



Glamorgan Family History Society

Cymdeithas Hanes

Teuluol Morgannwg

May 27 1685.
Memorandum that on the day and in the year
above set down, The Minister, churchwardens, and
others of the parishioners of Llantrithyd, with a con-
venient number of boys took from the school for
that purpose went on procession around the whole par-
ish, examining the fines, bounds & limitations of
the said parish, according to an Antient and useful
Custom, and instructing the boys where they lay,
that they might be put to remember them, that being
so hereby to give an account of the just extent
of their own, they may ever maintain it, neither
offering any wrong to, nor taking any from
other adjacent parishes.

L. Aubrey Rector

Memorandum from Llantrithyd Parish Register

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Journal No 124

December 2016



Glamorgan FHS Annual Fair



Merthyr Leisure Centre



8 October 2016

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Centre Pages

AGM Nominaton Form, Renewals Forms,
Help Wanted, Membership Interests, Welcome to New Members

Society's Objectives

© Glamorgan Family History Society

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

At a recent Cardiff meeting discussions ensued about the importance of choosing appropriate media to record family history research for our descendants. The questions were asked - Who is the beneficiary of your research? Do you have a plan?

The importance also of recording oral testimonies is highlighted in some of the articles included in this edition. 'We wished we had asked our parents/grandparents more questions years ago' is a common refrain from family historians. As each generation passes there are many features of life that can be lost if the information is not passed on in oral or written format so it is good to see articles about life in the 1950s and 1960s now being written. After all that is now 60 years ago and life was very different to what our children are experiencing!

The Society website is now under redevelopment and I should like to take this opportunity to thank Nina Jenkins for the many many hours of research that she has undertaken in contacting dozens of family history societies to help us identify what is possible today in redeveloping a family history website and how it can be done. Thanks also to the webmasters and members of our fellow family history societies who have provided us with information about what is possible. More information will be given as the redevelopment progresses. Our aim is to provide as much FREE information as possible to our members and this will start with the provision of three of our indexes online.

I should also like to thank Gwyn and Kathleen Rhys who are retiring as our Look Up Coordinators. Both very experienced researchers they have provided our members with a research service for many years - always going much further than a basic 'Look Up' in our Society records to help members and non-members get over their brickwalls. Happy retirement Gwyn and Kathleen and diolch yn fawr!

Our Annual General Meeting will take place this year in Cardiff at Insole Court on Saturday 4 March. There will be a tour of the house at 2 pm before the AGM commences at 3 pm. Nomination forms for Officers are included in the central insert and should be returned to our Secretary, Jane Jones, by 1 February. I shall not be standing as Chairman this year due to family commitments. There are also vacancies for four Executive Committee members.

Finally I should like to wish members old and new a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Nadolig Llawn a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda!

Sue Hamer, chairman@glamfhs.org.uk

EDITORIAL

This Winter edition has articles from a wide range of areas, dates and personalities and includes an account of one of our new member's aristocratic ancestors, in contrast to his own more down-to-earth history. The life and times of a Swansea preacher and printer, the life of a Hong Kong policeman, and memories of childhood spent in two very different houses all make fascinating reading.

Because it is the festive season, a description of some old Welsh Christmas customs is included, plus an account of a more pagan offering left for good luck in the foundations of a railway station.

Sue Hamer & Jean Fowlds, editor@glamfhs.org.uk

May we wish all members and their families, and to everyone everywhere, a very peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year, from all the Glamorgan Family History staff and volunteers.

Nadolig Llawen ar y Flwyddyn Newydd Dda i chi gyd!



GLAMORGAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 4 March 3 pm at the Carriage House,
Insole Court, Fairwater Road, Cardiff, CF5 2LN

Preceded by a tour of the House at 2 pm,
Refreshments at 2.45 pm



Parking available on site.

Directions on Insole Court website
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DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NEW WEBSITE

Phase One - Access to Burials and Memorial Inscription Indexes

Our new website is now under construction to be launched in 2017. It is planned that members of the Society will be able to access our indexes starting with our Burials and Memorial Inscriptions Indexes to be followed at a later date by our Baptism and Marriage Indexes.

More information will be available in our March journal about how to log on to the new website.

Phase Two - Glamorgan Ancient Parishes

A Working Party is to be set up to develop the information to be included on the website similar to that undertaken by the Online Parish Clerks in English counties. The Working Party will meet the last Wednesday in the month at the Aberkenfig Resource Centre - next meeting **Wednesday 25 January at 10.30 am**. If you would like to help with this development please contact chairman@glamfhs.org.uk for more details.

The quick brown fox
jumps over the lazy dog

Does this sentence mean anything to you?

If so, we need you!

We are in the early stages of planning our new website and are looking for people to create content. Do you know anything about one or more parishes in Glamorgan? Do you know anything about the history of the county? Even if not, can you use a keyboard? If so, you could assist in typing up content written by others. We also need people to search out the most useful links for beginners looking for Glamorgan ancestors or historic information. We need some research guides for beginners - and much more! And later we shall need people to monitor various pages to ensure they always look good and are bang up to date.

You can do this at home – no need to go anywhere or attend meetings. If you feel you can help in any way, however small or would like to be involved in future.

Please contact: MarinaGirl372@gmail.com

AN ELIZABETHAN PARISH REGISTER FROM LLANTRITHYD

One of the earliest parish registers held at Glamorgan Archives is a parchment register for Llantrithyd (ref: P38CW1). It contains baptisms, 1597-1810; marriages, 1571-1653 and 1663-1752, and burials, 1571-1810.

Most of the entries in the volume, including those made in the 16th century, are written in English, but some entries from the first half of the 17th century (and a few later ones) are in Latin.

The first entry in the register is as follows:

Jevon ab JEVON and Cissill HOWELL married the xxiiijth of Februarij, 1571.

Many of the subsequent marriage entries record no more than the names of the bride and groom and the date of the wedding. Later entries often give the parish of residence of both parties, but by no means always. There are entries recording the marriages of various rectors of the parish, such as:

Lewis AUBREY Clerk and Rector of this parish was marryed to Mrs Jennett HOWARD Spinster of the same parish ye 24th of June 1691.

Other entries give the name of the father of the bride or groom if they come from the more substantial families of the parish, but in most cases occupations and fathers' names are not mentioned.

Baptism entries give the date of the ceremony, the name of the child, the name of the father, and sometimes the Christian name of the mother also. Occasionally an abode or occupation is given, and cases of illegitimacy are noted:

Aesop Charidemus, the illegitimate son of Richard LEWIS by Ann JOHN, spinster, was baptised the 5th of January 1806.

Burial entries usually record the date of burial, and (in the case of a wife or child) the husband's or father's name. Some entries, however, give fuller information. On 23 March 1602, the burial took place of Barnaby EAST, born in Surrey, who was returning from Ireland where he had been serving the Queen as a soldier. A later entry records:

William MORGAN (an infant, who was killed by a bullock) was buried the 14th of January 1800.

On 14 July 1806 Ann John (possibly the mother of the Aesop Charidemus Lewis mentioned above), ...*who was accidently shot at Lwynrithyd...*, was

buried. Some burials are of infants whose baptism is recorded elsewhere in the register. Thus Aesop Charidemus Lewis was himself buried on 24 February 1806.

During the period of nearly 250 years covered by the register, several surnames recur constantly. Most notable perhaps are the references to the AUBREY family, a local landowning family elevated to a baronetcy in the 17th century, whose house, which is now in ruins, adjoined the churchyard, and whose estate records have been deposited at Glamorgan Archives (ref: DAU). The register contains entries which record the burial of Anthony MANSEL (13 November 160s) and his wife Elizabeth BASSETT (24 December 1607), whose recumbent effigies lie on the fine altar tomb in the chancel of the parish church. Other families whose names occur many times are BASSETT, DAWKIN, GWIN, MATHEW and MUMFORD. Richard Mumford was steward to the Aubrey estate in the late-18th century, and his presence may perhaps be taken as an example of the immigration into south Wales of English families to serve local Welsh landowners. The earliest entry relating to this family, who subsequently served on many occasions as churchwardens, is the baptism of Patty-Mary, daughter of Mr Mumford and his wife Elizabeth on 31 May 1771.

In addition to entries of baptism, marriage and burial, the Llantrithyd register includes memoranda relating to parish matters. It is recorded, for example, that on 25 June 1637, Sir Thomas Aubrey of Llantrithyd, Knight, *...out of his Christian and Charitable disposic'on and entent that the releeff of the poore of the said parishe may be augmented...* gave to William John and Morgan John, churchwardens, and Rice HOWARD and Mathew FRANCES, overseers of the poor, £10, on condition that they and their successors, with the consent of Edward PRICHARDE, rector, and his successors, yearly dispose the sum to best advantage and bestow the interest upon the poor at Christmas and Easter.

Another memorandum records that on the same day Sir Thomas Aubrey gave to the churchwardens one silver gilt standing cup with a cover for use as a communion cup. This chalice is mentioned in *Llandaff Church Plate* by G. E. HALLIDAY (1901), who says that it is inscribed *Drink ye my bluid*. The memorandum in the register records that the churchwardens or their successors could, with the consent of the rector, *...change the forme and fashion...* of the chalice, *...as occasion shall require so that noe p'te of the value therof be diminished...*

Several memoranda in the volume record the beating of the bounds of the parish – in 1685, 1702, 1718 and 1747. The custom of beating the bounds was a traditional method of maintaining the ancient boundaries of a parish against encroachments. In carrying out the perambulation, the parish officers had the right to enter private property, and to be paid expenses from the rates, but a perambulation could not be made more than once in three years.

