



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



Merthyr Olympia Hockey Team 1910

Image Courtesy of Sarah Larkin

© Alan George 'Old Merthyr' website

Journal No 138

June 2020

Registered Charity No 1059537

www.glamfhs.org.uk

ISSN 0264 5440

Archive Journal Copies



Journals 101-120 - completed



Journals 60-100 – under way

Now uploaded to the website: www.glamfhs.org.uk/journalarchive

Index of articles: www.glamfhs.org.uk/journal-index

CONTENTS

Journal 138		June 2020
Title	Author	Page
Society Officers & Committee Members		4
Editorial	Jean Fowlds	5
Chairman's Message – Coronavirus Update		6
Memories of a Pontycymer Policeman	Ian Black	7
Rhondda Pugilists' Salvation	Western Mail 1888	10
Hugh McLaren: a Hate Crime	David JK Jones	10
On the Street where they Lived	Janet M Neilson	12
The Albert Hall, Swansea: a Hotbed of anti-Mormon debate	Jill Morgan	19
My Pearce Ancestors: a Rhondda Family of Harpists	Barbara Hurt	24
Some Memories of the Norwegian Church and Bute West Dock	John Holmes	27
'With Beards frozen to our Coats'	David Dimmick	28
Alfred Polikoff: Crowdfunding a Spitfire	Jane Graves	29
A Popular Sport for All	Creighton Sims	34
The Making of a Proletarian Community	Barbara Watts	39
Successful Response to a Request for Help	Raymond Watts	47
Letters to the Editor/Help Wanted		49
Book Reviews		50
Society News & Reports		53
Members Interests		58

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.

SOCIETY OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Gwyn Rhys

Vice President: Diane Brook

Executive Committee & Society Trustees

Chairman

chairman@glamfhs.org.uk

Meic Jones

44 Hendrecafn Rd, Penygraig, RCT, CF40 1LL

Vice Chairman

Sue Hamer, 37 Sherbourne Close, Highlight Park, Barry, CF6 8AQ

Secretary/Events Coordinator

secretary@glamfhs.org.uk

Jane Jones

44 Hendrecafn Rd, Penygraig, RCT, CF40 1LL

Treasurer

VACANT

Executive Committee Members:

Ian Black, Nick Davey, Nancy Thomas (2 vacancies)

Branch Trustees: *Pat Rees*(Aberdare & Cynon Valley), *Sue Tiller* (Bridgend),

Jane Graves (Cardiff & Vale), *Carolyn Jacob* (Merthyr),

Creighton Sims (Pontypridd & Rhondda), *Jeff Coleman* (Swansea)



Membership Team

membership@glamfhs.org.uk

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

Editor/Assistant Editor

editor@glamfhs.org.uk

Jean Fowlds/Sue Hamer

c/o 10 David Street, Blaengarw, Bridgend, CF32 8AD

Website website@glamfhs.org.uk

Sue Hamer

Branch Secretaries/Contacts

Aberdare & Cynon Valley

aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk

Mrs Pat Rees ☎ 01685 875528

Bridgend Secretary

bridgend@glamfhs.org.uk

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

Cardiff Chairman

cardiff@glamfhs.org.uk

Jane Graves, 22 Angelica Way, Thornhill, Cardiff, CF14 9FJ ☎ 07952 098181

Merthyr Secretary

merthyr@glamfhs.org.uk

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

Pontypridd & Rhondda

rhondda@glamfhs.org.uk

Jane Jones, 44 Hendrecafn Rd, Penygraig, CF40 1LL ☎01443 434547

Swansea Secretary

swansea@glamfhs.org.uk

Cherry King, 11 Northeron, West Cross, Swansea, SA3 5PJ ☎01792 413229

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

EDITORIAL

The summer of 2020 can scarcely go by without a mention of the pandemic that has arisen, and our thoughts will be those with particular worries amongst friends and families. Our love of history brings to mind that other pandemic of a 100 years ago, the so-called 'Spanish' flu, just coming to an end in late 1920.

For this edition we asked for topics with any and every theme in mind, so what follows is truly eclectic and hopefully will bring interest and relief from the bad news around us. We have sport, music, memories, disputes and debates, a little amusement, along with a not-so-nice account of a vicious crime in Cardiff. There are no apologies for including an item from a member about his father struggling home across Europe at the end of WWII, as this month marks the 75th anniversary of VE Day; many celebrations had been organised but are obviously being postponed until a later date.

There is no Centre Insert with this Journal but included is the Annual Report and Accounts. The full reports and Notes to the Accounts will be made available on our website shortly.

On the next page you will see the current 'Coronavirus' statement from the Executive Committee. It is with regret that we have had to cancel the Societies activities for the foreseeable future. **Just as we go to print we have also unfortunately had to make the decision to postpone this year's Annual Fair in September to 2021.**

In this time of seclusion in our homes, please continue to raid your family archives for more stories and memories - and keep in touch. Also let us know of any successes you may have with the online materials now being made available during 'lockdown' such as the FREE digital resources at the National Archives at Kew: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk.

Have a good summer and stay safe!

Jean Fowlds, editor@glamfhs.org.uk

EVENTS UPDATES

For information on postponed and cancelled Events see the GENEVA (Genealogical Events) section on the Genuki website.

<http://geneva.weald.org.uk/>

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (TRUSTEES) STATEMENT

CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS

In order to comply with the current restrictions, the Executive Committee of Glamorgan Family History Society are implementing the following measures since many of our members and volunteers or their relatives fall within the vulnerable and high-risk group within the population.

Aberkenfig Resource Centre – CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Branch Meetings – CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Society Activities – Society Fair – Saturday 26 September - POSTPONED

Administration of Membership, Finance and Publications

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

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

Executive Committee meetings are now taking place online via Zoom in order to facilitate the administration of the Society.

Monthly '**Mail Chimp**' **Newsletters** are being emailed to members providing information about useful resources that can be used during 'lockdown' as well as updating members on the situation as it affects the Society. If there are members who have an email address have not received a Newsletter please contact our membership team to check we have your current email. Members can unsubscribe from the Newsletter if they do not wish to receive it by clicking on the link at the bottom of the email. *membership@glamfhs.org.uk*

The Executive Committee will continue to monitor the situation and will advise as soon as further information is available.

We send our best wishes to all members and their families at this very difficult time.

*Mike Jones, Chairman Executive Committee
Glamorgan Family History Society*

MEMORIES OF A PONTYCYMER POLICEMAN

#10631 Ian Black

Bernard EVANS was brought up in Gilfach Goch. After completing his National Service he joined the South Wales Police. His first six months in the force were spent training in Bridgend before he was sent in 1961 to Pontycymer Police Station in Victoria Street as a probationer. There was a sergeant and four constables based in the station so that there was at least one constable on duty 24 hours a day. Bernard lived in a flat above the police station with his wife. Sergeant JENKINS was in charge who claimed to have seen more probationers than he had eaten cooked dinners. He was known as "Tiny," even though he was a large man weighing about 20 stones, who once sat on a suspect and sent Bernard after his accomplice. Bernard remembers PC Sid LEGGE, PC GOODWIN and PC MICHAEL also being stationed in the Garw, with PC John JAMES being the station man in Blaengarw and PC Tom JOHN being the station man in Llangeinor.

Bernard remembers working nights in Pontycymer when only one PC was on duty. The streetlights used to go out at midnight, and he had to check that all the shops were locked and secured twice each night, and record he had done so in his book. He also had to check that the explosives kept in the Ffaldau Colliery were safely under lock and key. Every hour he had to go to the police station and telephone Bridgend Station to say all was well with him.

Whatever shift he was on he always had to walk his beat as there were no bicycles or police cars available for Pontycymer Station, although a police traffic car from Bridgend would sometimes come up the Garw on its patrol. Bernard remembers having many complaints about sheep roaming in the village causing a nuisance, and trying to get sheep free when they were stuck in wire fencing, but he was surprised when a well-known publican came into the police station and said he had knocked down and killed four sheep in his Volvo car. There was also a case when a dog fell down a crevice on the mountain and he had to call out the RSPCA to dig the dog out. It took two days, but the dog survived his traumatic adventure!

In 1964 Lyn "The Leap," DAVIES from Nantymoel won a gold medal in the long jump at the Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan. Crowds from the Garw turned out to see Lyn and his gold medal travel up and down the Garw. His winning leap of 8.07 metres was marked out on the road by Pontycymer Post Office. Bernard later handled the gold medal in Nantymoel and was surprised to find how heavy it was.

Bernard also remembers Jeff YOUNG, who went on to play rugby for Wales and the British Lions, delivering the daily newspapers to the houses when he

was on duty. Bernard himself was a very good darts player and he played for the Halfway Club, now Blaengarw RFC, when he was stationed in the valley. He also played for the Mid Glamorgan Darts team.

The Garw Valley was quite a law-abiding place and he would only make around 20 arrests a year. Most of these were for using indecent language, urinating in a public place, and being drunk and disorderly, although there were a few breaking and entering offences. He recollects having to deal with 3 sudden deaths before he was allowed to go to a rugby international in Cardiff.

A sad story he tells is meeting a boy in Oxford Street, Pontycymer during school time. He asked him why he was not in school. The boy told him it was the afternoon of the School Christmas Party and his mother had no money to pay for him to go to the party so he had been sent home. Bernard gave him some chocolate as he felt sorry for the boy.

On a lighter note the police division had a charity and a trip was arranged to the early performance of the pantomime in Swansea for some of the Garw children. Denis HOOPER, a Pontycymer resident, was also in Swansea that day and he was not sure of the way out of Swansea. He saw the bus from the Garw and decided to follow it home to Pontycymer but unfortunately for Denis the children were going to Mumbles before coming home. Needless to say Denis was not at all happy with his extended trip home!

Doctor GRIFFITHS, the Pontycymer doctor was known to enter the Police Station asking for help in locating his car as he would forget where he had parked it. Dr STEVENS was another doctor, Bernard remembers, who was based in Blaengarw. He once saw him set a girl's leg which had been badly broken in a fall.

Bernard bought his first television in the Garw from Denis MARTIN'S shop in Oxford Street. He also remembers the founder of Oxford House Menswear Shop David CHAMBERS working in the outfitters in the Coop. On Remembrance Sunday, all the Police Officers, army cadets, local fire brigade and the St John's Ambulance used to march to the church for the service.

PC Legge was by the Squirrel public house one night on duty when he could hear faint steps and then a few coughs. He immediately thought that this was suspicious behaviour as it was the middle of the night. He waited in the shadows to see who it could be but was shocked and relieved when a sheep appeared.

Bernard remembers being given a lift by a well-known Pontycymer character, Dai `Moonshine` REES. He became very worried when he realised Dai was using a paraffin heater to warm up his van and in the back of the van were containers full of paraffin that Dai was selling. He explained to Dai that this

was dangerous, but Dai was not concerned; Bernard was just relieved to get out of the van without being burned.

After Sergeant Jenkins left the Garw Sergeant Gordon WESTCOTT, a police officer for whom Bernard had great respect, took charge of Pontycymer Police Station. Sergeant Westcott policed the area with common sense and he always treated his officers fairly. Gordon Westcott was a former Bridgend RFC player and is still a keen rugby supporter. In 1992 he wrote a book, "A Century on the Rugby beat, A history of 100 years of Police Rugby in South Wales." He has now retired and lives in Machen.

One of Bernard's fondest memories was when, on a cold winter's night, he stood on duty outside the Ffaldau Arms on Pontycymer Square with his hands behind his back. Suddenly a glass of rum and blackcurrant was put in his hands - someone obviously felt sorry for him being out in the cold!

PC Bernard Evans left the Garw after serving over 4 years, to join the Police Dog Section in the Pontypridd area, where he still lives. He has a lot of fond memories of the people in the Garw Valley.

Printed Family Trees and Charts

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

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

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

E mail: info@genealogyprinters.com

RHONDDA PUGILISTS' SALVATION

Western Mail, March 1888

It appears that on Monday last two well-known mountain fighters 'Shoni Castellnedd,' and 'Will Squinks' were summoned at Ystrad Police Court for having committed a breach of the peace on Tynycymmer Mountain, for fighting in the bare-knuckle fashion which now prevails. Much to their credit neither was very well acquainted with Ystrad Magistrates Court. Six years ago Ystrad Police Court was held in the old Shiloh Chapel, which has been since taken over by the Salvation Army.

However on arriving at Ystrad railway station the two men went for their court appearance straight to the chapel. They were seated in readiness when by and by along came a Salvationist and enquired the purpose of the visit.

"We are both awaiting the Magistrate, sir" they said.

"My dear Brethren" replied the Salvationist, "Our Saviour is the only Magistrate in this place."

The fighters looked amazed and were on the point of leaving when the Salvationist remarked,

"I can see you are but poor sinners: if you wish to have your sins washed away, you can, without money or charge."

"Well sir," said the men, "we don't know what to do. We've got the Summons and a pound to pay the fine. The Bobbies will be after us if we don't pay up."

So they left the chapel in search of the Magistrates court. On arrival there they were informed that their case had already been heard, and that they had been fined 5 shillings each extra, in addition to the 10 shilling fine for not appearing when the case was called.



HUGH McLAREN - A HATE CRIME

#3934 David JK Jones

In 1913 Julian BIROS, a young 22 year old itinerant drifter, got by in life by doing casual, sporadic jobs around the Cardiff Docklands. Whenever a ship docked, Biros, who hailed from Fiume in Spain, would offer his services and usually get some sort of menial work on board.

He had been in Cardiff for two years and slept rough at the nearby Crown Patent Fuel Works on the banks of the Glamorgan Canal, and cooked his meals in a disused railway carriage, which was on the site of where the BBC Roath Lock Studios are today. He was one of hundreds of transient drifters who lived this way.

