



***Glamorgan Family
History Society***

Cymdeithas Hanes

Teuluol Morgannwg



St Mary's Coity
Image courtesy of R Allen

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Centre Insert: Members Interests, Help Wanted

Society's Objectives

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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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EDITORIAL

This quarter had no specific theme, so there is a real 'mixed bag' of stories, reminiscences, diaries and events, which I hope will be interesting to readers. Because of where we all are, our places in history, inevitably all our families will have been touched in some form or another by the events of the two world wars, so no apologies for including two different lifestories that have a common reference point with the bombing of Swansea in the Second World War.

From the Glamorgan Family Archives we have the story of ironmaster Henry Fothergill who kept prolific diaries on his daily working life, a page of which is displayed. Included also is the tragic story of the deaths of two young boys looking for coal during the General Strike and an account of a Welshman at the Eureka Stockade in Ballarat, Australia. Colin Davies is searching for his Aunt Betty, as well as other relatives he has lost track of, and a 1927 schoolboy gives his ideas of what 2027 might look like (and it's only 8 years away!). For amusement there is a bystander's account of the remarkable conversion and baptism of a local reprobate during the Revivalist years of 100 years ago. In addition Creighton Sims has sent in some extracts from the Rhondda Leader of many years ago, depicting conditions and behaviour we hope have long gone.

Please take time to read the Chairman's comments made at the recent AGM: the Society, OUR Society, will be in dire straits if we don't have more volunteers to help in keeping it running. Letters will be sent to members outlining the situation should these positions not be filled, so meanwhile, please give it some thought. Some of the admin duties can be done from outside the UK, some at the ARC, and some from home (see adverts below). None of them is very onerous, and might prove really good fun as well as being very rewarding. If you prefer to work on your own, then there will be something for you too!

Meanwhile, best wishes to all for a good Summer, (or Winter if you are in the southern hemisphere), and think about our next issue - we are asking for articles about those who migrated to Glamorgan. There must be fascinating stories out there.

Jean Fowlds, editor@glamfhs.org.uk

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - ACCOUNTS

A copy of the Accounts presented at the AGM
is included with this journal

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 2 MARCH 2019

All the branches have been working hard, despite problems, especially lack of volunteers, which is a general thing with all societies.

We took part in the Eisteddfod in August for the first time ever. As it was held in Cardiff Bay we had many visitors from all over. A successful week, with many opportunities to make ourselves known.

Our Family History Fair in October went well, despite bad weather, resulting in fewer exhibitors and visitors. I would like to thank everyone who battled through.

We have attended various Fairs but can't attend as many as we would like because of the usual problem – Lack of Volunteers.

Membership is around 1360 at the moment with people joining all the time. Many send requests via Facebook, which is excellent. I would like to thank Nancy and Sue T for all their work in keeping up with all the work it entails.

Our Resource Centre continues to work with a faithful hard working group, who spend their time helping researchers with their family history, but as always we need more helpers so we keep trying to persuade others to come along.

I am very appreciative of all the help I have received during my time of being Chairman. Thanks to you all.

Meic Jones, Chairman

Copies of the Reports submitted at the Annual General Meeting are available on our website.

<https://www.glamfhs.org.uk/home/annual-general-meeting-2-march-2019>

IMPORTANT - THE FUTURE OF THE SOCIETY

A letter from the Executive Committee with regard to the current situation that faces the Society as a result of the lack of Society Officers, both for the current and subsequent year, is included with this journal.

Please let us have your comments on the attached feedback form prior to a special meeting taking place on Saturday 29 June to discuss possible ways forward if no volunteers are forthcoming.

.JOHN BASSON HUMFFRAY:
A WELSHMAN AT BALLARAT'S EUREKA STOCKADE
#10933 Gerald Jarvis.

John Basson HUMFFRAY was born in 1824 in Newtown, Montgomeryshire. His father was a master weaver, who was sympathetic to the Chartists. Humffray did not follow his father's trade but he was articled to be trained as a solicitor, and also became active in the Chartist Movement in Wales.

In 1853 he abandoned his legal studies to try his luck in Australia. He arrived in Melbourne on the 'Star of the East,' in September of 1853, and after a short acclimatisation period he headed for the goldfields, specifically the 'diggings' at Ballarat. The newly appointed Governor, Sir Charles HOTHAM, had instituted a policy of harassing the local miners by raising the diggers' licence fees without notice, and turning a blind eye to the heavy-handed way the local police force used to collect it. Ballarat town was literally up in arms at this treatment and wanted justice. This was another case of 'taxation without representation', and it struck a chord in Humffray's Chartist heart.

After speaking at a public meeting of 10,000 miners, Humffray convinced the diggers to try 'moral persuasion' on the Governor and he was elected with two others to deliver a demand for economic and political reforms to the Governor of Victoria.

The diggers' demands were immediately rejected by Hotham, who ordered 400 soldiers of the 12th East Suffolks and the 2nd Somersets to be sent to Ballarat to support the authorities in the event of an uprising.

On his return to Ballarat, Humffray's 'moral force of persuasion', having failed, direct action was proposed, with a show of physical force. An Irishman, Peter LALOR* was elected as overall leader and a flimsy stockade was built to show that the miners were ready to fight for their rights in the case of any further interference from the Government.

At first the Eureka Stockade was manned by over 500 miners, poorly armed with a few muskets and pikes which were made by a local blacksmith, but on the night of 2nd December a large group left for the comfort of their own beds. In the early hours of 3rd December 1854 the stockade was surrounded by troops, and in a surprise attack lasting only 15 minutes the miners were overrun. Thirty-three miners were killed and dozens more wounded, but only six soldiers were killed. Thirteen miners were captured and charged with Treason; Peter Lalor had been badly wounded in the attack and was smuggled away by a local priest. Governor Hotham posted a £400 reward for his and other ringleaders' capture. Laylor was operated upon in hiding and his arm was amputated at the shoulder.

Humffray played no part in the actual fighting and had tried to play the role of

peacemaker in the lead up to the battle: he was solely trying to represent the interests of the miners. When it was over he was a very vocal supporter of the 13 miners who were charged with high treason for their part in the rebellion.

He later on became editor of the 'Ballarat Leader', a newspaper which sadly failed, then became a bookshop owner, and then the manager of Ballarat's Bucks' Head Hotel. He was to become the first president of the Ballarat Mechanics Institute, and eventually passed his first-year law exams at Melbourne University in 1860. He never made any money out of the area's gold.

As a result of several failed mining ventures, Humffray eventually became dependant on charity, and after a long illness he died a pauper on 18th March 1891.

*Peter Lalor, the leader of the Eureka Stockade miners, later went on to become a respected politician.

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LANCE SERGEANT THOMAS RICHARD HENDERSON

#8926 Robin Bird

Whilst undertaking my own family research, both at home and on visits to the National Archives, I have found the following tragic details relating to a soldier who was killed in Swansea in February 1941*.

Thomas Richard HENDERSON was born in Birmingham in 1916, and is recorded as the husband of Winifred Rosa Henderson, both living in Quinton, Birmingham.

He became a member of the 8th Bomb Disposal Company of the Royal Engineers, and at the age of 25 he and several other men from his unit were sent to Swansea to deal with unexploded German bombs.

On Friday 21st February, they were sent to deal with an unexploded bomb in Castle Street that had been dropped some days earlier. The 1000 Kilogram bomb contained 2 fuses, and it was immediately placed in 'A' Category, meaning that if it went off it would have a detrimental effect on the war effort. Every attempt was to be made to either make it safe, or to remove it to a designated 'bomb cemetery' away from all habitation.

Due to the position in which it was lying only one of the fuses could be seen clearly, and as this was a No.50 anti-handling fuse the decision was made to steam out the explosive filling under the guidance of a senior NCO from the local Bomb Disposal Headquarters Sterilisation staff. When in his opinion sufficient explosive had been removed he ordered a rope to be fastened to the bomb so that it could be raised from where it lay. The NCO's opinion was wrong: as the bomb was being lifted the rope slipped, and in doing so it activated the second fuse, later judged to be a No.17 long-delay fuse. The resulting detonation killed the senior NCO and six other men, including Lance Sergeant Thomas Richard Henderson, and injured several other members of the unit.