The memorandum (Front Cover) which records the procession of 27 May 1685 is as follows:

Memorandum that on the day and in the year above set down, The Minister, Churchwardens, and others of the parishioners of Llantrithid, with a convenient number of boyes took from the School for that purpose went on procession around the whole parish, examining the fines, bounds and limitations of the said parish, according to an Antient and usefull Custom, and instructing the boyes where they lay, that they might be sure to remember them, that being able hereby to give and account of the just extent of their own, they may ever maintain it, neither offering any wrong to, nor taking any from other adjacent parishes.

The memorandum is signed L. Aubrey, rector, and includes the names of the six boys of the parish taken on the perambulation: Robert, son of John ROBERT, clerk; William, son of William JOHN; Christopher, son of Anthony REES; David, son of Christopher SCIPIO; George, son of Watkin DAVID; and Christopher, son of Mary WATKIN.

The register is available to consult on Find My Past www.findmypast.co.uk

Rhian Diggins, Glamorgan Archives

OBITUARIES

#4283 KENNETH STRADLING (1939-2016)

We were saddened to hear of the death of Ken Stradling who passed away in June. Ken formerly served as Membership Secretary and on the Journal and Executive Committees before ill-health necessitated he moved away from South Wales to be nearer his family in Lincolnshire.

Ken had suffered ill-health for a while but was a cheerful and willing member of the Society always ready to volunteer to help out in whatever role was needed.

MARGOT ROSE

We have also just been advised of the recent death, aged 99, of one of the founder members of Cardiff Branch, MARGOT ROSE. For many years Margot was one of the team of transcribers of Glamorgan material which makes up our extensive publications collection.

We send our condolences to both families at this sad time.

EVAN GRIFFITHS, (IEUAN EBBLIG), 1795-1873,
MINISTER OF THE INDEPENDENT CHURCH,
TRANSLATOR, PRINTER

Evan was born on the 18th of January 1795 at Gelli-Bebbig, Betws, near Brynmenyn, the youngest of seven children. His father died when he was 3 years old, and owing to the extreme poverty of the family he had no educational advantages in life, his mother tutoring him at home using the family bible as a text book. He was received as a member of his neighbouring Independent Church in Brynmenyn aged thirteen.

At the age of 21 he started attending a school set up by the local minister, Mr W JONES of Brynmenyn, for a year and soon after he was preaching in the church as well. Later on he went for two years of intensive study to an academy in Newport, Mon, kept by a Mr Jenkin LEWIS. At the end of this period he was recommended by Jenkin LEWIS to Lady Diana BARHAM of Fairy Hill, an avowed evangelical philanthropist, as a suitable person to take charge of two new Independent Churches, Immanuel, Pilton Green, and Mount Pisgah, Park Mill, both in the Gower area. The by now Reverend Evan Griffiths fitted the bill.

He started his ministry at both these churches in May 1822. He was there for seven years before resigning his pastorate, and moving to Swansea to work on a Welsh translation of Matthew HENRY's (1662-1714) *Exposition of the Old and New Testaments* into Welsh. When a local printer became bankrupt in 1830, Evan Griffiths purchased the business and then undertook both the translation and the publication of the last three volumes. Vol II appeared in 1831 and the remaining two by 1835. Other publications from his press included a children's monthly, *Y Rhosyn* (1832-1833), and *Y Drysorfa Gynnullidfaol*, (1837-1845).

His method of getting this task done and the wherewithal to pay for it was simple but very arduous: he worked on the translation day and night for two weeks, then for the next two weeks he would travel all over Wales seeking orders and collecting payment for work done. Although he ceased to have charge of a chapel of his own, he still preached in Ebenezer Congregational church regularly on Sundays. Besides his translation of Mathew Henry's work he published over forty translations and original works, including translations into Welsh of Finney's *Lectures* (1839) and *Sermons* (1841), Burder's *Eastern Customs* (1837), Brook's *Mute Christian* (1830), JA James's *Church Member's Guide* and Doddridges's *Rise and Progress*. Griffith also published a Welsh-English dictionary in 1847.

In 1837, Evan Griffiths signed the 'Total Abstinence Pledge', and wrote many letters to the Press about the state of High St (Swansea) and the drunkenness

to be found there. Some of the manuscripts of his sermons are preserved by the National Library of Wales. He married a Mrs Mary JONES in 1829, who predeceased him. Evan Griffith died on the 31st of August 1873 and is buried at Sketty.

#10933 Gerald Jarvis.

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THANK YOU MAVIS!

Since 2005, Mavis Gibson and I have held Family History advice sessions for the Cardiff Library Service, firstly located in the temporary premises in John Street and then the New Library in Canal Street. This was an extension of the joint advice table that we had operated for many years at the monthly meetings of the Cardiff Branch and the Society's annual fair. Mavis provided advice based on her own researches in the Rhondda Valleys, while I have tended to cover more general questions.

Reluctantly Mavis is having to step down from these advice sessions and the regular enquirers and myself are going to miss her humour and help but I'm certain she will not really be retiring but will use the time to finally get the odd slide show or book finished!

Nick Davey

THE KING'S CHAMPION, AND HIS RELATIVES

From the time when I was a young schoolboy I always knew that my surname could be spelt in several ways, as I was often having to correct the spelling. It could be Dimmick, Dimmock, Dymoke, Dymocks, Dymocke, and other variations. As I grew older my family was fond of telling me that we were from aristocratic stock, and that our ancestors had served the reigning monarchs of England right back to William the Conqueror. This did not mean a lot to me as a young man - there were other things to be getting on with, like starting work, getting married, having a family, but as my family grew up I became more interested in my forbears and started making enquiries.

I found that the Dymoke, Dimmock, Dymocke family originally came from a village of that name in Gloucestershire, which has existed for well over 1200 years, the name possibly from Old Welsh, *Ty Moch*, (Pig's house or sty), although there are other theories. The family's rise to prominence came when the head of the family, Sir John DYMOKE, married Margaret, a granddaughter and heir of the MARMION family of Scrivelsby in Lincolnshire, in or around 1350. The last baron Marmion, Philip, died in 1291 with only a daughter Jane by his second wife to inherit the manor of Scrivelsby, and Margaret was her granddaughter.

Becoming Lord of the manor of Scrivelsby, as Sir John did on his marriage, meant also gaining the title of King's Champion as the two had been tied together since the Norman conquest. The title was one originally held by a Robert Marmion, whose family held properties in Fontenay-le-Marmion in Normandy, where the head of the family was a Viscount and held the office of 'Champion of the Duke of Normandy', the duke who was to become William 1st of England. Following William's conquest of England, the head of the Marmion family was rewarded for his support with grants of land in Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Warwickshire, Tamworth castle, and Scrivelsby in Lincolnshire, in 'grand serjeanty', ie on conditions of performing the duties of his office. In 1377 therefore it was Sir John Dymoke who acted as King's Champion at the coronation of Richard II.

The title was disputed by a descendant of another of Philip Marmion's granddaughters, Sir Baldwin DE FREVILLE, the owner of Tamworth. Edward III and Edward the Black Prince both admitted that the office was tied to Scrivelsby, and John Dymoke temporarily was granted the title. Baldwin de Freville did not press his claim, due to ill-health, but the dispute carried on until 1400, when the last claimant on his side died, and the claim of Sir John Dymoke and his descendants was no more disputed.

For some 450 years the Champion, clad in glittering steel armour and plumed helmet and mounted on a richly caparisoned horse, would ride into

Westminster Hall during the Coronation banquet. He would throw his gauntlet to the ground as a herald, and cry out that whoever challenged the King's right to the crown must engage the Champion in mortal combat. This would happen three times, and if no one picked up the gauntlet, the monarch would drink wine from a gold cup in the Champion's honour. He would then hand the cup to the Champion, who drank to the sovereign and became the owner of the cup.

John Dymoke was knighted in 1373, and represented Lincolnshire in the Parliaments of 1372, 1373, and 1377, dying in 1381, leaving his wife Margaret a widow. Her son Thomas performed the duties of Champion at the coronations of Henry IV and Henry V, and his son Philip acted as Champion at Henry VI's coronation.

Since then the traditional ritual enacted by the King's Champion has been carried out for every coronation, with that of George IV (1820-1830), being the last. On that occasion Sir Henry Dymoke was accompanied by the Duke of Wellington. King William IV held no coronation banquet, and Queen Victoria decided at her banquet not to include the traditional ride and challenge, and the custom has not been revived since. (In recompense, Queen Victoria made him a baronet).

At Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953 the Queen's Champion Francis John Fane Marmion Dymoke bore the Union Standard in Westminster Abbey.

But what of my branch of the family? Throughout the centuries the aristocratic Dymokes have all been meticulously listed in the many official records pertaining to the British aristocracy, but what is known about those other Dymokes, in all their spellings, who were not called to court and who just got on with their lives, and importantly, produced me?

