



GELLIGAER TIMES
NEWSLETTER OF GELLIGAER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Issue No. 44 MAY 2020

PRESIDENT'S CENTENARY SUPPLEMENT
FOLLOWED BY SHORT ITEMS ON HEALTH



CONGRATULATORY COVER PHOTOGRAPH ON YSTRAD MYNACH FACEBOOK PAGE



On Monday 11 May 2020 GHS President and Life Member, Nesta Jones, celebrated her 100th birthday. The postman arrived, laden with cards including the congratulatory card from the Queen, and many from GHS members, and Clive's Bakery, Aberbargoed, delivered a birthday cake from GHS. It was a pity that we couldn't raise a glass and enjoy a piece of cake with Nesta but GHS committee member, Susan, and her husband, David, were among family and friends who gathered outside Nesta's house at 11 a.m.. This is Susan's description:

NESTA JONES, OUR CENTENARIAN PRESIDENT

As Monday 11th May 2020 dawned, a beautiful but chilly Spring day, at the start of another week under the lockdown due to Covid 19, I knew as well as relatives, friends and neighbours of Nesta, that today was not going to be an ordinary day in Brynavon Terrace. Today would be slightly different under lockdown, but a very special day for Nesta. She'd reached the amazing age of 100. So, at just before 11 o'clock David and I went with about 20 other family, friends, and neighbours to greet Nesta on the pavement outside her house and sing 'Happy Birthday' to her, all I might say keeping 2 metres apart. She was delighted to see us and chatted to us all --- at a safe distance. The windows had been decorated by her family, and a banner across the railings. I took some photographs which are among those included with this. Nesta stood in her garden holding her card from the Queen which we all tried to photograph and truly was her jolly self, remarkable and amazing. Gradually we all left and went back into our houses having been humbled by enjoying a few minutes in this locked-down world with such a wonderful lady, our Nesta. She'd also had a phone call from Wynne Evans of Radio Wales Fame, the only thing I can say about that ----- it was just hilarious. So at least during these trying times a bright light had been brought to a street in Hengoed on 11th May 2020 by our much loved Nesta.

Nesta's family worked hard to ensure that, in spite of the lockdown, Nesta had a special day. They arranged for Wynne Evans to phone her to sing *Happy Birthday*, and that there would be press coverage (type South Wales Argus Nesta Jones into your search engine or go to

<https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/18443990.hengoed-woman-celebrates-100th-birthday-phone-call-wynne-evans/>

to see one such account)

Gelligaer Community Council sent greetings, and Ystrad Mynach Facebook was full of messages of congratulations to a well-loved and respected member of the community.

The following selection of photographs from Susan Price and from Nesta's family capture the spirit of Nesta's special day.

The Card from Queen Elizabeth II.





The banners



The cards



An unexpected *Happy Birthday*



This trumpeter, on his daily exercise, seeing the Happy 100th Birthday banners as he cycled past Nesta's house, stopped to play his greetings to Nesta.

Nesta, her family and neighbours did not know who he was but, by a remarkable coincidence, GHS was able to identify him.

Earlier that day, one of GHS newest members contacted GHS with a question about the history of Gelligaer and Merthyr Common on behalf of a family member who arrived in Wales on the eve of lockdown and so is still here, exploring the area, and, on 11 May, playing happy birthday outside Nesta's house.

And, Nesta's family's message of thanks to the trumpet player displayed in the front window of her house.



Susan and David were among those outside Nesta's house for the 8 p.m. *Clap for Carers* on Thursday 14 May. After the clapping, Nesta brought out a basket containing pieces of cake (the birthday cake GHS had sent) wrapped in serviettes with 100 printed on them, which Susan took round the crowd gathered there. Susan, using her cake-eating expertise, reports that *it is delicious, moist, full of jam and cream and the icing was Yummy!!*

MESSAGE TO READERS OF *GELIGAER TIMES* FROM GHS CHAIR

Hope you are all keeping safe and finding interesting things to keep you occupied during these unusual times. In the absence of a newsletter editor, this newsletter supplement (news of GHS President's 100th birthday celebrations, other news, and a collection of items associated with health) is produced by GHS officers and committee as a substitute for GHS May 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.co.uk or www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk if you would like to contribute to any future issue.

AND, now on to other news.

