



GELLIGAER TIMES
NEWSLETTER OF GELLIGAER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
APRIL 2020 SUPPLEMENT to No. 43 (WOMEN'S HISTORY)

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

In case you do not read further, I start by reminding you that Miss Nesta Jones, GHS President, will celebrate her 100th birthday early in May this year. As GHS plans to help her celebrate this wonderful landmark at GHS April meeting cannot go ahead, I wonder if GHS members and friends would like to send personal messages to her, maybe a card, or perhaps you might like to send your best wishes to her via GHS. If you send your greeting email to me (before the end of April), I can print them and post them to Nesta.



AND, on a different topic, in the present circumstances, you may have some time on your hands and would like to submit something for *Gelligaer*, GHS journal of for GHS Diamond Jubilee Project. While you cannot visit libraries and archives, there is much source material available online. And, your family photographs may include scenes and people of local interest. GHS is especially interested in photographs of places of worship, schools, clubs and other public buildings and of the people connected with them in the pre-WWI era. Look forward to your submissions.

USEFUL WEBSITES	
Website link	What to look at
https://newspapers.library.wales/home	Newspapers 1804-1919
https://www.ancestry.com/	Genealogy
https://places.library.wales/	Parish tithe maps (dated about 1840)
https://www.library.wales/discover/digital-gallery/printed-material/thebluebooks/	The Blue Books (education report 1847)
https://rcahmw.koha-ptfs.co.uk/cgi-bin/koha/opac-search.pl?q=Gelligaer	RCAHMW catalogue search for Gelligaer
maps.nls.uk/geo/find/	National Library of Scotland resource which has many OS maps (1870s - mid 1950s). It can take a bit of getting used to but has most, but not all, 19 th century OS maps covering Gelligaer.parish.
If you find other useful websites, please send link to chairman@gelligaerhistoricalsociety.cco.uk so it can be added to this list in a future newsletter.	

In the absence of a newsletter editor, this newsletter supplement (a little news and a **collection of items associated with women's history**) is produced by GHS officers and committee as a substitute for GHS April meeting. I hope you find something of interest and, perhaps, some of you will respond with comments and/or questions as you would at a normal GHS meeting. Please contact chairman@gelligaerhistoricalsociety.cco.uk or www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk if you would like to contribute to any future issue.

AUSTIN JUNIOR CAR FACTORY IN BARGOED

Following the notice in *Gelligaer Times* 43, GHS has received name and contact details of the last manager of the plant and these have been passed to the BBC RADIO WALES Assistant Producer who made the query.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CLASSIC CARS?

Opposite side of the stream to the winding/winch house of the Cross Measures Drift was its canteen. Jackie James (Judith remembers him in the garage on the square in Bedlinog in the 1960s) had the canteen as a workshop, where he repaired cars etc and also, (Judith has just heard), made the exhausts for Gilbern Invaders, which were made in the factory in Llantwit Fardre
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilbern>



WOMEN'S HISTORY

The theme of this supplement, Women's History, is illustrated with local examples. Older readers will probably remember few women from their school history – maybe, just queens like Elizabeth I and reformers such as Florence Nightingale. In recent decades, the life and work of women in the past has attracted more attention, as illustrated by the work of individuals and groups and reflected in talks like that of Dr. Elin Jones and Prof. Angela V. John (GHS conference Saturday 24 March 2018), and the work of Welsh Women's Archive
<https://www.womensarchivewales.org/en/>

The following websites also include some details relating to women in Wales and if you find any others that may be of interest to readers of *Gelligaer Times*, please send a link.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-46508394>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06n2bpj>

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/12-welsh-women-who-shaped-17858828>

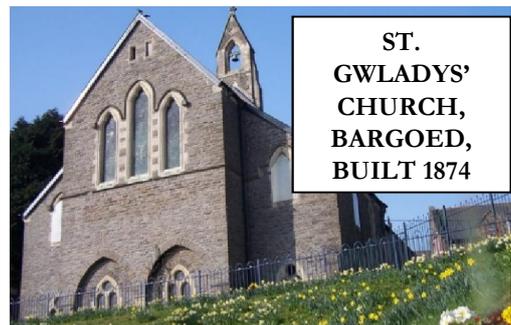
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S._Minwel_Tibbott

ST. GWLADYS

- Born c. AD 469
- Daughter of King Brychan of Brycheiniog
- Wife of Gwynlliw
- Mother of St. Cadog (Catwg)



**1953 PHOTOGRAPH OF
STAINED GLASS IMAGE OF ST
GWLADYS IN
ST. MARTIN'S PARISH
CHURCH, CAERPHILLY**



**LOGO OF
ST. GWLADYS
PRIMARY SCHOOL,
BARGOED**



ST. GWLADYS AVENUE
BARGOED

LAWS OF HYWEL DDA

In the tenth century, Hywel Dda codified Welsh laws. This extract (taken from <https://archive.org/details/jstor-30069216/page/n2/mode/1up/search/brycan%2C?q=brycan%2C>) deals with the division of goods between husband and wife following divorce. Although Welsh women were inferior in status, after seven years she could claim half her husband's property (a right which English women did not gain until the nineteenth century):

THE COMMON LAW.

Of Women †.

HITHERTO, by the assistance of God, we have treated of the Laws of the Court; now, by the help of our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, we will explain the Common Law of the Country, and we begin with those relating to Women.

Of these the first is, that, if there be presents made to a married woman, they are to be considered as part of her marriage portion until the end of seven years, and, if she shall then be separated from her husband, all, that belongs to them, shall

Of the children two parts go to the father and one to the mother: the eldest and youngest to the father, and the middle to the mother*.

The household furniture shall be thus divided.—All the milk vessels, excepting one pail, shall go to the wife: and all the dishes, excepting one dish which shall go to the husband, shall belong to the wife. The car and yoke †, that carry the furniture out of the house, shall go to the wife. All the drinking vessels shall belong to the husband; and to him shall belong the large sieve, and the fine sieve to the wife. The husband shall have the upper stone of the quern, and the wife the lower ‡. The bed-clothes, that are worn uppermost, shall belong to the wife: those, that are underneath, the husband shall have until he marries again, and afterwards he shall restore them to the wife. And, if another wife lie with him in these clothes, she shall pay to the former wife a satisfaction for the affront §.

be divided into two parts †. It belongs to the wife to partition, and to the husband to choose.

The swine shall go to the husband, and the sheep to the wife; but, if there be but one sort, let it be divided into two equal portions; and, if there be sheep and goats, the sheep go to the husband and the goats to the wife; if but one sort, let it be divided.

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The husband shall have the kettle, the rug*, the cushions and trestle †, the coulter, the felling hatchet, the auger, the settle‡, and all the reaping-hooks, excepting one, which shall go to the wife. The wife shall have the pan, the trivet‡, the common axe, the saw, the plough-share, the whole of the flax †, the linseed, the wool, the house-bag and all that it contains, except gold or silver, and that is to be divided; for house-bags † are hand-bags. If there are webs to divide, the little balls shall go to the children, if there be any; if not, let them be divided. The barn belongs to the husband, with all the corn that may be above or under the ground. The husband shall have all the hens and one cat; and the rest go to the wife.