Extensive research by myself and other friends and family members have managed to trace all my ancestors back to the birth around 1590, of Thomas DIMOCKE, who married Edith and had at least four children. There is another Thomas Dimocke born in 1589 in Holborn, and he is directly related to the aristocratic Dymokes with his descendants listed in Burke's Peerage and other sites, but they are not the same Thomas. Checked against the names of their wives and children, the Holborn-born Thomas and his descendants lived in Scrivelsby, the family seat, and still do, whereas the Thomas who married Edith, and their descendants, lived in Somerset through the centuries, with some of later years settling in South Wales. I am hoping that at some time in the future we could discover more about the Somerset Dimockes in the 200 years between Sir John's marriage to Margaret around 1350, and the appearance of Thomas at Evercreech in the 1590's - the missing piece of the jigsaw as it were.

This Somerset Thomas would become my seven-times great- grandfather, and he went on to become the churchwarden in St Peter's Church, Stoney Stratton, in 1622, dying in 1661, and buried in nearby Evercreech. It was his second son Elias, 1622- 1699, who was my six- times great-grandfather.

By all accounts, looking at the last Wills and Testaments of Elias and his elder son, also Elias, the family were very comfortably settled. The elder Elias left considerable bequests to the church in Milton Clevedon, to the poor, to his wife and children Elias and Thomas, and to grandchildren Thomas, Eliza and Mary (the others were not born at the time of writing the will in 1694). In turn the brothers, Elias the younger and Thomas, also made wills passing on considerable estates and money.

With all this largesse being passed down I was therefore astonished to find that Elias's grandson Thomas, 1718-1773, my five-times great-grandfather, together with his wife Katherine and 2 children, were seeking parish relief at Evercreech in 1754, meaning they must have been destitute. How could this have happened? By the bequests of old Elias downwards, they should have been wealthy. I looked at the will again of Thomas, brother to the younger Elias, written in 1720. He had 4 sons living, Thomas (again), Elias (again), Abraham and William. In his will, which is 6 densely-written pages long, the three younger sons are mentioned time and again as the recipients of land, buildings, property and money, (Elias was to receive the living of Hornblatton church and lands, where he became rector and parson later in life), but Thomas is mentioned only in so far that his father stated that son Thomas was 'bound to me in the penalty of one thousand pounds of lawful British money', an indication that there had been a large loan made father to son. Further tantalising references are made to the bankruptcy of Thomas's son-in-law, Richard SHUTE, husband to the younger Thomas's sister Mary, and small amounts only are left to them.

I have an idea which seems to fit the facts of what happened, although I cannot prove it: this was the era of the South Sea Bubble, the most catastrophic financial crisis to date, even up to modern times. In 1720 the House of Lords passed the South Sea Bill, which allowed the South Sea Company a monopoly of trade with South America, in exchange for lending £7,000,000 to the government to finance its war with France. In effect the South Sea company underwrote the National Debt, then standing at £30,000,000, on a promise of 5% interest from the government. The result was that shares rose overnight by 10 times their value, stocks increased in all sorts of companies and speculation ran wild. Ordinary people were investing what little they had into all kinds of ludicrously-named companies; those with more money to invest spent thousands. And then the bubble burst - hundreds of people went bankrupt overnight; lives were destroyed and many became paupers. Were Thomas and others, including his brother-in-law, victims of this crash?

If this is what happened then it truly was a case of Wealth to Workhouse, in 2 generations. Thomas and Katherine were refused parish relief from Evercreech in 1754, but the local magistrates directed them to Cloford where churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor were bound in law to look after them. They went on to have 4 more children all registered in Cloford, so they were given shelter. Their second son, John, baptised in 1757 was found on Blagdon Overseers' Accounts entered as a lime burner, being paid 4s 6d, and these accounts also show that John was required to pay a Mary COLLINS £2 10s for bearing his illegitimate child.

The family had associations with the workhouse for some considerable time afterwards as William, John's oldest son and my great- great grandfather (1782-1864) died in Frome Union Workhouse as a pauper, and was buried in Cloford. The 1851 census had shown him at 73 as a discharged marine, and at his death at 81 he was registered as having been a marine pre-1815, but apart from his name being registered on a Royal Navy listing, not a lot is known about this episode.

William's third son, also William (1831-1911), my great grandfather, was registered on the census as a foundry worker, and had 13 children, one of whom, Walter (1863-1940), became my grandfather. He was labelled 'officially' as a blacksmith of Holcombe, Somerset, but he had gone off to America on the HMS Paris in 1890 to seek his fortune. My family always refers to him as 'the Texas hobo', as apparently he travelled all round the Mid-West of the United States playing his banjo, seeking work wherever he could get it and ready to supply a musical backing for any event! We believe he spent 3-4 years there before returning home and the next we know is that he had married Mary Ann CORNFIELD from West Bromwich in 1899 in Frome. They, like so many others, must have been lured by the prospect of the 'Black Gold' to be found across the Bristol Channel, as my father, John James, one of 8 children to Walter and Mary Ann, was described as a coal miner when his death was registered at Bridgend in 1980.

So that's the much abbreviated story of how the fortunes of the members of one family can be so distorted by bad luck, bad judgement, bad timing, or simply being born to the 'wrong' son!

#10987 David Dimmick, as told to #10573 Jean Fowlds

If you've discovered that you may have aristocratic ancestors, there are a wide range of websites to help you take your search further: here are a few, but there are many more.

Burke's Peerage	burkespeerage.com
Patrick Cracroft-Brennan's	cracroftpeerage.co.uk
The College of Arms	college-of-arms.gov.uk
British History Online	british-history.ac.uk

GEORGE CHARLES SHEPHERD

Hidden away in the churchyard of Holy Cross, Cowbridge, is the three-step base of a broken headstone which bears the inscription 'In Loving Memory of/George Charles Shepherd/who served 15 years in the/Hong Kong Police & RMLI/and died while home on leave/ Sept 29th 1911/ Aged 36 years/ Thy Will Be Done'.

GCS was born 11th February 1875 at 5 Buccleugh Road, Norwood, Lambeth, London the 4th child/3rd son of William SHEPHERD and his wife Lucy (nee KILBY). Buccleugh Road is now the eastern part of Idmiston Road between Barton Road and Rosendale Road. William Shepherd was a professional cricketer and at that time was coach/groundkeeper at Dulwich College though he had played for Surrey in the mid-1860s.



GCS appears to have been baptised at the church of St Jude, Gray's Inn Road, along with three of his siblings, on 7th October 1877; George Charles son of William Shepherd (Cooper) & Louisa (*sic*) of 203 Kings Cross Road, born 11th Feb 1875. Why the father's profession was entered as cooper, the trade to which he had been apprenticed, is not known; perhaps the vicar did not consider cricketer to be a proper job.

Very little is known of GCS's early years. He is recorded in the 1881 census living at 2 Oakfield Cottages, Acacia Grove, Croxted Road, West Dulwich [RG11/669/110/19] and ten years later, still living with his parents, at 120 Lordship Lane, Camberwell [RG12/469/60/53] but on neither occasion with his occupation noted.

According to family tradition GCS met his future wife while working as a groom in service with a family, possibly in Newport, Mon. Where he learned to be groom or how he came to be in South Wales is not known. There is a story that his eldest brother William had obtained a position as cricket coach at Brecon College following a 'falling out' with their father but it has not been possible to check this. Perhaps there was a link?

According to the Royal Marines Registers of Service, Plymouth Division (RMLI), GCS enlisted on 16th January 1896 in London. His date of birth was given as 10th December 1877 (*sic*), his trade as groom and his religion as Church of England. His father, as next of kin, was living at 59 Ambrose Street, Streatham. In addition it records his height 5ft 7in, fresh complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, while under the heading marks, wounds etc was noted 'Spots on Chest' (TNA, ADM/159/73). Following his 'square-bashing' etc at RM Depot Walmer, he was posted to Stonehouse Barracks, Plymouth, until early December. The next 9 months were spent on HMS Vivid, the Devonport base ship. The sequence was to be repeated until 1 April 1898 when he embarked for 3 months on HMS Collingwood, an ironclad Admiral class battleship, which at the time was serving as a coastguard ship at Bantry. Following that GCS returned first to Vivid and then Stonehouse at Plymouth. During July/August 1899 he served on HMS Mersey, a cruiser, at Chatham but then returned to Stonehouse. It must have been around this time that that GCS applied to transfer to the Hong Kong police. It is clear from his service record that this was considered by the Royal Marines as a continuation of his military service.

GCS and Mary ROBERTS were married at St Mary's Church, Cowbridge, on 9th January 1900; her father and 3 of her siblings were the witnesses. (The church has since reverted to its original dedication of Holy Cross.)

Mary was the 4th child/3rd daughter of John Roberts and his wife Ellen (nee COLLINS) born 15th June 1873 in East Village, Cowbridge, and baptised at St Mary's on 13th July. John Roberts was a journeyman tailor by trade. Mary was recorded in the 1881 census as a scholar living at home in East Village [RG11/5329/20/34] but ten years later, she was listed as a housemaid (domestic) living-in at The Cross, Llanblethian, the residence of Frederick William DUNN and his family [RG12/4453/35/9].

According to UK Passenger Lists Leaving, GCS departed London 2nd February 1900 on board SS Glenfarg bound for Hong Kong via the Suez Canal and Straits Settlements. The occupations of all 40 passengers on board were listed as Civil Service. His marital status was noted as single [TNA, Class BT27/piece 328/item 2].