Some GHS members are using some of their lockdown time to get on with research for GHS Diamond Jubilee Project, while others have spent some of the time sorting out boxes of family photographs and memorabilia. If you would like to let GHS know if you have done anything interesting while confined to your home more than usual, we will be pleased to hear from you.

If we have enough material submitted, and if the printing firm is working, GHS will publish *Gelligaer* volume 27 this year. The deadline for submissions is **1 July**, and we look forward to hearing from as many people as possible. It does not have to be a long item, in fact we have been promised several long items, so short pieces (i.e. even as short as one paragraph) will be very welcome. Perhaps you have a photograph and/or memories of some interesting event, people or places (it is a frightening thought for many of us, but things like Sunday School trips in the 1950s, or earlier, are now interesting social history).

The deadline for submissions for the Diamond Jubilee publication is **31 December 2020** (to give plenty of time for editing and preparation for the printer as we currently aim for publication in September 2021).

It is unclear when GHS will be able to resume face-to-face meetings. What follows the news items in this newsletter, is a substitute for the May meeting --- a collection of items relating to health in the area. Your comments and questions will be appreciated.

It is uncertain whether or not GHS will be able to hold June meeting, and even if a meeting is possible, it is unclear whether it would secure a quorum for a valid AGM. Therefore, GHS Officers have decided to cancel the June 2020 meeting (including the AGM) and will review the situation in the light of developments during the summer, and inform members accordingly.

In the present circumstances, you cannot visit libraries and archives, but 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.

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
https://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.co.uk so it can be added to this list in a future newsletter.	

GHS has been informed that Glamorgan Family History Fair in Merthyr on 26 September 2020, has been cancelled.

Community Spotlight

Are you helping out in your community right now? If so, we want to give you the recognition you deserve and fill social media with 'Good News' stories.

You could be delivering prescriptions, making befriending phone calls or shopping for neighbours.

Whatever you're doing to help, you're doing a great job and we want everyone to hear about it!

If you know of any positive stories of Volunteering or communities pulling together to cope with COVID-19 then please contact us. We would love to hear from you!

Please Email: volunteering@gavo.org.uk

GAVO Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations
Cymdeithas Mudiadau Gwirfoddol Gwent

HEALTH

The theme of this supplement, HEALTH, is illustrated with local examples.

TAFF'S WELL TEPID MINERAL SPRINGS

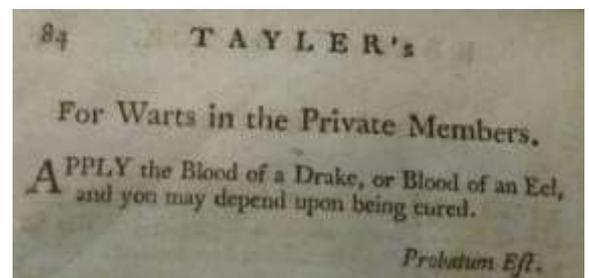


Advertised in *Merthyr Express* 4 July 1896.

The only thermal spring in Wales, it emerges on the eastern bank of the river Taff and has been contained within a brick well structure and building.



From an eighteenth century publication



"It is proper for every Person to pull off his Shoes and Stockings himself, without the Help of a Servant; for this is some sort of Exercise, and stirs up the Heat and Spirits"

A fitness tip from John Pechey's *Plain Introduction to the Art of Physick*, 1697

PENYBANK (BRITHDIR) ISOLATION HOSPITAL

See *Gelligaer* volume 24 pp 35-37 for information about this isolation hospital that was open from 1888 to 1913.

GELLIGAER ISOLATION HOSPITAL

It is often more difficult to access information about recent events and the people involved (i.e. those of the post WWI decades) than about more distant centuries, and so the history of Gelligaer Isolation Hospital is not easy to write in any detail. However, some readers of *Gelligaer Times* may be able to share personal and family stories about being a patient or a staff member, at the hospital. This is one such story, written by Barbara Downing of Merthyr Tydfil, for <https://smallpox1962.wordpress.com/what-do-you-remember/>

During the epidemic in the 1920s, my mother's older sister contracted smallpox because she had a visit from the family doctor and he had just come from a patient who had the disease. She spent some time in the Gelligaer Isolation Hospital and her younger brother was also admitted under observation. My grandparents were very concerned and upset about it and had to keep a notice in their window - no-one to come near the house.