The victuals shall be thus divided: the wife shall have the meat, as well as the cheese, that is in salt; and, after it is hung to dry, the husband owns it. The vessels of the broken butter and the broken cheese** belong to the wife. The wife shall have as much meal, as, with the strength of her hands and knees, she can carry from the store-room † † to the house.

Both of them shall retain their own clothes, excepting their cloaks, and those shall be divided.

FUNERAL OF SCHOOLMISTRESS, CATHERINE EVANS

This report on the funeral of Catherine Evans is taken from *Weekly Mail* 20 May 1882 (page 7). The Thomas family of Ystrad Fawr had set up a school sometime before the 1861 census was taken when Charlotte Nurse (born in Pontypool about 1835) was in charge. Catherine Evans was listed as the schoolmistress in both the 1871 and 1881 census returns. She was born in Llandough about 1844, and her mother, Mary, who was also in the household when both censuses were taken, was born in Llandaff about 1816. It is not clear whether or not her mother predeceased Catherine.

YSTRAD MYNACH.

FUNERAL OF MISS EVANS.—The funeral of Miss Evans, the respected mistress of Holy Trinity Church Schools, took place on Monday afternoon at the Cardiff Cemetery, when the Rev. T. Jenkins, chaplain of Holy Trinity Church, officiated. The body was conveyed in a hearse to Cardiff by road. Prior to the hearse leaving Ystrad Mynach, the children attending the schools sang "Brief life is here our portion," and walked four deep in front of the hearse to the end of the village. On their way they also sang, "Rock of Ages, cleft for me." Throughout the village the window blinds were drawn down as a mark of respect.

A LOCAL MICHAEL HENCHARD?

THIS EXTRACT IS
TAKEN FROM
CORNISHMAN 25
OCTOBER 1883

REMARKABLE SALE OF A WIFE.

The topic of conversation in Maescywmmer is at present a remarkable sale of a wife which took place very recently. It appears that a man known by the name of William Dant, alias "Yorker," employed at the Tredomen Quarry, offered his wife to a fellow workman, named Benjamin Powell, her estimated value being 1s. Powell immediately paid the stipulated sum in the presence of a credible witness. The transaction having been duly conducted to the satisfaction of each person, Powell removed his bargain to comfortable apartments, at which she is remaining quite contented. Mrs. Dant, who is about 30 years of age, is of prepossessing appearance. She is supposed to have been married nearly six years. Dant, being satisfied with the transaction, has left the neighbourhood.

WHAT IS THE OCCUPATION OF THIS HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD IN 1841 in GELLIGAER VILLAGE?

Village	Name	Age	Occupation	Notes
	Elann Meredith	55	Toy Shop	✓
	Elizabeth Thomas	20	F. S.	✓
	Ann Hafokin	20	Ballin	✓
	John Morgan	20	Ballin	✓
	William Thomas	15	Ballin	✓
	David Thomas	50	Fanner	✓

1847 BLUE BOOKS REPORT

While this was primarily concerned with education, the report had significant impact especially as the commissioners were highly critical of what they saw as the poor moral and religious attitude of Welsh people, especially the women. This is an extract:

They [Welsh women] learn anything but delicacy of thought and feeling and when they grow to womanhood and marry, they know next to nothing of the management of a house. As wives they are most slovenly and improvinent, and as mothers, ignorant, and injudicious.

And, if you want to read more, this is the link to the full report (all three volumes):

<https://www.library.wales/digital-exhibitions-space/digital-exhibitions/europeana-rise-of-literacy/the-blue-books-reports/report-of-the-commissioners-of-inquiry-into-the-state-of-education-in-wales#?c=&m=&s=&cv=&xywh=-676%2C0%2C4368%2C4741>

And, you may find this of interest also:

1 The Treachery of the Blue Books: The Impact of the 1847 ...

<https://digitalccbeta.coloradocollege.edu/pid/coccc:9855/datastream/OBJ>

There was an outcry and one outcome was the new women's magazine *Y Gymraes*, founded by Evan Jones, a nonconformist minister. Published monthly, for just two years, it carried articles on religion, marriage and morality, as well as advice on housekeeping and cooking. Follow this link to read it <https://journals.library.wales/browse/2901815/>

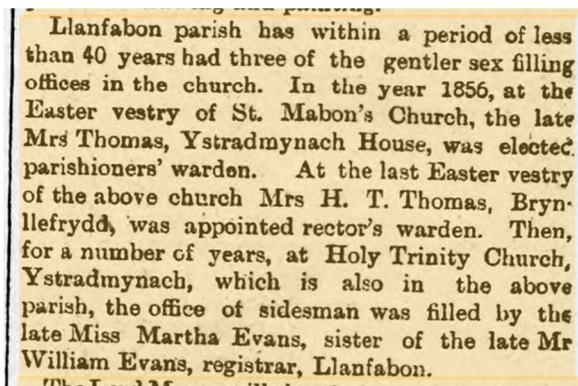
In 1879, Sarah Jane Rees (Cranogwen) edited another Welsh women's journal, *Y Frythones* that lasted to 1891. *Y Gymraes* was revived in 1896 and continued to December 1934.

TREATS FROM YSTRAD FAWR

There are numerous reports in the local press describing treats that emanated from Mrs Thoms of Ystrad Fawr. Forexample:-

- *Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian* 11 October 1867 (page 7) – About 80 children and their mistress walked, with flags and banners, in procession from their school to Ystrad Fawr where Mrs Thomas treated them with tea and cake. After tea, Mrs Kennard and Mrs Crawshay presented them with books and other gifts.
- *Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian* 21 December 1872 (page 7) – Miss Evans decorated the schoolroom where about 100 children and others enjoyed tea and cake provided by Mrs Thomas, Ystrad Fawr. Mrs Thomas, along with other members of her family, attended, and, after the tea, they distributed clothing, toys and other gifts. The event concluded with entertainment.
- *Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian* 2 August 1873 (page 7) – Miss Evans, schoolmistress, decorated the Schoolroom where about 90 children enjoyed Mrs Thomas's tea party. After tea the children received presents (such as clothing, books and toys). Rev. M. Davies, minister of Ystrad church, attended.
- *Western Mail* 11 December 1876 (page 6) – The Schoolroom was decorated with evergreens, hothouse flowers and mottoes for an evening supper party, followed by entertainment, attended by about 40 members and friends of Holy Trinity Church. Ill-health prevented Mrs Thomas from attending, but other members of her family were present at the event presided over by Rev. C. Hume, M.A., Chaplain.

LOCAL WOMEN CHURCH OFFICERS



Llanfabon parish has within a period of less than 40 years had three of the gentler sex filling offices in the church. In the year 1856, at the Easter vestry of St. Mabon's Church, the late Mrs Thomas, Ystradmynach House, was elected parishioners' warden. At the last Easter vestry of the above church Mrs H. T. Thomas, Brynlllefydd, was appointed rector's warden. Then, for a number of years, at Holy Trinity Church, Ystradmynach, which is also in the above parish, the office of sidesman was filled by the late Miss Martha Evans, sister of the late Mr William Evans, registrar, Llanfabon.

This is an extract from *South Wales Daily News*, 29 April 1892, page 4.

Eliza Thomas of Ystrad Fawr, widow of Rev. George Thomas, was daughter of William Crawshay (of Cyfarthfa).