The census of 1901 recorded Mary Shepherd as cook in the household of Elsie Sheperd [aka Mrs Doctor Sheperd] at Dynevor Cottage, just outside the South Gate of Cowbridge [RG13/5047/21/33].

GCS [PC31 Hong Kong Police Force] returned to Cowbridge for 6 months home leave during 1905 and his daughter Lucy Ellen was born after his departure for his second 5 year tour of duty. Following her birth on 2nd May 1906 he sent her a pictorial postcard every day until he returned.

The census of 1911 was taken on 2nd April and Mary Shepherd duly recorded

herself aged 37, married 11 years with a daughter aged 4 living at 5 Church Street, Cowbridge, which had 5 rooms [RG14/32555/203]. There appears to be no census record for GCS even though he was at sea on a British ship; the P&O liner SS Marmora [UK Incoming Passenger Lists: TNA, Class BT26/piece 491/item 59]. He disembarked at Plymouth on 21st April 1911 for another six months home leave.

Apparently the summer of 1911 was hot and sunny in South Wales and according to family tradition GCS was to be seen walking through Cowbridge in his white Shantung silk suit and pith helmet befitting of a gentleman in the colonial service. Up until the mid-20th century the town consisted of little more than the one east/west street; so anyone going about their business for whatever purpose would be highly visible to the rest of the population.

Because of his marines/colonial police experience GCS was 'roped-in' as an instructor to the Cowbridge scout troop and went with them to camp on The Downs. In those days, scouters and boys all slept in the same communal improvised tent but as he had for some years suffered from malaria GCS decided to sleep in the open air wrapped in a greatcoat rather than with the others; the result being that he caught a cold.

Meanwhile preparations were being made for the return to Hong Kong. As he was due to be promoted to police sergeant, his wife and daughter could accompany him. But it was not to be. George Charles Shepherd died on 29th September 1911 at 5 Church Street, Cowbridge, and was buried 4 days later just along the street in the churchyard.

As GCS died while on leave in the UK, Mary was not entitled to any service pension, and widows' pensions did not exist, so thereafter she had to work to support herself and Lucy. As noted above she had previously been a cook in service with some of the local families, so was able to find employment as a cook in the Duke of Wellington Hotel etc.

Mary never remarried and following her own death at 59 Eastgate Street, Cowbridge, on 15th March 1955 she was buried with her husband. Their grave, now unmarked, is located to the south of that of Thomas ARTHUR d 15th April 1875.

#10499 Dr Alan Tyler

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 issue	20 July	December Issue	20 Oct

ALL MOD CONS, OR NOT!

Although I was born in Bridgend my parents moved away whilst I was still very young, therefore my only memories of my grandparents' homes are from visits during the school holidays. During the 1950s and the early 1960s my grandparents lived on opposite sides of the valley in Llangeinor. It is about the facilities available in each home that I would like to tell you about.

Maes-y-Deri

Let me start with the older of the two homes first. This was of my maternal grandparents who lived in Maes-y-Deri, which together with its adjoining villa, Maes-y-Gelli, is situated just above the old level-crossing at Llangeinor station. My great-grandfather Jenkin THOMAS was a master mason and building contractor who died whilst building these villas in 1904. My family, who at the time were living at 11 Treharne Row, West Rhondda, Pontyrhyl, one of a terrace of cottages which Jenkin had built, had to pay another mason to complete the work.

Jenkin also had plans to build a hotel on land in the river bend between the Llangeinor railway crossing and the bridge to the Recreation field (facing the present two bungalows). Should business fail it was designed to be easily converted to individual houses by sealing up the cross passages. This plot became my grandparents' garden.

My grandparents did not move into this villa until sometime around 1920. My mother was born in 1916 in what is now 14 Heol Llangeinor, which was the site of the Post Office during the 1950s. This address was one of 5 villas which I think may have been collectively known as 'Glan Garw'. Remember there was only one other house, apart from any farms, at Half-Way, between Tyn-yr-Heol School and Pandy before the late 1920s (see below).

So of what did Maes-y-Deri consist? It appears to have been built on a platform set into an old quarry. The steps led straight up from the road alongside of the house to the back yard, off which was the rear door. A branch of the steps led to the front door and across to the villa next door, which had its own set of steps. Inside the front door was the passage leading to the rear, off which were the stairs to the upper floor.

The front room, or parlour, with its bay window, had a fireplace on the outside wall and fitted cupboards in the alcoves. Next along was the middle room also with a fireplace and alcoves, with its window facing towards the rear. This room was always very cool and the butter was kept in a stoneware jar on the floor to keep it fresh. The main room at the back, with the rear door and window facing to the side, had the only fire that was kept going all the year; in fact this was the only fire I remember ever being lit. This was used for the

majority of cooking and for hot water. An old heavy black kettle was always on the hob and water was decanted into a lighter kettle which was boiled on a small electric stove in the scullery at the very back. This small place also contained the only water supply to the house, a single tap.

The toilet was very basic and was just a smooth wooden bench, a hole with a lid, a ceramic lining, but no means of flushing it. This was crammed into a small space between the rear wall and the very small patch of garden at hillside level. When water was required to 'flush', an enamel bucket which was kept in the toilet was filled from the tap, via the scullery window! Where the tap water came from, or where the waste water went, was never fully discovered. (Talking recently with the current resident of Maes-y-Deri, and the discovery of old drawings, has resolved the mystery of the source of water to the houses. A well had been made at the foot of the railway embankment and a pipe ran from there to both houses. The original course of the brook, to the east of the well, was diverted under the houses to wash away waste from the sink and the toilet).

Upstairs at the front above the entrance hall was the 'study', a small room crammed with books and anything else not for general use. Next to this was the smallest bedroom. Both had windows facing across the valley and were quite low, which made life easier for us children to see out.

The middle bedroom matched the middle room downstairs with a rearward facing window. The main bedroom was at the back above the main room, with a side-facing window.

So what was missing? There was no bathroom, no fitted water heater, no exterior lighting, and no flush toilet indoors or out. There was however a rather basic electricity supply which powered the lighting, a radio, and later, the television. Oh, there was a sink in the scullery but the waste water had to flow out along the rear wall then down the side wall, then into a small grid in the yard. This water was contained (sic) in an open channel, the edge of which was made from a small concrete band, or at least there were the remains of one when I was a lad.

My grandfather died in 1968 having lived in the house for at least 48 years, and modernisation has since taken place- thank goodness!

23 Heol, Llangeinor

The first housing built by the Ogmore & Garw Urban District in what is today called Llangeinor was from adjacent to Tyn-yr Heol school along the hillside eventually to opposite Pandy. These houses were built towards the end of the 1920s and an old picture postcard shows the brand new houses and the school being extended. The Glamorgan Gazette of Friday 17th October 1930

mentions the opening of the completed school works. This housing development introduced the name 'Llangeinor' to the locality, which was formerly known as Tyn-yr-Heol (hence the name of the school opened in 1900).

Although semi-detached, the home of my paternal grandparents had a central front door. Immediately as you entered the door to the parlour was on the right within the porch area. Through the inner porch door was the main living-room with the coal-fired cooking range. From this room on the rear left was the pantry; next to it the stairs, with the door to the kitchen and back yard off to the right. The kitchen had a sink and gas cooker. Outside was the small back yard with the garden set higher to the rear. From this yard was the door to the toilet which was built under the stairs- but it did flush! There was no cwtch or coal hole built into the frame of the house.

Upstairs was the small back bedroom which was over the kitchen, with two larger bedrooms facing the front. In the back left was the bathroom with a bath and two taps, what luxury! I am unsure if the hot water was heated by the coal fire in the living room or if an immersion heater was included in the airing cupboard. The electrical fittings were also up-to-date although my grandparents were a little naive about what they could safely do with the outlets etc.

As these houses were up steps from the road level tradesmen such as the butcher and baker would place a selection of their wares in an old fashioned wicker basket and come to the front door. If you wanted something else he would either go down to his van or the customer would go down and look. The postman used to walk from one end of the street to the other along the front of the houses. As they were on different levels people used to put stools or some other item against the adjoining wall for him to step up and climb over the fence.

Street lighting was a single bulb in a bat-wing type of reflector mounted on the telephone or other posts. These were set out at junctions or bends so there was no 'light pollution'. There were more stars to be seen in those days than there are now, or so it appeared,

Considering both homes were only about 20 years apart in age, the facilities they contained, or did not contain, were a lifetime apart.

#3450 Colin T Davies

Don't forget to send us your updated details if you change your email address or telephone number. Please also add your membership number to your registration details on our website: www.glamfhs.org.uk.

BOB'S RESEARCH - "HHMS ADRIAS" (Update from Journals 104 and 111)

Members may recall my research into the sinking of HMS Hurworth L28 on 22 October 1943.

The Hurworth went to the aid of the Adrias which had struck a mine and had her bow blown off. The Hurworth also struck a mine during this operation and sunk within 15 minutes. During the incident the Skipper of the Hurworth, Commander Royston Wright, DSC broke his back in five places.

On the 3rd anniversary of the sinking a letter dated 22nd October 1946 from the Commander was sent to all relatives of those who died, outlining the incident.

I have also received two photographs from the museum of Athens. One of the Adrias beached in neutral waters in Turkey, the other of a model of the Adrias which they have on display in the museum.