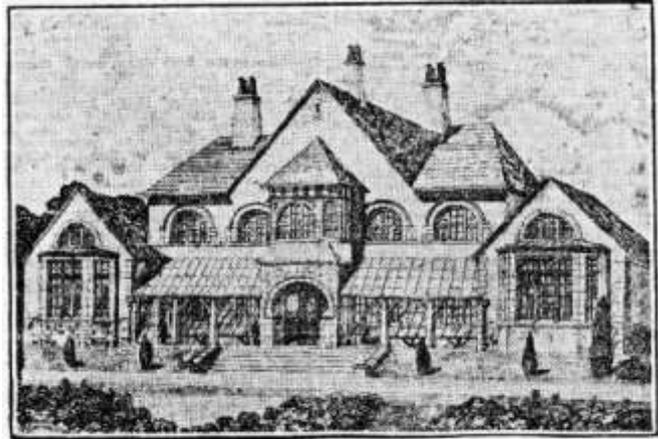
To date, few staff members have been identified. One of them was Elizabeth Ann Gravenor who was matron in 1930s. Having married John Puckey in 1954, she died in 40A John Street, Bargoed in 1981.

ABERBARGOED HOSPITAL

Opened on 10 December 1909 by Lord Tredegar, Aberbargoed Hospital was an iconic building and institution in the mid-Rhymney valley for over a century. The following description and photographs are taken from *Evening Express*, 11 December 1909 (page 2) which also includes details of the opening event.

Once opened, the hospital was presented to the workforce who then maintained it through regular contributions from their wages. At first, the hospital and its facilities were restricted to those who worked for Powell Duffryn Stream Coal Company, but later the hospital admitted their family members and then the general public. After nearly 101 years, the hospital, no longer fit for purpose, closed on Thursday 16 November 2010.

THE NEW BUILDING.
The building has been erected, equipped, and furnished by the Powell Duffryn Coal Company (Limited) for the use of their workmen in the Rhymney Valley. It has been planned to accommodate fourteen beds; two large wards with five beds in each and two double-bedded wards. Besides these wards upon the ground floor there is a surgeon's room, with receiving room adjoining, entered from the vestibule, operating-room, matron's room, nurses' room, and staff dining-room, with kitchen and offices. Upon the first floor are six bedrooms, with bath-room, &c. In the basement is provided a large ambulance room, X-rays room, and heating chamber, and upon the far side of the site is the laundry, mortuary, and post-mortem rooms. Everything has been built in a strong and simple way, without any unnecessary ornament, making a quaint and substantial building suitable to its environments. Above the main entrance archway, set in the wall, is a carved Portland stone panel of Charity healing the sick, executed by Mr. T. A. Jones, the well-known Welsh sculptor.
The cost of the building, furniture, and fittings is £6,000. The contractor is Mr. John Lloyd, Ystradgynbach, and Mr. George Kenshole, M.S.A. Bargoed, is the architect.



NEW COTTAGE HOSPITAL AT ABERBARGOED.



THE PANEL OVER THE DOORWAY.

Aberbargoed and Bedwelty Hospitals League of Friends, established in November 1966, became a registered charity in June 1972. Aiming to help and support patients and former patients who were sick, convalescent, disabled, handicapped, infirm, or in need of financial assistance, it gave 44 years of service to the hospital and the community. Over the years the LoF raised many thousands of pounds for special beds, hoists, mattresses and chairs, replacement soft furnishings and televisions, as well as Christmas and Easter gifts for patients and staff.

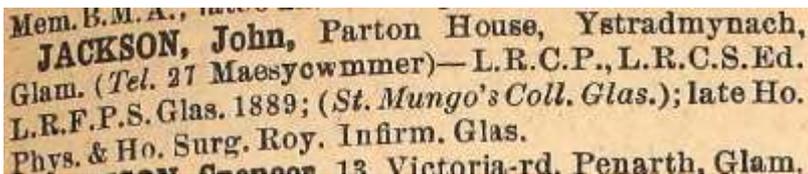
Dr Eleazer Davies (1853-1916)