Further research may confirm if Mrs H. T. Thomas was Letitia, wife of farmer, Henry Thomas.

Martha Evans's brother was enumerated at Greyhound Inn, Llanfabon in 1881. Further research may shed light on where Martha lived and when she died.

A TIGER BAY ROMANCE

This extract is taken from *Evening Express* 18 April 1898 (page 2).

A TIGER BAY ROMANCE.

BRIDEMAID BECOMES THE BRIDE.

That picturesque residential quarter of Cardiff known to the world as "Tiger Bay" has always been rich in romance, but perhaps a matrimonial incident which occurred on Saturday will equal any that is to be found in the annals of that locality. The "Bay" is the home of the foreign sailor. Almost every other house is a seaman's boarding-house, and men from every part of the civilised world can here find a temporary home in which their own language is spoken and the customs of their country observed. There, too, reside a large number of attractive young damsels who display an active interest in the welfare of "Jack ashore." It is not, therefore, surprising to learn that in Tiger Bay, as elsewhere, chance acquaintanceship often ripens into friendship, and friendship into love, with the attendant sequels of marriages and broken hearts. It was in this locality, then, that a young German sailor pitched his tent a few days ago, and it was not very long before he had succumbed to the fascination of an attractive young woman. When he delicately turned the conversation on to the subject of matrimony he received proof that his feelings were reciprocated, and the wedding day was fixed for Saturday. The engagement-ring was bought, and so was the bride's

ring was bought, and so was the bride's trousseau, whilst "Jack" himself purchased a brand new light tweed suit, with a sweetly pretty blue and white necktie. Everything appeared to be going swimmingly, but on Friday there occurred a "tiff," and the bride-elect emphatically declared that she would never marry the man to whom she was betrothed. But "Jack" thought lightly of it, and at the appointed hour he presented himself at the registry-office, fully expecting his loved one to be present. But she came not. He waited and waited, and then, at last, so rumour says, at any rate, he declared that one of the bridesmaids should take the place of the absent bride. It was no sooner said than done, and the bridesmaid became the bride. But, strange as the story is so far, it is not all told yet. The married couple, it is said, adjourned to a hostelry in the neighbourhood of the "Bay," and there proceeded to celebrate the wedding by drinking the healths of themselves and all their friends. Then a strange thing happened. Just as the festivities were at their height, who should enter at the front door but the bride that was to be, but wasn't. Whether she had repented or not is not stated, but she was attired in her wedding costume—a light blue dress, with a blue and white hat to match. As far as appearance was concerned, she looked for all the world like a bride, but she was not, if report be true, in a wedding temper. It is even said that she vented her wrath by throwing a quart

she vented her wrath by throwing a quart of beer over one of the principal actors in the romance, but, in any case, it is quite certain that a very lively scene occurred, and it was only when a party of a hundred persons had assembled that the newly-married couple were able to make their way from the hostelry and so escape. They jumped on a tramcar and spent their honeymoon at the Docks.

FOCHRIW CHAIR EISTEDDFOD ESSAY COMPETITION

THE MERTHYR EXPRESS, SATURDAY, APRIL 17th, 1909.

Essay, "Should a woman have a vote?"; prize, 10s. 6d.—Five entries were received, and the prize was divided between Mrs. (Rev.) J. H. Jones, Blaenau Ffestiniog, and Mr. T. R. Davies, Ponllynn.

MOTHER SEIGIL'S SYRUP

WOMEN WHO NAG.

Not long since a physician said he believed that, nine times out of ten, when a woman "nags" she is tired. Tired, mark you, not because of too much work, but too little strength; the physical and mental tire, the fagged-out feeling which is born of indigestion. That makes women shrews, men angry brutes. Indigestion is a sort of starvation, and starving people are seldom pleasant company. The cure is food—food eaten with a relish and digested perfectly, just as a perfect mill grinds grain.

When your stomach is out of order it cannot do perfect work. Stagnant food ferments and gives off poisons, instead of the rich nourishment that goes to build up and sustain good blood, muscle, nerve and bone. This poison first taints the blood and is thus carried by it all through the body, dulling the brain and producing biliousness, constipation, dizziness, wind and pains in the stomach, loss of appetite. Mrs. Maria Peacock, of Flamstead, near Dunstable, wrote not long ago, saying:—

"It is now between 17 and 18 years since I first used Mother Seigel's Syrup. My complaint was indigestion. My appetite was poor, the slightest exertion fatigued me, and I was always drowsy—particularly after eating. Sometimes I was so dizzy that I was in danger of falling. However, a few bottles of Mother Seigel's Syrup thoroughly freed me of these ailments. I have never since been troubled with indigestion, but I have often given the Syrup to my children for their ordinary ailments and always with good results."

Mother Seigel's Syrup is made of the curative extracts of certain roots, barks and leaves. It cures in the healthy, natural way, by toning and strengthening the organs of digestion. It makes food nourish you and thus builds health on good digestion. The 2s. 6d. bottle contains three times as much as the 1s. 1½d. size.

Prepared also in Tablet form as "Mother Seigel's Syrup Tablets." Price 2s. 9d.

INSPECTOR OF MIDWIVES.—Nurse R. A. Thompson, the inspector of midwives under the Corporation, has just completed her report for May, which states that she visited twelve midwives, and found all satisfactory. Letters were sent to eighteen, inviting them to attend lectures given by Dr. Ward. During the month she visited 28 school children, who suffered from various skin diseases and neglect, and gave instructions as to their treatment. All advice was observed with good results. Nurse Thompson also reported:—"412 births were notified during the last two months; 273 visits were paid to the homes of infants. 18 were registered and not notified. In 13 cases 5 were attended by midwives from Fochriw, 1 from Bedlinog, 3 by a woman at Dowlais, 3 by a woman at Penydarren Pits, Cwmbargoed; and one by a Spanish woman at Penydarren. A few months ago I reported a case at Dowlais, the children being frail and in a very neglected condition. Several re-visits have been paid, and my recommendations observed. The children are very much improved and are now in a well-nourished condition. During inspection work at Dowlais I came across a case of neglect and very dirty premises, and one case at Merthyr. The children were sadly neglected, the house, also, being in a filthy condition. I reported the cases to the Sanitary Inspector of the district and Inspector Starr, of the N.S.P.C.C."

This advertisement for Mother Seigel's Syrup is taken from *Merthyr Express* 24 April 1909 (page 11).

This was one of many patent medicines advertised in newspapers in the later nineteenth century and early twentieth century as remedies for a variety of ailments. They were usually trademarked but not actually patented so their formulae were kept secret. The newly-literate (after the introduction of compulsory elementary education) often accepted the claims without knowing the actual effectiveness or the potential harmful side effects in an era without consumer protection laws and evidence-based medicine.

THREE WOMEN LISTED AMONG GUARDIANS

Extract from *Aberdare Leader* 8 May 1909 (page 3).

Further research may reveal the identities of Mesdames Evans, Richards and Williams.

Merthyr Board of Guardians.

