasai fod genym chwaer yn y llong, ni chawsem *introduction* i'r un ferch ifanc drwy yr holl fordaith. *Boys* cofiwch ddod a chwaer gyda chwi. Teithiwr arall wedi cael ei daraw â'r *brain fever*, ond drwy drugaredd, nid yn severe iawn. Y llong yn aros i godi ager am ddau. Gwasanaeth crefyddol am 7.30. Teithio 241 o filldroedd heddyw.

April 21st - A very nice day. Most of us as travellers have become women in our work. This is where excellent chefs are to be found! Ifor Cwm Gwys, in his song for the 'Women,' presents a high compliment to the old cook of Glansefin; but who is that cook compared to some of us who are on board this ship? I am reading today a book entitled 'Grace and Truth', which is the book I received from Philip Morgan. It is an excellent book; no price can be put on it. Fellow youth, buy it, read it, and give it the most serious consideration of your hearts. This afternoon, there was a raffle for a musical instrument. I was extremely lucky, as usual(?). I gave the name of Hopkin John, my youngest brother, and he came next to first. We enjoyed ourselves very well today, but we would have enjoyed it better if the 'fair sex' had been allowed to be among us; but there was no chance of that, for they keep a canvas between us and them, in case we should catch a glimpse of them. Some of us tonight were allowed to have a look at the engine, it is kept extremely clean. The engine-driver has an enjoyable task, but I wouldn't care for being a stoker. 'Firing the boilers' here is worse than being in front of Ynysmeudwy's aluminum work mills. Travelled 218 miles today.

April 22nd — Saw clouds this morning; but after breakfast, there were signs that the sun would not be long before showing its existence. To our dismay, it came out without asking our permission, with intensity; but the wind has risen high to meet it, and is beating heavily on the fore part of the ship. While walking on the upper deck, the wind takes my hat away, and it is not likely to come back. About four o'clock, I remember that I had not dined; but no matter - I made up for that by eating a good supper. Travelled 259 miles today.

April 23rd - A very pleasant day. The sea is calm, the wind on our side, and the ship navigates well. One of the passengers today being taken to hospital. The disease he has is too disgusting to mention. There seem to be more of his kind on the ship. Oh! dear Welsh youth, keep far away from such abomination. Go to bed about six o'clock. It continues to rain heavily throughout the night. Travelled 266 miles today.

April 24th — Cloudy morning. The sea is quite agitated today. Plum pudding the fifth time for dinner. Prayer meeting at half past seven. Travelled 251 miles.

April 25th — Similar day to yesterday, Speech on Phrenology today. Some of us get to 'read our heads.' Travelled 245 miles.

April 26th — A very foggy night all night, but the gracious wing of the Almighty protects us from danger. Experienced sailors are more afraid of fog than even the tempest. It remains fairly foggy all day, but it is easier to navigate through it safely during the day than at night. We see many birds today, which is unmistakable proof that we are not far from land. A programme is out this morning for a concert to be held tonight. This is the best concert yet, but although quite good, falls short of the standard of Welsh concerts. Travelled 251 miles.

April 27th - A lovely and pleasant Sunday. Church of England service in the morning and evening, as usual, but none of the blessed anointing of the simple but devout worship of Wales. Around midday today, saw an enormously large whale. We thought at first that it would throw out every drop of water in the sea. Got to see Serviah today again. We enjoyed ourselves very well today. Travelled 272 miles.

April 28th — The sea remarkably quiet today. Today we could place a cup of water on the deck without it spilling over its edges, so quietly and gently the ship navigates. Spot a ship in the distance. Get our boxes up to the deck for the last time before reaching the Cape. Hundreds of fish - small and large - to be found today, but little time to look at them, as we are on the look out for land. At eleven o'clock see land in the distance. In the Cape by twenty to six in the evening. Many wonders to be found, even at night. The electric light illuminates the town, and appears very beautiful. Sleep overtakes me early. Many of the passengers keep a loud muster until three o'clock in the morning. You might think there are dogs, cats and roosters here. If Caradog had acted the Farnyard, there would have been no more commotion.