Thomas' body was brought back to Birmingham, where he is buried in Grave 9545 in Quinton Cemetery in Birmingham.

**See below the story of Gwyneth Miller, a casualty of this bombing raid.*

Don't miss the 'Cut-Off Dates'

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

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| December Issue | 20 October | March Issue | 20 January |
| June issue | 20 April | September Issue | 20 October |

GWYNETH MILLER, A WIDOW'S TALE.

Janet Sandford Thomas

I have written this article in memory of my dear friend and neighbour, Gwyneth MILLER, pictured below (and on the next page at age 80). She died in Porthcawl in 2017, aged 96, after a brief stay in a nursing home there.

In her later years she often used to talk to me of her younger days, which were not always happy; she was born in English-speaking Cardiff, but her family moved to Pontyberem where Welsh was the everyday language, and she felt very much the outsider at school until she managed to learn it. On leaving school she went into service in Swansea, and then during the war her life changed for the better when she met Percy Miller during a bombing raid on Swansea in 1941.



Gwyneth, aged 20, was caught up in the aftermath of the raid by the Germans on Swansea, near Constitution Hill, whilst she was working, and she fled in panic through the rubble looking for safety. Her hand was grabbed by a passing stranger who pulled her to safety. She told me she would never forget the piles of dead people she had to pass through to get clear away.

The stranger introduced himself as Percy Miller, a Royal Engineer, who was serving in the area, and they agreed to meet again. He had been born in Newcastle in 1899, so he was 20 or so years older than her, but nevertheless the friendship developed into weekly meetings on the bus they both used to get around, and six weeks later, on July 16th 1941, they were married.

They came to live in Brynmenyn, and went on to have two children, Gwyneth content to have her own family and to bring the children up in a loving environment.

What Gwyneth did not know, but soon was to find out, was that Percy as a very young man had previously been a soldier in WW1. He had enlisted at the age of 14, having lied about his age, together with his 2 older brothers and their father. His brothers and father were all killed, but Percy survived his stint in the trenches, and was left with shell-shock, a condition not fully understood, let alone treated, at the time, and this led to some unpredictable behaviour throughout his life.

Every Remembrance Day, on November 11th, he would shut himself away and not speak to anyone, asking his family not to make any contact with him, while he would apparently be grieving and remembering. More noticeable were his absences, when he would disappear often for days,



and then more often for longer periods. He never explained where he went and came back as if nothing untoward had happened, expecting his daily supply of the fresh scones he loved from Gwyneth's baking. It was realized later that these absences were due to his prolonged stays in the nearby hospital in Pen-y-Fai, the site of which is now a housing estate.

Gwyneth's life was made extremely difficult as she received no money towards the care of their two children whilst her husband was in hospital, and was forced into going to work, which she did at the General Hospital in Bridgend (now the Princess of Wales Hospital). Her job was in the laundry there, and she told me how during the 1961-2 outbreak of smallpox, that no-one else wanted to do it! Percy meanwhile, after his hospital stays, worked at Bridgend Arsenal, which could hardly have contributed to his mental wellbeing after his wartime service.

They moved to Sarn in the early 60s, and Percy died not long after, as old as the century. Gwyneth, some 20 years younger, would remain a widow for over 50 years.

THE DIARIES OF HENRY FOTHERGILL

Corinne Evans, Glamorgan Archives Volunteer

A long running volunteer project at Glamorgan Archives has resulted in the transcription of all 22 of the 'Fothergill Diaries'. Part diary, part travelogue, the journals describe the life of Henry FOTHERGILL, ironmaster, from 1860 - when the Fothergill family headed The Aberdare Iron Company - until his death in 1914.

By the time the diaries were written, the Fothergills had long had interests in a number of Glamorgan ironworks including Plymouth, Penydarren, Taff Vale, Abernant and Llwydcoed. The third son of Richard Fothergill and nephew of Rowland Fothergill of Hensol Castle, Henry led the privileged life of a wealthy Victorian gentleman, attending lavish dinners with powerful people such as the CRAWSHAYS. Indeed, two of Henry's bothers (George and Thomas) married two of William Crawshay's daughters (Isabel and Laura respectively) on the same day - a double wedding which Henry recounts.

Henry's descriptions of his working life overseeing the ironworks are interspersed with tales of sumptuous dinner dances, holidays with friends (including Francis Crawshay and his family), shopping trips, sports and games, family celebrations and heartaches.

Henry, along with his two brothers George and Thomas, sold his interest in the ironworks to his older brother Richard in 1864, later using the money to travel the world in typical Victorian 'Grand Tour' style. Beginning in 1867, he recounts his adventures through Europe, Asia, the Middle East, the Americas, Russia, Australia and New Zealand in great detail, often commenting on the characters he meets. On his return, he joined the Essex Militia, rising to the rank of Major.

In 1877, he married Edith HORWOOD, a vicar's daughter, and eventually settled in Copt Hall, Hawkhurst near Cranbrook. They had two sons: Gerald Rowland (1880-1970), who entered the priesthood, and Edward Gerald Neville (1882-1962), who is recorded as having poor mental health and is supported by attendants. Henry's latter years were spent with his family, tending to his garden, exotic birds and livestock (including kangaroos!)

Filled with adventure, romance and intrigue, Henry's detailed descriptions of people, places and activities make these diaries a rich social and local history resource. A number of the volunteers who worked on the project have published their favourite extracts on the Glamorgan Archives blog - well worth a look! And if you would like to examine the diaries for yourself, and/or read the transcripts, please come along to Glamorgan Archives. We'd love to see you!

1860

Monday 23rd January Abernant House
^{Mr Pinnock}
↑
Ill in bed went up stairs to see him
Maggie away at Aberystwith Liny & I
played chess the rest which very wet night
Tuesday Wet by 1st train to Llanidan found
Mr Bateman has arrived previous night
he left after breakfast for Tredegar
I found James Lewis in his office & we went
together through the Canal House
Mr Jones started & Jaffath a Mr Cook
came in the evening dined & slept at
Abernant so I went down to Lyddan
Wednesday Fine but cold Mr Cook left
Rich^d Waller down to Canal House with
me & looked through it found it requires
painting, papering &c. I got Hosgood
there in the evening & arranged certain
alterations in house &c. the mill & Mr Jones
started today about 12 o'clock steam
from old to new Boiler is now connected
over has a great improvement upon the

TWO TRAGIC DEATHS IN PANT-Y-GOG

#10933 Gerald Jarvis

It was the long hot summer of 1926. The General Strike had resulted in a humiliating climbdown by the Trades Union Congress but the miners of South Wales were in the midst of their historic seven-month 'lock-out'. With food scarce and fuel even scarcer, pit communities in South Wales faced destitution.

On a lonely hillside above the Garw Valley, two brothers scabbled about in an illegal drift mine for enough coal to keep a local soup kitchen going. But their efforts to help the desperate community ended in tragedy when they were crushed to death, seven feet into the mountainside. The accident happened at an old level at Pantygog, which striking pitmen from nearby Ffaldau Colliery in Pontycymer had reopened during the Strike. The two men, 26-year-old Hubert JONES and his younger brother, John, were outsiders in the village, having come to work there from over the hills from their birthplace in Gilfach Goch.

Few in Pontycymer knew anything about the men who had died trying to keep them fed and nourished during the dark days of the Strike. They died without a memorial by their adopted village, yet Hubert Jones' memory lives on through his grandson, David Jones, of Llandaff North, Cardiff, who in 1991 nominated him as one of 'The Echo's Heroes of Coal'. "My grandfather came over the hill from Gilfach Goch and married a local girl in Pontycymmer", recalls Mr Jones. "He was a stranger who came into the area and died shortly afterwards. I would not say he was forgotten, but his death did not have the same impact as that of a local man. Gilfach Goch might have been only five or six miles away, but you would have no cause to go there".