A fellow itinerant was John MCGILL. On 22nd March 1913 McGill met up with Hugh McLAREN, who lived at Rickett's Lodging House, 58 Adam Street, which was opposite Cardiff Prison, but is now demolished.

McLaren wanted to see Biros and referred to him as "that Dago". He further added that he was going to cut him "from lug to lug". However he gave no reason for his anger and apparent hatred of the young Spaniard.

That evening Biros slept in his usual place, the Fuel Works, and arose early the next morning on Sunday 23rd March to walk down to the Roath Dock to check out the SS Dee, which was about to dock, in the hope that he might get some casual labour.

Biros was stood with another man who was also hoping for a days work, Patrick MCGUIRK. Another man, James WALSH saw McGuirk and joined them in conversation.

At 8:20 am all three men saw Hugh McLaren approaching from the direction of the Alexandra Dock. McLaren said cockily, "Don't you know that this is Easter Sunday boys? I'll make some tea." With that, McLaren produced a packet of tea from his pocket which Biros immediately recognized as belonging to him. He demanded it back. McLaren's response was to grab Biros by the throat and produce a knife which he plunged into his side.

There were three witnesses to the attack, McGuirk, Walsh and Alphonso BURKE who had been on board the SS Dee as it was docking. McGuirk ran for the police while the others administered first aid. He found PC John LEWIS at the Pier head although another officer had by now attended the scene of the attack. Despite an immediate blood transfusion and efforts from Dr Henry WHELAN, Biros died in the Seaman's Hospital (*the Hamadryad*) later on that day.

The cause of death was a haemorrhage and shock caused by two injuries to the heart ventricles by the knife produced by McLaren. One heart ventricle was severed after the knife firstly broke the fourth rib and cartilage. The second ventricle was grazed slightly.

Police Constable John Lewis arrested McLaren in Adam Street. He was nonchalant in his attitude and responses. He said to the arresting constable, "I got nothing to say, I could kill a dozen Dagos like that. They can't touch me for it. My father was the executioner of them in America".

Later, in the cells after being charged with murder he stated to the officer in the case, Detective Chief Inspector William Henry HARRIES, "Harries, it was

not the knife which done him in (Biros) but it was the chloroform them folks gave him down there (Hospital), he walked there by himself”.

Hugh McLaren was tried for Murder at Swansea Assize Courts on 18th July 1913. He pleaded “Not Guilty”, his defence being that it was the First Aid that was rendered to Biros that killed him and not his violent actions. However he was found guilty after the jury had retired for just ten minutes.

The Judge, Lord Coleridge assumed the black cap and told McLaren, “You seemed to have expressed the opinion that because the victim was not a man of your own race the law would find excuses for your act”.

The Judge added, “But I will have you know here, where I administer the law, the law regards all human life as sacred. Human beings of every race and colour upon the habitable globe, the law draws no distinction. We all have life and to take life under circumstances which amount to wilful murder, is to bring upon the actor the punishment of death. May God have mercy upon your soul”.

Hugh McLaren was executed at Cardiff Prison at 8:00 on Thursday 14th August 1913. Over one thousand people had gathered outside the prison.



ON THE STREET WHERE THEY LIVED #8289 Janet M Neilson

I have been fortunate, during the past few years, to receive photographs of members of my family from cousins in the USA, from past to present generations. The most exciting photo, as far as I was concerned, was one of my great-great-grandparents, James and Margaret LYNCH MCKENZIE (née HANSON, see below).

James McKenzie was baptised on 10th October 1839, in the parish of Troqueer, (which is now in Dumfriesshire but had been in the county of Kirkcudbrightshire previously). His parents were George McKenzie (cordwainer) and Elizabeth McCLYMONT (spelling varies). Margaret Lynch Hanson was born in 1844 in Swansea. Her parents were George Hanson (baker) and Ann COX.



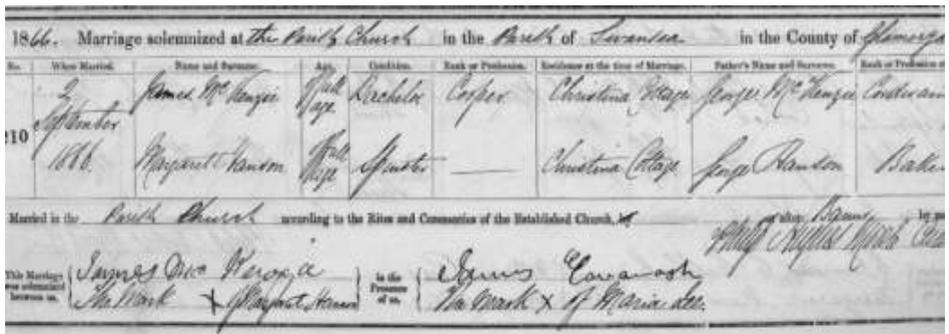
For many years I have been puzzled as to HOW James McKenzie travelled to South Wales, and WHY? Did he travel by sea, by horse/pony, by train, by walking or by some of or all these methods? I am still unable to answer this question, so if anyone can help with this query I would be very grateful.

But I now know WHY he came to South Wales. In the 1851 census, one of his older sisters, Agnes McKenzie (born 1833), was a house servant in Holm, Holywood, Nithsdale, Dumfriesshire (about 5½ miles NW of Dumfries). She was a servant to the BURGESS family.

By 1861, Agnes is living in Swansea and married to William H EDWARDS, (born 1833 Swansea) who, at various stages in his life was a groom and a coachman (domestic). This leads me to think that William Edwards' work, for some reason, took him to Scotland (and to the house where Agnes was perhaps working); he met her, fell in love with her and persuaded her to move all the way to Swansea, or perhaps they eloped!

I presumed they were married in Swansea, but I couldn't find a record of their marriage. However, whilst researching this article, I discovered that they married in Liverpool on 14th October 1856 at the Anglican church of Our Lady and St Nicholas. This suggests that they sailed from Dumfries and left the ship at Liverpool. Dumfries was a busy port at that time. How they travelled the rest of the way to Swansea remains a mystery. Did they have to leave the ship they sailed on because it was returning to Dumfries? This could mean its route was only Dumfries to Liverpool and back.

But there's another mystery, as my cousins from the USA told me last year. This was that Agnes' brother, James, travelled to Swansea to attend her wedding! At the time of the 1861 census he was living with Agnes and William in Swansea. I now make other presumptions – did Agnes and William have a family celebration of their marriage after arriving in Swansea? Was her family in Scotland invited? Could they have afforded to make the journey? Did James attend as a family representative? James was a cooper by trade, but he was also a teacher of highland dancing, and a singer. The family story goes that Margaret Lynch Hanson attended the “wedding” of Agnes, was impressed with his dancing, and said “that’s the man for me”! Or did Agnes suggest to her brother that he ought to come to the “bright lights” of Swansea, where he could find work?

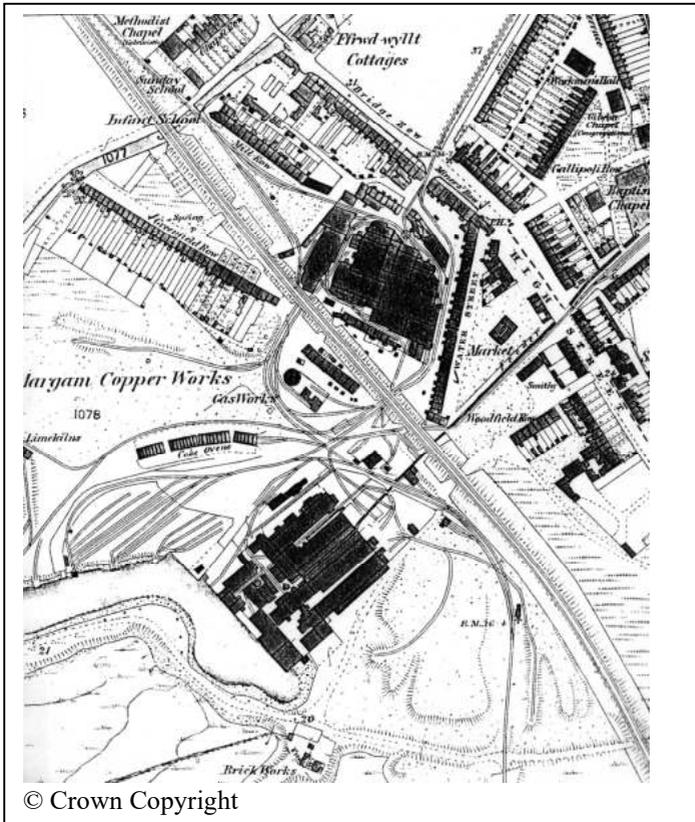


It would appear that James McKenzie never returned to Scotland. Instead, he and Margaret, after their marriage in Swansea on 2nd September 1866 at St Mary’s Church, moved to live in Aberavon, then Margam, and eventually Taibach (meaning small houses), where James worked as a cooper (barrel maker) in a copper works, see marriage certificate above. In Taibach they lived in Cotton Row, named after William COTTON, governor of the Old English Copper Company, in 1800. In 1801, the population of Taibach was 275.

The McKenzie family lived at 20 Cotton Row, from at least 1891 to 1910 (census information). The 1911 census shows that they had moved to 6 Alma Terrace, following the emigration of their son, William Edward McKenzie, to the USA. One of his brothers, James, also emigrated. Both James and Margaret McKenzie died at Alma Terrace, he in 1918 and she in 1930.

Taibach Copper Works (later called Vivian Blackplate Works) was purchased by the VIVIAN family in 1838. In 1842, a Royal Commission enquired into the conditions under which children worked in coal mines, but tinsplate works were equally dangerous – working 14 hours per day, with work starting for

some children at the age of 8 years. This inevitably led to the stunted growth of children. Girls tended to suffer from chlorosis (a type of anaemia). By 1866, the Taibach Copper Works had no children under the age of 9 employed, “unless at the express wish of their parents”!



An Act was passed so that women, and children under the age of 10, were no longer allowed to work underground, and there were also Acts pertaining to factory work and hours of work.

By 1901, only 80 men were employed in the iron and steel industry, and 759 in tinsplate in Taibach.

Fortunately, the harbour and railway came to the rescue. In 1901, the population of Taibach/Port Talbot was 7,553.

Overcrowding, poor sanitation, disease, working conditions in mines, iron, tinsplate and copper works, were all hazards to life at this time. Long hours of work, unguarded machinery, hot metals, a risk of explosions, respiratory diseases, toxic fumes, dust and poor ventilation often shortened life expectancy.

In 1865, there had already been a medical report stating that sanitary conditions needed to improve. Cases of cholera in Taibach lessened because Messers Vivian and Co had the area drained and provided clean water, but there were also, over the years, outbreaks of measles, scarlet fever, smallpox and scarletina among children. The McKenzie family lost

very young children, but the causes of death are unknown. There was another outbreak of cholera in 1885.

Let's take a snapshot of the residents in Cotton Row the census of 1891. The houses were originally named Greenfield Row, shown on the upper left-hand quarter of the 1881 map above, a copy of an OS map in my family files. Someone must have had a sense of humour as the area surrounding the houses must have been one of the most polluted in Taibach/Margam/Port Talbot. When I was a child, every time we drove through this area, my mother used to say, "Look at the colour of the roofs of the houses. That's the result of pollution from all the iron and steel works (in the 1950s-60s) over the years". Whether she knew about her family connection with Taibach and Margam, I don't know.

In 1891, there were 34 houses and families in Cotton Row. The number of adults living there totalled 89, with 106 children (under the age of 21). Twenty-eight children were working and 50 were scholars (i.e. attended school). Twenty-four children were too young to attend school.

The birth places of the residents included –

BIRTHPLACE	ADULTS	CHILDREN
Margam	47	100
Pyle	4	0
Pembrokeshire	13	1
Cornwall	3	1
Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire	4	0
Devon	3	0
Aberavon	3	0
Swansea	3	0
Somersetshire	3	0
Bristol	2	0
Loughor; Briton Ferry; Gloucestershire; Glamorganshire; Scotland	1	0

The occupations which the residents of Cotton Row undertook in 1891 were, on the whole, manual jobs in heavy industry. Their jobs included copper workers (not always specific jobs were mentioned in census returns), hauliers, plumbers, servants, housekeepers, housewives, coal miners, tin workers, labourers - and one each of the following – cooper, laundress, school mistress, clerk, bricklayer, carpenter, tailor, accountant, manager of a saw mill, manager of the copper works and a marine engine driver. This is a wide variety of occupations, some of which needed a good education and some which didn't; others needed a high level of manual skills (probably having served long apprenticeships first), and others had risen to managerial level.

The age of the residents ranged from 70+ to babes in arms. There were three people in their 70s (a ripe old age at that time), eight in their 60s, twelve in their 50s, eighteen in their 40s, 24 in their 30s, 26 in their 20s, 33 in their teenage years (although teenagers “hadn’t been invented” in 1891) and seventy between the ages of 12 years and newly born.

The surnames were mainly Welsh in origin, eg Rhys, Davies, Jones, Thomas, Owens, Evans, Hopkin(s) and Watkins, but there were also names that jump out at you as not being Welsh, eg Seward (Bristol), Bray (Cornwall), Herbert (Pemb), Jeremy (Carmarthenshire), McKenzie (Scotland) and many others.

In 1861, living in 9 Cotton Row, were David and Mary SINGLETON, nee MORT, who had married in 1853 after the death of David’s first wife, Alice, in 1852. Living with them were Catherine JONES (1841 step-daughter, dressmaker), Ann Jones (1843 step-daughter, dressmaker), both step-daughters to David, and born in Taibach, and daughter Alice.