April 29th - A pleasant day. On deck this morning. We arrived at the Cape of Good Hope before six o'clock last night. We are not anchored far from the town, but no permission to get off the ship. The town seems very beautiful. The houses are generally low, but have chimneys, (in this they differ from Tenerife houses) and the greater number of them have been whitewashed. There is a Pier Head here, and a train goes along it. The train goes through the town from one end to the other. The ship stands opposite the Table Mountains. There has been enthusiastic conversation between me and my brother Thomas today. He argues that this town is more magnificent than Tenerife, and I argue for the splendour of the latter; but better to keep quiet in case it gets too heated between us. I should say that the town has been built on a half-circle, like half a moon. The churches and chapels, &c, are quite prominent as they almost always have spires.

There were two soldiers on deck today, one of them the brother of a Protestant Irishman who is on board the ship, reporting the death of a brother of theirs. He was killed in a skirmish with some of the natives of the country.

We feel somewhat angry and frustrated because we were not allowed to pay a visit to the town.

Several of the natives were on board the ship. They can speak English extremely well, and according to all appearances to us are very kind men. We raised anchor at half past five. When the ship started the town seemed very pretty illuminated by the electric light.

As we go out to the south of the town we find rocks as if not completely finished since the morning of creation, because of how mercilessly they bare their teeth. As we start the sea is calm, and the ship navigates extremely smoothly. This place is very dangerous for ships when the sea is rough and the tempest is raging, as there are so many jagged rocks. The sea is much more agitated towards eleven o'clock, and continues like that all night. Pass the Cape of Good Hope lighthouse this evening. Got to bed around midnight, but couldn't sleep much tonight.

April 30th — The wind is blowing fairly strongly today at the bow of the ship. Two men found this morning who had entered the ship by stealth, and had been hiding in some corner. The land of Africa continues to be in our sight all day, but we lose sight of it completely around nine o'clock this evening. A sailing ship comes into view at ten to nine this evening. The wind is behind her, and she is driven grandly before his majesty. Not feeling very well tonight. Go to bed early. Travelled 181 miles today.

Part 4, when they finally arrive in Sydney, will be related in the next journal.

EXCHANGE JOURNALS

Did you know:

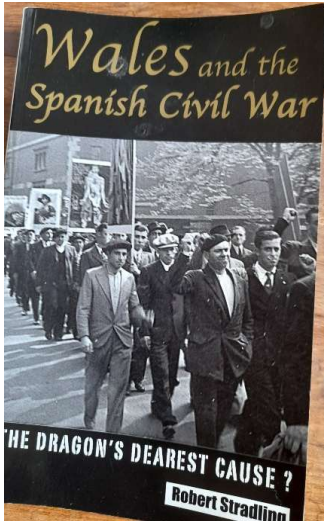
The Society website has over 100 journals from other family history societies both UK and overseas, all available free to members, so take a look, as you never know who may turn up from another area.

www.glamfhs.org.uk/exchange-journals

BOOK REVIEW

Ian Black

Many countries were involved in the Spanish Civil War but even today in Wales it has retained a greater significance than in most other countries. It is surprising how many Welsh families have connections with the volunteers who fought in this war. This book investigates the politics of the time and how so many Welshmen went to Spain to fight in the war.



Wales and the Spanish Civil War is an extremely well researched book by Robert Stradling, sadly now deceased, who worked in the European History Department in Cardiff University for many years, and has written books on European History as well as being involved with BBC Wales history programmes. This book looks at the Welsh people's experience – ideological, political and cultural, of the Spanish Civil War. It not only deals with the actual war years 1936–1939 but also the impact the war had on the Welsh fighters in Spain. It also shows the effects it had back in Wales, and the Welsh people there, and the positive and negative effects on the Welsh economy. The aftermath of the war is also covered which made me realise that not everything that I thought I

knew about this war was true. It also looks at the recruitment of the Welsh Volunteers, the politics of the time, and it re-evaluates previously acknowledged truths about the war. The author puts emphasis on analyses of the war rather than its narrative history, and he discusses how the war was looked at by the Welsh at the time and how later generations looked at the war. Opinions have changed since the war ended, possibly as politics has also changed over time.

Quite a large part of the book deals with volunteers of the Welsh International Brigade where the author uses archival material from newspapers and diaries, which gives one a better understanding of the Welsh fighters' experiences of this war in Spain.

Richard Stradling again shows what a thorough researcher he is as he has written a concluding chapter and an appendix with detailed notes, bibliography and a full index. This book is a must read for those with any interest in how the Welsh became involved the Spanish Civil War.