Born in Carmarthenshire about 1853, Eleazer Davies was one of the children of Independent minister, John Davies, and his wife, Anne. Perhaps Eleazer and his siblings were educated at home. He left the family home before the 1871 census was taken when he was an assistant chemist, boarding in Taff Street, Glyntaff. Entries in *The Medical Register* show that he was registered November 27 1879, Licentiate of both Royal College of Physicians and Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh. By the time the 1881 census was taken, he was, assistant to Irish-born Dr. James Stewart, in The Surgery, Dowlais. The 1883 *Register* records his address as Dowlais but before the 1887 *Register* was prepared he had moved to Ivor House, 1 Guest Street, Fochriw, which remained his home to at least 1911. While in Fochriw he earned wide respect, and he was closely associated with the work in Penybank Isolation Hospital.

He married Cardiganshire-born Annie Rosaline Morgan (headteacher Fochriw school) in 1907 and they had two children (son and daughter). He moved south to retire in Bargoed and died, on 16 April 1916, in his home Ivor House, Hillside Park.

Dr. John Jackson (1871-1947)

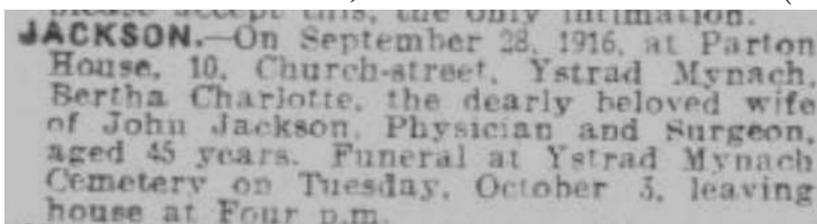
Born in 1871, he was listed in the family home in Cumberland in the 1871, 81 and 91 census returns. This extract from 1920 Medical Directory shows not only the details of his medical qualifications gained in Scotland, but also his two-digit telephone number through Maesycwmmmer exchange when he lived in post-WWI Ystrad Mynach.



Mem. B.M.A., ...
JACKSON, John, Parton House, Ystradmynach, Glam. (Tel. 27 Maesycwmmmer)—L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Ed. L.R.F.P.S. Glas. 1889; (St. Mungo's Coll. Glas.); late Ho. Phys. & Ho. Surg. Roy. Infirm. Glas.
13 Victoria-rd. Penarth, Glam.

He probably started his medical career in his home area as the 1895 Medical Directory gives his address as 1, North-side, Workington. He married Bertha Charlotte Watts in Maidstone in 1899. It is not clear when he moved to south Wales, but the 1905 Medical Directory gives his address as Farleigh, 8, Gelliwastad Road, Pontypridd. Later he was at Poplar Place, Troedyrhiw (Merthyr Valley), but left there in October 1909, for the sake of his wife's health, for a private practice in Ystrad Mynach. The fact that he and his wife were boarders in Cornwall when the 1901 census was taken, may have been linked with his wife's health, or they may, simply, have been taking a holiday. The childless couple, together with live-in female servants, was enumerated in Parton House (10 Church Street) in 1911. On 2 October 1916, *Western Mail* carried this sad notice:

It is not clear how long Dr. Jackson continued to practice but successive issues of Medical Directory from at least 1925 to 1942 show him retired and living in 6, Pantycelyn Street. He moved to Lancashire where he died on 30 October 1947.



JACKSON.—On September 28, 1916, at Parton House, 10, Church-street, Ystrad Mynach, Bertha Charlotte, the dearly beloved wife of John Jackson, Physician and Surgeon, aged 45 years. Funeral at Ystrad Mynach Cemetery on Tuesday, October 3, leaving house at Four p.m.

NB Nowadays postal addresses of houses and businesses in streets in built-up areas are usually identified by number alone, and the house names, so common in the past, have fallen out of use. However, some of the house names have an interesting backstory: Dr. Jackson's Parton came from a Cumberland village, while Dr. Davies gave his Hillside Park residence the name of his Fochriw home. If you remember house names in your street/community, perhaps you would like to create a useful historical record by making lists, matching house names with present numbers, and submit them for inclusion in a future GHS publication. And, for the benefit of anyone interested in an individual house, house numbers shown in sources (especially those pre mid-1920s) may NOT be those used in more recent times.