David SINGLETON was the son of James and Margaret (nee Edwards) Singleton, who had married on 1st August 1816. Both were illiterate. He was born on 6th May 1818 and baptised on 30th May 1818. In 1839 he married Alice DAVID, and in 1841 they had a son, Evan, followed by Alice (1843) and James (1851), all born in Margam. Daughter, Alice, only lived for 6 years, but it seems there was another Alice, recorded above, born around 1850, named after her dead sister. James is not mentioned any further and I can find no records for him - maybe he died at birth?

In the 1891 census, no 9 Cotton Row showed David Singleton, now aged 72, head of the Copper Works, and his wife, Mary (age 73), both born in Margam. Still working at the age of 72, or even still alive at that age in 1891, was the exception rather than the rule, especially when we know that the residents were breathing in all kinds of unhealthy fumes from the numerous metal works in the area. We also know that their living conditions had been improved by the Vivian family, but I would not have thought that the improvements would have made that much difference, because we know the effects of air pollution only too well.

David died in 1899, aged 81.

In 1901, Mary, then aged 84, was living at 1 Varna Terrace, Havodyporth, together with Ann JENKINS (born 1843, head; married), Lilian Jenkins (1891, grand-daughter), Olive Jenkins (1867, daughter), Olive Jenkins (1889, grand-daughter), William Jenkins (1862, son, joiner and carpenter, widower), Thomas Jenkins (1871, son; joiner and carpenter), William Jenkins (1839,

son, widower) and DJ Jenkins (1890, grandson). She died in 1904, aged 87, at Greenfield Villas, Neath, and was buried on 28th March 1904.

JAMES and MARGARET McKENZIE had nine children who lived to adulthood:

1. Elizabeth Ann (1867-1927), my great grandmother (Photo Right with husband Rees Hopkins BURMAN);
2. Agnes (1870-1934), who was deaf and may have been dumb as well;
3. Margaret (1871-1936) who married David BISHOP;
4. William Edward (1874–1939, died USA) who married Margaret Ann LEWIS;
5. James (1878-1940, died USA) married Susannah WALTERS;
6. Joseph Henry (1880-1927) married (1) Mary Ann JONES (1886-1914) (2) Edith MUNDY (1880-1926);
7. Jessie Jane (1882-1976) who married Joseph GUBB;
8. Frederick George (1886–1965) who married Elizabeth J WILLIAMS and
9. Florence (1887–1972) who married Albert George ROSSER.



Cotton Row was demolished circa 1936. The residents must have moved out, or been moved out before that, because it was used as offices for Margam Steel Works until its demolition.

THE ALBERT HALL, SWANSEA: HOTBED OF ANTI-MORMON DEBATE

Jill Morgan

The Albert Hall in Swansea is a Grade II listed building – a fine, if now dilapidated, landmark in the centre of town, fondly remembered by many as a cinema and bingo club. Built in 1864 as the Music Hall, after an 1881 refurbishment it changed its name to the Albert Hall - perhaps to raise it above the common herd of entertainment venues, as it began to offer more serious, cultured entertainment. This included opera stars such as Adelina Patti, and well-known individuals such as Oscar Wilde and Lloyd George. With a seating capacity of 2,500 it was also available for meetings.

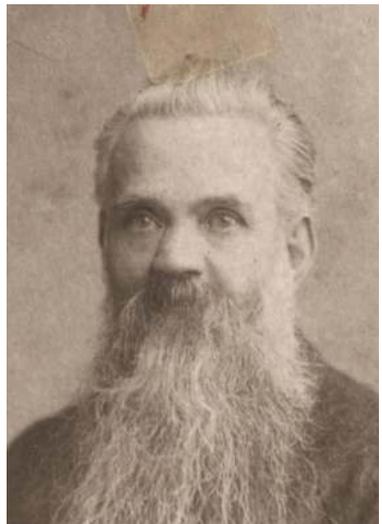
The Albert Hall was also briefly the site of anti-Mormon lectures and debates in the 1880s, where opponents of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints sought to discredit the church, and incite local residents to take action against local members and missionaries. In September 1888 the *Herald of Wales* reported:

DURING the last ten days the town of Swansea has been disturbed by the most disgraceful proceedings on account of the presence of a man styling himself an escaped Mormon priest from Utah and the pretended disclosures he had made night after night to large and excited audiences in the Albert Hall.'

Image: William Jarman

The 'escaped Mormon priest' was William JARMAN, a convert to the Latter Day Saints, who emigrated to Utah Territory, but quickly became disaffected, returned to Britain, and hired himself out as an anti-Mormon lecturer. In 1888 the Anti-Mormon Association in Swansea booked him to lecture at the Albert Hall. The *Herald of Wales* continues:

"The proceedings had become so notorious and so infamous that the lives of the Mormon Christians residing in Grove Place were in peril and their dwelling which had been mobbed by an infuriated rabble had to be specially guarded every night by a number of policemen."



Local 'Mormon' leader David WILLIAMS lived at 4 Grove Place – behind the Albert Hall, where the police station now stands. He wasn't prepared to submit to such mob activity, and took Jarman to court. The *Herald of Wales* published a lengthy account of the proceedings:

“On Saturday last a summons was issued against Jarman and on Monday last these strange proceedings culminated in the disgrace of its author. He was bound over to keep the peace towards the Mormon body..... in the sum of £100 for three months.”

Called to give evidence, David Williams listed various threats which Jarman had made against him personally and against other members. Williams requested police protection after a crowd some 300 strong had thrown stones at his house after hearing Jarman speak. A reporter gave evidence that Jarman had referred to Williams and those who stayed with him as ‘murderers, bigamists, blackguards &c.’ A witness from Cardiff gave evidence of Jarman inciting crowds to violence against Mormons there and having suffered violence at their hands - though he himself was not a member of the church but simply lived in the building where the church met. Other witnesses denied Jarman's part in any such behaviour.

However, as the newspaper reported:

“The stipendiary..... said he had no doubt at all as to what his duty as a magistrate was..... to preserve the peace and to protect all persons who were under reasonable apprehension of danger from violence. The language used by the defendant seemed to him to fully justify the alarm and apprehension Mr Williams had expressed. He thought there had been a dangerous agitation set on foot and it was absolutely necessary to prevent scenes dangerous to the peace of the town. Defendant would be bound over in his own recognisances of £100 to keep the peace for three months.”

Western Mail, September 18th.

The *Herald* was willing to be sympathetic to the 'Mormon' cause:

“It is difficult to understand how easily the public are misled and how gullible they are on religious questions and this difficulty is increased when the propaganda they listen to is proclaimed by one of the most unscrupulous and foulmouthed liars that ever lectured to a public audience. It is almost unintelligible how many intelligent Christians in our day can take side with religious persecution and become parties to this infamy.more than surprising, it is deplorable. ‘

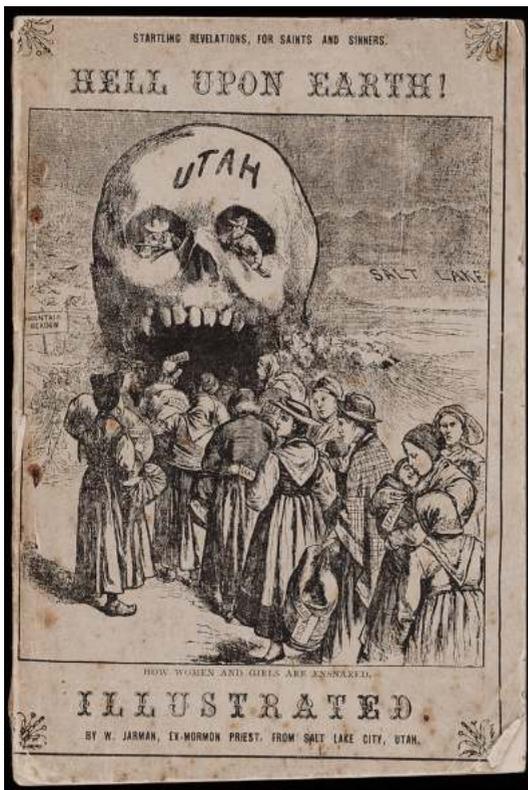


Image: The cover of one of William Jarman's publications, claiming that 'Mormon' missionaries were enticing women to Utah into slavery. Jarman charged the 'Mormon' missionaries with abducting females, killing his son, threatening to cut the throats of apostates, and having dug his grave – all false charges, with Jarman's son writing to confirm he was alive and well. Jarman made similar appearances – at local venues and in Magistrates courts – in Merthyr Tydfil and Cardiff, as well as many parts of England - until his death some 30 years later.

Adolphus BOLITHO (1858-1927) was treasurer of the Swansea Anti-Mormon Association. His occupation in the 1881 census is *Master plumber* and in 1901 *Manager, Premium Stamp Co.* However in September 1889 on his son's christening record he gives his occupation as *Anti-Mormon Lecturer.*

© Public domain; Courtesy Harold B Lee Library, Brigham Young University

The *Cambrian* newspaper reported on the 17 May 1889: "A SWANSEA MAN IN TROUBLE FOR OPPOSING THE MORMONS. – At Manchester, on Wednesday, Adolphus David BOLITHO and William Henry NICHOLAS, members of an anti-Mormon Society, were summoned for riotous and violent behaviour in the Mormon Church, City-road. On Sunday afternoon, Nicholas addressing an open-air meeting, incited a crowd of persons to accompany him the same evening to the church and break up the congregation. This was done, and a panic only narrowly prevented. Defendants were most violent in their conduct, Bolitho shouting out that the Mormons were impostors and murderers. Both men were given into custody.... In consequence of previous interruptions of services constables had to be stationed at the church door to maintain order. Defendants were each fined 20s. and full costs."

Image: Brigham Henry Roberts

Brigham Henry ROBERTS (1857-1933) was a Lancashire native whose family converted to the LDS church when he was a child. As an adult he returned to Britain and worked as assistant editor on the *Millennial Star*. An able and knowledgeable speaker, he was asked to visit Swansea and assist in counteracting Jarman's anti-Mormon propaganda. An audience of over 3,000 attended their debate at the Albert Hall. The *Western Mail* reported that Roberts was *'not accorded a favourable reception, being greeted throughout with discordant sounds, and occasionally, by some witty and caustic retorts from the galleries.'* However, Roberts was able to say, *'I am content, knowing that as prejudice and passion shall subside, and the truth be inquired into, myself and my people will be held guiltless of the sins alleged against us.'*



He expressed sympathy for Bolitho who, having engaged Jarman, found that he was essentially too hot to handle. President Williams evidently shared Roberts' optimism and confidence that *'much good will result from the agitation, and many led to inquire into the truths of the message we bear.'*

John THOMAS (Image right) was a 'Mormon' missionary in Swansea at the time. In his journal he refers to Jarman's series of lectures:

June 28th 1888. Arrived in Swansea Called at Bro Williams.. & did Write two letters One to R. MORSE & the Other to S.R. BROUGH Asking them to

Come to Swansea for Next Monday As Wm Jarman will be here to Lecture Against Us People. He will have

Meetings on Sunday at 11.A.M. 3 P.M. & 7-30 P.M. also an [on] Monday Night at the Albert Hall.



Noah WILLIAMS (Image left), a fellow missionary, records in his journal (*and his very original spelling has been kept for its whimsy*):

"Sep 22 Stayed at Swansea all day. Williams went to Merthyr he wished me to stay at his house because his wife and the servant girl were afreid to be there without some protaction owen to the mob that been in the habit of coming around the howse at night and whooping and yelling and

calling them all manner of names and throwing stones at the door but they did not disturb us that night”

The anti-Mormon agitation at the Albert Hall was short-lived as Jarman moved on and there are no reports of Bolitho creating further disturbances locally. And John Thomas, having distributed more than 200 handbills advertising the meetings at the Albert Hall, remained optimistic: *‘this Persecution will do more good in Bringing this Work before the Public & Many will Come to Our Meetings.’*



SOCIETY TREASURER NEEDED

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

Two volunteers have come forward to assist and a Finance Team has been developed in order that elements of Treasurer’s role: the day to day book-keeping, payments etc are covered. Sue Hamer has also now been co-opted to the role of Vice Chairman in order to oversee the Finance Team on a temporary basis. For further information on the Treasurer’s Role see job description on website or contact:

Meic Jones chairman@glamfhs.org.uk

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ASSISTANT SECRETARY

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

Attend quarterly Executive Committee Meetings as Minutes Secretary

Assist with Society Administration, eg Newsletters/Mail Chimp

Assist with Society Marketing, including Social Media

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

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

MY PEARCE ANCESTORS: A RHONDDA FAMILY OF HARPISTS #11186 Barbara Hurt

When I started researching my family history about three years ago my elderly mother was able to contribute a great deal of information along with anecdotes about her father's family but she knew very little about her mother's line, one branch of which - the Pearces - roused my interest.

Mam's maternal grandmother was born Sarah Jane PEARCE in 1879 in Pentre, Rhondda. Her first language was Welsh and she had married Robert WESTERN, a Somerset immigrant who, like many, had come to the South Wales coalfields in search of work. Together they had four children, the eldest of whom was my maternal grandmother, Agnes Mary. When my mother was growing up, Sarah Jane had lived in the family home in Tonyrefail so Mam was able to give me a good description of her along with some colourful stories relating to her. Apparently she loved her bottle of stout at The Three Horseshoes. Granny Western, as she became known, died in 1945. Frequently Mam said how sad it was that she knew nothing about her past. Who were her parents? Did she have any siblings?