It can be noted that the Adrias was refloated and after a 500 mile voyage through dangerous waters returned to Britain.

#9488 Bob Bevan



"The above are photographs of a memorial which the Greeks have erected in their Dockyard at Salamis to the officers and men of H.M.S. HURWORTH.

The following is the English version of the inscription :

"REMEMBER THAT ON OCTOBER 22nd, 1943
134 BRITISH OFFICERS AND MEN OF H.M.S. HURWORTH
COMMANDED BY COMMANDER R. WRIGHT, D.S.O., R.N. NOBLY RISKED AND
LOST THEIR SHIP AND LIVES TO SAVE THE COMPANY OF H.M.S. ADRIAS WHICH WAS IN PERIL."

School of Combined Operations
Fremington
North Devon

22nd October, 1946

Dear Madam,

Today is the third anniversary of the sinking of H.M.S. HURWORTH, and I feel that it is an appropriate occasion to send the enclosed photograph to you, as the next-of-kin of one of my men who was lost. It is a copy of two which were sent to me by Captain J. Tombas, D.S.O., Royal Hellenic Navy, who commanded H.M.S. ADRIAS, the Greek destroyer which was in company with HURWORTH when she was lost.

I am wondering whether you have ever heard the circumstances of the catastrophe, and in case you have not I am sure you would like me to tell you some of the details.

In September 1943, after Italy had capitulated, some of the Italian islands in the Dodecanese were taken over by their German garrisons; others were held by Italian anti-Fascists. The important island of Leros was one of the latter, and H.M.S. HURWORTH was actually the first ship to go there and make contact with the Italian garrison, though at the time we did not know whether it was going to be friend or foe. Subsequently HURWORTH and other destroyers made a number of trips to Leros taking in detachments of the British Army and supplying them. However, these operations became increasingly difficult on account of the German Air Force, the nearest Allied airfield being too far away to afford us adequate fighter protection at Leros.

On 22nd October 1943 some destroyers were to land supplies at Leros, and HURWORTH and ADRIAS were to bombard adjacent enemy held islands. We had accomplished a similar task successfully on the previous night. However, on this occasion, at about 9.55 pm ADRIAS, who was astern of HURWORTH, hit a mine and had her bows blown off right back to the bridge. At the time the cause of the explosion was of course unknown, and HURWORTH turned back to see if she could be of any assistance to her Greek consort.

/Shortly

Shortly afterwards HURWORTH, too, struck a mine amidships and sank very quickly. I believe that a large number of the officers and men got clear of the ship before she sank, but unfortunately there had not been time to get out all the boats and floats, and as a result there was a deplorably heavy loss of life. ARIAS was in no state to help us, it was a very dark night and the nearest island was about ten miles away. Some did succeed in reaching land, but I am deeply sorry to say that many must have been overcome by exhaustion. If it will console you at all I know that I can say that all our men always had complete confidence in the ship, and even in the water they were resolute and cheerful.

The Greeks, with whom we had a warm understanding in the Mediterranean, were quick to recognise the sacrifice which had been made by H.M.S. HURWORTH. When Greece was liberated, they erected a memorial in their Naval Dockyard at Salamis to the officers and men who were lost. This memorial was unveiled on the second anniversary of the loss of H.M.S. HURWORTH, and was recently visited by the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Fleet, Admiral Sir John H.D. Cunningham, G.C.B., M.V.O., who is now the First Sea Lord. You will understand, I know, how deeply I feel about the loss of the officers and men who were under my command, but I do not feel that there is anything adequate which I can add to the simple statement of regard for them which has been expressed by our Greek Allies in the inscription on their memorial.

Believe me, this brings to you my deepest sympathy.

Yours very sincerely,

Royston Wright

From Commander R.H. Wright, DSC, Royal Navy,
Late Commanding Officer,
H.M.S. HURWORTH.

BLAENGARW MEMORIES

My name is Dennis MERRY and I was born in 1935 at 26 Blaengarw Rd. This house belonged to my grandparents Tom and Blodwen BEVAN. My mother Bronwen was the eldest of five children, 3 girls and 2 boys, the others being Mervyn, Ivy, Joby and Annie.

I was moved around quite a bit as my father was in the Army, but I remember my times with my grandparents: my grandfather was in the RAF during WW2 and was stationed at Southerndown. St Athan I can vaguely remember from being taken there for a children's party.

If my memory serves me right, the RICHARDS family lived next door down from us and below them was the WILLIAMS family. Emlyn was their father but I cannot recall their mother's name. They had three children, the eldest being Colin. He joined the Welsh Guards for 3 years in 1954 and was posted to Moascar in, what was then called The Canal Zone, Egypt, as a Military Policeman.

On his demob, like me, he joined the Police Force. Whilst I was in the Glamorgan Constabulary he joined the Swansea Borough Force. His sister was called Meryl and, after leaving school, she went to work at Blaengarw Co-Op. Tudor was the youngest of the three. I understand that Mr and Mrs Williams later moved to Railway Terrace, Blaengarw.

Above my grandparents lived the LLOYDS. Mr Lloyd was a teacher, I believe. Other people I knew in Blaengarw were the DAVIES family who lived at No 47 Blaengarw Rd. They had two children, Margaret the eldest, who, I believe, became a Nurse, and Cadivor, the son. We were both friends with Melvin MATHIAS who was younger than us. Next door to him was the JONES family who had two daughters, Menair who was older than me and Monwen, who was younger than us.

Our playground was the mountainside opposite Carn Houses. There used to be a quarry there with a pool where we used to catch tadpoles. We also went for walks up past the Electricity Station and back around the top of Blaengarw Rd, coming back down behind Blaengaw Workingmen's Club. Behind the club at the end of Mount Pleasant were the stables where Reggie GOUGH the Milkman kept his horses. He used to come along the streets with his horse and trap on which were the milk churns. People used to come out of their houses with their jugs and he would scoop up the milk and fill them up with whatever they wanted.

At this time, of course, the mines, or the pits as the folks used to call them, were working. There was the Carn (International), Ocean, Ballarat and Ffaldau Collieries as far as I can remember. At the start of the shifts a stream of men

would be seen going to work in their work clothes, all new and clean, and after the shift had ended, the men would be coming back down the street covered in coal dust, ready for a bath. The women would boil water in big pans on the black-leaded grates with open fires, and have long tin baths in the back kitchens ready for when the men came home. There was no running water in those days. There was no inside toilet either. At No 26, we had to go out the back and down the steps to the bottom of the garden. This was in all sorts of weather.

I can also remember Wally CARPENTER's Buses as he used to have them parked at the end of Gwendoline St, just above the bridge under an open shelter. The spot is still there though there is no roof. There were also several Cinemas in the Garw; Blaengarw Hall, The Cinema, near the Ballarat Colliery, opposite the high walled school, and Pontycymmer Hall at the far end of Pontycymmer. Apart from those we went to Bridgend to either The Embassy, or The Palace or we just made our own enjoyment or listened to the radio. My uncle Mervyn married Margaret SPRAGG from Pontycymmer and had two daughters, Jennifer and Dianne. They lived in Oxford St just along the street from Margaret's mother. Sadly, both Margaret and Jennifer have passed away in the last couple of years. Dianne lives with her husband in Railway Terrace, whilst Mervyn has recently moved from Pontycymmer to the Residential home (Dan y Mynydd) where the Ocean Colliery canteen used to be. He celebrated his 90th birthday recently.

My aunt Ivy married Albert PARROTT and had three children, Clive, Yvonne and Keith (better known as Dickie). Both parents are dead now, and so is Clive, who passed away earlier this year. Yvonne is married to Graham REES and lives in Brynmenyn, as does 'Dickie'.

My uncle Joby never married and lived with my grandmother until she died. He also died a number of years ago. My aunt Annie married Thomas CHARD from Llangeinor and they had two girls, June and Susan. They lived in Station St, beside the Railway Station. Annie moved away after Tommy died, and sadly has passed away as well. Where the girls are I do not know as Annie had lost touch with the family.

Other things I remember are the shops in Blaengarw. On one corner was Blaengarw Workmens' Club and on the adjacent corner was EVANS the shop. The Blaengarw Co-op was still there then and next to the Welsh Chapel was the Newsagents. When I returned to the Garw after completing my National Service, Dyers the Barber's son was running it. The Barbershop was up toward the Ocean Colliery on a corner and opposite another chapel (Bethania). Next door down from this chapel was a boarded up shop. When the BBC made *Carrie's War* this was used as her 'home' when she was evacuated to Wales. There was also Dan OWEN'S General Stores further down the road from the newsagents. Next to him was the Fish Shop. I can still remember

going in there for my grandmother for some hake cutlets. I mentioned earlier, the Ocean Colliery canteen was just under the bridge - I can also remember going there at about 9- 9:30 at night as a child with my mother and aunt Annie and getting fresh dripping and home-made bread pudding for supper. I was very partial to both, but I wasn't allowed to have much as my mother told me that I would not sleep at night if I had too much.

Well there is nothing much else I can think of from those days gone by. I often wonder what happened to the people that I have mentioned: Monwen Jones, Colin, Meryl and Tudor Williams. Are they still alive, still living in the area, or have they moved away? Have some passed away maybe - after all I am 80 years old myself. I would love to hear what became of them and, perhaps, hear from them. Here's hoping. My address and telephone number are below.

Dennis Merry

DENNIS MERRY. Tel 0191-3702007.