ROCYN JONES FAMILY, RHYMNEY BONESETTERS

Over the years, GHS life-member, Dr. T. F. Holley, has not only researched extensively into the history and heritage of Merthyr Tydfil, his adopted home-town, but also into that of Gelligaer parish, and other nearby areas. Fortunately, much of his work has been published, either in his own publications (such as *Tails of Old Merthyr A History of the Gelligaer Hunt 1898-1939*) or in the journals of Merthyr Tydfil Historical Society and of GHS. What follows, about four successive generations of the Rocyn Jones family, is based on his notes. The Rocyn Jones family, formerly based in rural west Wales, arrived in Rhymney in the early Victorian era, and soon became well-known and respected in the town, the upper Rhymney valley and far beyond. Generation after generation, they were staunch Congregationalists. David Rocyn Jones was a deacon and, a good tenor himself, was choirmaster in Moriah Chapel, Rhymney. His oldest son, David Thomas, was an ordained minister as well as being a deacon in Newport's Tabernacle Chapel, and a member of the Monmouthshire Congregational Union. *Merthyr Express* (3 February 1923) reported in detail on a talk given by his youngest son, Arthur, a man of great faith, to members of Ystrad Mynach's Moriah Chapel's Young People's Society. Arthur was visiting his brother in Park Road, Hengoed (further research may show which brother lived there) when he gave the talk (his third to that group) on the history of surgery from the time of the Pharaohs, through the Greek and Roman Empires, and referring especially to the great advances in the nineteenth century. Great lovers of rugby football, two of the family served terms as W.R.U. President. Sir David Thomas Rocyn Jones was first elected to the W.R.U. as vice-president representing Monmouthshire in 1908. He became W.R.U. President in 1947, and later was W.R.U. life member and trustee. His oldest son, David Nathan, a one-cap Welsh international forward, played club rugby for Newport RFC and represented Cambridge University, was hon. surgeon to W.R.U. in the 1930s, and was W.R.U. President 1964-5. But the family is best-remembered as one of bonesetters, going back to at least the father of the Thomas Jones who arrived in Rhymney in the early Victorian era, and probably much further.

Thomas Jones, (1822-1877)

Described as *Thomas Jones, Rhymney, the famous bonesetter* in the *Western Mail* obituary of his grandson, David, in 1953, Thomas Jones was born about 1822. Like many of his contemporaries in rural Wales, he was attracted by the promise of better prospects in the emerging industrial areas. It is not clear when he married Mary Rees (born in Carmarthen about 1824), nor when he arrived in Rhymney, but it was before the late 1840s as his son David was born there about 1847. A husband and father, he earned his living as an iron puddler when the 1851 and 1861 censuses were taken, and an annealer at the time of the 1871 census. In his youth, he helped his father, also Thomas, treat injured animals, and, in Rhymney, Thomas Jones applied those same manipulative skills to relieve the suffering of injured work colleagues and others. A forceful character and skilful bonesetter, he soon attracted patients from across south Wales and border counties to his practice. There is further information about his manipulative skills and treatments for injuries on <https://biography.wales/article/s-JONE-ROC-1822> He died on 2 April 1877 and, later, a public monument was erected over his grave in Rhymney churchyard. (If a *Gelligaer Times* reader is able to take a photograph of it, GHS will be pleased to include it in a future newsletter.)

David Rocyn Jones (1847-1915)

Eldest child of Thomas Jones and his wife, Mary, David was listed in the family home in Rhymney in 1851, 1861 and 1871 census returns, and in the latter two, he was described as a puddler. He married Catherine (born in Merthyr about 1850) before the 1881 census was taken. They brought up three sons, David Thomas, John and Arthur, in 104 Hill Street, Rhymney. He continued to work in the local industry and by 1891 was an annealer. Less forceful a personality than his father, he also ran a successful practice as a bonesetter, as shown in the advertisement taken from *South Wales Gazette* of 17 August 1894. While son John became an engine fitter, his other two sons followed careers in the medical profession. Widowed in April 1908, he continued to live in 104 Hill Street to his death in February 1915. He was buried in Graig Cemetery, Rhymney Bridge.

NOTICE !
MR. D. ROCYN JONES,
BONE SETTER, RHYMNEY.
BEGS TO ANNOUNCE THAT HE
Consults Patients at his House, 104, Hill Street, Rhymney,
EVERY MONDAY, TUESDAY, and SATURDAY from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m.,
— ALSO AT THE —
Crown Hotel, Abercarn, every alternate Friday
At 10.30 a.m.; and at
— Black Lion Hotel, Brynmawr, —
EVERY ALTERNATE FRIDAY at 4.30 p.m.