My sister and I decided it would give Mam a great deal of pleasure to solve the mystery for her if we could. Applying for Sarah Jane's marriage certificate was the first step and revealed that her father was Morgan whose occupation was stated as Harpist. This was worth investigating further so imagine our surprise when we discovered that the Pearce family included seven harpists from Ystradyfodwg in the 19th century and that two of them were especially well-known in their field.

My 3x great-grandfather was Rosser Pearce (1822-1888) who came originally from St Bride's Major to find work in the Merthyr area like many others in the 1840s. He married Mary JONES of Dowlais in the old St Gwynno's Church, Llanwonno in 1848. He worked as a coal miner in Dowlais and in Troedyrhiw before being blinded in an accident and by the time of the 1861 census he was described as a harper. It is possible that he received the patronage of the mine owner or his wife, which enabled him to learn to play and thus to earn a living which did not depend on being sighted. There was a demand for harpists to play in people's homes and also in public houses. By 1881 Rosser and his family had moved to Pentre following his two eldest sons who had already come to the Rhondda in about 1870.

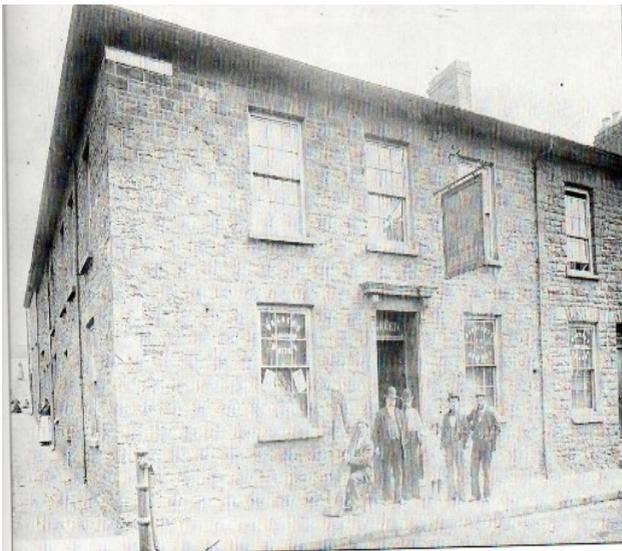
Harp playing had quickly become part of family life with four of Rosser's sons also becoming proficient. They were William (1853-1895), Morgan (1857-1891), Rosser (born 1859) and Edward (1862-1884).

My 2x great-grandfather Morgan had arrived in Ynysfeio at the age of 15, and the 1871 census stated that he was already a harpist by profession. It seems likely that he played mostly in public houses providing music for dancing. There is a reference to him in "Telyn a Thelynor, Hanes y Delyn yng Nghymru" by Ann Rosser, published 1981 by Amgeudda Werin Cymru (his name is spelt Pierce here) which suggests that he was amongst the best of his kind. He had married Elizabeth DAVIES and they had a son shortly afterwards who died at the age of three when Sarah Jane was just a baby. The 1891 census shows him as a visiting harpist at the Tyler's arms, Llanfabon but his home address was in Treherbert, where he died later that same year at the age of thirty five.

His elder brother William was living in and around Treherbert from at least the early 1870s and he married Mary WHITE in 1874. There are references to him as resident harpist at public houses in the area and newspaper articles report that he was a popular and talented triple (the Welsh harp) and pedal harpist, performing and usually winning at many eisteddfodau for over twenty years from 1873. He received numerous accolades from John THOMAS, Pencerdd Gwalia (Chief Musician of Wales), who was Royal Harpist to Queen Victoria. William assumed the bardic appellation of Telynor y Bryniau (Harpist of the Hills). He regularly played solo harp at concerts in the Rhondda and throughout South

Wales where he was often referred to as "the well-known Mr Pearce". He was sometimes accompanied at these events by other musical family members, especially his daughter Jessie and sons Charlie and Rosser.

Photograph in Family Archives



The Royal Exchange Hotel, 1900, later Jimmy Oliver's shop.

He became the landlord and licensee of The

Royal Exchange Hotel in Baglan Street, Penyreglyn, Treherbert, in 1882. These premises were large and he was able to host public entertainment such as dancing, for which he and his family provided the music. He was active within the Cymmrodorion Society promoting Welsh language and culture, and was a keen champion of preserving the traditional Welsh triple harp.

William's eldest son Charles or Charlie (1876-1916) learned to play the harp at a very young age and was performing in public from the age of five. His first performance on the pedal harp at a National Eisteddfod was in Merthyr Tydfil in 1881 when he was just six years of age. As he became more proficient he began winning competitions on both pedal and triple harp and receiving much adulation. At the 1889 Brecon eisteddfod he was invested by the diva Madame Adelina PATTI who kissed him as she placed the ribbon round his neck. He was often referred to as "the wonderful boy harpist" and was generally known as Ap Pearce. He was hired to perform at many garden parties, weddings, horticultural events and concerts, and was a regular artiste at the Park Hall, Cardiff with the Cardiff Choral Union, later the Cardiff Prize Choir, at which Mrs Clara Novello DAVIES (mother of Ivor Novello) was the accompanist and her father Mr Jacob Davies was the conductor.

Charlie's brother Rosser Bochsa (1881-1936) and named after the French born musician and composer Robert Nicolas-Charles Bochsa), was also a proficient harpist who won prizes playing the pedal and triple harp at the 1894 eisteddfod in Caernarfon. It is believed that he may have attended the Royal Academy of Music in London and afterwards gave recitals before joining the army.

William's youngest son William Edward (1892-1961), whilst not known to be a harpist, was a prominent citizen of Treherbert. He was a teacher (perhaps a music teacher) at Treherbert Boys' School in the 1930s and 1940s, an officer of the local Loyal Order of the Moose, a member of the Treherbert Cymmrodorion Society, and was affectionately known as "Potty" Pearce.

Many of the family are buried in Treorchy Cemetery where there is an impressive memorial stone to Telynor Y Bryniau and his family who share a large plot. My 2x great grandfather Morgan and his young son Rosser also share a grave in a different plot.

Little did I know that the search to solve the mystery of my Pearce ancestors would prove to be so interesting and provide my mother with answers to long-held questions.



SOME MEMORIES OF THE NORWEGIAN CHURCH AND BUTE WEST DOCK, CARDIFF

#3602 John Holmes

The article on the Norwegian Church (Journal 136, December 2019), originally at Bute West Dock, brought back several memories. Congratulations on a very interesting article on the Church and the Docks.

My mother (Gerd HOLMES nee OTTERSEN) was Norwegian by birth, and moved to Cardiff in the mid-1930s with her parents, and so became part of the Norwegian community. By the time war broke out in 1939, she had married, and remained in Cardiff, whilst her parents had returned to Norway.

I don't know if the local inhabitants were allowed access to the church during the war, since it was within the security perimeter of the overall area of Cardiff Docks, but I do remember being 'volunteered' to help in the church in the late 1940s/early 1950s. This consisted of organising chairs and tables under the direction of my mother and the dwindling band of Norwegian supporters, amongst whom I remember Gerd ROPER of Whitchurch, and Ebba LOVERING of Sully. This would have been when a Norwegian ship was in port, or for May 17, the Norwegian National Day and occasion for much festivity. Christmas was also a social occasion, with a Christmas tree erected in the church.

I have dim memories of a television report (very grainy black and white picture) on the local channel (TWW - Television Wales and West?) which featured the local Norwegian ladies in their full length national costumes performing their national dance routines in the church, probably on their National Day. The embroidered decorations on these red costumes denoted the district where the wearer was born in Norway, and the costumes were handed on down the family. My mother's was passed on to one of her nieces in Norway.

Returning to the Bute West Dock, there were some fishing boats regularly moored between the church and the lock gates. I can recollect the coal hoists on the eastern side of the dock, which in better days could rotate a full coal wagon and empty it into the hold or bunkers of the ship alongside, return the empty wagon to the rails, and pick up the next full one. There were several of these hoists but I never saw one in action. I also remember the several surplus naval frigates or destroyers, moored alongside the eastern side of the dock, and awaiting disposal. I often wondered what stories those ships could tell. The mooring fees alone must have kept the West Dock in profit. I did not see the going of those ships, since with the closure of the church in 1959, my mother's visits to the Docks ceased, although she did attend the opening of the 'new' Church building in Cardiff Bay.

'WITH BEARDS FROZEN TO OUR COATS'

#10987 David Dimmick

My father was John James Dimmick, and he enlisted in the South Wales Borderers in 1928 for 7 years, with 5 years in the Reserve. During this time he was stationed in Portsmouth, Hong Kong and India. Whilst in India he served on the North-West Frontier as a Vickers machine gunner, bringing back home a knife with the word "Wazirabad" impressed into the brass handle, which is now in my possession.

On leaving the army in 1936 he went to work in the Powell Dyffryn coalmine in Llanharan, but being in the Reserves he was called up to the Colours on September 1st 1939, and ordered to Brecon 'at once'.

His regiment eventually arrived in France to join the British Expeditionary Force, but as he waited to embark on a troop train he remembered what he had told my mother before leaving: "Don't worry, the Germans won't kill me", not knowing that at that very moment the Germans were planning to do just that if they could, by invading France. At the end of the so-called phoney war of course Germany did indeed invade France, and following some hard fighting my father's unit was over-run by German tanks near Abbeville. What followed was truly horrific. My father and his comrades were lined up by the SS in front of a firing squad, but just as they were about to shoot a senior officer came forward and told them to stop what they were about to do. The men were eventually put into railway cattle trucks as PoWs and sent to Berlin, where they were given cabbage soup. They were moved on again, this time to Poland, where they were incarcerated in an old Polish fort, known as Thorn (Torun), which became their PoW camp.

During his time there my father was used as a farm labourer helping to send food back to Germany, and whilst engaged in this work he would often make holes in the sacks of grain he was carrying, so that by the time he reached the waiting truck quite a proportion of the grain had seeped out and been trodden underfoot. This was quite a risky thing to do as if the Germans had realised what he was up to, depriving the homeland of vital food, then he most certainly would have been shot. My father however felt it was his duty to do something to help the war effort, even though he was a prisoner.

Eventually the Red Army began to push the Germans back, and Thorn, along with other Polish PoW camps, was evacuated, and so began what became to be known as the Long March back to Germany, throughout the Polish winter. The German guards who accompanied the PoWs were themselves terrified of becoming prisoners of the Russians, which meant that if any prisoner became ill or collapsed in the snow then he was killed.

My father was one who collapsed but in the nick of time his comrades picked him up before he was spotted and assured the guards that he was alright.

On arriving in Germany he was freed by the Americans, who billeted him with an elderly and well-to-do German couple, who were told that if he was not well looked after then they would be shot. It was the only time, my father recalled, that he ever slept between silk sheets!

When he returned to Wales and was reunited with my mother he told her all about his experiences, but the only thing he found in his pockets as a memento of those times was a piece of the black bread he was given as a PoW in his survival pack issued for the Long March.

“We marched with our beards frozen to our coats”, he recalled, as my mother threw the black bread into the fire!



ALFRED POLIKOFF: CROWDFUNDING A SPITFIRE #10564 Jane Graves

At the June 2019 Cardiff branch meeting, Dr Jean Jenkins, Cardiff University, gave a fascinating talk on the Burberry factory in Treorchy which finally closed its doors in 2007. The man behind the original clothing factory was one Alfred POLIKOFF, ahead of his time in many ways both with the design of the factory and in his ethos of running a business. Dr Jenkins' talk left me wanting to know more about this remarkable man. A search through the old newspapers led to a couple of stories about the contribution factory workers made to the Spitfire fund and as 2020 will be the 80th year since the Battle of Britain (10 July - 31 October 1940), perhaps it's an appropriate time to remember their contribution to the fighting fund.

Alfred Polikoff was born on 25 April 1873¹ in Mariupol² in the Government of Ekaterinoslav, Russia³ (now Ukraine) the son of Abraham and Sarah Polikoff². On 17 February 1907 at the East London Synagogue, Mile End Old Town, London he married 18 year-old Sarah RAPHAEL⁴. Alfred claimed to be 29, living at 317 Mile End Road, and was a skirt manufacturer whilst his father Abraham Joseph Polikoff was a retired wine merchant. Sarah was the daughter of Michael and Sophia Raphael, whilst her father was born in London, Sarah, like her mother and at least six siblings was born in Holland. It is impossible to read what Michael's occupation was on the marriage certificate but according to the 1901 and 1911 census he was a cigar maker.

In 1909 at the age of 34 Alfred was granted a Naturalisation Certificate², it shows that he was living at 29 Portland Avenue, Stoke Newington, London. At

this time, he was a skirt manufacturer, married and had one child underage residing with him. He had been living in the United Kingdom for at least five years prior to his naturalisation.

The 1911 census shows that the family were living at 54 Upper Clapton Road, Hackney. Alfred now aged 38, born Russia was a wholesaler blouse and skirt manufacturer. Sarah was aged 22, born Holland, and the child originally mentioned in the naturalization paper was now a three year old son, Isidor, born in 1908. Alfred appears on a number of passenger lists for the 1920s, traveling on the White Star Line's ocean liners Majestic and Olympic to New York. At the time of the 1939 Register (Friday 29 September) Alfred, Managing Director, Polikoff, is shown as being at the Old Ship Hotel, Kings Road, Brighton, Sussex.

The roots of the Treorchy factory began in 1937 when Lord Nuffield provided a large sum of money to assist the Government in its plan to establish new industries in distressed areas and one of the locations chosen was the Rhondda Valley. Production at the 80,000 square foot, Alfred Polikoff (Wales) Ltd factory in Ynyswen, Treorchy began on Monday 6 March 1939. The local press had run many advertisements for factory jobs and during the first three months the workforce increased to nearly 1,000 employees which was mainly made up of girls and young women⁵ where many of them lived within a two mile radius of the factory. Just over five months following the factory opening, on Friday 1 September, Britain declared war on Germany following the invasion of Poland. The Treorchy factory originally produced clothes for men and women workers but eventually manufactured all types of military clothing.