"Bertie" Jones, as he was known, had married 22 year old Sarah GARFIELD the year before the Strike, and they lived in Cuckoo St, Pantygog, about 500 yards from where he met his death. Their son, Terence Garfield Jones, was only a few months old when his father died. "My father never knew his father," adds Mr Jones.

It is believed that Bertie and his brother had been looking for coal for the soup kitchen at the old Garw 33 Boys Club, on Blaengarw Square. "They were working an unofficial seam and it collapsed in on them," said Mr Jones. "They were picking coal out of the mountain. It was the norm in previous strikes for miners to go out with picks to get coal. It was the only way to keep warm. It was the norm in the last big strike ten years earlier, as well, when miners used to go picking coal on the slag heaps."

After Bertie's death, Sarah Jones remarried and had six other children. Today, all that remains of him is a photograph, and a Bible presented to him by his church in Gilfach Goch in 1904, inscribed "For Good Attendance".

WHAT THE PAPERS SAID:
EXTRACTS FROM THE RHONDDA LEADER,
collated by #6862 Creighton Sims

April 28th 1900

DRUNKEN PENTRE PARENTS NEGLECT THEIR CHILDREN.

Heavy and Deserved Punishment.

At the Ton-Pentre Police Court on Monday (before Alderman Richard LEWIS and Mr E.H. DAVIES). Thomas MORGAN, collier, and his wife, Annie MORGAN, residing at 9, Lletecca Houses, Pentre, were summoned for neglecting and abandoning their children on the 8th inst. Mr J. E. SPICKETT, solicitor, Pontypridd, prosecuted, on behalf of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The evidence of Inspector John THOMAS, Pontypridd, showed that when he visited the house it was in a filthy condition. The female defendant had gone away some days previously, and there was practically no food in the house. The children were badly clothed and in a filthy state, and he was told by the eldest boy, eight years of age, that his mother had left them on Monday because their father came home drunk. He could not remember when he had had clean clothes, but he had been washed on Saturday previously. He had had no food that day, and but little on the previous days. The children were cold and hungry. When the male defendant was spoken to by the inspector he said he received 8s per week from the parish, but his wife had gone away and taken the money with her. He said he was unable to work, and admitted that he got drunk occasionally. The children had been taken to the union by the inspector. Evidence was also given by Inspector WILLIAMS, who corroborated, and added that the male defendant was frequently drunk, and that he had pawned the children's clothes. A neighbour, named Sarah Ann JONES, said that the mother was away sometimes for a fortnight at a time, and the father was drinking for the most part of the day. She had purchased a coat for the defendant, and she advised him to use the money in purchasing food for the children, but he said he was bound to have a drop of beer. Another neighbour, named Mrs CHARLES, stated that she had fed the children while the parents were away. Among the children left in the house was a baby two years of age. Evidence was also given that after the children had been taken away the female defendant visited a play at the Town Hall. The male defendant said that the doctor had advised him to drink a drop of beer. Mr E.H. Davies said that it was one of the worst cases that had been before the Bench, and of the two, the mother was the worst. She would be sent to gaol for four months with hard labour, and her husband for three months with hard labour.

Saturday June 28th 1913

HE DIDN'T LIKE THE OATH.

A Socialist propagandist by the name of James Burgess GRANT, of 27. Wyndham Street. Penygraig, was had up for obstructing the highway at Treorchy on the 12th inst. P.S. W. EVANS (Treorchy) said he saw defendant preaching Socialism to a crowd of people, and also selling papers called "The Suffragette" and "The South Wales Worker." Defendant told the crowd that those were the only papers that published anything good for the working man. The crowd around defendant caused an obstruction. Defendant caused no little amusement when taking the oath. He objected to using the words, "So God help me" He was fined 5s.

Miscellaneous

Gweirydd DAVIES(16), collier-boy, Treherbert, for stealing a half-sovereign was bound over in the sum of £3 and placed on probation for six months. James CLAYFIELD(15), Trealaw, fined 1s 6d for wilful jostling.

Thos. HOPKINS(11), Clydach Vale, for using a catapult in the street, fined 2s 6d.

Wm. GEORGE(16), collier, and George TURNER(14), both of Cwmparc, for gaming with cards were fined 1s each.

For playing football on the highway, James POWELL(14), collier-boy, Cwmparc, George JOHN(13), schoolboy, Treorchy, and Percy WILLIAMS(12), schoolboy, were each fined 2s 6d.

Benj ADAMS and Jonah THOMAS both 12, of Blaenclydach, were fined 2s 6d each for furiously riding a pony.

Diana PROTHEROE(18), Tynewydd, domestic servant, was fined 5s for stealing 28 lbs of coal, value 3d.

For being drunk in charge of a horse, Thomas WILLIAMS(36), haulier, Pentre, was fined 15s in consequence of working a horse in an unfit state. Richard EVANS(35), haulier, Tonypany, was fined 20s for inflicting cruelty to a dog by kicking it.

27th July 1912

REFEREE'S DEATH

At the Glamorgan Assizes on Thursday, the 19th inst, Edwin George HANSFORD(23), plumber, who had been committed on a charge of feloniously, wilfully, and of malice aforethought killing and murdering one William Edward WILLIAMS on February 17th, 1912, in the parish of Llantrisant (which bill was thrown out by the grand jury), was arraigned on the charge of manslaughter. To this the prisoner pleaded guilty by the advice of his counsel. Defendant, it will be remembered, was one of the players in a football match on February 17th at Wattstown, when a dispute arose necessitating the interference of the referee (Williams). Subsequently, when the players were in the dressing room, Hansford brought the matter up

again. Williams told the defendant to shut up, and said, "I have the same authority in the dressing room as I have on the field." That made the defendant angry, and on the spur of the moment he struck Williams on the left eye, which lacerated the eye-ball, and there was a considerable amount of bleeding. Williams was taken to a surgery, and the following day meningitis set in, resulting in his death on March 15th.

Mr Ivor BOWEN and Mr Clement EDWARDS (instructed by Mr Stanley JONES, Pontypridd) appeared for the prosecution, and Mr St John FRANCIS-WILLIAMS (instructed by Mr Horatio PHILLIPS) for the defence. The evidence as given at the police court was gone over, and testimonials as to the prisoner's character having been handed in The Judge, in passing sentence, said he could not understand how the magistrates took the serious view that this was murder, as there was no evidence of anything of the kind. There was in this case no fight, but the defendant had a grudge against the referee for something which took place in the course of the game. You allowed yourself," continued the Judge, "to think about it instead of dismissing it from your mind, and then in the dressing room, after the game was over, you allowed yourself to inflict this injury upon the referee. The result - which was not foreseen by you - was to most unfortunately - deprive him of his life. Such an occurrence is manslaughter. You have been in gaol since March, and that ought to be taken into account, particularly as there was a charge of murder hanging over you. I must take notice of this occurrence by passing upon you a punishment, but it will be a slight one. The accused was then sentenced to one month's hard labour.

June 2nd 1906

A FATHER'S PREDICTION. Death of "Dick Penderyn's" Daughter.

A father's strange prediction and its verification in a remarkable manner has been brought to light by the death of Elizabeth BAKER, in her 70th year, at 5 Brook Street, Blaenrhondda. The deceased, who was the daughter and the only surviving relative of the celebrated Dick PENDERYN (of Merthyr Riots fame), was deaf and dumb. It appears that when her father was being tried for the murder of Wm. BLACK, he protested his innocence, and predicted that if sentence of death would be passed upon him, and he would be hanged, the child of which his wife was enceinte would be deaf and dumb throughout its life, and that at the time of his execution it would get quite dark. These predictions were verified in a remarkable manner, for on the morning of his execution the sun was completely obscured, and light of day gave place to darkness. The child, Elizabeth BAKER, was born shortly after, and up to her death on Thursday last, was both deaf and dumb. The deceased, who was bedridden for upwards of two years, was in receipt of parish relief, and also supplemented her scant exchequer by doing needlework. The interment took place on Wednesday at Treorchy Cemetery.