Paperback, University of Wales Press, 2004. ISBN 0-7083-1816-9

LETTERS/EMAILS to the EDITOR

Martin Owen has written in connection with the last Journal's references to Melbourne's Welsh Church to say that his 85-year-old sister emigrated (twice) to Australia, met and married a Welsh-speaking man from Aberystwyth and lived in Bendigo, Melbourne, visiting that Welsh church frequently. Her husband, was a lay-preacher there, well-known and respected, and a real character, with a fund of entertaining stories. On his death Martin's sister went to live in Canberra near her son, a product of Atlantic College in St Donat's, Glamorgan.

Martin and his wife have visited the Church on one of their trips to Australia and have found it to be flourishing and very well cared for, as did I on my visit. His own family is well-scattered - his three children live in the British Virgin Islands, Auckland, New Zealand, and Hong Kong, further proof of the 'tentacles' of Glamorgan folk - they spread everywhere!

I am hoping Martin will have further stories to tell of his family's exploits, but he wishes, like many of us, that he had paid more attention to our parents and grandparents when they had stories to tell.

To tell us more of your stories, please contact the Editor:

editor@glamfhs.org.uk

Printed Family Trees and Charts

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

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

See your tree before you buy or pay a penny. Every customer previews their tree on their own dedicated website before deciding to buy or pay a penny. Prices start from as little as £25 for a 500 person tree. We also produce a wide range of other Family History charts, books and gifts for the genealogist. FULL MONEY BACK GUARANTEE if you are not satisfied with any of our products.

Please visit our website for further details or e-mail us your phone number and we'll call you to answer any questions you may have, you don't even pay for the call.

email: info@genealogyprinters.com

NEWS FROM GLAMORGAN ARCHIVES

Staff

- Records Assistant, Stefan Walker, left the Archives in April after 23 years. Those of you who visited the office will remember Stefan from the searchroom.

Access and Community Engagement

- Our events programme continued in March with a sold out talk by Dr James January-McCann of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales on place names. April saw Tony Moon return with a visual presentation on the Barry Railway. In May we were joined by Sara Huws from Cardiff University Special Collections and Archives for an excellent talk on their collections. And in June we hosted the launch of the latest book from Cardiff Medical Society, and a talk by Emily Garside on her new book, *Rainbow Wales*.
- In April, textile creative Ophelia Dos Santos held a workshop at the Archives entitled Patchwork and Protest. The workshop saw participants respond to a display of documents relating to the history of protest and activism in Glamorgan, producing their own pieces of embroidery or patchwork under Ophelia's guidance.
- Our events programme continues with a talk on 24 July by Ellie Gregory on 'Unmarried Motherhood, Maternity Homes, and the 100 Year Legacy of the Adoption Act in South Wales'. Places can be booked through the link on our website.
- We will be holding our annual Open Doors event on Saturday 12 September. Tours behind the scenes are available to book. We'll also be joined again by GFHS who will have a stand and will also give two talks, one on 'Researching Your Irish Family History' and another on 'Online Resources for Welsh & English Family History: Beyond Ancestry & Find My Past'.
- School visits have continued to prove popular, with classes from Trelai Primary, Pencaerau Primary, Herbert Thompson Primary, Moorland Primary, Bryn Hafod Primary, Glan yr Afon Primary and Grangetown Primary all visiting for workshops. 506 pupils and teachers visited the Archives from March-May.
- We also welcomed a group of young people from Llamau, a charity working in Wales to support young people, women and children at risk of or experiencing homelessness.
- In March we launched our new education resource, *The Black Diamond and Beyond: Hidden Hands and Healing Lands*. This is an innovative resource designed to inspire learners to explore the industrial past, present, and future of Wales. It is available as a free download from our website <https://glamarchives.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/The-Black-Diamond-and-Beyond.pdf>.