War is an expensive business and it was not until December 2006 that the UK finally settled its debt with the US and Canada, more than fifty years of repayments. Following WWI, the effect of the Great Depression and Britain's stance of appeasement had meant that there had not been a huge investment in re-arming the country. In early 1940 Lord Beaverbrook came into government to speed up aircraft production and he encouraged the idea of the 'public funds'⁶ or in today's terms 'crowd funding'. The Spitfire fund was born in May 1940 and collections were set up by a wide range of organisations including Alfred Polikoff's businesses.

On 23 December 1940 the Western Mail⁷ ran a story on 500 children from the Rhondda who were entertained to a Christmas dinner by Mr and Mrs Polikoff. It goes on to say that: -

"Mr Fred FELKS presented Mr Polikoff with a cheque for £40 7s 4d proceeds of a recent dance for the Polikoff Spitfire fund.

Responding, Mr Polikoff said that £1,600 have been already raised towards the Spitfire Fund which the directors and staffs of their factories intended to present to the nation".

In October 1941, the Western Mail⁸ ran another article about the final sum handed over:

“£3,128 FOR SPITFIRES

Mr Will JOHN, MP, accompanied by Mr Polikoff, Treorchy, on Wednesday handed over to the authorities a cheque for £1,923 0s 9d for the Spitfire Fund. It represented the contributions of his employees amounting to £1,673 0s 9d, together with the company’s cheque of £250. Mr Polikoff also handed over a cheque for £1,205 from his London employees.

Mrs Fred MONTAGU, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Aircraft Production, received the donations and expressed the authority’s deep appreciation”

So just how much of a plane would that amount to? In 1940 the Air Ministry produced a price list of the major component parts of the Spitfire⁹, and based on this list the Polikoff employees and company cheque would cover:

Fuselage - £2,500

Tail - £500

Petrol Tank (Top) - £40

Petrol Tank (Bottom) - £25

Oil Tank - £25

Compass - £5

Clock - £2 10s 0d

Thermometer - £1 1s 0d

Spark Plug - 8s 0d

The remaining balance of £29 1s would be put towards the £1,000 required for the variety of small parts such as screws, cables, switches, sockets, gauges, and paint. To complete the parts of the aircraft would have required an Engine (£2,000); Wings (£1,800); Undercarriage (£800); Guns (£800) and Propeller (£350)⁹.

To finish the family story, Alfred Polikoff did not live to see the end of WWII as he died aged 68 on 1 September 1943 in the London Clinic, 20 Devonshire Place, London. The cause of death was 1a) Coronary Thrombosis 1b) Anaemia 1c) Carcinoma Pelvic Colon Colostomy (29 August 1943); his son was with him when he died¹⁰. Alfred left a gross amount of £30,500 2s 6d which would now equate to just more than £1M^{11a}. His Will was dated 2 March 1916 and provided generously for his wife, especially during her widowhood when she would receive the princely sum of £30 a week and £15^{11b} a week if she remarried; Sarah was to become the Chairman of Alfred Polikoff (Boots) Limited in his place. His direction was that after his wife’s death, his property was to be divided with two thirds going to son, Isidor, and one third to his daughter, Sonia¹².

Sarah otherwise known as Sylvia, finally died aged 72 on 29 December 1961 at Broxbourne Nursing Home, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire¹⁰, leaving just a gross amount of £466 10s 10d, somewhere between £8-9K^{11c}. There was no Will but Letters of Administration where daughter Sonia was named as one of the persons entitled in the share in the estate. Sonia Katrina Tania Olga Polikoff (1912-1978) married Roger FROGLEY (1908-1974) in 1937 and went on to have two daughters (both born before Alfred died) and a son. Son, Isadore/Isidor Polikoff (1908-1991) changed his name in 1937 to Derrick Richard Polikoff¹³. In 1941 he married Rosie Teresa Becher WIGGINTON (1908-1995), there was no issue.

Alfred Polikoff, immigrant, Russian Jew, father, and grandfather finally reposes in Golders Green Jewish Cemetery, Barnet. He was a successful businessman who truly believed in investing in his factory and supporting his adopted country. The collection might not have been enough for a whole Polikoff Spitfire, but by February 1945 the Ynyswen (Treorchy) clothing factory of Alfred Polikoff (Wales) Ltd had produced 3,500,000 war-time garments worth about £2,000,000¹⁴.

References

1. 1939 Register (<https://findmypast.co.uk>)
2. Naturalization Certificate: Alfred Polikoff. From Russia. Resident in London. Certificate A18238 issued 24 July 1909. The National Archives. Reference HO 334/47/18238
3. World History at KMLA: Gubernia Ekaterinoslav. Available at: <https://www.zum.de/whkmla/region/russia/xgovvekaterinoslav.html>
4. Marriage certificate (www.gro.gov.uk)
5. (2006). 'The life and times of the factory that became Burberry'. *Wales Online*. 21 September. Available at: <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/local-news/life-times-factory-became-burberry-2315268>
6. Watson, G. (2016). 'Spitfire funds: The 'whip-round' that won the war?'. *BBC News*. 12 March. Available at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-35697546>
7. (1940). '500 Child Guests at Christmas Dinner'. *Western Mail*. 23 December
8. (1941). '£3,128 For Spitfires'. *Western Mail*. 23 October.
9. The cost of a Spitfire in 1940. Available at: <http://www.the-battle-of-britain.co.uk/machines/Spitcost.htm>
10. Death certificate (<https://www.gro.gov.uk>)
11. a) £30,500 2s 6d = in 2017 this would have been worth between £1,200,070.12 (1940) and £1,084,325.19 (1945)

- b) £30 = in 2017 this would have been worth between £9,779.18 (1940) and £1,066.55 (1945)
- c) 466 10s 10d = in 2017 this would have been worth between £9,769.77 (1960) and £8,219.62 (1965)
- National Archives Currency Converter 1270-2017 available at: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency-converter/>
12. Will of Alfred Polikoff (<https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills>)
13. (1937). *The London Gazette*, 5 October, 6189 (<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/>)
14. (1945). '3,500,00 War-time Garments Made in Welsh Factory'. *Western Mail*. 24 February.

ARTICLES NEEDED!

September - Spotlight on a Place: **Barry, Vale of Glamorgan** -

Do you have any stories to share about your ancestors from Barry (including Merthyr Dyfan, Cadoxton and Porthkerry)?

Deadline: 20 July

December - London Branch

March 2021 – Hobbies & Pastimes

VACANCIES MINUTES SECRETARY

This non-Executive role involves:
attendance at the Executive Committee Meetings and the Annual General Meeting to record the Minutes of those meetings.
(Executive Committee Meetings take place four times a year in March, June, September and December).

For further information contact: secretary@glamfhs.org.uk

A POPULAR SPORT FOR ALL

#6862 Creighton Sims

From the latter part of the 19th century until the start of the First World War, a particular sport swept the country, and no more so than in Cardiff and the valley towns. A sport that was enjoyed by all, young and not so young, as long as you were energetic and with a good sense of balance. That sport, or perhaps activity, would be a more accurate description, was Skating, not Ice Skating, but Roller Skating. It was a sport particularly enjoyed by the ladies.

Roller-skating was invented in 1735 by John Joseph MERLIN, a Belgian who famously introduced his new wheeled shoes at a party in London. His early public debut, at a fancy masquerade, may evoke sympathy from anyone learning how to steer or stop with in-line skates: As well as his costume, he donned his roller skates and with a violin he began to skate around the party playing the instrument. Joseph Merlin was not a good skater. He couldn't control his speed or command his skates to go in the desired direction, and wildly crash-landed into a huge and expensive mirror and smashed it to bits; he was severely wounded himself and he broke his violin and sent roller skating technique back to the drawing board.

Monsieur PETITBLEDIN first patented the roller-skate in 1819 in France. His skates were inline, with only three wheels and no way to turn! As early as 1840, in a beer tavern known as Corse Halle, near Berlin, barmaids on roller skates served thirsty patrons. This was a practical decision, given the size of beer halls in Germany, and it gave dry land skating a publicity boost.

James Leonard PLIMPTON, a New York City furniture dealer in 1863, reinvented the wheel, patenting a four-wheeled roller-skate that let wearers pivot as needed. It was the first modern two-by-two roller skates

THE FIRST ROLLER SKATING RINK Mr Plimpton was a shrewd businessman. After testing the skates on the floor of his furniture store, he founded the New York Roller Skating Association, promoting the sport not for the masses, but as an acceptable supervised activity for young ladies and gentlemen. To control the quality of his clientele, he did not sell his skates, but rented them. In the summer of 1866, the roller-skating association leased the Atlantic House, a resort hotel in Newport, Rhode Island, and converted the dining room into the first roller rink open to the public in the United States. As rinks proliferated, Plimpton toured them in the 1870s, giving lessons for \$2 a week, including skate rental. He became wealthy on his invention, but had to spend much money on lawyers to fight as many as 300 patent infringement cases. In 1857 huge public rinks opened in the Floral Hall and in the Strand of London.

Around the turn of the nineteenth century, after a decline in popularity, roller skating had a revival in America and soon spread to other countries including Britain. The revival was in large measure due to the introduction of ball-bearing skates and closely jointed maple flooring in the rinks. It became a particularly popular indoor amusement throughout the West Coast of Scotland after its introduction there by an American firm.

SKATING COMPETITIONS In 1875 the roller-skating rink in Plymouth held its first competition. New sports incorporating roller skates emerged soon after the introduction of the quad skate in 1863. The first recorded game of roller hockey took place in London in 1878. Speed roller-skating events began in the 1890s and were popular through the first quarter of the 20th century. Major speed roller-skating events for men, women, and relay teams involved racing counter-clockwise around an oval track or on the open road. The rules and techniques for these competitions are much like those established for ice skating. In 1886 there was a twenty-five mile skating contest with five prizes amounting to £10,105.00, the event being won by J GREENWARD, the English champion skater.

Dancing and figure skating on roller skates were introduced in 1910 and 1923 respectively; systems for judging competitions and for proficiency tests were similar to those used in ice skating. International competition in artistic and speed roller-skating and in roller hockey was governed by the International Federation of Roller Sports, founded in 1924. The first world championships were held in 1937. The sport however was not without its accidents with numerous slips and collisions causing broken bones and dislocations.

The Cardiff Times reported On 12th February 1910 –

FOOTPATH SKATING Is it becoming a Nuisance? The interesting question whether roller-skating in the street is legal was raised on Monday at the North London Police Court. The police applied for summonses against five boys, who, it was alleged, had caused an obstruction by skating on footpaths, but Mr HEDDERWICK, the magistrate, refused to grant the summonses. "I do not know that roller skating on the footpath is an offence in law," he stated. "If it becomes a general nuisance the police can apply to the County Council to make a bye-law prohibiting it, but at present it seems to me that it is no more an offence than running on the footpath."

POPULARITY: By 1909 Skating rinks had sprung up in Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire with rinks in Swansea, Barry, Cardiff, Newport, Monmouth, Abergavenny, Blackwood, Tonypany, Merthyr, Mountain Ash and numerous other Welsh valley townships. There was even a suggestions that roller rinks should be built by the city council in Cardiff Arms Park and Roath Park and in the Hayes in the city centre, a suggestion that was never implemented due to

opposition by a majority of the councillors. However a roller skating rink was built on Cardiff Arms Park in 1909 and another, the 'Empress', was situated in Andrews Hall, Queen Street. There had even been a rink in Moira Terrace, Splottlands, but by 1892, that had been turned into a women's shelter. In 1894 roller skating football matches were being played at Oswald Stoll's Panopticon Hall, Saint Mary Street, Cardiff.

An advertisement in the Cardiff Times of 17th April 1909 said:

Empress Roller Skating Rink, Andrews' Hall. *Open daily. Commencing Monday, April 19th. Admission, Mornings and Evenings 6d, Afternoons 1s, Combination books, 40 admissions and 40 skate checks, £2. Military Band plays during all sessions. Instructors always in attendance. Three sessions daily - 11 to 1, 2.30 to 5.30, and 7.30 to 10.30.*

Some roller-skating rinks were purpose built, usually out of prefabricated corrugated iron with hardwood polished floors, and some were located in converted buildings. They were also used for other purposes such as pageants, boxing and wrestling matches, concerts, dancing and balls, meetings, eisteddfods, dog shows, and in the case of the rink in Tonypany, taken over to house the police during the 1910/11 miner's strike.

After the Second World War interest in roller skating began to wane in Britain, but why had it been so popular? Ice skating had always been a popular pastime, but to participate you had to have weather cold enough to freeze the ponds, pools and rivers. It obviously was only a winter pastime. There was also the danger of thin ice and many lost their lives by skating on thin or melting ice. It was not until the advent of ice making equipment in the late 19th century that purpose-built structures were erected, giving the ice skater all the year-round enjoyment. On the other hand, roller skating could be performed on a reasonably flat surface at any time, indoors or out, in parks, streets or any open space, no wonder that the public took to it with such enthusiasm for the thrill it gave of personal mobility.

Despite its loss of popularity, roller skating rinks are still around. There are rinks in Cardiff as well as a skate school, others are located in Barry, Pontyclun, Hereford and Shrewsbury and at numerous other locations throughout England and Scotland, but there are only two located in Northern Ireland.