A RULING PASSION

Anonymous, 1926

The news spread like wildfire along the valley that old Jack BLACK had 'had' the revival spirit. Margedd EVANS, over the Post Office counter, said that she for one refused to believe it of the old son of Satan, and that a cell in Swansea gaol still awaited him, if not indeed, the gallows. Who did they think had stunned and all but 'did' for Moses PARRY, the gamekeeper, in the Bryngarw Woods on Saturday night? "Revival spirit indeed!" Old Mari HUWS said, "Yes, but that was on the Saturday; on the Sunday it was that he caught the revival".

It appeared that it had all happened at an open-air meeting on Pontycymmer Square. Following the revivalist's exhortation, and while the crowd sang 'Aberystwyth', Jack had burst into tears and publicly declared repentance for his many sins. At any rate that's how I heard it.

"Going to join the Baptists, he is," resumed Mari. At this Margedd Evans looked somewhat less incredulous, she herself being a faithful member of the Hen Gorph. "Singing hymns all day he is now and" Mari was interrupted by the entrance of Ned the postman, who brought the still more thrilling news that Jack was intending to get baptised in the river by a revivalist Minister on the following Sunday morning.

"Unholy blasphemy," snorted Margedd Evans; "why, all the waters of the rivers in Wales poured out together wouldn't wash the soul of that wicked old man clean. Indeed, no."

The whole valley was soon agog with the excitement of the notorious reprobate's baptism. In the bars of the pubs they were saying that he had sold his old traps, gaffs and nets, the poacher's tools of his sins as it were, to Sam LOVELL, the horse-dealer. What better proof did anyone want of old Jack's conversion? Aha, Yes! "But what did the other one want with his old traps and nets?" was asked with lots of nudgings and winkings."

On that Sabbath morning the chapels along the valley and up on the hillside were empty, whilst the banks of the river were lined with spectators. Margedd Evans said she "hated breaking the Sabbath, but surely one could be forgiven on an occasion like this?" Poor Jack, with his jolly weather-beaten face like a rising sun above the stark white of his baptismal robe, stood in a strangely submissive attitude by the revivalist's side, whilst the minister dealt eloquently upon that joy in Heaven over that one sinner that repenteth. The speaker paused to give full effect to his words. Some who were there that day maintain that they noticed the convert's expression change from beatific smile to a fixed attentiveness.

Be that as it may, it is true to say that after a moment's impressive silence, the

congregation was startled by the sound of a terrific splash caused by Jack's sudden leap into mid-stream, while he yelled "Diawl, there's a Salmon!"

*Taken from the Garw Valley Heritage Society collection of memoirs, 1926
Author anonymous.*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Webmaster/Deputy Webmaster & Website Administrator

Transcription and Index checking Volunteers also needed

Publications Assistant Website Downloads Administrator/Volunteers

Additional volunteers are needed to help develop our new website and to provide holiday cover. These roles do not need to be South Wales based.

Website Admin posts - the ability to use Wordpress and Joomla would be an advantage although training will be provided.

For the Publications Assistant/Website Downloads Administrator you need to be able to use an Excel spreadsheet and turn Word documents into pdfs.

Transcription and Index Checking Volunteers also need to be able to use Excel spreadsheets.

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

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When submitting material for publication in the journal that the copyright of all images and source material used in articles must be attributed.

Where, after considerable research, it is has not been possible to identify the original owner of the copyright prior to publication, attribution if later available, will be provided in a subsequent edition

WDYTYA?

#3450 Colin Davies

There is a group photograph taken about 1950 at the side of my grandparent's home at Maes-y-Deri, above the railway crossing in Llangeinor, near Bridgend. Apart from myself and my cousin, there was another toddler and a girl aged about 5 or 6. Over a very long period of time I eventually dragged a little information from my mother as to the identity of the girl.

It seems she lived in the bungalow named Hill View Cottage, further up the road towards Llangeinor House. Then I was told the girl was a "relation". In more recent times I began corresponding with a gentleman who had lived in Hillside Cottage and his father kindly supplied me with a list of previous owners. Since then I discovered a blood link to a family named READ who had lived in Bettws in the 1911 census; and that was the surname of the bungalow's owner in 1950. Now I ask, was the girl indeed a member of my family, and could she be reading this?

Another outcome of asking questions about family history is to be told about relatives said to have emigrated; but it is altogether different to learn about them, let alone correspond. You too may be in the same situation.

There is the story that my great-grandmother's sister, Hannah REES, born 1863 in Llansamlet, had eloped to the USA with the manager (Mr GRIFFITHS?) of the Singer Sewing Machine shop. My family only found out when a telegram arrived from Liverpool just before they sailed. I was told by my grandmother's cousin that during WW2 she was visited in the Lonlas/Skewen area by some of Hannah's family serving in the US Armed Forces. Where are they or their descendants now?

There are other cousins of mine, or their families, somewhere overseas, including the youngest and closest related to me, 2nd cousin Raymond Stanley JONES Jnr born 1924 in South Carolina. What however about those relatives said to have emigrated but still remain hidden?

Despite the entire Members' Interests, genealogical magazines, web-sites, etc etc. is there still no sign of Hannah's descendants, or of any other of my cousins researching their ancestry in the "Old Country"? There are also those in the UK that remain elusive, some of whom I have vague recollections of having visited; but *Where Do You Think They Are?*

LIFE IN 2027 (PERHAPS)

Wyndham Lewis, Form Va, 1927

The following item comes from the Garw Secondary Modern School Magazine, the Easter term of 1927, when the pupils were asked to write an essay on what they thought the future would be in 100 years' time.

The present era is regarded by all, except a few pessimists, as one of science. Science dominates over everything. With the new Violet rays, recently invented, even nature is partly overcome. So much for 1927, but what about the year 2027?

In a hundred years' time the world will have revolutionized. Things wonderful and mysterious now will be acknowledged facts a hundred years hence. I should think by that time there would be no need of letter writing, unless you wanted to tell your tailor what you thought of him for sending in your bill, where an oral meeting would be dangerous.

Small single-seated aeroplanes will then perhaps be as plentiful, if not more, as motor-cycles and cars. No love tryst need be forgotten owing to a Post Office tragedy or an unclear date. Perhaps then pupils will have no need to creep like snails unwillingly to school - a wireless set and the Radio Times will be all that is needed. The student could look up the syllabus at 11.40 a.m. on Thursday and switch on for Geometry or Maths.

No doubt there will be no need for thrilling stories to while away the time, since it will only imply taking out your monoplane, flying to Paris for the night, then stopping at Croydon for the return journey. Mars - the as yet unfathomable mystery - will then perhaps, like an open book, have all its mysteries explained, and a boy with a love of adventure could easily spend a day in Mars, or on the Moon, examining its huge craters and gaping chasms. I don't think that athletic sport will be much different on land, but in the air-well, perhaps games such as this will be played:

A huge ball, filled with hydrogen gas, is suspended in the air and the opponents are at a distance of 5 miles on either side of the ball. Each side consists of 15 players, seated in the fastest planes possible. At a given signal they rush forward and try to force the ball into each other's goals. The referee sits on a cloud, and instead of a whistle uses a howitzer. At the end of 10 minutes the final shot is fired and the scraps can be collected, if there are any left to collect, and then interred.

Rugby played like this would be quite invigorating, I should think. I wonder if the world in 2027 will be like this! I wonder, how I wonder!!

Editorial comment: Wyndham wasn't so far out with his Radio Times and lessons when one thinks of the Open University, but what would he have thought of the internet???

MY AUNT BETTY

#3450 CT Davies

A lot of people enjoy a good mystery, and family tree research is the ideal place to encounter one. In my family an aunt Betty and an uncle Tom feature from time to time. Betty would have the kettle on and the bread saw humming before you had taken your coat off. You would receive all her love at Xmas and a seaside postcard at least once a year. However, when asked, nobody really knew where she fitted onto the family tree.

My current research into one such lady involves Elizabeth CLIFTON of Greenfield Street, Bargoed. She was mentioned in the Will of my uncle Seth JENKINS, of Rose Cottage, Wolfescastle, near Fishguard; who died in 1938. She was not his daughter, or 1st cousin, as they were also named, and his sister had predeceased him, although the possibility of a relationship through one of his three wives had crossed my mind.