57 Heathmeads, Pelton, Chester le Street, Durham, DH2 1NB.

Can anyone help Dennis with his enquiries?

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ABERFAN RECOLLECTIONS

My first memory of Aberfan was on the 21st of 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. 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 Pontycymmer 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 in the valley bottom, (the Taff), 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 Pontcymmer 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?

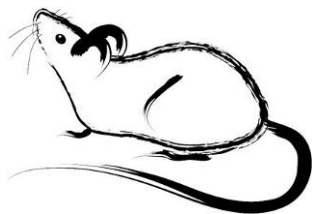
#10933 Gerald Jarvis.



THE FLAT RAT OF BRUNEL'S WAITING ROOM

This is the true tale of the discovery of a mummified rat under a hearthstone during a renovation project at Bridgend Railway station during the 1970's. This discovery was made whilst I worked as a stonemason during the renovation of Bridgend railway station, when the foreman and I were required to re-build the pine end of Brunel's original building. This re-build entailed the demolition of part of the building, including the waiting room, which was well-remembered by the residents of the borough for its open fireplace where many hands were warmed on a bitterly cold winter's day. Much of the stone was dressed Bath stone, and this was retrieved in order to be re-used for the re-build.

Whilst this demolition was underway it fell upon me to remove the hearthstone in front of the fireplace, and imagine my surprise when I lifted the stone and found a very flat, mummified, rat! I was well aware it had long been the custom to place a coin under a hearthstone in order to ward off evil spirits, but apparently in times gone by it was the tradition to place the body of a small mammal (presumably dead!), for the same purpose. We would all agree, I think, that a coin is a much healthier option! The patrons of Bridgend railway station were obviously blissfully unaware that as they warmed themselves before the roaring fire near to where they stood were the remains of a rat, flattened.



Thus it was, following the completion of the demolition, the pine end was successfully rebuilt and included the insertion of two blind windows; the one I built was on the left and later featured a 'bubble' telephone booth. The dressed Bath stone was used to rebuild the corners of the building. The signal box, now demolished, was used as the

site office and also as our canteen. This prominent architectural feature was sited in the station car park and has been sorely missed by rail enthusiasts,

who recognise the railway's importance to the industrial heritage of the area. There is an old photograph in existence of Bridgend railway station taken during the middle of the 19th century which appears to show a type of rail known as a Barlow Rail, and this type has also been found during the 1990s in the Garw Valley- but that is another story!

#10987 David Dimmick

NEW RECORDS ONLINE

General Register Office (GRO) Birth and Death Indexes

As from 3 November Birth and Death (not Marriage) GRO Indexes are now available on the GRO website (www.gro.gov.uk).

Coverage:

Births July 1837-1915

Deaths July 1837-1957.

How do these Indexes compare with other online BMD indexes?

+ Birth Indexes give Mother's maiden name.

+ Death Indexes give age at death.

- No Marriage Index at the moment.

- Birth Indexes only up to 1915.

- Search range only +/- 2 years.

Search Tip:

Use FREE indexes such as www.freebmd.org.uk to find birth or death year before searching the GRO indexes.

STOP PRESS - More GRO News

As we go to print there is also the news of a service being trialled by the GRO for three weeks from 9 November whereby uncertificated pdf copies of certificates will be available for 'a trial period only' for £6 rather than the current £9.25.

More on the results of the trial next journal!

SOME OLD WELSH CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS

Plygain

This was the singing that would take place in the dark hours of Christmas Day, before the cock crowed, usually between the hours of 3 and 6 o'clock in the morning. Men (not women), would gather in the rural churches to sing unaccompanied three- or four-part harmony carols in a service that went on for three hours or so. This tradition is still carried out in parts of mid-Wales today.



Taffy

Families would while away the dark hours on Christmas Eve, before Plygain, by boiling up pans of toffee on open fires. Dollops would be dropped into icy cold water and the taffy curled up into all sorts of shapes, like letters, and this was a way of divining the initials of the younger and unmarried future loves.

Mari Llwyd

The Grey Mare, a pre-Christian tradition, is still acted out in parts of Wales today. If a real horse was not available, a horse's skull, (or in recent times a polystyrene or cardboard construction), would be placed onto a broom handle and a sheet covered the neck to the ground. On visiting friends and neighbours door to door, the jawbone would be clacked against the skull, or broom handle, as you wished everyone a merry Christmas. In older times the verbal exchange was more likely to be a challenge of rhyming insults.

Wassail

Not a uniquely Welsh custom (the word Wassail comes from Anglo-Saxon 'Waes Hael', meaning 'be, or grow, healthy'), drinking from the wassail bowl was a common custom at Welsh Christmases. The bowls were often elaborate and many-handled, filled with fruit, sugar and spices, and topped up with warm beer. As it was passed round the drinkers would make a wish for a successful year's farming and a bumper crop at harvest time.

Calennig

From dawn until noon on New Year's Day, all around Wales, groups of young boys would go from door to door, carrying three-legged totems, chanting rhymes and splashing people with water, all the time asking for calennig - gifts of small change. This was a custom that pre-dates the modern 'trick or treat', and may have been its inspiration.

#10573 Jean Fowlds

GLAMORGAN FHS RESEARCH AND LOOK UPS

First SATURDAY in the month: **Cardiff Branch** at 5th Floor,
Central Library, Canal Street, Cardiff, from 10 am to 2 pm.

cardiff@glamfhs.org.uk

WEDNESDAYS: 10.30 am until 3.00 pm - **Aberkenfig Resource Centre.**

Bridgend Branch Members available. Relevant volunteers from other areas can also be matched to your research, where possible, by contacting the Centre before your visit by email or phone and booking a slot with a volunteer (max 2 x 1 hour slots). The ARC is CLOSED on the last Wednesday each month.

01656 728531 *arc@glamfhs.org.uk*

First THURSDAY and third SATURDAY - **Aberdare & Cynon Valley Branch - Aberdare Library**. If you have ancestors in the Aberdare & Cynon Valley area our local branch undertakes research at Aberdare Library on two days each month. Here is some information from Branch Secretary, Beth Neilly, about the sessions. You do not have to be local to South Wales to take advantage of these sessions as you can send in research requests for our volunteers to investigate. Priority is however given to fully paid up members of the Society. Next sessions will be on Thursday 8th September 1.30 - 3.30 and on Saturday 17th September 10 am - 12 noon. Research request forms can be obtained from *aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk*. Whilst a limited amount of research can be undertaken on behalf of non-members, by Aberdare/Cynon Valley branch, Glamorgan Society members' research requests will take precedent and be more detailed. It is therefore essential that membership numbers are quoted.

Merthyr Tydfil Branch - Ynysfach Engine House, Merthyr Tydfil.

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday	10 am to 4 pm,
Wednesday	2 pm to 4 pm

Both Find My Past and Ancestry are available at the Engine House, as well as the Glamorgan FHS master database and the records of the Branch such as birth and marriage indexes.

merthyr@glamfhs.org.uk

Swansea Branch: Members in the Swansea or Neath areas who would like help with their research, or members elsewhere who are seeking help with research in the Swansea or Neath areas are invited to Email:

swansea@glamfhs.org.uk

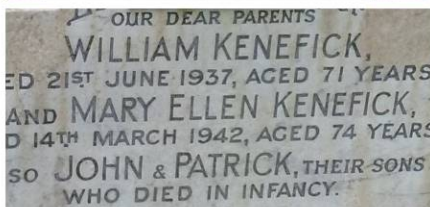
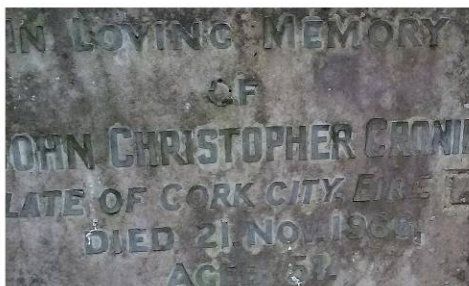
with the subject line 'Local Research Help'. Someone from the branch should then reply and possibly arrange to meet at a convenient local library or similar location, or offer help remotely.

DONATIONS ALWAYS WELCOME!

We do not charge for research undertaken but donations are always welcome to help defer the Society's administrative costs. Cheques should be made payable to Glamorgan Family History Society.

JOURNAL ARTICLES NEEDED

March 2017 - Irish Ancestors in Glamorgan



Some Irish surnames from Memorial Inscriptions in Barry (Merthyr Dyfan) Cemetery - Finnegan, Kenefick, Cronin & Driscoll

June - WW1

Sept - Down & Out - Poor Law

ABERKENFIG RESOURCE CENTRE

Please note the Aberkenfig Resource Centre is
CLOSED on the last Wednesday each month.

**CLOSED - Xmas/New Year 21 & 28 December
25 January, 22 February, 29 March**

Open Wednesday 10:30–3:00 pm
The Pensioners' Hall, Heol Persondy,
Aberkenfig, CF32 9RF (This is not the postal address)
Just off Junction 36 of the M4

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

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

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

SOCIETY TRUSTEE & VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

Executive Committee: Vacancies for four Trustees

Bridgend Branch: Representative/Trustee

Project Coordinator

Marketing Coordinator

Branch Secretaries: Cardiff/Vale

Aberkenfig Resource Centre: Centre Manager, Publication Assistant(s),
Administration Assistant(s), Research Volunteers

Website: Society members with relevant website development/administration experience to join our website development team

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

SOCIETY NEWS & REPORTS

ABERDARE/CYNON VALLEY BRANCH

A number of branch members attended the October Fair at Merthyr Tydfil, and enjoyed the opportunity to talk with visitors who had special interest in the Aberdare/Cynon Valley area. We were especially delighted to welcome three new branch members and look forward to them joining us at our branch meetings.