Sir David Thomas Rocyn Jones, C.B.E., J.P., D.L., (1872-1953)



This photograph, as well as much of what follows, is taken from an obituary that appeared in *Western Mail* on Friday 1 May 1953, the day after the death, at the age of 80, of Sir David Thomas Rocyn Jones, C.B.E., J.P., D.L., at County Hospital, Griffithstown, Monmouthshire. Eldest son of David Rocyn Jones and his wife, Catherine, he was born in Rhymney on 16 November 1872, and was in the family home, 104 Hill Street, Rhymney, when the 1881 and 1891 censuses were taken. After an education at Lewis School Pengam, University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, Cardiff, London University and University of Edinburgh, he gained his medical qualifications in 1897. When the 1901 census was taken, he was the 30-year-old medical surgeon heading the household in 10 Gladstone Street, Abertillery,

that included his brother, 17-year-old, Arthur, a medical student, and his aunt, the housekeeper (a role she fulfilled in 104 Hill Street at the time of the 1911 census). Soon afterwards, he married Sarah Jane (Alla) (1877-1950), daughter of Alderman Samuel. N. Jones, an Abertillery grocer. From 1899-1908, he was chief surgeon to the Powells' Tillery Collieries at Abertillery, but that role and his practice in Abertillery ended when, having gained a Diploma in Public Health from Oxford in 1904, he was appointed Monmouthshire's first full-time Medical Officer of Health in 1908. He retained that post to August 1946, when he was succeeded by his son, Gwyn. At the time of the 1911 census, he headed a household comprising his wife, three sons and two female domestic servants in the 9-roomed dwelling, Holmeswood, Clytha Park Road, Newport. Sons David Nathan and Gwyn were born while they lived in Abertillery (1902 and 1904), son Hugh was born in Newport in 1909 (he was killed while on active service in Italy during World War II). Son, Owain, was born in 1916. It is not clear when the family moved to Brynawelon, Llantarnam, where, at the time the 1939 Register was compiled, his sister-in-law and niece (Arthur's wife and daughter) were also living.

The following, taken from the obituary, indicates the breadth of his contribution to medical and public life:

Sir David had a most distinguished medical career and occupied a prominent position in his profession. He was a member of the Consultative Council of the Ministry of Health for Wales, a Fellow of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and of the Royal Institute of Public Health.

He was ex-chairman of the South Wales and Monmouthshire branch of the British Medical Association and an ex-chairman of the Monmouthshire division of the same body.

In July 1936, he was appointed by the Prior, the late Duke of Kent, as surgeon-in-chief of the St. John Ambulance Brigade in Wales in succession to Col. J. E. H. Davies, Wrexham. Previously he was the first commissioner of the Order for Monmouthshire, and a member of the Chapter of the Order in the Priory for Wales, He was controller of the V.A.D.s for Monmouthshire and a members of the council of the Territorial Army Association.

The Medical Directory 1908

Off. Cardiff and Barry Truant Sch.
ROCYN-JONES, DAVID THOS., The Surgery,
Abertillery, Mon.—M.B., C.M. Edin. 1897; (Univ.
Coll. Cardiff and Univ. Edin.); Silver Medallist
in Chem. and Path.; Bronze Medallist in Midw.;
Prox. acc. in Med.; Hon. Mem. S. Wales Sanit.
Insp. Assoc.; Surg. Powell's Tillery Collieries.

He was a Knight of Grace of the Order of St. John and was mainly responsible for the gift of the Llandinam Shield by the late Lord Davies of Llandinam, and also for the Trevelhin, the Gwent, the Isca, and the Silurian Shields, gifted to the Royal National Eisteddfod at Pontypool, and which have been competed for at every subsequent National Eisteddfod.

He was a member of the court of governors of the University of Wales; a member of the council of the Welsh National School of Medicine; and a member of the court of governors and of the council of the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire. In recognition of his great public services he was made a C.B.E. in 1920. He was a justice of the peace for Monmouthshire and a former chairman of the Bedwellty Division of Magistrates.