So the search began to identify Betty. Not knowing her age in 1938, I tried 1880 as a wild guess at her birth year. Looking at the 1911 census I found Elizabeth, the wife of Percy Charles Clifton; living at 74 Greenfield Street, Bargoed. They had been married 4 years; 3 children had been born, but one had died. Their eldest child, however, was aged 5 years old. I later found that Percy had married Elizabeth SIMS in Dec Quarter 1906, in the Merthyr Tydfil District.

My next step was to look for Betty's ancestry. Living in Neath in the 1881 census were Cornelius Sims, born Bedwellty, and his wife Emily, nee JENKINS, born Roach, Pembs, who had married in Sept Quarter 1876, in Neath District. Their children born in the District were Elizabeth, Sept Quarter 1877, and David, Dec Quarter 1880. In the 1861 census only one suitable entry for an Emily was found, the daughter of Thomas and Ann Jenkins; birth Sept Quarter 1857, in Haverfordwest District.

Now I mentioned above that Seth had married three times. They were in 1876, 1882 and 1903, but I cannot match any of their names from the Marriage Index, or their ages from Memorial Inscriptions; with what little I know about Emily's family. Seth's paternal grandfather, Seth senior; was born about 1810, seemingly not far from Emily's father, Thomas, born about 1813. In the 1851 census both families were near neighbours, could this suggest then a chapel, or even a family connection between them?

How Percy and Betty met is unknown. At the time of the 1901 census they were working in a Derbyshire coal mine and as a domestic servant in Haverfordwest respectively. Although the mystery of Betty's identity appears to have been solved, there are still questions to be answered. Why was she in Pembrokeshire for the birth? What was her relationship, if any; to Seth, or to his family?

As I continued my investigations, a twist in the *tail* appeared! A copy full birth certificate of the 5 year old in 1911 stated that it took place on Oct 11th 1905, and was registered on Nov 7th by Elizabeth *Sims*, the mother, a domestic servant, of Wolfescastle. As for the name and surname of the father; his occupation; and any name entered after the registration, these were all left blank. Now I ask, is it just co-incidence that Wolfescastle plays a central part; or is there a clue hidden within its crenulated lair? What say you, Watson?

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Members wishing to submit or update their Member's Interests for publishing in the journal and on our website should use the form included in the Centre Insert of this journal.

PLEASE NOTE that to comply with the new GDPR regulations we no longer publish personal details in the journal and do not issue your details to other members but will forward any requests to you.

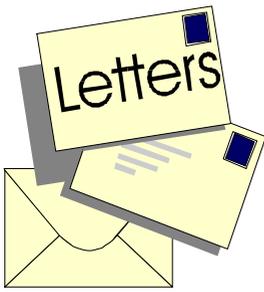
Please also confirm on the form how you wish to be contacted. Forms can be emailed to interests@glamfhs.org.uk. Please quote your membership number and 'Members Interests' in the email subject and attach the completed form.

VACANCY - MEMBERS' INTERESTS COORDINATOR

This role does not need to be South Wales based.

- Receive Members' Interests forms from members
- Submit interests to the Journal Editor each quarter
- Update the on-line list of Members Interests (twice a year)
- Forward queries to members who have submitted interests

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



Letters to the Editor

PhD Research Project - Information Sheet.
Dr Peter Dickson MBE FRCGP

I am a retired general practitioner undertaking a PhD in the Department of History at Swansea University. My area of study is to investigate the experiences of the doctors who became general practitioners in south Wales. As well as the doctors' experiences, I hope to understand how their migration impacted on their families, and members of the communities in which they lived and worked. The period I am studying is from the birth of the NHS in 1948 until 1990, as during this time there was significant change in clinical medicine, particularly in general practice, and South Wales. As part of my research methodology, I am conducting an oral history project as this discipline of historical research is an important method to contribute to a lasting legacy. My PhD supervisors are Dr Michael Bresalier and Professor Martin Johnes.

The purpose of my study

I am carrying out this research for my PhD thesis within the Department of History at Swansea University. I am a former GP and have retired to live in South Wales. As well as working as a GP for over 30 years, I have been a primary care medical director in Yorkshire, working alongside doctors from a number of different cultures and backgrounds and have worked at the Department of Health in England. I am especially interested in the experiences of the doctors who have migrated to the UK from South Asia from the 1948 onwards. In my view this group of doctors has made a significant contribution to clinical medicine and general practice in particular, especially at times of crisis in the NHS.

My background reading and archival research has shown that very little history of migrant doctors, their families and the communities in south Wales has been formally recorded. I feel that this history can teach us many lessons for the future, and in particular how the contribution of the doctors and their families has helped to shape the current health service in Wales. Therefore, as well as seeking information from doctors themselves, I am hoping that their families and members of their communities will be able to contribute to my research.

My aim is to make contact and hopefully interview as many of doctors, their families and community members who lived and worked in south Wales during this period as possible. As a member of this group, I hope you feel able to share what happened to you, so that I can obtain as wide a range of viewpoints as possible.

This project aims to contribute to the history of medicine in south Wales and formally record your part in this. I believe that any contribution to the study will be very valuable in allowing me to record the important place of South Asian doctors in providing health care in this part of Wales.

I have obtained full ethical approval for my research from the College of Arts and Humanities ethics committee at Swansea University.

Thank you for considering contributing to my research. I can be contacted by my mobile phone 07947 395719 or my university email address which is: <mailto:889398@swansea.ac.uk>

SOCIETY TREASURER NEEDED

As from 31 August 2020 or earlier.

Please contact Nick Davey
treasurer@glamfhs.org.uk

who will provide information about this vital Society role.
The Treasurer does not need to be South Wales based.



The Genealogy Show

If you are attending and can help out on our stall for an hour or so during the two days please contact Sue Hamer, website@glamfhs.org.uk.

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 1.00 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*

Aberdare/Cynon Valley Branch

The research and transcription meetings have re-started. These are held, 2nd Thursdays monthly, upstairs in Aberdare Library 2-4 pm. Members and prospective members are welcome to join us either to help or to ask for help with their own research. Members living elsewhere can forward requests for help to.....

aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk

Merthyr Tydfil Branch - Ynysfach Engine House, Merthyr Tydfil.

****CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO BUILDING REPAIRS****

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.

swansea@glamfhs.org.uk

BOOK REVIEWS

Pen & Sword Books Limited have three new publications this quarter of interest to the family historian: one on the history of British surnames and their history, one on how to use the census when tracing your ancestors, and one concentrating on family histories in the Potteries area.

Great British Family Names and their History, shown left, is by **John Moss**, a retired Art and Design lecturer who is making his first foray into



historical non-fiction. He writes that the history of Great Britain has been largely defined by powerful and influential families, many of whose names have come down to us from Celtic, Danish, Saxon or Norman ancestors. They reflect the long chequered history of Britain and demonstrate the assimilation of the many cultures and languages which have migrated to these islands over the centuries.

The book is divided into ten chapters covering the four countries within Great

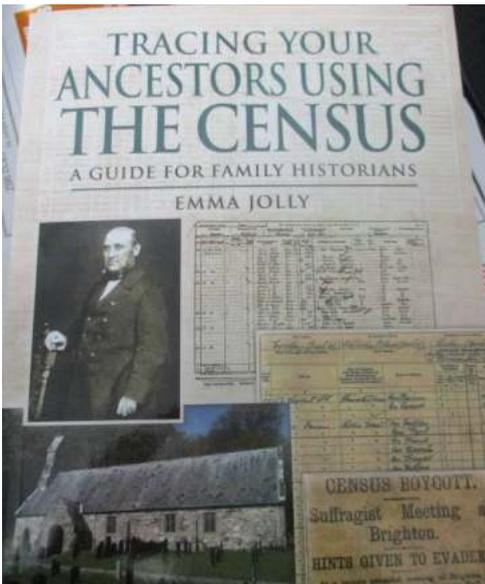
Britain; seven for England and one each for Ireland, Scotland and Wales, which seems a little unbalanced until we find that often names that are thought to be unquestionably belonging to one country can be also found elsewhere. Morgan, for example, a typically Welsh surname, is first recorded in the Curia Rolls in Berkshire in 1214, and another John Morgane was burgess of Glasgow in 1419. Nevilles and Marshalls are listed in the Welsh chapters, but we do not think of those surnames as being Welsh. The view must be, when in doubt, blame the Normans, who got EVERYWHERE.