On Saturday. Present: Revs. J. H. Davies, J. O'Reilly, W. S. Davies, D. L. Jones, J. D. Rees, W. A. Jones, T. Rees, Ll. M. Williams, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Williams, Messrs. D. Evans (Merthyr), D. Evans (Hirwain), Idris Davies, T. T. Jenkins, J. Price, J.P., D. Edwards, H. Lewis, W. Hiley, S. Thomas, Meth Davies, H. Jones, D. Davies, J.P., W. Harris, T. Hedge, Augustus Davies, Rd. Rees, Morgan Williams, T. E. Morgan, J. Prowle, J. Rogers, D. Hughes, W. Davies, R. Rees (Aberdare), R. Rees (Rhigos), T. B. Greateorex, J. Jones, D. Hopkins, E. Edwards, J. Aurelius, T. Andrews, J.P., with Messrs. F. T. James (clerk) and J. L. Morris (deputy clerk).

OFFICERS APPOINTED.—ABERDARE LABOUR MEMBER SELECTED VICE-CHAIRMAN.

Mr. D. Hopkins, Gelligaer, was appointed to the chair in succession to the Rev. J. Hathren Davies.

Mr. Hopkins, in thanking for the honour conferred upon him, referred to the impending doom of Boards of Guardians.

INSPECTION OF MIDWIVES

Nurse R. A. Thompson's report included some northern parts of Gelligaer parish. (*Merthyr Express*, 5 June 1909, page 6)

Advice on Marriage.
TO YOUNG LADIES.

1. Do not marry at all.
2. But if you must avoid the Beauty Men, Flirts, and the Bounders, Tailor's Dummies, and the Football Enthusiasts.
3. Look for a Strong, Tame Man, a Fire-lighter, Coal-getter, Window Cleaner, and Yard Swiller.
4. Don't expect too much, most men are lazy, selfish, thoughtless, lying, drunken, clumsy, heavy-footed, rough, unmanly brutes, and need taming.
5. All Bachelors are, and many are worse still.
6. If you want him to be happy, Feed the Brute.
7. The same remark applies to Dogs.
8. You will be wiser not to chance it, it isn't worth the risk.

A SUFFRAGETTE WIFE.

A.P. 1.

No. 125.

SUFFRAGETTE PAMPHLET

Pontypridd Museum <https://www.pontypriddmuseum.wales/>

Dated 1911.

The Monmouth Guardian, Friday, June 2nd, 1916

DEATH AND BURIAL OF A NOTED DERI LADY.

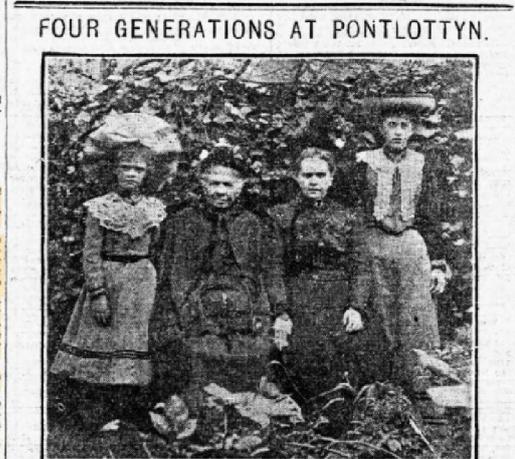
.....
 We much regret having to record this week the death and burial of Mrs. Watkins the much esteemed wife of Mr E. Watkins, Ysgwyddgwyn Farm, Deri. The deceased lady was one of the best known characters not only in Deri, but throughout the whole Parish of Gelligaer, and a still wider area. She was an ideal farmer's wife, and one of that untiring class of workers now so rapidly passing away. Her genial disposition at all times, notwithstanding her arduous labours, endeared her to a very wide circle of friends. Her faithful attendance at the Welsh Baptist cause at Tabernacle, Deri, linked her up with a host of acquaintances. Not only in religious work, but in social and commercial life she had endeared herself to all with whom she came in contact. Only a few weeks ago we had the pleasure of recording the marriage of her Councillor Jenkin Edwards, Bedlinog Farm. Following upon this the deceased lady visited Neath, where she was suddenly taken ill and died within a few days. The body was conveyed to Hengoed on

Tuesday for interment at the Cefn Hengoed Burial Ground. There being a large and representative gathering present which amply testified to the esteem in which deceased was held.

Amongst the mourners were Mr. E. Watkins (husband), Mrs. and Lieut. J. Edwards, Bedlinog (daughter and son-in-law), Mr. E. Watkins (son), Mr. and Mrs. D. Hopkins (Neath), Messrs. Lewis (Plas, Brithdir), D. Watkins, W. Rees (Cillay, Swansea), Mr. Thomas (Bedlinog), T. D. Morgan (Blaenavon), W. Watkins (Allt, Dolygaer), M. Williams (Merthyr), —, Thomas (Dowlais), M. Richards (Talybont) W. Watkins and D. Watkins (Gilfachmaen), Mr. and Mrs. Owen (Cefncoed), Mr. and Mrs. Edwards (Garth, Pant). Amongst others present were Dr. McCarthy (Deri), Councillors Jenkin Edwards (Bedlinog), W. J. Giles (Deri), Messrs. H. Perrott (Hengoed), G. Evans (Bedlinog), D. Richards (Gweraa), R. Jarman (Llanbradach), Rd. Davies (Brynmynach), Geo. Uzzell, T. Price (Ystradmynach), W. Thomas (deacons, Tabernacle), W. Jenkins (Bryncech), W. Evans, D. Thomas (choirmaster), Jas. Davies (Bargoed). The officiating ministers were Revs. R. Evans (Hengoed), E. Williams (Tabernacle), T. Deri Jones, M. Morton (Bedlinog). The funeral arrangements were ably carried out by Mr. E. Phillips, Deri.

FOUR GENERATIONS AT PONTLOTTYN

Today, many families have four (or more) generations alive at the same time, but a century and more ago, this was not so common. This family photograph, taken from *Evening Express* July 9 1909, records one example in early twentieth century Pontlottyn. Although there was no accompanying detailed article in the newspaper, the four females in the photograph were named as Mrs Mary Bevan, then aged 87, Mrs Elizabeth Saunders, 55, Mrs



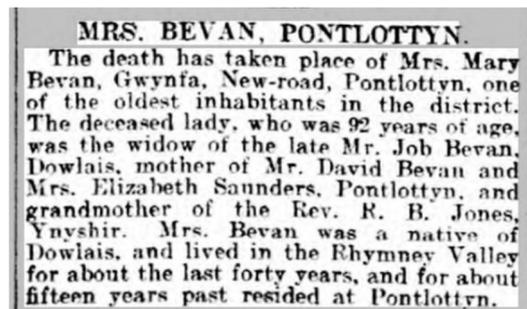
Above we give an interesting photograph of a family group at Pontlottyn. The names and ages are Mrs. Mary Bevan (87), Mrs. Elizabeth Saunders (55), Mrs. Maggie Isaac (51), and Miss Annie Saunders (12).
 The accompanying photograph gives only one case of the kind to be found in the Shymney Valley. Mrs. Bevan is over 80 years of age, and her memory and intellect are four ladies live at Pontlottyn—probably the unimpaired.

Maggie Isaac, 31 and Miss Annie Saunders, 12, who, at the time, all lived in Pontlottyn.