In 1947 he was appointed Deputy-Lieutenant of Monmouthshire, and in 1948 he was honoured with a knighthood, which was conferred upon him for public services.

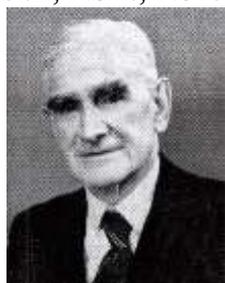
Arthur Rocyn Jones (1883-1972)

Arthur Rocyn Jones, the youngest son of David Rocyn Jones and his wife, Catherine, was born in Rhymney on 1 March 1883. He was in the family home when the 1891 census was taken. After an education in Monmouth School, University College, Cardiff, and University College, London, he gained his medical qualifications in 1910. A surgeon, living in 16 Adam Street, London, he married Margaret (born 15 November 1888), daughter of David Jones Llewellyn, a clerk in Holy Orders, in St. Paul's Church, Portman Square, London, on 4 June 1925. Their daughter, Glayne, was born on 21 July 1934 and, when the 1939 Register was compiled, she and her mother were in the Llantarnam household of his older brother, while he was in Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore (and further information about this institution appears on ezitis.myzen.co.uk/rnohstanmore.html). The extract, shown right, from *The Medical Directory* 1942 sheds light on his qualifications and his career.

The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery marked his eighty-fifth birthday by dedicating its May 1968 issue to him, and the issue of February 1972 carried a photograph of him in his home receiving a bound copy of his birthday volume. After about three years of failing health, Arthur Rocyn Jones died at his home on Stanmore Hill in November 1972. The following (photograph and text) is taken from the *In Memoriam* section of *The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery* Vol. 54B, No. 4, November 1972:

The Medical Directory > 1942

ROCYN-JONES, Arthur, 146, Harley St., W. 1 (Tel. Welbeck 2378)—M.B., B.S. Lond. 1910; F.R.C.S. Eng. 1924, M. 1910; L.R.C.P. Lond. 1910; (*Univ. Coll. Hosp.*); Surg. Roy. Nat. Orthop. Hosp.; Orthop. Surg. W. End Hosp. Nerv. Dis.; Cons. Orthop. Surg. Fulham, St. Mary Abbot's Western & W. Suff. Hosps. & Monmouthsh. C.C.; Cons. Surg. King Edward VII Welsh Nat. Memor. Assn. & P. of Wales Hosp. Cardiff; Fell. Roy. Soc. Med. (Ex-Pres. Orthop. Sect.); Mem. Brit. Orthop. Assn. & Soc. Internat. de Chir. Orthop.; late Surg. Regist. & Ho. Surg. Roy. Nat. Orthop. Hosp.; Ho. Surg. Cardiff Roy. Infirmary. Author, "Treatm. of infantile paralysis," *Brit. Med. J.* 1927; "Treatm. of fractures of tibia & fibula," *ib.* 1939; "Evolution of orthop. surgery in Gt. Brit.," *Proc. Roy. Soc. Med.* 1937.



.... Over the years, Rocyn, as he was known affectionately, forged a strong personal link with the early days of orthopaedic surgery in Great Britain. In 1918, sponsored by Elmslie the thinker and Bankart the man of speedy action, he had been elected a founder member of the British Orthopaedic Association, of which in due course he became the historian. With his passing, Sir Harry Platt is now the only one left of the band of distinguished men who safely launched our Association.

A special link with the grass-roots period of British orthopaedics may perhaps be mentioned. For many years Rocyn was a close friend of Muirhead Little, who gave

him some priceless relics of his father W. L. Little, notably a case-full of tenotomes and nevroscopy instruments, and an annotated copy of the thesis in latin on the treatment of club foot presented to the University of Berlin in 1837 for his doctorate. These are now in the safe keeping of the Institute of Orthopaedics, which he helped to establish in 1946.

Sons of Sir David Thomas Rocyn Jones, C.B.E., J.P., D.L., (1872-1953)

This extract from *The Medical Directory* 1942 sheds light on the medical careers of the two older sons of David Thomas Rocyn Jones. Older son, David Nathan, following the family tradition, was an orthopaedic surgeon, while second son, Gwyn, like his father, worked in public health, and succeeded his father as Monmouthshire's Medical Officer of Health. What follows relates to son Owain.

ROCYN-JONES, David Nathan, 40, Newport Rd., Cardiff (Tel. 7453); 11, Clytha Park Rd., Newport (Tel. 3363); & Cefa Eurwg, St. Mellons, Mon. (Tel. St. Mellons 60, night)—B.A. Camb. 1924, M.A., M.D. 1936, B.Ch. 1927, M.B. 1928; F.R.C.S. Ed. 1934; M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond. 1927; (*Camb. & St. Mary's*); Schol. Downing Coll. Camb.; Univ. Schol. St. Mary's Hosp.; Asst. Surg. (late Res. Surg.) P. of Wales Orthop. Hosp. Cardiff; Surg. 1/c Fracture & Orthop. Dept. Roy. Gwent Hosp. Newport; Orthop. Surg. Mon. C.C., Pemb. C.C., Card. C.C., Ebbw Vale Educat. Auth., Pontypool, Cardigan & Pontypridd Hosps., Mountain Ash Gen. Hosp., Porth & Dist. Hosp., Rhondda U.D.C. & Welsh Nat. Memor. Assn.; Div. Surg. St. John Ambul. Brig.; Hon. Surg. Welsh Rugby Football Union; Assoc. Mem. Brit. Orthop. Assn.; Fell. Roy. Soc. Med.; Mem. (Sen. Sec. S. Wales & Mon. Br. & Treas. Cardiff Div.) B.M.A.; late Ho. Surg. to Surg. Unit, St. Mary's Hosp.; Ho. Surg. Roy. Nat. Orthop. Hosp. Lond.

ROCYN-JONES, Gwyn, Brook House, Llantarnam, Mon. (Tel. Cwmbran 7739)—B.A. (Nat. Sc. Tripos) Camb. 1925, M.A. 1934, M.D. 1938, M.B., B.Ch. 1931; M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond. 1928; D.P.H. Wales 1935; (*King's Coll. Lond.*); Epsom Schol. King's Coll. Hosp.; Dep. M.O.H. Pathol. & Bacteriol. Mon. C.C.; Hon. Pathol. Roy. Gwent Hosp. Newport & Pontypool & Dist. Hosp.; Sec. Newport & Mon. Blood Transfusion Serv.; Asst. Commr. St. John Ambul. Brig.; Mem. B.M.A.; Fell. Soc. M.O.H.; late Ho. Surg. King's Coll. Hosp.; Ho. Phys. & Ho. Surg. Roy. Gwent Hosp. Newport. Author (thesis), "Conditions that Resemble Silicosis of Lungs," 1938.



(Below is a translation by Catherine, daughter of GHS member Beryl Mapstone.)

Republic of The United States of Brazil
 Consulate Card for Qualification

This card, issued in two copies, will be given to the Maritime Police and Immigration at the destination port.

Full name: Owain Rocyn-Jones.

Admitted in to national territory on the following visa ...TEMPORARY..... (permanent or temporary) under the terms of Article 7, Letter C of Decree 7967 of 1945.

Place and date of birth: Newport, England. 28/02/1916

Nationality: British. **Marital Status:** Single

Name of parents: Sir David Rocyn-Jones and Lady Sarah Rocyn-Jones

Profession: Retailer (or maybe Businessman – modern Portuguese could be either, and also Tradesman, Merchant or Trader)

Address in country of origin: Dundoran, Vyner Road South, Birkenhead, Lancashire

Children under 18 (This section has been stamped over with the visa stamp)

Visa stamp:

TEMPORARY
 Permanence of 180 days in the country
 Decree 7967 of 1945.

Passport Number: Lo 471747 issued by the authority of The Foreign Office, Liverpool on 23.08.1950

Visa issued: 419

Signature of passport holder:

O. Rocyn-Jones

NOTE: this card must be filled in with a typewriter by the consulate authority, with both copies as originals

(The following from underneath the photograph)

Brazilian Consulate-General in London May 10th, 1954

Consul: Geraldo de Heráclito Lima (Vice Consul)

IF YOU HAVE COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS ON THIS NEWSLETTER SUPPLEMENT, OR HAVE SOME INTERESTING FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS OR STORIES FOR INCLUSION IN A FUTURE SUPPLEMENT

PLEASE CONTACT

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