All in all, an absorbing read with an excellent foreword, comprehensive bibliography and list of useful web resources.

ISBN 1526722801 Hardback 314 pages, £19.99.

Tracing your Ancestors Using the Census: A guide for family historians, by Emma Jolly.

Emma Jolly is a professional genealogist who deals with a wide range of family research, and this book claims to be an essential handbook for anyone researching the life of an ancestor. Experienced family history researchers will be the judge of that claim, but Emma Jolly does an excellent job in describing how and why census records came to be created, and then looks in detail at how to search the main censuses from 1841 to 1911. Each chapter covers the relevant historical context, compares online and other sources, identifies problems like lost or damaged records, and shows how the specific information in the census concerned can be interpreted effectively.



Of particular note is the way each census has its own chapter, and the opening of each of those chapters gives the key events that have happened in the decade since the previous census. For example, the chapter on the 1841 census, described as the First Modern Census, lists the passing of the Representation of the People Act (Reform Act) in 1832, the creation of the General Register Office in 1836, the accession of the new queen, Victoria, in 1837, Chartism was at its height, and Robert Peel became Prime Minister in 1841. All these facts put the research into context adding to our

understanding of the times our families lived through.

The book deals in depth with questions such as why some people are not included in census returns, and how boarding house occupiers were dealt with. Issues of language spoken in the cases of Welsh, Scottish and Irish censuses, and what religion is practised, were all criteria added as time passed. Each chapter has advice on how to use the information efficiently, and an appendix listing where to go for further information is a valuable asset.

A definite acquisition or borrowing for the serious family and social historian.
ISBN 178159061-3 Paperback 198 pages, £12.99

Tracing Your Potteries Ancestors, by Michael Sharpe is the handbook to go to for anyone researching the local and family history of the Potteries. Michael Sharpe is a professional genealogist specializing in the West Midlands area and has written several books as well as being in demand as a speaker and lecturer.

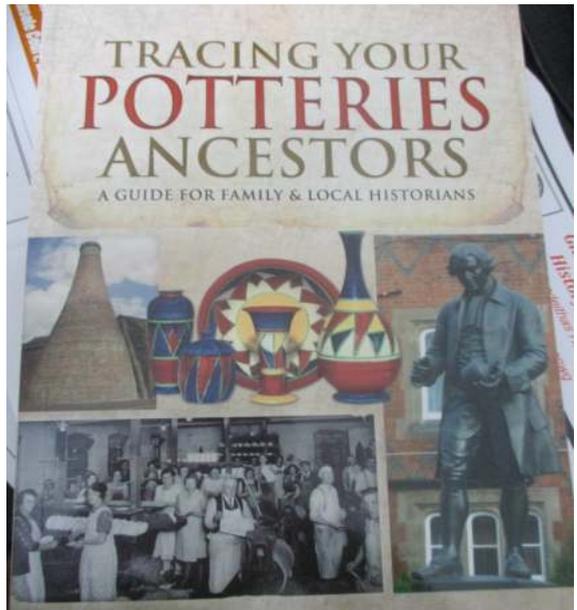
As the title says, the book concentrates on the Potteries area of North Staffordshire, on its ordinary people who lived and worked there. It uses a compendium of sources from legal and ecclesiastical archives, to the records of local government employers, institutions, clubs, societies and schools, showing how local industry gained a world-wide reputation for pottery production, and then declined.

The book is organized into ten chapters with each chapter having a theme, starting with the Potteries and its people, then going through the Pottery industry itself, industrial diversity, the growth of Trade Unionism, the role of Church and religion, Civic society, Housing and population growth and all aspects of life in a thriving industrial society. The two last chapters give an account of medieval Staffordshire, and the rural records available, and then a record of the effect of the two world wars, and the regiments and Home Guard and war memorials.

Appendix 1 gives an excellent timeline of events, putting everything in context from 1670 to the present day, and Appendix 2 is a directory of Archives and other sources for the reader to gain more information.

In total, if your family comes from that area you will find everything you need to know about their everyday lives. For anyone else, it is a fascinating read with loads of things we didn't know.

ISBN 1526701278 paperback, 278 pages £14.99



**Pen & Sword Books, 47 Church Street,
Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 2AS.**

01226 734241 <http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk>

SOCIETY NEWS & REPORTS

PROJECTS

Parish Files

In order to prepare for Phase 2 of the website which will eventually provide **summaries of research resources** by parish the compilation of hard copy folders was suggested which could also be made available 'offline' ie at the ARC, at Branch Meetings and Fairs such as at Merthyr Tydfil for visitors to view.

A big 'Well Done' to Chris and Bridgend Branch who have submitted the first completed PARISH FOLDER for

- Coity Parish.

Anyone can get involved in this project not just branches. The more people who contribute the quicker we will have a bank of resources available for everyone to use.

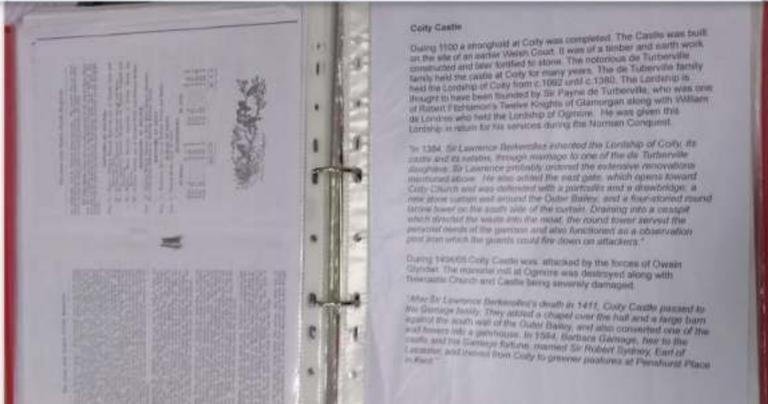
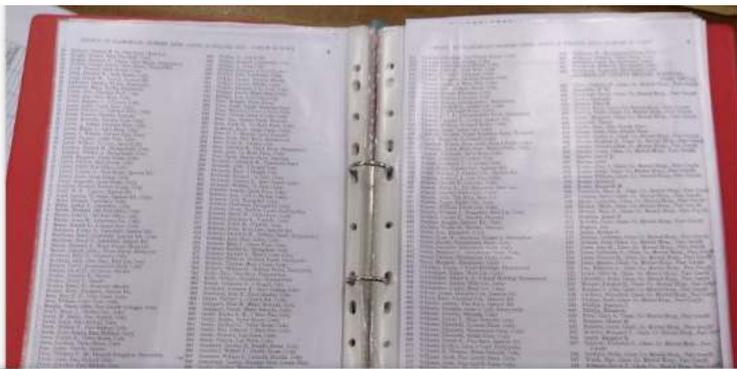
If you would like to help by starting to compile a Parish Folder please let us know which parish and we will send you a list of the type of information to include - but of course individual members may know of additional resources that should be included as you are the experts out there on the area where your ancestor lived and worked!!

We are not going to reproduce what is already on websites such as www.genuki.org.uk but there are many beginners who do not know about such resources so a link will be provided on the website and a print out in the hard copy folders.

The aim is that our folders and our online Parish Summaries will be where our members old and new go first to check out what is available when commencing research in a particular parish.