Mary Bevan, née Lloyd (1823-1914)

Born in Dowlais about 1823 and daughter of a collier, Mary was a labourers, presumably in the local coal or iron industry, when she was enumerated in the family home in Pen Waun Fawr in 1841. She was married before the next census was taken when she, her husband, Job Bevan, a coal and iron patchman, together with their two young daughters, were in her father's Twynywaun household. The Bevan family, extended with the births of three sons, were in their own household in Twynywaun when the 1861 census was taken but, as part of the page is missing, it is unclear how Job Bevan earned a living and whether or not his daughters were in employment- Job Bevan was described as a contractor when, at the time of the 1871 census, he headed a household at Farm House, Twynywaun, that included his wife, three sons and a lodger but not the two daughters. It is not clear when the Bevan family moved south but when Job Bevan died, March 31 1879, he was a contractor living at Brithdir Uchaf (according to the probate index).

When the 1881 census was taken, Mary was farming 165 acres at Pengam, Bedwellty, and employing two of her sons, three male farm labourers and a female dairy maid. It is not clear how long the Bevan family was engaged in farming but, on census night a decade later, Mary Bevan was visiting widow Elizabeth Williams (possibly her sister) in 12 Cross Blanche Street, Dowlais, while both sons were coal miners. She probably moved to Pontlottyn about 1899 and, when the 1901 census was taken, she was living in 25, Greenfield Street, in a household of two, headed by her unmarried son, William. A decade later, she was in 20, Edmund Street, home of her married son, David. This obituary, taken from *Western Mail* 11 November 1914, shows that she died in Gwynfa (where her daughter, Elizabeth, was living when the 1911 census was taken).



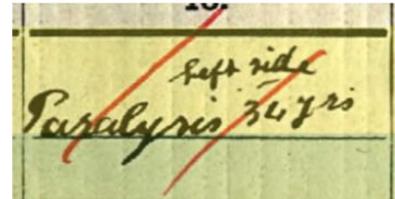
Elizabeth Saunders, née Bevan (1846-19??)

Born in Dowlais about 1846, Elizabeth, the older of Mary's two daughters, was (as noted above) in her maternal grandparents' home when the 1851 census was taken, and a decade later, in a household headed by her father. She married David Saunders in 1869, and, when the 1871 census was taken, the couple, together their infant son, Rees, were in Church Street, Pontlottyn, a property that was the family's home for some decades. Elizabeth's family increased as children Margaret (Maggie) and Job were born before the 1881 census was taken, and daughter, Mary Gertrude was born about 1884. A coal miner when the 1881 census was taken, David Saunders was described as *China and paperhanging dealer* in the 1891 census return. His entrepreneurial activity reflected

contemporary society and women's desire to make their homes as comfortable and attractive as possible (so well illustrated by the reconstructed Rhydycar Cottages <https://museum.wales/stfagans/buildings/rhydycar/>). Elizabeth saw further change in the next decade as, by the time of the 1901 census, he was a life insurance agent and they were living in Merchant Street, while son Job, was in the Church Street dwelling. It is unclear when David Saunders died, but, in 1911, widow, Elizabeth, was housekeeper in Gwynfa, Fochriw Road, home of her younger daughter. Further research may shed light on when and where Elizabeth Saunders died

Maggie Isaac, née Saunders (1878-19??)

Born in 1878, **Margaret (Maggie)**, older daughter of David Saunders and his wife, Elizabeth, was in the family home, 1 Church Street, Pontlottyn, when the 1881 and 1891 censuses were taken. She married Evan Isaac in 1898 and, when the 1901 census was taken, Evan Isaac, a house painter, headed a household comprising his wife and infant son, David, in 50 High Street, Rhymney. A decade later and the same three people were enumerated in 18 Queen's Crescent, Rhymney. The 1911 census return adds further information: three of the four children born to them had died and this entry, appearing in the column for infirmity, explains why Evan Isaac did not have an occupation at the time. It is likely that Evan Isaac was the 35-year-old who died some weeks later. Research to date has not confirmed if widow, Maggie, was the



Margaret Isaac who married Thomas Jones in 1915, and if they were the couple at 13, Penydre, Rhymney, (a household including widowed and incapacitated David Isaac, born 1899) listed in the 1939 Register.

Annie Gertrude Spicer, née Saunders (1896-1949)

Annie Saunders was in the family home, 1, Church Street, when the 1901 census was taken, and 20, Tynewydd Street, Pontlottyn, when the 1911 census was taken. Daughter of Job Saunders and his wife Rebecca (née Havard), Annie was probably the oldest granddaughter of Elizabeth Bevan. Her marriage to Charles Henry Spicer was registered in Bedwellty registration district in March quarter 1920. A grocer's haulier seeking employment, Charles Henry Spicer headed a household in 124 High Street, Caerphilly, which included his wife and children (for some of whom the *record is officially closed*) when the 1939 Register was compiled. It is not clear when they went to Canada but Annie was buried in Woodland Cemetery, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, in 1949, and her husband in 1960.

HOW MANY OF THESE CAN PRESENT DAY FEMALE MEMBERS OF GHS TICK?

A girl's education is most incomplete unless she has learnt—

- To sew.
- To cook.
- To mend.
- To be gentle.
- To value time.
- To dress neatly.
- To keep a secret.
- To avoid idleness.
- To be self-reliant.
- To darn stockings.
- To respect old age.
- To make good bread.
- To keep a house tidy.
- To be above gossiping.
- To make home happy.
- To control her temper.
- To take care of the sick.
- To take care of the baby.
- To sweep down cobwebs.
- To marry a man for his worth.
- To read the very best of books.
- To take plenty of active exercise.
- To be a helpmate to her husband.
- To keep clear of trashy literature.
- To be light-hearted and fleet-footed.
- To be a womanly woman under all circumstances.

THIS WAS PUBLISHED IN
GLAMORGAN GAZETTE
ON 5 APRIL 1907

TWO FEMALE SCHOOL GOVERNORS OF 1890s

In 1883, Gelligaer School Board opened a Higher Grade School in Pontlottyn. Initially accommodated in a room near Pontlottyn church, the school moved to purpose-built premises in Pontlottyn in 1886. The Intermediate Education Act of 1889 made it possible to provide secondary education for girls. In 1896, the Higher Grade School closed and Gelligaer Girls' County School, staffed by headmistress, Miss H. Jones, and assistant mistress, Miss M. A. Jones, opened in the same premises. There is further information about these schools and their successors in Hengoed (1900-1959) and Ystrad Mynach (since 1959) in the following:-

- <http://www.lewisgirlsschool.com/about-2/history>
- Glamorgan Archives -- D53/1, ECG/22 and ECG/34
- The National Archives, Kew – ED27/6541, ED35/3243B, ED35/6972, ED109/8145, ED 109/8153, BD50/638
- *Our heritage: memories of Lewis Girls' School 1729-1998*, by Jan Thomas (1999)

The formal opening of Gelligaer Girls' County School was reported in *South Wales Daily News*, December 1 1896:

- Rev. Aaron Davies chaired the meeting.
- Miss Hughes of the Normal Department (i.e. teacher training department) of the South Wales University College, presented prizes to pupils of the former Higher Grade School for Girls.
- The governors of the new school included two ladies:
 - Mrs D. Hughes of Pontlottyn
 - Mrs Kate Thomas of Bedlinog.

The latter was also mentioned in a report on the school's prize distribution in *South Wales Daily News*, December 16 1898.