- We launched a new online exhibition on our website, *'Hughesovka: An Industrial City with Welsh Roots'*. The exhibition draws on the records within the Hughesovka Research Archive.
- We also recently launched *'Our Favourite Objects: the Glamorgan Archives community zine'*. Zines are non-commercial publications, usually created and circulated by an individual, focussing on specific interests, and are a means of personal creative expression and, often, activism. Our zine was produced through a partnership between staff and zine maker Charles Johnston. It highlights items from the collection, and provides a step-by-step guide to accessing the Archives.
- Members of GFHS Cardiff & Vale Branch met at the Archives in May. This was the first of two sessions looking at transport; this time with a focus on roads and air travel.
- We attended a Capeli Cymru event at Canolfan Soar, Merthyr Tydfil. Capeli Cymru is a project led by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales to safeguard the heritage of Welsh Nonconformity.
- Articles on our blog include Barry Island Funfair and the switchback railway, the Ely Subway which connected Grangetown and Penarth Docks, and the Exhibition Hall built for the Cardiff Fine Art and Industrial Exhibition of 1896. We also commemorated the centenary of the General Strike of 1926 with a week of posts, starting with a new article featuring photographs taken during 1926, followed by the articles written in 2016 looking at the strike from the differing perspectives of those involved.
- Thank you again to volunteers from GFHS for supporting our 'Ask the Experts' family history sessions.
- You may have noticed Glamorgan Archives featuring in a recent episode of Casualty. One of our strongrooms was used as a location for filming earlier in the year.

Volunteers

- We celebrated Volunteers Week in June with a series of social media posts on the current projects our volunteers are working on.
- Our annual volunteer trip took place on 30 June. This year we visited the Museum of Welsh Cricket at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff.
- Crowd Cymru, the digital volunteering project in which we are a partner, has been awarded the 2026 Archives and Records Association Volunteering Award.

Collections

- Another successful Collections Week was held in June. Cataloguing of two large series of records – those of Associated British Ports and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council was completed. Work on the records of W Clarke, Masons, of Llandaff, was further progressed. And the stock check of our strongrooms continued.

- Our next collections weeks will be held from 16-20 November.
- Recent notable accessions include:

Dowlais Male Choir Records (D2204)

Dowlais Male Choir was established in 1965 at the Guest Keen Memorial Club. Initially most of the choristers were employees of Guest, Keen and Nettlefold Ltd. In 1973 the Choir won the Chief Male Choral competition at the Royal National Eisteddfod at Ruthin. The Choir has toured since 1975, visiting Luxembourg, Bulgaria, USA, Canada, Holland, Ireland, Italy, and Northern Cyprus. In 2005, the Choir was selected to represent Wales at 'The Festival Interceltique', in Lorient, Brittany. The records include scrapbooks, programmes, posters and flyers, photographs, newscuttings, membership records, tour papers and correspondence.

Cowbridge Lending Library Records (D2201)

Cowbridge Lending Library was established in 1711 to provide a resource for clergy in the county of Glamorgan. Many clergy were unable to afford religious tracts and 'parochial libraries' were established in market towns to provide a central location. These libraries were to be funded through benefactions of books and money. Cowbridge Lending Library was based in the Cowbridge Parish Church. Patrons were limited to clergy or school masters in a ten-mile radius of Cowbridge, the trustees, and anyone who contributes 10 shillings or a book. The Register covers the period from 1711 to 1848 and includes the deed of settlement, the form of the Covenant to the Library Keeper, a catalogue of the library, account of the benefactions in book and money, account of money spent, and orders made by the trustees.

St David's Uniting Church, Treforest, Records (D2198)

Records for a number of chapels were received through St David's Uniting Church, Treforest. The Church was founded when Pontypridd United Church and St David's Presbyterian Church joined together in January 2002. The records include minute books for Carmel Baptist Church, Gelliwastad Road Congregational Church, Pontypridd United Church and St David's Presbyterian Church.

Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants: Kenfig Hill Branch Records (D2195)

There is always interest in railway history and this register of members of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants in Kenfig Hill, covers the period from 1912 to 1962. The trade union represented railway workers who at the time were working in dangerous conditions and on low pay. The volume was found in a house clearance, and it provides useful genealogical information, giving the name, address, job, company, and the age of those who were members.

SOCIETY NEWS & REPORTS

ABERKENFIG RESOURCE CENTRE (ARC)

The summer months are often quiet in the ARC; it seems to be a quiet year so far. The ARC has continued to open on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays with both visitors and volunteers being welcomed. Almost two years ago we changed our open days from a Wednesday to a Tuesday in an endeavour to encourage more visitors, but this change does not seem to have made a noticeable difference. So, we are calling on the membership to discover their views on the best opening times.