Sources:

1. www.britannica.com/sports/rollerskating
2. www.nytimes.com/thehistoryofrollerskating
3. www.skateland.com/skating-through-history

To follow on from Creighton Sims' article, here is another example of how popular roller skating became in the Valleys:

BRIDGEND'S LATEST CRAZE (Anon)

From the Glamorgan Gazette, February 18th 1910,
a poem about Ogmore's new leisure facility.

Upon the Ogmore Downs no more from tees I will be driving;
Quarella's football's quite a bore, and so is Porthcawl diving,
In vain the marker chalks the cue, the Ogmore Club I'm thinking
Will see me not, but I'll not rue my rinking, rinking, rinking.

Part singing's off. It is no cop to join the bottom basses.
Or lead the waltz at the Wyndham hop, or watch Quarella races.
The Peoples' Pictures attract me not, from Ebley's shows I'm shrinking.
The only thing for which I'm hot, is rinking, rinking, rinking.

The once seductive Gramophone my soul no longer entices.
And bicycles are on the market thrown, as perfect sacrifices;
I'm tired of every kind of work, even writing finds me blinking.
And every blessed thing I'll shirk for rinking, rinking, rinking.

I do not give a fig about the county tri-elections.
Or whether Howell gets thrown out through Bryncethin objections.
Randall, Llewellyn and David, and T.J. Hughes and Sibbr'ing
Are as naught to me. Of all I'm rid but rinking, rinking, rinking.

Friend Abse's now a 'good old sort', and Gaylard's quite a hero.
For having brought the glorious sport of clinking, rinking; ergo.
At the Drill Hall and at Joinery my wheels I'll still keep clinking
I save my pence to pay the fee for rinking, rinking, rinking.

This craze, having hit Ogmore in 1910, was followed up in the Garw, as in 1912 a 'huge new attraction' was opened up near Prospect Place, just off the square in Pontycymer. This was named the Hippodrome, but was more commonly called 'The Rink', as it had a large floor suitable for roller skating, a pastime much enjoyed by men women and children alike. It was also intended to be a theatre, in which would be held Public Meetings, Operatic and Variety performances, wrestling competitions and Film shows. It soon became the entertainment hub of the valley.

The Hippodrome itself was a large corrugated iron-clad building, capable of holding about 1500-plus people. During WW1 it served as a centre from which to raise funds for the troops, and again during the depressed years after the war

it became one of the many local soup kitchens helping to feed the people of the Garw Valley.

On November 25th 1922 the Hippodrome caught fire and the whole building was completely destroyed in a matter of an hour.

More information on this wonderful building and the theatrical family who ran it can be found in TJ Howell's book, "The Rink", found in local libraries.

Photograph from Garw Valley Heritage Society Archives



The opening of The Rink in Pontycymer. Standing outside is one of the five cars in the valley at the time

THE MAKING OF A NEW PROLETARIAN COMMUNITY:

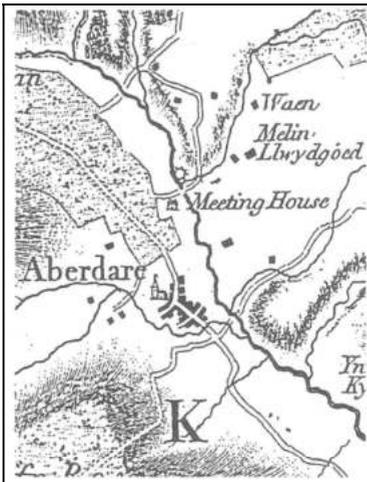
Who and what contributed to the creation of Aberaman, Aberdare?

Barbara A Watts

Gwyn Alf Williams stated that any historical enquiry into Wales' past should serve the ordinary working men and women of Wales who 'carried the rest on their bent and exploited backs.' Aberaman, a hamlet of Aberdare, was one place of many built on the 'exploited backs' of migrant colliers. This study made use of the 1881 census of England and Wales and the 1945 Public Health Department of Aberdare '*Accommodation of Houses in Each Block or Street*'.¹ Centuries before the industrial revolution, Aberdare comprised a small, nucleated village of cottages with farms spread out along the Cynon Valley. During the twelfth century, St John the Baptist church was erected in the centre of Aberdare (figure 1) as a Chapel of Ease for the Margam Abbey monks. The population grew to around 540 people in 1670 and up to 4,000 in 1832 (figure 2).² Large-scale iron works caused the population to increase and when coal mining took preference Aberdare grew rapidly (table 1). Concentration on coal production expanded industrialization, urbanization and the need for workers.³

Figure 1 Aberdare, 1799 pop 1400

Figure 2 Aberdare 1832 pop 4000



¹ Public Health Dept. Aberdare. *Forms Showing Age, Type, and Accommodation of Houses in Each Block or Street*. 1945. Courtesy of Simon Golding, Assistant Librarian, Rhondda Cynon Taff Libraries. (PHDA).

² Aberdare Pictures from the Past (Cynon Valley History Society, 1986).

³ P. Reynolds, *The Ironmasters' Bags* (Lulu.com, 2010).

Table 1 Population of Aberdare 1841-1881⁴

1841	6,471
1851	14,999
1861	32,299
1871	37,774
1881	35,514

Dwellings for the influx of workers, produced villages spreading north (The Gadlys, Trecynon, Pen-y-Waun, Llwydcoed, Hirwaun), west (Foundry Town) and east (Cwmbach, Abernant). Aberaman, a south extension of Aberdare, was built on the west side of the Cynon River. The settlements placed close to quarries, mines and foundries lessened the need for expensive transportation of materials and product. As the coal industry began to rely on the new railways for transportation the Great Western Railway constructed a line through Wales in 1886. Aberaman became a major station and the first train through the new railway tunnel under the Severn River passed from Aberdare.⁵

The houses in Aberaman, constructed in the local pennant sandstone, were purpose built for the workers of the newly sunk mines. The terraced rows of various street lengths were built in sections from approximately 1840 and added as needed up to 1910.⁶ The sections are recognized by slight architectural differences such as the height of the roof, small walled yards, an alleyway, or a strip of garden placed in front of the house. The earlier dwellings were 'one up, one down' with an attached scullery and backyard 'privies' shared between several families. As more houses were built in the second half of the century, a parlour to the front was added as was a second bedroom and the scullery became more functional as a kitchen. Even with improvements over the years, toilet facilities remained outside at the bottom of a strip of garden and, in some cases, a small shed was added for the colliers to wash before entering the house.⁷ The main condition for house building was the need to be close to the mines and the pits were often at the ends of streets.

As a community of approximately 5,500 people, Aberaman in 1881 was one of the largest hamlets in Aberdare where an average community numbered

⁴ *Ibid*

⁵ *Railway News. 'Railway to Aberaman', Vol. 45, 1886, p. 802.*

⁶ *PHDA*

⁷ *Ibid*

around 3,500.⁸ Difficulty discerning the streets and individual houses on the census came from the original transcribers being unable to read the handwriting of the enumerator and being unfamiliar with Welsh spellings. As some of the dates stipulated by the APHD survey were inaccurate, double checking census images and cross-checking old and modern street maps was essential. In one case, Queen Street, was listed on the census, shown on maps, but had been missed on the survey.

Thirty-four streets were found with 154 houses recorded as uninhabited. Houses using letters a, b, c etc were individual dwellings with the addition of the letter system likely due to numbering decisions as sections of the street were completed. On the night of the census 3 April 1881, the streets housed 5276 people (table 2) with an average household size of 5, which included relatives other than the nuclear family, adopted children, lodgers, visitors and servants.

While more than one family living in one house might have been the case in other areas this was rare in Aberaman.

Table 2 Population of Aberaman, 1881⁹

	Total (adults & children)	Children	Average family size	Children listed as scholars	No. of widows/ widowers	Heads of families	Eligible workers [^]	Employed (over age 10)	Eligible voters
<i>Males</i>	2733	957	5	594	100	894	1776	1618	894
<i>Females</i>	2543	834		700	187	144	1709	365	0
<i>Totals</i>	5276	1791		1294	287	1038	3483	2143	894

[^] excludes retired or annuitants

As a new community when the first mine was sunk, everyone was an immigrant to Aberaman but by 1881 many were born in the community. Ruth PRICE of Cardiff Road born in 1843 was probably one of the first children. The population came from many counties with the highest percentage from Wales, seven counties being most represented (table 3). Twenty-four English counties were represented by 454 people with thirteen counties being most prominent.

⁸ Cynon Valley History Society, *Historical Notes* (<http://www.cvhs.org.uk>).

⁹ *Children: those under the compulsory school age of 13.*

Table 3 Birthplace of Aberaman’s population 1881

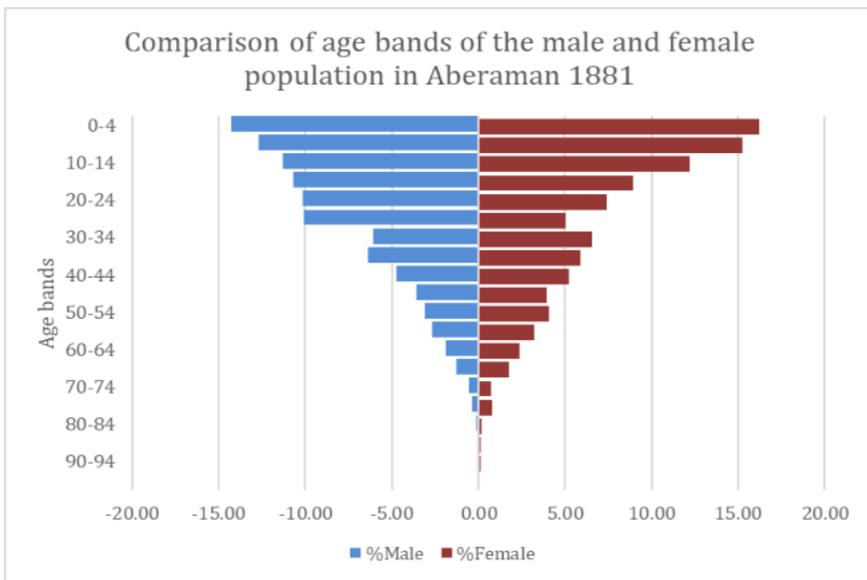
Welsh county	% of(4822) Welsh	English county	% of (454) English
Glamorganshire	67.5	Somerset	29
Carmarthenshire	10.3	Cornwall	15.6
Pembrokeshire	6.3	Gloucester	10
Monmouthshire	5.0	Wiltshire	10
Breconshire	4.0	Devon	6
Cardiganshire	2.3	Middlesex	4.5
Radnorshire	1.4	Herefordshire	4.5
		Staffordshire	
		Berkshire Dorset	14
		Kent Shropshire	collectively
		Durham	

The method of recording birthplaces on the census prevented calculations of precise migration patterns. Some entries specified the village and county of birth such as Anne Jones born in Glyn Neath, Glamorgan. Less information, as the case of Mary Evans from Glamorgan and John Swine with no birthplace recorded, restricted research. Difficulty also arose when the birthplace was recorded as Aberdare. A few stated the hamlet, such as Hirwaun or Cwmbach, but the majority were listed as Aberdare. Therefore, calculations could not be made to discover if migrants moved more from one area of Aberdare than another. As expected in a Welsh majority, the most popular surnames were Jones, Davies, Williams, Evans and Thomas being 36% of the total population. Obvious non-Welsh names included Allingham, Cambourn, Elias, and O’Leary.

Separating the population by age showed a youthful community with a predominance of those aged between 0 and 14. Age bands 15 through 29 show a larger percentage of males suggesting that single men of prime working age moved into the area. The larger percentage of females than males at the 55 through 95 age band might point to the toll the job took on the miners as they succumbed to deaths from accidents, lung disease and over-work (figure 3).¹⁰

Figure 3 The age bands of the population of Aberaman, 1881, show a youthful community

¹⁰ B. Curtis and S. Thompson. ‘This is the country of premature old men’: Ageing and aged miners in the South Wales Coalfield, c.1880-1947’ *Cultural and Social History*, 12, 4, (2015), pp 587-606.



As with some other communities in Aberdare, Aberaman was built with a commercial section. Lewis Street accommodated many services (table 4) and the trades-people lived either beside or above their business premises (figure 4).

Table 4 Occupations and services in the commercial area of Lewis Street

Baker	Chemist & Stationer	Blacksmith	Boot & Shoe Maker
Butcher	China Dealer	Cabinet Maker	Milliner
Green Grocer	Draper	House Painter	Tailor & Dressmaker
Grocer	Hair Dresser	Wagon Builder	Printer & Stationer
Wine Merchant	Pawn Broker		

The commercial sector represented a very small portion of the population's occupations. As would be expected, over 70% of males were employed in mining and boys as young as 10 were working in the mines (table 5). One hundred and sixty-five females were listed as having an occupation with servant being most prevalent. While many women recorded their occupation as housekeeper the number of housekeepers noted in table 5 only indicate women as working for a family not their own. The youngest working female was 11 years old.

Figure 4 Lewis Street date unknown¹¹



Table 5 Main occupations of Aberaman's population 1881

Male Occupations	%	Female occupations	%
Mining	73.4	Servant	45.7
Transport	6	Dressmaker	22
Dealing	6	Dealer	11
Manufacture	5	Washerwoman	9
General labourers	3.4	Teacher	4.5
Building	3	Miner	3
Public service/professional	2	Housekeeper	2.2
Agriculture	0.9	Nurse	2.1
Religious	0.3	Agriculture	0.5

¹¹ <http://archive.rhondda-cynon-taf.gov.uk/media.php?i=880&t=2&p=5>.