Who was Mrs D. Hughes of Pontlottyn? Born in 1860, Mrs D. Hughes was Jane, daughter of Thomas Jones, farmer of Dan y Pentre, Gelligaer, and his wife Rachael. Jane, together with six older siblings, was in the family home when the 1861 census was taken. The family was extended with the birth of her brother John in 1862. Jane was not in the family home at the time of the 1871 census but she may have been the 11-year-old scholar enumerated at Rhos y Fedw (if so, researches to date do not explain why she was there rather than at Dan y Pentre). She was married before the 1881 census when, described as a *school mistress*, she was with her school master husband, their infant daughter and her husband's sister in Gelligaer School House.

Her husband, David Hopkins, was in his family home near Loughor when the 1861 and 1871 censuses were taken. In the former he was a 6-year-old scholar, but by the time of the latter he was a pupil-teacher (the usual way of preparing for a career in the teaching profession at the time). Press reports (*Cardiff Times* July 8 1876 and *Monmouthshire Merlin* December 7 1877) show David Hopkins to have been an effective teacher, who was, perhaps, too harsh with discipline on occasion.

GELLIGAER.

SCHOOL BOARD.—At the last meeting of the Gelligaer School Board the clerk read a letter from the Education Department, stating that, while accepting the report of the managers of the Gelligaer village school as part of the certificates on account of Mr. David Hopkins, their lordships observed that the managers stated that the blow which he gave to a lad named Evan Thomas, caused a slight blue mark behind the boy's ear. Their lordships thought the opportunity should be taken of cautioning Mr. Hopkins against the exercise of any undue severity in the maintenance of discipline.—The Chairman submitted a long letter, which it was agreed should be forwarded to the Education Department, urging the necessity of making additional school provision at Newtown.

GELLIGAER.

THE VILLAGE BOARD SCHOOL.—The report of H.M. Inspector as regards the "Gelligaer Village Board School" was received a few days ago, and it runs as follows:—"The results of the examination, which are very good throughout, show that the children have been well and carefully instructed during the thirteen months the school has been opened. The tone and order of the school are also very good." The grant earned is £130 6s 6d. The result of the examination reflects great credit on Mr Hopkins, the schoolmaster. The annual examinations of all the schools under the control of the Gelligaer School Board have taken place, and the result in each case has been most satisfactory.

In 1885, Jane had a son, and it is likely that she and her husband, and their two children moved to Pontlottyn soon after. They were in Pontlottyn Schoolmaster's House when the 1891 census was taken and Jane was described as *certificated mistress*. School log books and Gelligaer School Board minutes, as well as reports in the local press, may shed more light on her teaching career. Both she

and her husband seem to have been involved with a range of activities in Pontlottyn, but her involvement was cut short by her death April 7 1898. Her husband remained in Pontlottyn and her daughter married school teacher John Penry Williams, grandson of the Pontlottyn nonconformist minister of the same name.

Who was Mrs Kate Thomas of Bedlinog? Researches by GHS member, Carwyn Hughes, identified this lady governor as Catherine Elizabeth Thomas, née Daniel. Born in Tywyn, Merionethshire, she was daughter of Owen Daniel (an auctioneer) and his wife, Rachel. She, and her siblings, were in the family home in Tywyn's High Street when the 1871 and 1881 censuses were taken. In the latter, she was described as a scholar, and was probably attending a local school. Research to date has not shed any light on her life during the following decade but perhaps she attended a teacher training college (maybe in Bristol) as, when the 1891 census was taken she was listed as a 23-year-old visitor and school mistress in 3 Friday Street, Minehead. At the same time, her 21-year-old sister was a governess in the home of retired Lieutenant Colonel Reginald H. Thurslow, Hall, Little Horkesley, Essex, while their parents, older sister and four younger siblings, were in the family home, Brynhyfryd, Tywyn.

Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard, January 31 1896, carried a report on the wedding of Catherine Daniel and Thomas Clement Thomas. The ceremony, on January 16 1896, by licence, at Sandown, Isle of Wight, was conducted by Rev. D. M. Brynner (second husband to her father's sister) and Rev. Aaron Davies (one of the leading nonconformist ministers and educationalists in Gelligaer parish at the time).

Thomas Clement Thomas was born in Pontardulais about 1861. When the 1881 census was taken, he was a school master, lodging in Quarry Street, Bedlinog. Presumably he moved into School House when it was built and that was his home when the 1891, 1901 and 1911 censuses were taken. Married in 1896, his household in 1901 comprised his wife, 3-month-old daughter, and one of his wife's sisters (*a hospital nurse*) as well as a live-in domestic servant. They had a second daughter in 1905, and his household in 1911 was made up of his wife, two daughters, his sister-in-law (then a *Technical Lecturer*) and a live-in domestic servant.

Sadly, Kate was widowed when Thomas Clement Thomas died, aged 57, February 28 1918.

**GRAVESTONE IN HOLY TRINITY CHURCHYARD,
YSTRAD MYNACH**

This gravestone, in Holy Trinity Churchyard, Ystrad Mynach, is inscribed:

LADY ALICE HELEN PIERREPONT
Daughter of 4th Earl Manvers
Born 30 August 1889



Died 8 March 1969
AND HER DEVOTED FRIEND
AGNES LILIA JENKINS
1890-1972

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Daughter of Charles William Sydney Pierrepont, Viscount Newark, and, later, 4th Earl Manvers, and his wife, Helen, **Alice Helen Pierrepont** was born in London on 30 August 1889. She was in the family home, The Hall, Holme Pierrepont, Newark, Nottinghamshire, when the 1891 census was taken, and, after her father became 4th Earl Manvers (in 1900), Thoresby Park, Ollerton, Newark (1901 and 1911 censuses). Her brother, Evelyn Robert, suffered a mental breakdown when he was just 17, and, following her father's death in 1926, the estates were administered by a trust, until Evelyn Robert died in 1940, when his cousin, Gervas, succeeded to the title. She was in her cousin's household at Thoresby Park when the 1939 Register was compiled but she had an address in Kensington, London, at the time of her death, 8 March 1969.

Born on 6 December 1890, **Agnes Lilia Jenkins** was daughter of Edgar Harris Jenkins (who was grandson of Rev. E. C. Jenkins) and his wife, Matilda Helen. Her father was a coal miner, who, by the time of the 1911 census, had become a colliery clerk. Agnes Lilia was in the family home in Fleur-de-Lys when the 1891 census was taken. The family probably moved to Pontlottyn about 1895-7, and was in 6, Wine Street, Pontlottyn, when the 1901 census was taken. Her older sister, Edith, described as *partially paralysed*, died aged 15, in 1904. Perhaps, this inspired Agnes Lilia to enter the nursing profession. Her family was in New Tredegar when the 1911 census was taken, but Agnes Lilia was a 21-year-old *Probationer Nurse* in King's Norton Union Infirmary, Selly Oak, near Birmingham. Sources studied to date do not shed any light on her life and career during the following decades, nor when, where and how she met Alice Helen Pierrepont. The 1939 Register shows them at Thoresby House, in a household headed by Gervas E. Pierrepont that included his wife, Marie-Louise, as well as unmarried Alice Helen Pierrepont, and Agnes Lilia Jenkins, described as *companion*. Probate records show that Agnes Lilia Jenkins died, on 3 September 1972, in Wadebridge, Cornwall, leaving an estate of £15,647.