Appreciating it is difficult for those not living locally to give a view, but if you were thinking of making a trip with a day or two stop over to visit the ARC, would there be a best day/time? For local members, would it help if we opened on a Saturday once a month or in the late afternoons or evenings once or twice a month? Let us know what you think would get you to call in?

Contact: arc2@glamfhs.org.uk

We mentioned in the last journal that we are in the process of reorganising the library and reviewing stock, this work is continuing and we will alert members to a possible book sale when we are ready for it.

Other projects that are ongoing;

Indexing of the family trees held continues; a fascinating job which will help members search for their missing links.

Scanning of a large collection of index cards which again once completed would be available on the website as a searchable database continues, although a little slower during the summer due to lack of volunteers, so if you have a little spare time, we would love to hear from you.

We have a few projects that are on hold awaiting volunteers' time, so, if you have some time, please contact us to explore what you could help with. Some of these do not have a set deadline so can be completed at a distance or at your own pace.

Visitors are always welcome and if possible, a little advance notice of both your visit and what you are looking for help with would enable us to better focus the help on offer. Group visits can also be accommodated, but once again a little notice is needed as the ARC is a relatively small area. Also, remember we can open at other days/times but will need a week or two's notice to ensure we can have two or three volunteers there to help.

ARC focus this journal is on Certificates. We have a large collection of Birth, Marriage and Death certificates that are available to browse online via the **“Resources”** tab on the website. A photocopy can be ordered by emailing the ARC. Just let us know the details of what you need. We can email it to you with just a £1 donation.

YEAR	PLACE	SURNAME	CHRISTIAN	MOTHER	F. CHRISTIAN
1880	Swansea	ACKLAND	Alfred	Ann HARRIS	Thomas
1893	Swansea	ACKLAND	Annie	Martha JOHN	John
1885	Swansea	ACKLAND	Sydney	Ann HARRIS	Thomas
1883	Cardiff	ANDREWS	Thomas William	Mary Julia THOMAS	Thomas William
1862	Swansea	ANDREWS	Thomas William	Mary THOMAS	Frederick Henry
1846	Cardiff	ANTHONY	Elizabeth	Ann JONES	Henry
1805	Gwent	ASHFORD	Maria	Mary	William
1870	Morrison	ASHMAN	Emily	Sarah Kevil	William
1805	Pembrey	AYRES		Maria Walkley	Thomas
1868	Swansea	AYRES	William	Rebecca TEACHE	Isaac

If/when we have a volunteer or a spare few minutes we would love to change these files into a searchable format to help your searching, so, again if anyone has time to help we would love to hear from you.

Book your Visit to the ARC to view:

The Genealogist www.thegenealogist.co.uk

Records only available at a Family Search Affiliated Library
www.familysearch.org.

ABERKENFIG RESOURCE CENTRE (ARC)

OPEN DATES FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR:

2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month, 10am-2pm
Other dates and times by appointment

August 11th and 26th
September 8th and 22nd
October 13th and 27th
November 10th and 24th
December 8th—Closed on 22nd.

arc2@glamfhs.org.uk

ABERDARE/CYNON VALLEY BRANCH

Our branch is currently holding two meetings a month, one in the Cynon Valley Museum the other in Mountain Ash Library. A decision was made not to book any further guest speakers until September but to hold research sessions in both meetings, as attendance is better in these.

A further decision as to the booking of guest speakers will be addressed during our AGM which will be held on 10th September, 2-4pm in the Cynon Valley Museum.

I am slowly working towards the completion of the transcribing of the remaining years between 1948-1950 of the Aberdare Obituaries.

The branch continues to help with members' research which come directly into the branch.

Pat Rees, aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk

BRIDGEND

Branch meetings continue on the 3rd Monday evening of each month but finding speakers continue to be a problem. The last few meetings have been research sessions, which those attending have enjoyed, but 5 is a good turn out. We will report on our speaker for July – Rob Taylor from the Porthcawl Museum talking about RAF Stormy Down in the next journal.

At this time of year everything is very quiet leaving us free to do research and work on various projects.