Suggestions and, even better, offers to start work on a particular parish file should be sent to:

website@glamfhs.org.uk



Coily Parish - Resource File

WEBSITE REPORT

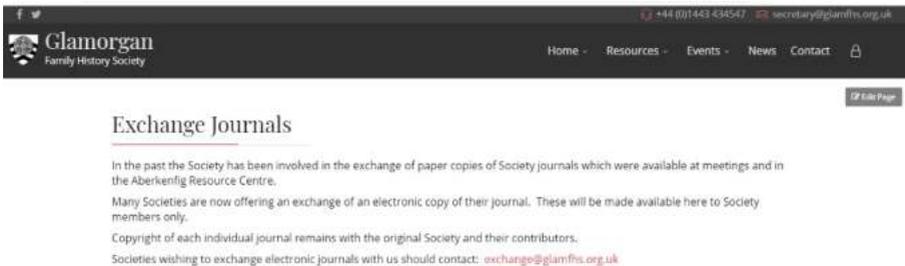
The latest addition to the Members Only Area:

Exchange e-Journals from other Societies.

We have been involved in the Exchange Journal scheme for many years whereby other societies' journals have been available at Branch Meetings and at the ARC. Recently some societies have requested that we no longer send a paper copy to them but exchange an e-journal instead.

The first of the e-journals, the Wales-New Zealand Society Newsletter for February 2019 has been uploaded to the Members Only Area of our website www.glamfhs.org.uk (see below).

The Powys FHS e-journal 'Y Chronicl' will also be available shortly.



Of course this is task that needs a volunteer to administer so that these resources are made available as soon as possible. Below is a summary of the role. Anyone interested in helping with this new resource please email website@glamfhs.org.uk.

The EXCHANGE E-JOURNALS ADMINISTRATOR will

- Receive the e-journals sent in from other societies via the email: exchange@glamfhs.org.uk.
- Upload the e-journals (pdfs) received to the website.
- Email a pdf copy of our quarterly journal to the societies who have agreed to exchange e-journals with us.

BRANCH REPORTS

ABERDARE/CYNON VALLEY BRANCH

A decision was made to cancel February's meeting due to adverse weather conditions.

In March we were treated to a talk by Brian Davies, his topic was "The View From The Standing Stone", Brian's talk was very interesting and informative and told the story of how the stones come to rest on Pontypridd Common as a result of the last ice age. The talk was thoroughly enjoyed by the members that were present. We look forward to Brian's return at some future date.

April's meeting was spent on discussions and research.

Steady progress is being made on transcribing burial records for Aberdare cemetery, thanks to David Barnard and his volunteers.

There will be no meetings during July and August.

Pat Rees, aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk



BRIDGEND BRANCH

February's meeting was changed at the last minute due to the illness of the speaker. It is understood that he has now recovered and has been re-booked for our July meeting. Grateful thanks go to Chris Thomas who stepped in at the last minute and saved the evening. He provided a very interesting talk on Coity.

In March's meeting members were entertained by Jane Graves from the Cardiff branch who gave a stimulating talk on the Cory Women. She provided many interesting pictures and outlined her research into this valuable aspect of South Wales history.

April's meeting had a most informative talk on the SS Santamper by Gary Victor. This was a local disaster when it was shipwrecked in Porthcawl. Gary provided an outline of the events leading up to the disaster with detailed information on the commissioning, building and life of the ship. His extensive research and campaigning for a memorial to the men and the members of the RNLI from Mumbles who also saw lives lost provided much food for thought.

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

ABERKENFIG RESOURCE CENTRE

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

CLOSED - 26 Jun, 31 Jul & 28 Aug

Open Wednesday 10:30–1:00 pm
The Pensioners' Hall, Heol Persondy,
Aberkenfig, CF32 9RF (This is not the postal address)
Just off Junction 36 of the M4

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

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

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



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Aberkenfig Resource Centre

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

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

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

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

It does not need to be a regular commitment and some tasks can be done at home.

CARDIFF & THE VALE BRANCH

February: Death by poison: An unfortunate end to Welsh sporting legend Norman Biggs - Ted Richards.

A well-researched and expansive talk which started in Cardiff and finished in Nigeria. Norman was a sportsman playing cricket for Glamorgan but also rugby, playing for not just Cardiff, but for Wales where he held the record as the youngest capped player when he played in 1888 for the international team which was unbeaten until Tom Prydie in the 2010 Six Nations tournament. After service in the 2nd Boer War he remained in military service and while being seconded to the Colonial Office he was killed by a poisoned arrow in Sakaba, Kebbi State Nigeria in 1908 where a gravestone still marks his burial place.

March: Robert and Gill Lawson joined in March to share their research on 'E Turners & Sons – Building Cardiff's Civic Centre'. Their research into this local firm originally began with their investigations into the people who are remembered on the Lisvane Parish War memorial. The presentation contained a wonderful collection of images, some of which had originally been destined for the skip! Those present had an interesting time trying to identify the many buildings around Cardiff that E Turner and Sons built including Cardiff Free Library, City Hall, the Post Office and the John Cory building down the Bay.

April: Sue Hamer presented an interesting overview of the migration of people in the past and where the information of the journey has been recorded for different types of migration as some of our ancestors voluntarily travelled to other countries while others were involuntary like prisoners of war or convicts who were transported to Australia. A very useful site given was the Ships List for all things related to travel by ship. An important point raised was that not all information held by Ancestry or Find My Past has been indexed fully yet so to use the card catalogue to access more data. Also remembering that migration between countries will need access to ancestry.com rather than ancestry.co.uk as information was recorded on their arrival rather than departure. Other countries sometime record parental information as the new immigrant is registered. For those ancestors on the wrong side of the law with often seemingly minor crimes the result was transportation to Australia and information can be found about the journey and arrival to help our research. A final point Sue raised was our ancestors left but they could return and so emigration details could be found in other countries records and immigration details in the UK.

SULLY GROUP

An enthusiastic group of Cardiff & the Vale Branch members visited Glamorgan Archives in March. We first had a tour behind the scenes to view the storage facilities, document cleaning and quarantine areas followed by an insight into the work of the conservation department. It was difficult to drag our members away and all were fascinated to see how repairs were undertaken to documents especially via the glass wall which held a map of the coal seams of a mine near Merthyr. Cleaning of material from Cardiff Special Collections was also interesting in view of the fact that the Branch had visited the collection in Cardiff University in January. Finally we were shown a sample of documents from various collections of estate records including some more unusual documents relating to peacocks at Cardiff Castle and 17th century maps of a slave plantation in St Kitts owned by the Matthews family. *(For photos of visit see inside back cover).*

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

Beginners Workshops

These will recommence in the Autumn
at Rhiwbina Library and/or Insole Court.

Further information will be available via our website:
www.glamfhs.org.uk, Facebook Group and Twitter @GlamorganFHS

MERTHYR TYDFIL BRANCH

Members of the Merthyr Tydfil Branch enjoyed attending the Gelligaer Conference in March this year and learnt a great deal. One speaker discussed Oliver Cromwell's Welsh ancestry and his connection with growing non-conformity in seventeenth century Wales. The four talks included 'Collecting Welsh Place Names', Dr James January-McCann, RCAHMW. Place names often seem to be a problem as a name can appear only on one census return and not on any map. This seems to be an official body which can be contacted over place name problems. There are to be a series of talks this year around Wales about the Jewish Community and the talk in Gelligaer 'Visualising South Wales's Synagogues: An Architectural and Social History' by Dr Cai Parry-Jones, Digital Collections Manager RHS Lindley Library, London, was interesting and well-illustrated.

The Merthyr Tydfil Branch project on the first 10 years of obituaries in the Merthyr Express between 1900 and 1910 is progressing and we hope these will be completed for publication shortly. However, later records have already been completed taking us nearly up to 1940.

We are grateful to our members for their kind assistance with talks, especially at short notice. When our speaker, Chris Parry of Cyfarthfa Castle Museum, had a bad dose of flu in February Steve Brewer stepped in to treat us to interesting extracts from nineteenth century local newspapers and talked about his blog:

'The Melting Pot, The Heritage and Culture of Merthyr Tydfil'.
<http://www.merthyr-history.com/?paged=17&pu003d1992>.

He encouraged members to view and add to this detailed work on the internet. We recommend this to anyone interested in the history of Merthyr Tydfil. In March Huw Williams gave the talk he was to give last year before he was rushed to hospital. At this time Carl Llewellyn yet again stepped in to deliver one of his well prepared and highly entertaining talks. Carl also helped illustrate the interesting talk which Tudor Jones gave in April on his Abercynon Family.