MARY ANNE EDWARDS (1891 – 1961)



Born 14 May 1891 at 7 Chapel Street, Deri, Mary Anne Edwards was the older of the two daughters of John Edwards and his wife, Mary, née Hopkins. She was educated at the local school and was listed in the family home at the time of the 1901 and 1911 censuses. Aged 22, she married John Owen on 20 August 1913 at St Catwg's Church, Gelligaer. They brought up their two daughters in

Deri. Research to date has not shed much light on her life and work but it is assumed that she played the traditional role of a wife and mother in Deri. She was a member of the local church community, becoming a member of Deri branch of Mothers' Union on 27 September 1932. As one of the first generation of women able to vote in national as well as local elections, Mary Ann's name appeared on post World War I electoral registers. It is likely that she was more acquainted with local political issues than many of her contemporaries as her father, John Edwards, was actively involved in local politics. Dying at her home, 69 New Road, Deri, on 13 January 1961, she predeceased her husband. She was buried in Gelligaer Churchyard.

ESSEX.
YE ARE MY WITNESSES

THE MOTHERS' UNION
(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1906.
Founded by MARY SUMNER.)

THE OBJECTS.

- 1.—To uphold the Sanctity of Marriage.*
- 2.—To awaken in all Mothers a sense of their great responsibility in the training of their boys and girls—the Fathers and Mothers of the Future.
- 3.—To organise in every place a band of Mothers who will unite in prayer and seek by their own example to lead their families in purity and holiness of life.

* In the words "to uphold the Sanctity of Marriage," The Mothers' Union affirms the Christian principle of the permanence of the relationship between husband and wife.

THE MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER.

To be said daily.

O Lord, fill us with Thy Holy Spirit, that we may firmly believe in Jesus Christ, and love Him with all our hearts. Wash our souls in His Precious Blood. Make us to hate sin, and to be holy in thought, word and deed. Help us to be faithful wives and loving mothers. Bless us and all who belong to the Mothers' Union, unite us together in love and prayer, and teach us to train our children for Heaven. Pour out Thy Holy Spirit on our husbands and children. Make our homes Homes of Peace and Love, and may we so live on earth, that we may live with Thee for ever in Heaven: for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

I ACKNOWLEDGE that by my marriage vow I have pledged myself to love, to help, and to be faithful to my Husband till death us do part.

I ACKNOWLEDGE that my children have been made Members of Christ in Holy Baptism, and dedicated body and soul to His Service, and that it is my duty so to train them that they may continue His faithful Soldiers and servants unto their lives' end.

Diocese Admitted by *J. J. White Head*

Branch Deri Member's Signature *Mary A. Owen*

Enrolling Member *Lucy Roberts* Date *27 Sept 1932*

FOR COMMUNICANT MEMBERS

I ACKNOWLEDGE that it is my privilege and duty to receive the Holy Communion regularly and faithfully, and to lead my children to Confirmation.

God grant that I may so use the means of Grace, that united to God through our Lord Jesus Christ, and being continually strengthened and refreshed with the Spiritual Food of His most Blessed Body and Blood I may fulfil my duty as a faithful wife and a wise and loving Mother in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I WILL ENDEAVOUR by God's help:—

To be, myself, steadfast in Prayer and Bible reading and to teach my children to be the same.

To lead my family to hallow God's Day, to worship regularly in His House of Prayer, and to study our Holy Christian Faith.

To defend my home from the dangers of intemperance, betting, gambling, bad language and other evils, and to teach obedience, self-control, truthfulness and honour.

God grant that the Presence of our Lord Jesus Christ may be a glowing reality in my home.

"I can do all things through CHRIST which strengtheneth me."

THANKS BE TO GOD.

AMY L WHITCOMBE

This name, the only female name on local war memorials (according to research to date), is on the Ystrad Mynach and Hengoed war memorial.

The following information is taken from CWGC website:-

Rank: Worker

Service No: 36023

Date of Death: 03/11/1918

Age: 24

Regiment/Service: Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps S. C. Convalescent Hosp., Plymouth.

Grave Reference Church LA. 5. 28.

Cemetery PLYMOUTH (FORD PARK) CEMETERY

Additional Information: Daughter of Edward Charles and Emma Whitcombe, of 17, Alexandra Road, Hengoed.

There are further details about the family background and war service of Amy Laura Whitcombe in *Local women during WWI* in *Gelligaer* volume 23 Great War commemorative journal 2 (2016).



1939 GOLDEN WEDDING CELEBRATED IN PONTLOTTYN

GOLDEN WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. William M. Evans, of Edmund-street, Pontlottyn, celebrate their golden wedding to-day.

Mr. Evans is a native of Newbridge-on-Wye, Breconshire, and Mrs. Evans, of Pantywaun. They now reside with their only surviving daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Jones, Edmund-street.

Both are members of St. Tyfaelog Parish Church. Mr. Evans is a sidesman, parochial church councillor, and Sunday school treasurer.

This report on the Golden Wedding of William Morgan Evans and his wife, Mary, is taken from *Western Mail* 4 March 1939. At the time of the 1911 census, William was a coal miner heading a household in the 5-roomed dwelling, 35, Edmund Street, whose household included their two children, Mary Jane and Annie, born in Pantywaun about 1891 and 1895 respectively, (sadly, their son, Thomas, born about 1889, had died) as well as a 52-year old cousin, and nephew and niece aged 11 and 9.. They were still in the same house when the 1939 Register was compiled. By then, William, born on 31 August 1866, was described as a *retired colliery hewer*. Mary, born on 26 May 1870, may have been helped by her married daughter, Mary Jane, to run the house. Their son-in-law, Daniel Jones, was a coal miner.

CAERPHILLY BY-ELECTION

WOMEN'S ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FOR MR. BELL

POLLING DAY, JULY 4

Candidates :
Mr. Ronald Bell (Nat. Government)
Mr. Ness Edwards (Socialist)

The campaign in support of Mr. Ronald Bell, the National Government candidate for Caerphilly, is proceeding satisfactorily, and now that the organisation is complete throughout; the division encouraging reports are being received from all parts of the district.

The meetings of the women's sections are well attended and are full of enthusiasm.

Mr. Bell on Wednesday attended several women's meetings at Ystrad-mynach and Bargoed, being supported by Councillor W. F. Rowland, J.P. (chairman of the Caerphilly Conservative and Unionist Association), Mrs. Hilbourne, Mrs. L. J. Hayward (Cardiff), Miss D. V. Wright, Mrs. Trevor Watkins, Miss Mary Parry, J.P. (Bargoed), and Mr. Harry West.

It is necessary to refute a report circulated by the opposition that Mr. Bell failed to attend a meeting at Ystrad-mynach.

The statement is untrue because the candidate attended and had a good reception.

Mr. Bell on Wednesday also addressed meetings at Penyrheol, Trecenydd, and Caerphilly, and was supported by Councillor C. Stuart Hallinan (Cardiff), Mr. Guy Sixsmith, Mr. David Evans (Rhondda), Mr. W. H. Parris, and others.

Mr. Bell declared that there must be no weakness in the front against aggression, and that only through peace could social progress be ensured.