Don't miss the 'Cut-Off Dates'

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

March Issue	20 Jan	June Issue	20 April
September	20 July	December	20 October

CARDIFF & VALE

Cardiff & Vale Branch meet every other month 2pm at Glamorgan Archives. At our May meeting the topic was Transport 1: Roads & Air. Many of the less well-known records we view during these sessions are name rich. This occasion was no different with records relating to local Turnpike Trusts containing receipts for work done by local labourers such as an 1831 receipt for work done on Leckwith Road (not far from the Archives) – see below. We also welcomed a member from Australia at this meeting – see image back page.

In July members were introduced to documents relating to the Iron & Steel industry in Glamorgan. Senior Archivist, Rhian Diggins, provided an excellent introduction to the topic – see page 7 where her notes have been reproduced. The wide range of documents viewed at the meeting are also listed. See below for transcriptions of two of the documents viewed during these meetings.

Transcription of two documents viewed at the May Meeting:

Receipt 1:

<i>The Trustees of Cardiff Turnpike District</i>	
<i>2nd Dec 1831</i>	<i>To Lewis Jenkins</i>
	£ s d
<i>For Halling(sic) 60 yards of Stones</i>	<u>3 0 0</u>
<i>to Leckwith Common at 1s per yard</i>	

Witness (signed) Wm Jenkins

Recd the mark of X
Lewis Jenkins

Receipt 2

<i>The Trustees of Cardiff Turnpike District</i>	
<i>To Jonah David</i>	
<i>8th Oct 1831</i>	
	£ s d
<i>For 60 Perches of Scraping</i>	3 9
<i>Leckwith Road at ¾ per perch</i>	
<i>80 perches of Watercourse as do</i>	
<i>at 1d per perch</i>	6 8
<i>For 1 Day Cleaning Culverts</i>	<u>2 0</u>
	<u>£ 12 5</u>

Witness (signed) Wm Jenkins

Recd the above Catherine David (signed)

Transcription of a document from the July 'Iron & Steel Records' Meeting (see also inside front cover):

Letter

Private

Tredegar Iron Works

Mon 8 Jan^{ry} 1869

Messrs

The Dowlais Iron Co

Gentlemen

The following Puddlers have left their work here without notice – and having also taken a prominent part in the late riots – we have to request that you will not employ them.

John Williams – alias “Jack Sais”

Thomas Dyer

John West

Henry Biggs

Charles Brickley

Thomas Watkins

Alfred Lewis Junr &

James Warren.

We are

Gentlemen

Your Obed^t Servants

for Tredegar Iron Co

James Reed

Ref: DG/C/5/17

We want to emphasise to members how useful and fascinating are the records we are viewing at these meetings providing a range of additional sources to look for information about our ancestors and their lives. The iron and steel records are as early as the 1750s. We are looking forward to what we discover when we return in September to look at waterways and railway records.

cardiffmeetings@glamfhs.org.uk

MERTHYR TYDFIL

The Merthyr Tydfil Branch meets in Soar on the second Tuesday of the month starting at 2pm.

We have contact with the Merthyr Tydfil Historical Society and local historian, Huw Williams, gave a fascinating talk in May on the Spanish Civil War and the Dowlais Connection in May. At the beginning of the 20th Century Dowlais had the largest Spanish Community in Britain and our member, Carl Llewellyn, has done a great deal of research into the Spanish here and discovered some interesting information – many of the Spanish abandoned the Roman Catholic Church and joined the Pentecostal Church in Merthyr Tydfil!

In June we had an unexpected visit from Mary O'Shea who is working on a Famine Commemoration project in Galway. This involves working with 'Irish' groups in America and Liverpool, but she has only recently become aware that many Irish escaped the Great Famine by coming to Wales. We are providing information on the Irish of Merthyr Tydfil.

In July Michael Donovan is going to bring material from his extensive military collection and there will be a talk on 'Military Ancestors' on 14th July in Soar, to be reported upon in the next journal.

Carolyn Jacob, merthyr@glamfhs.org.uk

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To help with a range of Society Administration and Projects.

If you are interested in finding out more about our projects or helping to run the Society please contact the following direct.

Membership: membership@glamfhs.org.uk

Finance: finance@glamfhs.org.uk

Online Branch/Events: arlein@glamfhs.org.uk

Website: website@glamfhs.org.uk

Projects: projects@glamfhs.org.uk

Aberkenfig Resource Centre: arc2@glamfhs.org.uk

PONTYPRIDD & RHONDDA

The branch continues to meet on the third Tuesday of the month at the Pontypridd Museum in the centre of Pontypridd. We have a speaker every month and maintain an attendance of 12-15 people at each meeting. These typically include some guests alongside members. It would be good to see more members attending but it is difficult to know how to encourage this.

In April, we heard Rob Jones from the Cynon Valley History Society telling us about his detailed research into the Hier family of Pontypridd. Ben Jones, Senior Learning Officer at the Big Pit Mining Museum was our speaker in May. He gave an excellent talk on child labour in the mines. Then in June, Jane Pearce, who is from Pontypridd, gave a moving account of the life of her uncle, the world-renowned opera singer Sir Geraint Evans, who was born and brought up in nearby Cilfynydd.

Our Chairman, Meic Jones, was going to show his film on entertainers during the war years at our July meeting. Unfortunately, Meic has been unable to attend the last few branch meetings due to poor health. Creighton Sims will be stepping in with his talk on the Titanic at this meeting.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Meic for all he has done for the branch over a long period of time. Unfortunately, his wife Jane was taken ill while they were on holiday recently and is currently in hospital. We wish them both well.

Eleanor Aubrey, rhondda@glamfhs.org.uk

SWANSEA BRANCH REPORT

Swansea Branch is currently taking its summer break from holding meetings. The transcribing team is also taking break until September. During the year they have completed the school admissions register for Cwm School, Swansea and that has been put on to a CD and is available on www.genfair.co.uk

Checking the admissions register for Gower Road School, which is what Gowerton was known as before changing its name to Gowerton, is nearly complete and should be ready to be sent to the ARC by the end of September.

Cherry King is transcribing Clydach Primary School and this will need to be checked some time in 2027.

Janet Neilson, swansea@glamfhs.org.uk

ONLINE BRANCH

The Online Branch meeting for July was a Coffee & Chat session which focussed on **Ancestry DNA 'ThruLines'**. Sue MacKay introduced us to some of the features of the 'tools' and other members added their contributions including which elements are part of an Ancestry subscription and which are 'Premium' features requiring an additional payment.

Discussions centred around how to check the validity of the 'potential ancestor' feature, highlighted in green, which has usually arisen from a match to someone else's family tree – often, but not always, where an incorrect link has been made without sufficient proof from historic sources. How to add adequate historic 'proof' to a tree to correct these incorrect assumptions was also discussed. A very interesting topic which encouraged members to revisit their Ancestry DNA Thru Lines, to reconsider their 'matches' and ensure links included sufficient evidence.

In our next meeting in September, Ellie Gregory is going to repeat the talk she gave at Glamorgan Archives in July: *Maternity Homes and Adoption in South Wales: A 100-Year Legacy*. *Book your ticket via Eventbrite*.

arlein@glamfhs.org.uk

Website Re-development Report

Following the recent issues with the website caused by a software update, which made the website unstable a meeting has been held with interested parties to look at a rebuild of the current site. Meetings will be held online via Zoom once a month while the redevelopment is underway. If there are any features of other websites that you feel should be included, or anyone would like to write content, volunteer to provide support or contribute in any way please contact us via the following email.

There are still incompatibility issues with the current website as the upgrade now requires passwords to be 12+ characters and the payment system via Pay Pal includes two factor verification via a mobile phone. Anyone having difficulty renewing at the present time please contact us via:

website@glamfhs.org.uk.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Please contact the Branches for up to date information about all meetings.

ABERDARE BRANCH

aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk

Meetings are currently alternating between the Cynon Valley Museum and the Mountain Ash Library, Thursday at 2pm - check website for details

10 Sept, 2-4pm,
Cynon Valley Museum,
AGM and plans for future speakers and research
14 Sept 2-4 pm
Mountain Ash Library - Research Session

BRIDGEND BRANCH

bridgend@glamfhs.org.uk

Len Evans Hall (next to the ARC) at 7 pm third Monday each month

21 Sep
19 Oct
16 Nov
Dec no meeting – Nadolig Llawen

CARDIFF & VALE BRANCH

cardiffandvale@glamfhs.org.uk

Tues 1 Sept, 2 pm at Glamorgan Archives: Transport Records 2
Tues 7 Oct, 7pm AGM Online
Tues 3 Nov, 2pm Glamorgan Archives Topic TBA
Dec – No Meeting – Nadolig Llawen