Children were expected to work and many laboured in the coalmines. Even years after the child labour recommendations in the Mines and Colliers Act of 1842, children were being exploited and killed in the mines. In the middle of the nineteenth century ten mines in Aberaman caused the fatalities of 71 children from the ages of 10 to 14¹². Change takes time. Removing children from the mines would have caused lack of labour and potential poverty. The 1870 and 1880 Elementary Education Acts stipulated compulsory education for children aged between 5 and 13. Despite fines and visits by attendance officers, school attendance was poor. The *Aberdare Times*, 1886, reported that 4,752 children were registered at Aberdare schools with an average attendance of 3,670 (77%) six years after the Act was put into place.¹³ In Aberaman, 1881, 857 children of compulsory school age were listed as scholars. Based upon the average an estimated 197 children were likely not at school and either helping mothers at home or working at the mine

Dangerous working conditions were slow to improve and fatalities continued. Aberaman widows accounted for 3.5% of the population, almost twice that of widowers (table 6). Few options were available to widows in a proletariat society. Some Aberaman widows had working children, others obliged to take a job, a few moved in with family or were beholden to a neighbour for lodgings. With the youngest widow aged twenty-six and the average being fifty-six, re-marriage for some women might have been likely especially with an availability of males of marriageable age.

Table 6. There were almost twice as many widows as widowers

	Widows	Widowers
Total number	187	100
% of population	3.5%	2%
Age of youngest	26	24
Age of oldest	92	85
Occupied for payment	33%	95%
% as lodgers not with own family	5%	13%

¹² <http://www.welshcoalmines.co.uk>.

¹³ *Aberdare Times* (19 Jun. 1886).

Aberaman did not develop slowly over time. The houses were erected hurriedly, in the rush to establish a workforce. All residents were genuine proletarians, struggling through migration, deaths through accidents, lowered wages and empty promises, strikes and mine closures. While the Aberaman of today retains the structure of the nineteenth century coal mining community, some change was inevitable. The pitheads are gone and new houses have been built on the cleared sites. Some families can trace their ancestors back to the first immigrants with names like Beynon and Crowley still living in the area. The hoot of the mine shift whistle and puffing of the steam trains have been replaced by the sounds of cars. The mines have gone but you would not find the fields and woods of the pre-industrial era. This was the land of coal and will remain as such. What role did coal play in the Industrial Revolution? With respect to the colliers of Aberaman and others like them, coal had a secondary role as the miners and their families were the fuel of the Industrial Revolution – without them the coal would not have surfaced.



A reminder.....

Clive Reed, the author of 'Tareni Colliery: the Mine, the Miners and their Communities' (reviewed in March 2020's Journal no 137), has promised a donation of £5 to the Glamorgan Family History Society if any purchase arises from anyone reading the review. The book can be purchased directly from Clive by phone, 01792 830782, or email lynnegent46@gmail.com or from local bookshops.

ISBN number 978-1-5272-0129-3 price £30 plus £4.95 P&P.

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

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

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

SUCCESSFUL RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR HELP AND THE SUBSEQUENT STORY

#20419 Raymond Watts

I asked for help in Journal No 137 (March 2020) in gathering information about my paternal grandfather's contribution in WW1.

There were upwards of 30 possible William WATTS of that era serving during the 1914-1918 war. This made it impossible for me to identify my grandfather from my usual sources.

Michael Donovan, member number 6564, responded. He had access to the 1918 Absent voters list for the Rhondda valley. (A record that I was not aware of.) From this, he was able to tell me that Lance Corporal William John Watts, army number 14742, serving in 11th Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers (RWF) was living at 5 Gwernllwyn Terrace, Tylorstown.

This, I could be sure of, was indeed my Grandfather. My father was born at 3 Gwernllwyn Terrace, Tylorstown. I now knew his regiment and regimental number.

After a rabbit hole of thinking that it might be the 2nd battalion, who served in France throughout the war, I was able to establish that William J Watts was in fact an original member of the 11th Battalion.

The 11th Battalion, RWF, served in France from 5th September 1915. On the 5th November 1915 the battalion moved to Salonika and remained there until November 1918 when it moved to Turkey. William appears to have remained with the battalion for the duration of the war and picked up malaria whilst he was there. Because of the malaria he was discharged 60% disabled, on 2nd Dec 1918, age 35. He received a pension until 1924. I have his medal rolls and these confirmed his service and the award of the Silver War Badge along with British War Medal, Victory Medal and 1915 Star. It was a pension record that detailed his discharge.

I have investigated the war and conditions in the Salonika theatre in some detail. This is because, as chance would have it, my maternal grandfather also ended his war there. He was discharged, 20% disabled, through gunshot wounds, on 11th September 1918 when serving with the 2nd Battalion Lancs and Yorks. He made Sergeant.

There will be a war diary for the battalion, but the Salonika portion will still be at The National Archives as diaries for the Salonika theatre have not yet been digitised. There is generic history from various sources about the 11th Battalion RWF, 67th Brigade, 22nd British Division.

William was involved in 3 major battles:

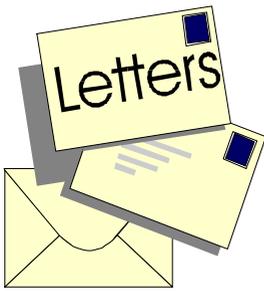
- At the beginning of August 1916 three French and one British division with 45,000 men and 400 guns launched an offensive against the Bulgarian positions at Lake Dojran, defended by the Second Thracian Infantry Division. The attack began on 9 August with heavy artillery fire on the enemy positions. All four attacks that followed between 10th and 18th August were repulsed by the Second division and the Allies were forced to retreat to their original positions with heavy casualties.
- On 9 and 10 February 1917 the Allies attacked the enemy but were repulsed by a decisive counter-attack by the Troyan Regiment. The British advance on 21 February was repulsed by Bulgarian artillery after a two-day battle.
- A battle for a breakthrough in the Bulgarian positions began on 22nd April 1917. The assault began with a four-day artillery barrage in which the British fired about 100,000 shells. The Bulgarians also opened fire day and night on the Allied positions. The initial several-hour struggle between the British and Bulgarian batteries was followed by a one-hour Bulgarian counter-barrage in which 10,000 shells were fired. The British infantry began its attack on the night of 24th/25th April and after a bloody fight managed to take the enemy positions. A Bulgarian counter-attack repulsed the British with heavy casualties and by 8 pm they had retreated. The British attacks in the next two days were defeated by constant Bulgarian fire and counter-attacks. The British withdrew to their initial positions on 27 April. On 8 May, after a long artillery barrage, the British began another attack. The main assault started at 9 pm with five waves of British troops attacking the Bulgarian positions. After four attacks during the night of 8th/9th May the British were defeated and suffered enormous casualties. The artillery duel continued until 9 May but due to heavy casualties the British had to abandon all attacks. They lost 12,000 killed, wounded and captured of which more than 2,250 were buried by the Bulgarian defenders.

It is unlikely that William participated in the September assault that bought about the Bulgarian surrender. By then, I suspect that he was already being shipped home with malaria.

Living conditions for the soldiers on both sides were harsh. Winter and summer brought extremes of climate and disease, especially malaria, caused many more casualties than fighting. The soldiers often referred to the 3Ms of Salonika, Mountains, Mules and Malaria.

Malaria proved to be a serious drain on manpower during the campaign. In total the British forces suffered 162,517 cases of the disease and in total 505,024 non-battle casualties.

I would like to thank all at the Glamorgan Family History Society with particular thanks to Mr Michael Donovan.



Letters to the Editor

HELP WANTED

Member #890 Lynne Marsh writes: On the 1891 census, Elizabeth Jones, nee Williams, 37, was living in Hengoed at Tir y Berth with her husband Benjamin, 42 and a farmer, and their children David John, 13, Thos Charles, 8, Mary Elizabeth 4, Catherine 3 and Rachel Ann, 2. Elizabeth was my father's first cousin. I was told by his sister that "the boys went to Canada,

one was in the Ministry (presumably the non-conformist church) and the other a government official". The only confirmation I have of that is a postcard of a snowscene in a park in Winnipeg dated 1937, and a piece of leather with the head of an Indian chief painted on it and Winnipeg written on underneath. By 1901 the family had moved to the Post Office in Llanwonno. David John and Catherine are missing: are there any of the descendants still around??



Dear Editor

Did a Police scandal cause my grandfather to change his birth surname? The family story is - that around the turn of the 19/20th Century one of my great grandfathers or uncles was a "Big" Policeman in the Tylorstown area. One night whilst on duty he came across a drunk. Instead of arresting the gentleman, he propped him up in a public urinal and left him to sober up. Come the morning the unfortunate gentleman was found dead, having drowned in his own vomit. This Policeman's action was such a disgrace that the family changed its surname to distance themselves from the shame. I believe that the Policeman was called BOWEN. And that we changed the surname to WATTS, taking the town name.

Does anyone have access to any evidence of this event? Newspaper, Police Records, Deed Poll etc?

Raymond Watts #20419

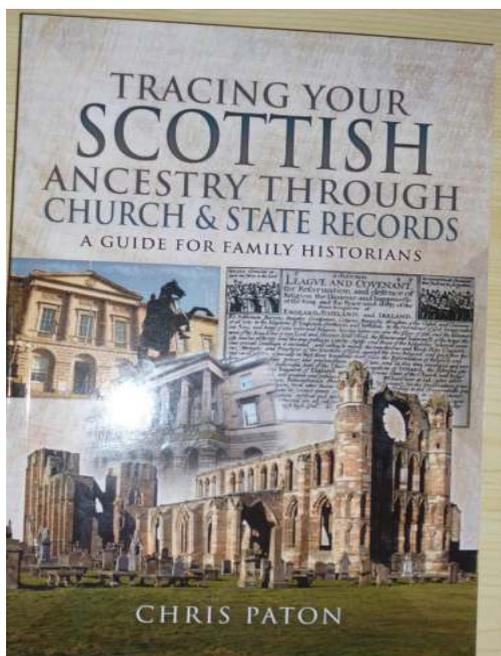
Don't miss the 'Cut-Off Dates'

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

March Issue	20 January	June Issue	20 April
September issue	20 July	December Issue	20 October

BOOK REVIEWS

There are two books on review this edition, both by Chris Paton, suitably appearing together as they help out with those searching for their Celtic relatives from Scotland and Ireland.



Tracing your Scottish Ancestry through Church & State Records. A Guide for Family Historians Chris Paton

My first thought was, “Why does Scotland need a book solely about tracing your ancestors?” As you read this book you realise that records in Scotland have similarities with the rest of the UK but there are also differences in both the practices and the terminology used in the Scottish Church and State

Records. Chris Paton, who is a genealogist and writer based in Ayrshire, has written a number of publications on researching Family History, and he expertly explains the concepts and language within many Scottish Records, as well as how to read and use them, and where they can be found in Scotland. Chris explains the purpose of the information recorded and the legal bases by which they were recorded in plain English that can be easily followed.

I particularly liked the way the book was organised so that Research Resources appeared at the start of the book: you are given a comprehensive list of resources and organisations that can help you in your research right in the beginning of the book where it is easy to locate. Other chapters deal with Civil Registration, Church of Scotland's Records, Other Church Records, Where Were They? Land Tenure, Inheritance and Law and Order. Many difficult areas such as illegitimacy are dealt with: Chris gives useful hints that could solve the problems that are often found when researching illegitimate births.

If you have Scottish Ancestry and you have enthusiasm for researching your ancestors then this book can guide you to the resources that will help you

find your missing relatives. As for myself, with my own Scottish ancestry, although I had doubts about the value of this book to start with, I now realise the differences between Scotland's records and the rest of the UK, and those differences alone would justify the purchase of this book.

Paperback, ISBN 1526768429, 152 pages, £14.99 plus postage. Pen & Sword Books, 47 Church Street, Barnsley, Yorkshire, S702AS.
Tel.orders 01226 734222, www.pen-and-sword.co.uk

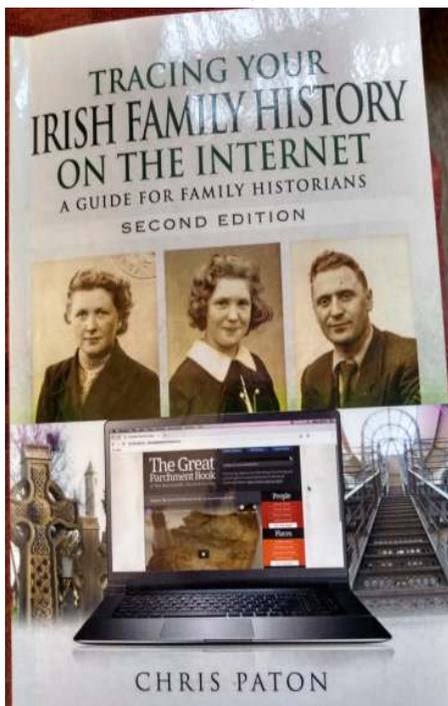
Ian Black



Tracing your Irish Family History on the Internet. A Guide for Family Historians - Chris Paton

Chris Paton originally started research into his family history, both Scottish and Irish, in 1999, but was not able to get very far with his Irish searches because of the lack of digital records in Ireland. By 2013, things had moved on substantially, enough for him to write the first edition of this book that year.

This second edition, as he mentions in his preface, was the result of the



recent years' digital revolution in Ireland, both in the north and in the south, and this, together with advances in genealogy such as DNA testing, meant that a second edition was necessary. Amongst the credits for this explosion of information are the Irish Government itself, the National Archives of Ireland, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and the Military Archives in Dublin, all "truly outstanding archival repositories".