In November, a special meeting was held to elect the following branch committee members: Chair – Position vacant, Vice Chair – Wendy Davies, Secretary – Beth Neilly, Treasurer – Margaret Rees, Project Co-ordinator and Branch Trustee – David Barnard; Meeting Planner and Social Secretary – Haydn Williams.

Now that the dark evenings are upon us once more, the branch committee have decided to try changing the time of our meetings during the winter months. Details of these changes during January, February and March can be found under “BRANCH MEETINGS”. If you plan to attend the meeting to be held on 12 January in Aberdare Library, please contact the Branch Secretary, Beth Neilly, (aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk) as space is limited.

Following the Christmas break, we will once again be undertaking research in Aberdare Library on the **FIRST** Thursday in the month, commencing with 5th January, 2017 between 1.30 and 3.30 in the afternoon. The Saturday morning research sessions will **NOT** recommence until the **SECOND** Saturday in February 2017 – 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. If you would like to attend any research sessions, or would like the group to undertake research on your behalf, please contact Beth so that adequate preparation can be made to help you.

Beth Neilly,
aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk



BRIDGEND BRANCH

Our speaker for July was Mr Tom Phelps and he delivered ‘Humour of the Valleys’, by explaining the situations he had witnessed or even been involved in, which he had developed into poems. A self-taught gentleman with many skills - his talk was very down to earth and also very amusing.

In August Sue Hamer, Chairman GFHS, came to the aid of members who had ‘brickwalls’ in their family research, as we all do from time to time. Sue gave information about the latest websites and new online databases. She also

described her recent visit to Cork as well as the Irish records now online. After the presentation the Resource Centre was opened so that members could undertake research and receive individual help with their 'brickwalls'.

At the September meeting we held the Branch AGM followed by our speaker for the evening, Mr Roger Penn, who gave us a talk about the death of a local heroine, teacher Sarah Jane Howell. He spoke about the tragedy and then proceeded to colour in the times and events of life locally and in general at that time. An outcome of Sarah's sacrifice was an award which is still in existence today.

Vicky Salmon
bridgend@glamfhs.org.uk



MERTHYR TYDFIL BRANCH

The September meeting was very well attended as it was 2 local experts taking about the chapels of Dowlais. Unfortunately there are very few christening and burial records available for the chapels of Dowlais from 1837 onwards.

Michael Donovan is continuing his work on the obituaries.

As well as our meetings in Soar on the second Tuesday of the month, we have a local history talk on Merthyr Tydfil on the last Tuesday of every month in the Ynysfach Engine House. These talks start at 1.30pm and all are welcome to come along and have a chat over tea or coffee, either before or after the lecture.

In October we are having a paranormal evening on the 31st starting at 7pm. Perhaps we will gain an insight into our resident ghost.

The November talk is on Merthyr General Hospital and is given by an ex nurse who worked there.

Carolyn Jacob
merthyr@glamfhs.org.uk



PONTYPRIDD AND RHONDDA BRANCH

We attended the Dyfed Fair on September 17th and had an excellent day, far better than those we have had in recent times. It was in the centre of town so attracted a number of people just passing by.

On September 20th Ritchie Wood came again with his new talk on the battle of Mametz Wood. It was an excellent talk and showed how the Welsh regiments involved in the battle managed to win through despite thousands of casualties. Many of the soldiers were totally unprepared for the battle and lost their lives. Such a tragic time. What a waste of lives.

Jane Jones, rhondda@glamfhs.org.uk



CARDIFF & THE VALE BRANCH

As customary, there was no meeting in August.

At our September meeting, members were asked to bring along examples of how they record and archive their family history. In a change of format, after an introductory lecture and short talks by members on their preferences, members circulated to look at other people's presentations. Unexpectedly, some members found that others had mutual interests in other areas of the country including far-away small parishes. This is a format that we will revisit.

In October, we held the Branch AGM, followed by a very comprehensive talk on Roath Local History by Jeff Childs. At the AGM, the Minutes of the 2015 AGM were approved *nem con* then the Branch Chairman, Sue Hamer, gave her report. The year was dominated by the establishment of the Sully sub-branch and by the move to Insole Court from St Marks. The new venue provides an excellent facility for meetings as well as opportunities for further family history events. The first of these, a Beginners Workshop, will be taking place in November. From January 2017 we will be charging a small entrance fee to help defray our increased rental costs.

I then presented the Branch Treasurer's Report. The year saw a reduction in expenditure on lecturers due to the increased use of Society experts.

Jane Graves then presented the Programme Secretary's Report, and announced that she will give a talk on William Alexander at the December Xmas Social. In November, Dr Stephanie Linden will give a talk on Shell Shock, which has a special relevance in the centenary year of the Battle of the Somme.

We then proceeded with the election of officers for the year. Sue Hamer agreed to serve as Branch Chairman for one more year to continue to oversee the development of the opportunities available at Insole Court, although warning that some functions would have to be delegated due to her family commitments. Doug Knight volunteered and was elected as Vice Chairman. Graham Read agreed to serve for another year as Branch Treasurer and Society Trustee, and Jane Graves to continue as Programme Secretary.

There was no volunteer to act as Branch Secretary. Nick Davey and Diane Brook agreed to continue as Committee members. All of the above persons were re-elected *nem con* by the members present.

The next Branch AGM will be on Tuesday 3 October 2017.

Graham Read, cardiff@glamfhs.org.uk



SULLY GROUP

The Sully Group have now finished the recording of the older Memorial Inscriptions at Barry (Merthyr Dyfan) Cemetery for this year. The final sections will be completed in 2017. Diolch yn fawr to Taffyfilias - George Gamble, Irene Rogers, Chris Thompson, Alan Roberts, Gwenda Lanagan and Nina Jenkins who have been involved with the project over the past two years!

At our September meeting Diane Brook gave an excellent presentation as always on Surnames. Many useful tips were provided on variants, origins and resources.

We welcomed Margaret Southgate, the Welsh representative of the Guild of One Name Studies to our October meeting at the Old School Sully who explained how to research a One Name Study. Margaret is also our Members' Interests Coordinator.

Sue Hamer, chairman@glamfhs.org.uk



SWANSEA BRANCH

Our September meeting was not as planned as the speaker had the wrong date in his diary and a frantic Liza had not been able to contact him. After an apologetic beginning we had a very enjoyable meeting. A Canadian couple who were visiting some newly discovered cousins in Swansea told how they became aware of each other and finally met. The Canadian lady was a born story-teller and kept us all amused. Then several members of the audience told us how they had met long-lost cousins.

Our October meeting started with our Branch AGM. This was quite a brief affair as the committee was re-elected.

We then had a talk by Ray Savage about Swansea Castle. The one we see today is actually the fourth castle and Ray told us about the beginnings of the

first building, its destruction and the building of another, then another and finally the one we see today. It has had various uses - a prison for debtors being one of them. He also had photographs. A most interesting lecture.

Pam Evans, swansea@glamfhs.org.uk

Publications Administrator - Postal Sales

Our Publications Administrator, Anne Evans, will be retiring at the end of December and so we need volunteer(s) to process and post our booklets and CDs.

Proximity to South Wales would be an advantage although is not essential.

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

We wish Anne all the best for her well-deserved retirement after many many years of service to the Society!

RHONDDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Date	Speaker	Topic
January	NO MEETING	
2 Feb	Barry Davies	Meisgyn & Glynrhondda Lordships (1540-1840)
2 Mar	Dean Powell	Treorchy & the Land of Song

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

WHEN? the first Thursday of every month except for August and January

WHERE? NEW VENUE - Trehafod Community Hall, Ivor Street,
Trehafod, CF37 2NF - NEW VENUE

TIME? 7.00 pm start (please be prompt to ensure you get a seat)

COST? £2 entrance fee per talk or £10 for annual personal membership

BOOKING ESSENTIAL: Please book your place in advance - this is strongly advised
as our talks are proving very popular!

FOR FURTHER DETAILS

(AND TO BOOK A PLACE ON ANY OR ALL OF THESE TALKS) :

<http://www.rhonddahistoricalsociety.wordpress.com>

email: rhonddahs@yahoo.com tel: 07810277048

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2017	
28 Jan	FFHS Marketing Seminar - London
4 Mar	Glamorgan FHS AGM, Insole Court, Cardiff
18 Mar	FFHS Annual General Meeting, City Hall, Cardiff
6-8 April	WDYTYA Live, NEC Birmingham
13 May	Family & Local History Fair, Aberystwyth
10 June	Wiltshire FHS Fair, Swindon
16 Sept	Dyfed FHS Annual Fair, Carmarthen
7 Oct	Glamorgan FHS Annual Fair, Merthyr Leisure Centre

WDYTYA Live 2017 - Volunteers needed

Daily volunteers needed to help on tables 115-117
Thursday 6 to Saturday 8 April.

If you are available for an hour or so FREE entrance tickets are available.
Entrance tickets normally cost £18.