The Merthyr Tydfil Branch is working with the Dic Penderyn Society and assisting with a History Conference in Merthyr Tydfil in May which will inform people about the Merthyr Rising prior to the Annual Merthyr Rising Festival. We apologise for not getting the details in the previous Journal and will provide information for the web-site

*Carolyn Jacob & Suzanne Doolan,
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SWANSEA BRANCH

At our Branch meeting on March 11th we were treated to a very interesting talk given by Rosemary and John Blyth on Early Mechanical Music. They brought with them many intriguing wooden boxes, each opened to reveal their collection of Victorian and Edwardian mechanical musical instruments, restored by John. Rosemary and John, dressed in appropriate costumes provided us with the history of how such early music developed from the early 1500s. I will attempt to describe just a few of the numerous instruments they brought along.

The first barrel organ was developed by TC Bates in London between 1830-1850. It had 14 pipes which could play 10 tunes. A later development was 'The Celestina'. It was an American invention exhibited at the Earls Court Exhibition in 1887. It worked by using perforated paper rolls, one for each tune. One version of this called 'The Cabinet' was often used by Churches.

In 1898 'The Clarina' could be bought for a deposit of 5/- and monthly payments of 1/8d (25p and about 8p respectively for those who don't remember pre-decimal coinage). The Blyth's version of this instrument played 'Poor Wondering Boy', to which many of us were able to sing along! The development of instruments quickly progressed. A British Organette made in the 1890s in Lancashire had 30 men working on the production of an instrument which had 620 tunes available for purchase. Home entertainment had arrived! Progress continued and an 'Atlas' Organette made in Germany had flat metal discs instead of paper sheets. It could play tunes familiar to those who frequented the Victorian Music Halls'. We recognised 'Down at the old Bull and Bush', 'In the shade of the Old Apple Tree' and 'The Hornpipe'.

Musical Boxes were popular at this time too. We were shown a musical photo album which could play two tunes.

Attempts had been made in 1877 to record speech. In 1888 a phonograph was produced which was popular in arcades. A coin in the slot provided an opportunity for the population to listen to their own recorded voice. Victorians were intrigued by the novelty and it proved a profitable venture for the owners, though the quality produced was limited.

In 1899 HMV, (His Masters Voice) produced a gramophone with a trumpet. Many of us were familiar with the trade mark of this company showing a white dog, called Nipper, sitting in front of the trumpet. The last one of these was produced in 1927 and cost £9.

It was a delightful evening and we are very grateful to the Blyths for the hard work involved in transporting all these wonderful instruments to our meeting.

It gave us a fascinating glimpse of the entertainment available to our ancestors.

In April we held another research evening in Swansea Central Library. As a consequence of Council cuts the library now shuts at 7pm and so our meeting time has had to be altered to 5-6.45pm.

Several of the projects the transcription team have been working on recently are now being checked and will soon be sent for processing. One new work started is the Baptism Register of St Gabriel's Church in the Brynmill area of Swansea. When complete it will consist of approximately 1600 baptisms covering the period from 1889 to 1914.

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



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

| Date | Event |
|-----------|---|
| 1 June | Shropshire FHS Fair, Shrewsbury |
| 7/8 June | The Genealogy Show, NEC, Birmingham * |
| 6 July | The Family History Show South West, UWE Exhibition Centre, Bristol |
| 7 Sept | Dyfed FHS Fair, Carmarthen* |
| 28 Sept | Bristol & Avon FHS Fair, Filton, Bristol* |
| 5 Oct | Oxford FHS Fair, Woodstock* |
| 12 Oct | **Glamorgan FHS Fair, Merthyr Tydfil*** |
| 24-26 Oct | RootsTech London, Excel Convention Centre |

* At time of going to press Glamorgan FHS plans to have representatives at these events.

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

RHONDDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMME

| Date | Speaker | Topic |
|--|-----------------|---|
| 1 June | Ceinwen Statter | Thora Silverthorne |
| 6 July | Daryl Leeworthy | The Political Life of Gwyn Thomas (1913-1981) |
| August | NO MEETING | |
| (Please note that this programme may be subject to change) | | |
| <p>WHEN? the first SATURDAY of every month except for August and January WHERE? NEW VENUE! Porth Library, Porth Plaza, Pontypridd Road, Porth, CF39 9PG TIME? 11.00 am start (please be prompt, to ensure you get a seat) COST? £2 entrance fee per talk or £10 for annual personal membership</p> | | |
| <p>FURTHER DETAILS: http://www.rhonddahistoricalsociety.wordpress.com email: rhonddahs@yahoo.com tel: 07810277048</p> | | |

PEN-Y-GRAIG AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



When:

We meet on the second Wednesday afternoon of each month except in August.

Venue:

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

Time:

Meetings start promptly at 1.45pm and finish at 3.30pm.

Admission: £3 per person, refreshments included, optional raffle £1.

Format: Meetings take the form of mostly illustrated talks with an historical connection, by invited speakers, followed by an informal get-together over coffee and cakes.

| Meetings June–October 2019 | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| June 12th | Tonypany in Old Photographs. | C Sims |
| July 10th | Treachery of the Blue School Books. | G Gardener |
| August | Annual Outing - No Meeting. | |
| Sept 11th | Swansea's Bad Girls. | E Belcham |
| Oct 9th | AGM & Porth Photos, Old and New. | C Sims |

ARTICLES NEEDED!



September - Overseas Migration
to Glamorgan

BRANCH MEETINGS

Aberdare/Cynon Valley

7 pm 1st Friday of the month – Green Street Methodist Church, Aberdare

Friday Members/Research Evenings - see website for details - www.glamfhs.org.uk
Also Research and Transcription Meetings - 2nd Thursdays monthly, upstairs in Aberdare Library 2-4 pm.
Contact the Branch Secretary for further information.

July & August - No Meetings

Bridgend

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

| | |
|--------|---|
| 10 Jun | Horrible Histories in Cap Goch - Maria Phillips |
| 15 Jul | The George Family Name Society, Merthyr Mawr Stories - Basil George |
| 19 Aug | Members Research - Bring your Brickwalls |
| 16 Sep | AGM & Speaker |

Cardiff & Vale Branch ****PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE****

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

| | |
|-------|--|
| 4 Jun | Families and the Factory: The life of Burberry in the Rhondda - Dr Jean Jenkins |
| 2 Jul | TBC - see website for details - www.glamfhs.org.uk |
| Aug | NO MEETING |
| 3 Sep | Whitchurch Hospital - Ian Beech |

Sully Group

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

| | |
|------------|--------------------------|
| 20 Jun | Members Research Evening |
| July & Aug | No Meeting |

Merthyr Tydfil **** PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME****

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

| | |
|--------|---|
| 11 Jun | The Gelligaer Common - Mark Ward & Judith Jones |
| 9 Jul | My Scottish Ancestors - Daryl Leeworthy, WEA Lecturer |
| August | NO MEETING |
| 10 Sep | The Nineteenth Century Theatres of Merthyr Tydfil' - Carl Llewellyn |

Pontypridd & Rhondda

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

| | |
|--------|--|
| 18 Jun | Jews of the Valleys - Edwin Parry |
| 16 Jul | TBC - see our website for details - www.glamfhs.org.uk |
| Aug | NO MEETING |

Swansea

Alternative months: 2nd Monday of the month – 6.30pm for talk at 7 pm,
Committee Room 2, Civic Centre, Swansea

2nd Thursday of the month - 5-6.45 pm - Research - Central Library, Swansea

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Thurs 13 Jun | Help & Research Evening at Central Library 5-6.45 pm |
| Mon 8 Jul | In Flanders Fields - a personal voyage of discovery - Liz McSloy |
| Thurs 15 Aug | Help & Research Evening at Central Library 5-6.45 pm |





GLAMORGAN

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



invites you to our



Full details on our website:

www.glamfhs.org.uk

The Largest Family History Fair in Wales

If undelivered please return to:

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