His aim is to offer information on many of these repositories, and to provide tips for their usage. He is careful to point out what is meant when he refers to 'Ireland', whether it is the whole of the island pre-or post-partition, and the names it has been known by since 1801 when it was first taken into the United Kingdom, facts

that are confusing to many without an Irish upbringing. Many areas of this

book are updated with new information or website addresses, but he does also have new chapters that cover subjects that he admits are uncomfortable reading, such as the Magdalen Laundries and the Troubles. Chapter 5 in particular, 'The Decade of Centuries', gives an ideal summary of Ireland's political turmoil in the 20th century; this is nowhere near an examination of each of these tumultuous periods, but it does give the background to how our Irish forefathers were living, and the references and websites that readers can follow for themselves is invaluable.

Of particular interest in Chapter 1 headed 'The Genealogical Landscape' is Chris Paton's section on Languages. We tend to think that everyone speaks English, and always has, but historically in Ireland there were 3 main languages: Irish Gaelic (Gaeilge), English, and Ulster Scots, with Irish being the first language of the Republic of Ireland according to its constitution. In Northern Ireland Ulster Scots and Irish are recognised as minority languages. Chris Paton then gives web references to various sites which describe the medieval dialects of Yola and Fingalian, with even a song in Yola found on YouTube! Other references give help when translation is needed, and when place names have changed from Irish to English.

His other chapters include all the Vital Records and where they can be found, from newspaper archives, records held in Britain and overseas, and census and adoptions; others cover occupations and where people lived, and chapters 6-9 cover each of the 32 counties of the whole of Ireland - very useful to approach individually if you know where your ancestors lived. Each county has its appropriate references to follow up.

The book ends with Ireland's Diaspora in Chapter 10, and lists the main countries to receive Irish emigrants: USA, Canada, New Zealand, South America and Australia, and here you can find out about passenger lists and passport applications as well as where to go to find records once they had arrived.

With absolutely no Irish antecedents, as far as I know, I found this book enlightening and 'a good read', and can imagine it would be a real boon to anyone stuck with their own family research in Ireland. There are even hints from the author on how to obtain an Irish passport, which he has done for himself and his family - maybe of interest in these Brexit times?

Paperback, 178 pages, ISBN 1526757818, price £14.99,
Pen & Sword Books, address and contacts as above.

Jean Fowlds

SOCIETY NEWS & REPORTS

ABERDARE/CYNON VALLEY BRANCH

January no meeting, however our research session in the library went ahead as planned.

Feb 7th our Guest speaker was Steve Brewer his topic was The Taff Valley Tornado 1913. This was Steve's first visit to our branch. Steve's talk was very entertaining with members joining in the discussions relating to the power point presentation and Steve's photographic material.

March we changed to a research evening as the guest speaker originally booked was unable to attend. This went well with members making full use of the internet facility within the Museum.

February and March afternoon research sessions were held in Aberdare library.

As you are aware all meetings are cancelled until further notice, however the Museum is booked in advance so once we are able to, we will resume our branch meetings.

You can contact me on the e-mail address below if you have any queries, alternatively if any Aberdare branch members wishes me to contact them direct and are not currently receiving e-mails from myself, could you mail me your current e-mail address to enable me to up-date my records. This will enable me to e-mail everyone personally to notify you when meetings are resuming.

Pat Rees, aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk



BRIDGEND BRANCH

The Bridgend Branch would like to wish all its members good health. In these difficult times we hope you are all keeping safe and well. If you are reading this then the Society has managed to produce the journal and have it delivered, well done to the Editors and the printers/publishers.

Like the main Society, the Branch found themselves in the position of having to cancel the February and March meetings. At the time of writing (April) we cannot predict when normality will return, it is therefore our decision to cancel **ALL** future meetings until such time that the Government removes the travel ban and relaxes some of the other restrictions recently imposed. We are

sure you will understand that this decision is for both your and our volunteers' safety.

Until we can resume meetings, we hope you are keeping well and not getting too stir crazy. Once we are able to resume meetings, we will notify members by means of a Mailchimp email similar to that we post each month to alert you to future meetings and speakers. Also, as we, at this point, cannot know if any scheduled speakers would be available, we may start our session with a "Brickwall"/Research evening, again we will let you know this when we email out to you all.

We are aware that not all our regular members have access to the internet or may not be frequent users of email. To help those members we are asking you all to help us by contacting any member you know who also comes and ask them to contact us (details below) with their telephone number if they do not receive our emails or may have difficulty accessing their email address. Once we know who those members are, we will contact them when we send the recommencement email out to ensure they are involved.

We hope to see you all again as soon as we are able to travel and meet. In the meantime, we wish you well and urge you to keep safe.

Nancy Thomas, Branch Chairperson
Tel: 07976 737314, bridgend@glamfhs.org.uk



CARDIFF & THE VALE BRANCH

In February, David Cohen, who is a Trustee for the Jewish History Association of South Wales, came and shared the work of the Association which is to "Discover, document, preserve and share the cultural heritage of Jewish communities in "South Wales". The year 1066 is well known from our history books, but it was in 1067 that the Jews from Rouen, France came to Britain to help finance the new Norman King William the Conqueror. They stayed until they were expelled (or not openly practising as Jews) in 1290 by Edward I, and were able to return during the English Civil War. Around the 1730s the Jewish people were drawn to Swansea known as Copperopolis because of the copper smelting and the first Synagogue was built. In 1841 the second Marquis of Bute donated land for a Jewish Cemetery in Cardiff. In 1940 there were 55 Jewish Refugee business on the Treforest Trading Estate, and these employed 1,800 people. At its peak there were around 6,000 Jewish people in South Wales and today the number is around 500.

- The Association has a very interesting website and a series of blogs which can be found at <https://jhasw2018.wixsite.com/news> and you can subscribe to their newsletter.
- You can follow them on Twitter @JHASW2018.
- A great number of their documents, newspaper cuttings and interviews have been shared with the Peoples' Collection Wales and can be accessed on the website <https://www.peoplescollection.wales/>

At our March meeting we welcomed Rachel Knight, Assistant Coroner for South Wales Central, who gave the most fascinating talk on 'The work of HM Coroner'. When not undertaking her part time role as Assistant Coroner, Ms Knight returns to her day job as a barrister. With more than 35 people, the room was packed to capacity and just a few attendees having the phrase 'Coroner's Inquest' written on family death certificates we were all eager to learn more. In 2019 of the 3919 deaths reported there were 789 inquests held for South Wales Central which covers a huge area and includes Powys.

The role of the coroner is to objectively and independently investigate:

- Violent or unnatural deaths
- When the cause of death is unknown
- When the deceased died whilst in custody or state detention – whether natural or not
- To determine whether items found constitute 'treasure.'

Of the very many and extremely interesting facts that Ms Knight shared was the 'Chain of Causation' as set out by The World Health Organisation Format of 1a, 1b, 1c and 2:

- 1a) The disease or condition directly leading to death. This is the immediate cause of death and not the mode e.g. cardiac arrest
- 1b) Any other disease or condition which led to the immediate cause of death
- 1c) The further link, if any, to the chain of causation
- 2) This is for other significant conditions which have contributed to death but are not related to the disease or condition causing it.

So now we have plenty of time to review the family death certificates with a better understanding. The Referral Process was described in clear details and lead on to the Investigations. A range of Coroners' reports are available at Glamorgan Archives.

The unexpected element to the Coroner's role is in relation to the finding of Treasure. So, if you have been out with your metal detector in Wales and have found something then it must be reported to the Coroner and the Portable Antiquities Scheme Cymru Coordinator, and a decision has to be made if an inquest will be required. Finds of treasure in England should be reported within

14 days to a Finds Liaison Officer and it is a criminal offence punishable with fine or imprisonment not to do this.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic our April to July meetings are all cancelled. We will be looking to reschedule the arranged talks in the coming months.

Update: Trips to the National Library of Wales and Cardiff Reform Synagogue

Our planned visits organised to The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth (Saturday 16 May) and to the Cardiff Reform Synagogue (Tuesday 9 June) have also been cancelled. Both visits will be rescheduled, hopefully for later this year.

The **Sully Group** visit to Glamorgan Archives in February was open to all Society members and it was great to see so many old and new faces. The Archives Staff gave us an excellent introduction to how to search the Archives catalogue, how to handle different types of document and how to use a camera in the Search Room. We had requested to see the 1910 Valuation Survey records held at Cardiff and were shown the 'Office (working) Copies' and maps that are held there. The 'Final' Survey documents are held at the National Archives at Kew. One of our members had emailed in to request whether there were copies for a house he was researching and luckily it was available. Examples of other types of original documents were also provided as part of the visit. All members found these fascinating and reminded both new and older researchers of what else is available at the Archives. (See photos inside back cover).

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



MERTHYR TYDFIL BRANCH

We were very lucky that our March meeting was on the 10th and just before everything went very strange. Our March meeting in Soar was in the theatre and attracted a number of non-members. We showed a very special film of Merthyr Tydfil made by Robert Haines, 'Astronauts, Vikings and Ghosts'. A strange title for a film which had lots of wonderful old images of Merthyr Tydfil and interviews with elderly residents about noted characters and life in the town in the 1970s. It was very amusing and entertaining and very popular with the audience.

We are still working on our Obituary project and 'correcting' 1910 to 1920. The Merthyr Tydfil Branch began transcribing the obituaries and death notices recorded in the Merthyr Express newspaper so long ago that the exact date the project started is forgotten. We are delighted that part of the work can now be made available to researchers as 1900 to 1909 have been made into a CD which will be available for sale shortly. The newspaper obituary indexed can be anything from 400 to less than 15 words in the Merthyr Express. This project is

still continuing during the 'Lockdown' thanks to the endeavours and hard work of Michael Donovan and Andrea Hegerty. The Merthyr Tydfil Family History Branch would like to thank all the volunteers and especially Nancy Thomas for her kind help and patience in overseeing this work.

At the moment it is difficult to predict the future. During the 'Lockdown' Carl Llewellyn is preparing a number of his excellent talks and we look forward to a talk by Barrie Jones on the Domesday Book. It is uncertain as yet as to when and in what order we be able to have these interesting talks.

Carolyn Jacob & Suzanne Doolan, merthyr@glamfhs.org.uk



PONTYPRIDD AND RHONDDA BRANCH

Our January meeting should have been on 21st when our speaker was David Maddox who was speaking on "Pontypridd under Siege 1919". David is always an excellent speaker so we were looking forward to hearing him. However during the floods which affected South Wales, the basement of Pontypridd Museum where we hold our meetings was flooded out so we have not been able to meet at all this year.

A lot of the artefacts stored in the basement were destroyed but some could be saved but had to be decontaminated. Some of our old papers were destroyed but fortunately our books were on higher shelves, so were saved. The kitchen in the basement was totally destroyed, including the cooker, fridge and all the dishes and cutlery. Mike and I visited one day to see the damage and had to wear protective gloves and masks. It was so sad to see all the damage.

The curator told us that there were a few places in Pontypridd offering the use of their premises to the various organisations using the Museum. However, before we had the opportunity to investigate them, the world was struck by the Corona Virus, so goodness knows when we will be able to restart.

May is the 25th Anniversary of the Pontypridd and Rhondda branch so we intended to have a party. All that has gone by the board now, but as soon as things get back to normal, we will be sending out invitations to current members, some former members, other branches and people who have supported us over the years. We hope that as many people will attend and have a good evening. Watch this space.

Jane Jones, rhondda@glamfhs.org.uk



MEMBERS INTERESTS

Surname/Forename	Place	Cty	Dates	#
BEBB, Rebecca	Merthyr	GLA	1795+	8004
DAVIES, Edward	St John's, Swansea	GLA	1830-1841	20417
DOWN, Any	Marnhull/Gillingham	DOR	Any	2043
DOWN, Thomas	Abervan	GLA	@1911	2043
Evan, Lucretia	Llandaff	GLA	1774	8004
EVANS, Eliza	Castle St, Swansea	GLA	1832- 1851	20417
EVANS, Thomas	Llantrisant	GLA	1777+	8004
HOPKIN(S), Hopkin	Back St, Swansea	GLA	1833-1858	20417
JENKINS	Cardiff, Barry	GLA	1600-1900	6507
JENKINS	Cardiff	GLA	1800-1950	6507
JOHN, Arthur	Aberdare	GLA	b 1854	10910
JOHN, John	Aberdare (from Amroth)	GLA/PEM	b 1829	10910
LANGDAN/LONGDAN, Grace	Llansamlet	GLA	1790-1810	20417
MARTIN, Any	Talbenny	PEM	Pre 1830	2043
MORGAN, Alexander	Aberdare	GLA	18:30-1900	6756
MORGAN, Thomas	Llantrisant	GLA	1846+	8004
MORRIS	Cardiff	GLA	1850-1950	6507
PHILLIPS, Any	Nolton	PEM	Pre 1770	2043
PINNER	Cardiff	GLA	1840-2000	6507
PRICE, Any	Talbenny	PEM	Pre 1800	2043
THOMAS, Mary	Llantrisant	GLA	1773+	8004
WARLOW, Any		GLA/PEM	Pre 1850	2043
WILLIAMS, Elizabeth	Llantrisant	GLA	1851+	8004
WILLIAMS, Ephraim	Llantrisant	GLA	1835+	8004
WILLIAMS, Thomas	Llantrisant	GLA	1773+	8004

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

they should be sent to:

interests@glamfhs.org.uk.

Postal address:

**c/o Megan George, 29 Perrers Road,
London, W6 0EY**



Cardiff & Vale Branch Visit to Glamorgan Archives – February 2020



GLAMORGAN

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



invites you to our

FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Centre

FREE ADMISSION

FREE PARKING

FREE TALKS

FREE INFORMATION

Saturday

26th September 2020

10.00am - 2.00pm

Photo. Cyfarthfa Castell 1871: From the Alan George Collection. Merthyr Tydfil

Full details on our website:

www.glamfhs.org.uk

The Largest Family History Fair in Wales

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