Please contact
secretary@glamfhs.org.uk
or
chairman@glamfhs.org.uk
and let us know what day(s) you are able to help so that we can work out a schedule of cover and breaks for our WDYTYA Live team.



Free exhibitors tickets are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

JANUARY 2017 - BEGINNERS WORKSHOPS & BRICK WALL DROP-IN SESSIONS AT INSOLE COURT



£5 per Workshop - pay on the day.

Places can be reserved on Eventbrite.

Further information available

on our website: www.glamfhs.org.uk

Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/glamorganfhs

OR contact: chairman@glamfhs.org.uk

EMAIL NEWSLETTERS

To keep you updated with Society 'News' MailChimp 'Email' Newsletters are now sent to members with email between the quarterly journals.

If you do not wish to receive these newsletters you can 'Unsubscribe' via the link at the bottom of the email/newsletter. You can also update your details eg your email address.





BOOK REVIEW

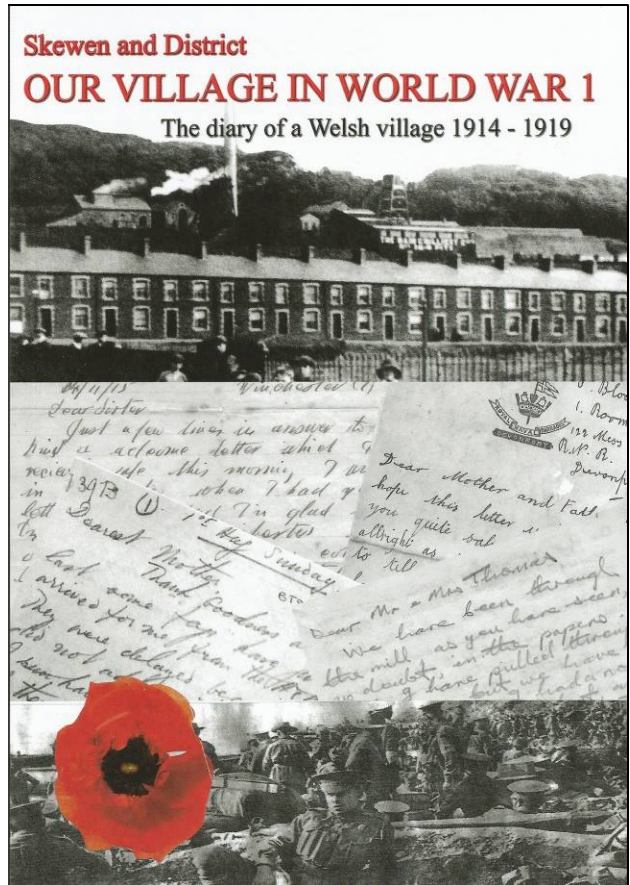
Skewen and District, Our Village in World War 1 - The diary of a Welsh Village 1914-1919

This book is a 'diary' that covers the period of the 1914-1918 war and its effect on the people of Skewen and district. It is arranged in monthly sections and retells stories that have been sourced from contemporary newspapers, family histories and various websites. As such, the book endeavours to capture the human story as well as the stark reality of the conflict. The war irrevocably altered not only the lives of the young men who fought, but also the families waiting at home. This 'Great War', as it came to be known, has left a legacy that still resonates today.

An essential read for anyone with Skewen and District ancestors.

Useful index and appendices listing the local servicemen, their battalion, regiment etc.

Price: £12.35 inc p & p with all proceedings going to the Skewen WW1 Memorial Fund.



Copies can be obtained from: Mrs C A Griffiths, Secretary, Skewen Historical Society, Tel: 01792 813651 or via the Society website:
skewenhistoricalsociety.org.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Sue

I wonder whether you would have room to include a request for information in the next issue of the Journal? I'm not sure where my query would be best placed but you will see from the attachment I have a newspaper cutting of a photo of Llangan School from 1932/33 sent in by a resident of Coychurch. This cutting was sent to me a number of years ago - and I have now forgotten where it came from!!

I have recently attempted to identify the newspaper without success - I have contacted the local history section at Cardiff, Llantrisant, Pontypridd and Bridgend libraries, On the back of this cutting there are advertisements for Chapel Studios, 4 Chapel Road, Llanharan and Rosemary's, 2 The Square, Llanharan, and at the bottom of the page is printed 'Number 98', all of which suggests it has, or had, a small localised distribution.

The 'resident of Coychurch' who contributed the photo stated he could name most of the children shown, and I would very much like to make contact with him - he signed himself 'a Coychurch resident' but in view of the time lapse, may not be available anymore. I wonder if any of the Glam FHS members might recognise the the photo, the identity of the 'Coychurch resident' or the paper in which it was published.

My father, Ray LLEWELLYN, is the boy marked with the cross in the picture and would have been about ten years old at the time it was taken in 1932/33.

Best wishes

Julie Jakeway, Member #1141

SOCIAL NETWORKING - FACEBOOK & TWITTER

For up to date news and links to useful online resources -
don't forget to join our **Facebook** 'Group'.

www.facebook.com/groups/glamorganfhs.

We also have a Facebook Page

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

where Society announcements are posted.

You can also follow us on **[@GlamorganFHS](http://www.twitter.com)**

Old School Photo

**LLANGAN SCHOOL,
1932/33**

Referring to the May 1992 (number 90) Diary when a 1929 photograph of the pupils was published, and I understand generated much interest, I have recently come into possession of another which I date 1932/33. It shows Mr E.T. Griffiths, the headmaster who succeeded the one dismissed for an educational indiscretion.

Again students are from Penllyn, Treos, Llangan, and St. Mary Hill, most of whom I can name, and some, and possibly their descendants, are still in the Diary distribution area.

To the lady from Pencoed whom I understand made an enquiry regarding the 1929 photograph, Mervyn is second from the left in the rear row. I hope it answers her query and others will have an interest in the photograph generally.

Resident of Coychurch

March 1993

CHRIS'S AUTOPARTS

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Car alarms fitted*

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FOR A FREE QUOTE TEL. Pencoed 864156 anytime.



15

London Branch of the Welsh Family History Societies Cangen Llundain o'r Cymdeithasau Hanes Teuluoedd Cymru

The branch meets four times a year

at the Borough Welsh Congregational Chapel,
90 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 0EX

Underground: Borough, Southwark or London Bridge.

Anyone with an interest in Welsh family history
is very welcome to attend.

The branch charges no membership fee
but we ask for a £3 donation at each meeting to cover expenses.

Further details can be obtained from the Secretary, Anne Jones:
email: annee.jones@ntlworld.com.

BRANCH MEETINGS

Aberdare/Cynon Valley

***Please note special arrangements for Aberdare/Cynon Valley Meetings
January to March 2017***

Fri 2 Dec	Branch Social Evening - 7 pm Green Street Methodist Church, Aberdare
*Thurs 12 Jan	1.30-3.30 Aberdare Library, Getting to know Library Research Facilities
Fri 3 Feb	1.30-3.30 Green St Methodist Church, Storing & Recording Your Family History
Fri 3 Mar*	1.30-3.30 Green St Methodist Church - Research afternoon

Bridgend

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

16 Jan	Social Night -Quiz, Refreshments - Quiz Master- Roy Pollard
20 Feb	The Brains behind the 'Mob' - Don Llewellyn
20 Mar	Beside the Seaside - Allan Underhill

Cardiff & Vale Branch

*1st Tuesday of the month – 7.15 pm Insole Court Community Centre,
Fairwater Road, Cardiff, CF5 2LN*

6 Dec	William Alexander and his gift to Cardiff - Jane Graves plus Xmas Social
10 Jan	**Please note change of date** Early Commercial Photography in Cardiff - Stephen Rowson
7 Feb	Churchill and the sinking of the French Fleet July 1940 Dr Ritchie Wood
7 Mar	Irish records - Diane Brook

Sully Group

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

15 Dec	Christmas Social - Review of Barry (Merthyr Dyfan) Cemetery Project
19 Jan	Glamorgan Parishes Project & Workshop
23 Feb	**Please note change of date** - Our favourite websites
16 Mar	Brickwalls Session - Members Research Evening

Merthyr Tydfil

2nd Tuesday of the month – 7 pm Canolfan Soar, Pontmorlais, CF47 8UB (Welsh Centre)

13 Dec	Christmas Social Evening
10 Jan	Coal miners and Coal mining' - Clive Thomas
14 Feb	The Man Who Never Was' - Steve Brewer
14 Mar	TBC - see our website for details - www.glamfhs.org.uk

Pontypridd & Rhondda

3rd Tuesday of the month – 7pm Pontypridd Museum, Bridge Street

17 Jan	My Patagonia Experiences - Carl Llewellyn
21 Feb	Glamorgan's Greatest Generation. Memories of Wartime Life in South Wales - Malcolm Cowper
21 Mar	Pontypridd Workhouse - Keith Jones

Swansea

2nd Monday of the month – 7 pm Civic Centre, Oystermouth Road

12 Dec	Swansea Canal Contd - Clive Reed
9 Jan	Future of the Archive Service - Kim Collis
13 Feb	Swansea in the 50's - Geoff Brookes
13 Mar	Dylan Thomas & his poetry - Phil Knight



Glamorgan FHS Fair - 8 October 2016 - Merthyr Leisure Centre