MERTHYR TYDFIL BRANCH

merthyr@glamfhs.org.uk

Soar, Welsh Centre, Pontmorlais on the 2nd Tuesday of each month
8 Sept, 'The use of maps', Barrie Jones
13 Oct, AGM followed by discussion on the obituary project of the Merthyr Tydfil Branch.
24 Oct, Merthyr Tydfil Historical Society, History Day in Dowlais Church on the theme of Welsh women.
The Merthyr Tydfil Branch will take a table at this event.
10 Nov: TBA
8 Dec: Xmas Social

PONTYPRIDD & RHONDDA BRANCH

rhondda@glamfhs.org.uk

7 pm at Pontypridd Museum

15 Sept, 'When Whitehall came to Wattstown' –
the murder of Rachel Allen in 1947, Andrew Warmington

20 Oct, AGM, followed by talk topic TBC

17 Nov, 'The Romans in Glamorgan', Dr Leah Reynolds

December: No meeting – Nadolig Llawen

SWANSEA BRANCH

swansea@glamfhs.org.uk

Tues 8 Sept, 2pm

West Glamorgan Archives, Y Storfa, Oxford Street.

One of the archivists will speak to us. Subject tbc.

Tues 13 Oct, 7pm on Zoom,

Speaker: Dr Thomas Husoy – Anchored in Swansea,
Swansea's Norwegian Church and Community.

Thomas is a Historian and Outreach Officer
at the Norwegian Arts Centre in Cardiff.

On **6 and 7 October** there will be a two-day Norwegian/Scandinavian heritage conference based at the Norwegian Arts Centre, Cardiff Bay, which Thomas has organised. He has arranged a fascinating range of subjects.

The link is <https://fixr.co/event/norwegian-and-scandinavian-history-and-heritage-in-tickets-659544771>.

ONLINE BRANCH (Ar Lein)

arlein@glamfhs.org.uk

Thurs 10 Sept, 7 pm via Zoom

Maternity Homes and Adoption in South Wales:

A 100-Year Legacy – Ellie Gregory

For more information and to register for our online events on Eventbrite:

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

Further updates on Branch Meetings and Events are posted on our website
and social media www.glamfhs.org.uk/events



Editor Jean Fowlds (right) with member Gail du Pisanie from Canberra, Australia, who is researching her ancestors who lived and worked in various Glamorgan farms.



A busy morning at the ARC, with Penny (GFHS Secretary, seated left) and Nancy (Committee member, standing) in discussion.



In Cardiff, Sue Hamer (Trustee and Committee member, in foreground) with Nick Davey (Vice President, to her right), showing visitors some of the Glamorgan documents held in the Glamorgan Archives.

Number of persons in the Employ of the Dowlais Iron Company 1st May 1866.

		Under 10 Years		10 to 14 Years		15 to 19 Years		Over 19 Years		Total
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Men	Women	
Old Works	Forges and Mills	7		44	5	160	55	1091	67	1429
For	do			48	20	98	21	573	15	775
Furnaces				13	16	32	59	339	123	502
Steel Works				3		2		39		44
Fitting, Pattern, & Smiths Shops				5		1		30	2	37
Foundry, Carpenters, Boiler Makers &c						16		130	1	155
Engines	Forge & Blast			8		3		18		29
do	Locomotive					12		125		137
do	do									
Collieries &c				237	15	358	34	1342	37	2003
Mine Works, Limestone Quarries &c		2		90		132	41	1208	200	1709
Maestros, Roadmen & Cartmen				19		2		201	1	230
Coach Building &c				2		5		24		31
Farmes								19		19
Stables				7				12		19
Railway Station								3	1	4
Workhouse								3		3
Chapel								17		17
Waggoners, Grappars &c						3		45	1	52
Offices, Library, Post &c						11		32	5	48
Boards								9		9
Cardiff Yard						6		58	17	81
Edge Hill Mines				23		58		125		206
London & Liverpool House &c								23		23
Total		9		605	64	966	223	6237	464	8209

An extract from the Report on the Employment of Women and Children in the Iron Works of South Wales, containing details of the number of persons in the employ of the Dowlais Iron Company, produced by William Menelaus in May 1866. The reference is DG/C/5/15.

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