GOVERNMENT'S WORK

CAERPHILLY BY-ELECTION 4 JULY 1939

Following the untimely death of Morgan Jones, M.P., 4 July 1939 saw a by-election in Caerphilly constituency.

This extract, taken from *Western Mail* 29 June 1939 (page 7) includes the names of several local women who supported Ronald Bell, National Government candidate. Maybe, some readers are able to shed light on the identities of these ladies.

The item below appeared on the same page. Perhaps this is the type of tractor that was widely used by Britain's WWII Land Girls in the following years.

All-British Tractor That Any Girl Could Handle

From Our Own Correspondent

LONDON, Wednesday.

Representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Farmers' Union watched a demonstration at Chorleywood, Herts, today of a new all-British "two-seater" tractor with which, it is hoped, to capture for this country the Empire market.

Known after its originator as the "David Brown" tractor, the machine has been introduced at an opportune moment when great efforts are being made to increase both the actual and potential supply of home-grown food.

At a luncheon prior to the demonstration Mr. David Brown, managing director of David Brown Tractors, Ltd., Huddersfield, claimed that a new all-British tractor was something of an event, especially in view of the predominance of the foreigner in the tractor market. During the last few years the company had built a number of tractors and acquired a good deal of experience. This new machine was the result of that experience, plus a large amount of market research into the needs of the farmer.

It had several unique features. Fitted with self-starting and lighting it could be handled by any girl. He could claim that here was an all-British tractor made by an all-British company, which could compete both in performance and price with the best the foreigner could produce.

EMPIRE PURCHASES

Mr. Walter L. Hill, general manager of the company, said that last year the Empire purchased more than 40,000 tractors, over 99 per cent. of which were of foreign manufacture, nearly all the balance being made by companies operating within the Empire, but of foreign origin. To find a parallel for the present position of the British tractor industry they had to go back to the plight of the British motor industry 20 years ago. Lord Nuffield remedied that. In Mr. David Brown the country was fortunate in having a man who was equally determined on getting a fair share for Britain of the rapidly increasing demand for tractors and allied products.

Visitors were specially impressed by the lightness of the steering and the stability of the tractor, combined with a mobility which enabled it to operate in areas too small for a horse to work.

LOCAL WOMEN 1940s

Two extracts from *Western Mail*, 25 April 1940 (page 3)

Nurse's Visits.—Mrs F. L. Hayes, secretary of the Ystradmynach, Hengoed, and District Nursing Association, reported at the annual meeting on Wednesday that Nurse Lloyd had made 2,691 visits during the year. There was a deficit of £27 on the year.

Comforts.—Bargoed British Legion Women's Section comforts knitting party has sent 500 garments to the headquarters of the British Legion, and given 170 garments to local men serving with the Colours. Mrs. W. Scott is organiser and Mrs. C. Bussell secretary.

LATE MRS. E. EVANS, TRETTHOMAS

Mrs. Elizabeth Evans, of 12, Bryngwyn, Tretthomas, formerly for many years a nurse at Pontlottyn, was buried on Thursday at Graig Cemetery, Rhymney Bridge. The Rev. D. J. Evans, Pontlottyn, officiated, assisted by the Revs. J. R. Salmon, Glyn Jones, and Gomer James. Alderman W. A. Hancock, J.P., Pontlottyn, spoke at the graveside.

Chief mourners: Messrs. Tom Phillips and Moses Phillippe (brothers); Emrys Phillippe (nephew); John Thomas, Rhymney; (brother-in-law); L. H. Phillippe, Carmarthen; B. Morse, W. H. Phillippe, I. Thomas, Haydn Thomas, Rhymney (nephews); Dan Prosser and David Prosser (cousins).

Funeral arrangements by D. J. Evans and Sons, Ltd., Gabalfa, Centon, and Caerphilly.

Death of a Pontlottyn nurse (*Western Mail*, 18 October 1940, page 3)

Welsh Nurse Stays at Her Post in Burma

Among nurses who chose to remain at the only permanent British Military Hospital in Lower Burma is Sister Iris Bennett-Jones, of 83, Gilfach-street, Bargoed. The



Sister I. Bennett-Jones.

hospital is 12 miles from Rangoon. Miss Bennett-Jones, an old pupil of Bargoed Secondary School, after training at Birmingham General Hospital, became an X-ray Sister at Mountain Ash Hospital. Subsequently she was at Hitchin Hospital and later at a private nursing home at Swansea. When war broke out she volunteered to serve with the Forces and proceeded to Burma. A recent cablegram from her said: "Safe and well. Please don't worry."

In her last letter, dated December 8, she wrote: "There are heaps of Welsh boys here now—Air Force and Army—majority from North Wales, but quite a number from South. We had a nice boy in last week from Pontypridd and one from Cardiff."

"I gave them my "Weekly Mail" to read this morning. If I had given them £5 they would not have been more pleased."

Unfortunately, this extract from *Western Mail* 23 February 1942 (page 3) is difficult to read. It is about Sister Iris Bennett-Jones of 83, Gilfach Street, Bargoed. A past pupil of Bargoed Secondary School, she had trained in Birmingham General Hospital before working in Mountain Ash, Hitchin and Swansea. On the outbreak of war, she volunteered to serve with the Forces and was sent to Burma. In her most recent letter home, dated 8 December, she wrote:

There are heaps of Welsh boys here now -- Air Force and army – majority from North wales, but quite a number from South. We had a nice boy in last week from Pontypridd and one from Cardiff.

I gave them my "Weekly Mail" to read this morning. If I had given them £5 they would not have been more pleased.

And this extract from *Western Mail* 6 February 1943 (page 3) refers to a fund-raising drama.

Victory Queen. — Miss Joyce Mullet, of Gilfach Bargoed, has been chosen as victory queen for the Bargoed carnival on August 4 to celebrate the victory of the war in Europe.

This extract about a WWII Victory Carnival is taken from *Western Mail*, 19 July 1945 (page 3)

OTHER WOMEN'S HISTORY IN GHS PUBLICATIONS

A number of GHS publications, both community studies and family studies, include sections on the lives and work of local women, and the following have an emphasis on women.

Gelligaer Volume	TITLE	Contributor
26, 2019	<i>Doris' Story: or the Years Between</i>	Doris Evans and Amanda Gregory
25, 2018	<i>I went to Ypres to unveiling of Menin Gate</i>	Royston Smith
	<i>Wartime work with Scottish Women's Hospital</i>	Annie Owen
	<i>Three great aunts in the World War I era</i>	Marlene Chard-Shaw
24, 2017	<i>Madame Betty & Chateau Bourblanc a true story of many parts</i>	Menna Hughes
23, 2016	<i>Local women during WWI</i>	Annie Owen and Judith Jones

21, 2014	<i>Gwenllian Lewis, Nursing in the T.F.N.S.</i>	Judith Jones
	<i>Nurse Rose Smith</i>	Annie Owen
17, 2009	<i>Some Local Women</i>	Annie Owen
	<i>A Bargoed Lady's Reminiscences. Princess as Nurse</i>	Thomas F. Holley

**IF YOU HAVE COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS ON WOMEN'S HISTORY,
OR YOU HAVE SOME INTERESTING FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS OR STORIES
FOR INCLUSION IN A FUTURE SUPPLEMENT**

PLEASE CONTACT

www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk or chairmen@gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk