



GELLIGAER TIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE GELLIGAER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2021 issue 58

DIAMOND JUBILEE

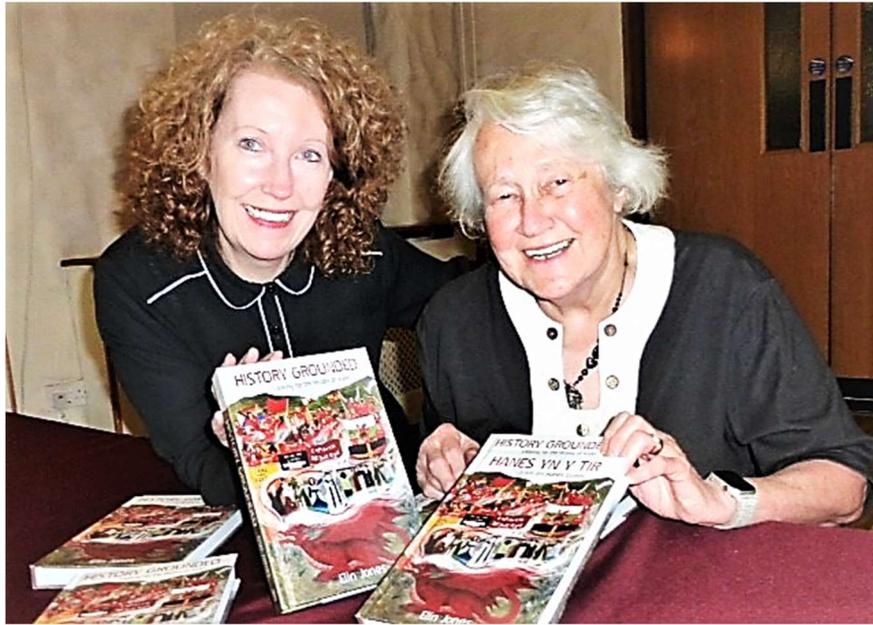
The first meeting of Gelligaer Historical Society's Diamond Jubilee year was a success. A large number of members, both old and new, attended at Llancaiach Fawr on 29th September to hear Dic Felstead speak on *The Pengam pageant 1913 – View from the Tiltyard*. Society talks had re-started via Zoom in March, but we called the September meeting a hybrid – both live and via Zoom. Chair of the Society, Annie Owen, introduced the evening from her home in Montgomeryshire and welcomed everyone back to Llancaiach Fawr after the long break caused by Covid restrictions.

Dic began his talk by describing the 'pageant fever' that gripped Wales in the first decade of the century. He described how the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales was hosted by Abergavenny in August 1913 and the centre piece of the opening day was the PAGEANT OF GWENT. The pageant consisted of twelve episodes depicting Welsh history over a 3,000-year period and the episodes were written and produced by towns and villages scattered throughout the (old) county. The village of Pengam's contribution, written by Thomas Matthews, Welsh master at Lewis School Pengam, was entitled *The Tournament at Carew Castle on the occasion of the investiture of Sir Rhys ap Thomas, 23-April-1507*. Initially, Dic outlined the historical context of the Pengam Episode - the Wars of the Roses, the Battle of Bosworth Field, Sir Rhy's support for Henry V11 and his investiture into the Noble Order of the Garter, the most prestigious order of chivalry in the realm. To celebrate his elevation, Rhys hosted one of the most splendid tournaments ever seen in the Principality at his favourite castle, Carew.

The Pengam Pageant sought to recreate the festivities and Dic described the elaborate costume drama of medieval splendour, the careful choreography of the occasion, the historical players featured and those who played their parts in the spectacle, the etiquette of chivalry, the transition of jousting tournaments from brutal melees to courtly entertainments where the Cult of the Lady emerged and the mechanics of jousting. His talk was illustrated by a PowerPoint presentation and Dic used a wide range of paintings, sketches, maps, posters, programmes and action photographs from the Pengam Pageant which combined to make the occasion a colourful and palpating experience.

There were eight ZOOM screens, with more than one person on several of them and the PowerPoint presentation screens were shared very successfully, the sound quality was good, and members on ZOOM were enjoying the talk. Unfortunately, the Zoom link was interrupted, and despite the best efforts of Greg Buick and Sandy Halliday, normal service couldn't be resumed! Unruffled, Dic continued to the enjoyment of all present and at the end, several members were delighted to receive badges of either Thomas Matthews or Sir Rhys which had been made for the occasion by his granddaughter, Seren Mai.

As usual, GHS books were on display and our president, Dr. Elin Jones, also displayed her recently launched books, *Hanes yn y Tir* and the English version, *History Grounded*.



This photograph is courtesy of Brian Jarrett and shows Elin with Vicky Scullin, the events manager at Llancaiach Fawr Manor House

The book is available locally at the Ashburne shop, Ystrad Mynach. It can also be purchased at other book shops and branches of WHSmith. The book has received support from the Welsh Books Council who have nominated it the best child's Welsh book of the month. Elin however points out that it also suitable for adults and especially Welsh learners.

OCTOBER MEETING WEDNESDAY 28th OCTOBER 2021

We hope to see you all at the end of the month, again at Llancaiach or via Zoom, when Chris Jones-Jenkins, member and a former long-time officer of the Society will give us a talk with the intriguing title, *The journey to Gelligaer: 1300*.

For those who wish to attend the talk it starts at 7 p.m.

For those who wish to Zoom then please contact: sandyhawick@outlook.com

GHS will pursue the September meeting problem with ZOOM to find out why it happened - and to ensure it does not happen again!

PARISH OF GELLIGAER IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

By the time you read this GHS diamond jubilee publication will be with the printer. The team of proof readers have been vigilant by uncovering, and reporting back to the editorial team, some points that needed correcting. Editing has proved to be a considerable task due, in part, to the large amount of detailed material provided by the authors/researchers who have made full use of the resources available. Despite the Covid restrictions causing “problems” they have benefited from the digital age and have been able to access documents online; something that the contributors to *The Gelligaer Story* were unable to do.

One aspect of the research that has been rewarding is the discovery of more and more photographs. Some of these have come from family collections rather than being discovered online. If any reader has photographs, they think may be of interest to GHS, then please send them to webmaster@gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk. This newsletter may well be an ideal opportunity to share those photographs in a publication that is “free of charge” and read by many!

Below are photos that may, or may not, appear in the forthcoming book.



Mountain House which was situated a short distance to the north of the cattle grid at the end of the road from the Cross Inn, Gelligaer to Merthyr and Gelligaer Common. Crown Copyright: Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

The next photograph was taken recently and shows the cattlegrid mentioned in the caption above. Mountain House was on the left-hand side of the road. Some readers may remember the Jones family who lived there. The head of the house being affectionately known as ***Dai twt twt***



Cwm Llwydrew farmhouse, now demolished. It was situated near the present-day visitor centre and buildings at Parc Cwm Darran. Crown Copyright: Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

DONATION

The Society is grateful to Kenneth White for his kind donation of a copy of his new book *Arthur Edward White's Life 1899-1981 "Welsh at Heart"*. It is a memorial biography which has been published for the family. However, copies have also been donated to Bargoed Library and Winding House, New Tredegar so that members of the public can have access to this insight of Arthur and his family background, which includes local areas such as Bargoed and New Tredegar. The book is well illustrated with family photographs and personal letters. A more detailed overview will appear in the next newsletter. The book will be available, on loan, to members of this Society.

A journey to the north. Sandy Halliday

On Sunday 22nd August I cycled to **Troedrhifwuch** to call in at the Community Day being held in Church Grounds next to the old Post Office. This was the first time I have stopped in Troedy for about 30 years. Since we came to Wales over 40 years ago, we have seen this village shrink to two houses and the remains of a farm. Gathered there was a good assembly of the former villagers seated in the garden having a fine old catch up.

Following demolition of the church, the site was sold to the council and the garden was created as a memorial, to be maintained by the council. The garden itself, looks like it has suffered from cuts in council spending and is crying out for some help to look after it. The seating in the garden has fallen into a very poor repair. So, everyone had to bring their own chair.



When I arrived, there were some surprised looks from people wondering what this strange man with a bike was doing in Troedy. However, when I introduced myself as a member of the Gelligaer Historical Society, I was made very welcome by Carys-Ann Neads and Vince Davies, who explained that the aim of the day was not only to have a get-together, but to share information and research with the Troedrhiwfuwch Community.



They were extremely well organised with a gazebo, complete with a power connection to the old Post Office next door. This allowed for the preparation of hot tea and coffee to the company.

Vince was printing out handouts of the information they had gathered about Troedy servicemen. Their research was stimulated by the work that GHS had carried out previously on servicemen from the parish. The aim is, by the use of QR codes, mounted in the restored garden, to link in all the information they have on the village and its servicemen to their digital records. By doing so they hope that memories of the village will remain, even though its physical presence is now much diminished.

Carys-Ann was able to illustrate how this will work by showing me details of the history of some of the Troedy servicemen on her laptop computer. Vince talked with affection of these fine Troedy people, while showing me printouts detailing their service records. In a short time, I found out a great deal of the history of this small mining village. Even though it has almost disappeared from sight it is still alive in the memory of its former inhabitants. With this project that memory will be preserved for others.

EVENTS

Readers who have not already done so may find that the link below to *Merthyr Tydfil Heritage Town-Forthcoming Events* reveals several events that may be of interest.

<https://merthyrtidfilheritage.blogspot.com/2021/09/forthcoming-events-in-and-around.html>

GO TO newportrising.co.uk and click on events/tickets

BOOK YOUR TICKET TODAY for Annual **CHARTIST CONVENTION**

It's **LIVE** at **NEWPORT** on Saturday 6th **NOVEMBER** - this **YEAR**
at **NEWPORT CATHEDRAL (St. WOOLOS)**

The charge is £12 per person which includes lunch and tea and coffee



Details of what is happening on the day appear in the poster below. **GHS will have a stall at the convention**

THE WESTERN VINDICATOR

A BOLD, UNCOMPROMISING, ADVOCATE OF THE PEOPLE OF BRISTOL, BATH, TROWBRIDGE, BRADFORD, FROME, WOOTON-UNDER-EDGE, NEWPORT, PONTYPOOL, CARLEON, CARDIFF AND OTHER TOWNS AND VILLAGES IN THE WEST OF ENGLAND AND SOUTH WALES.

EDITED AND CONDUCTED BY HENRY VINCENT
NOW RESIDENT IN MONMOUTH GAOL

VOL. I.—No. 13.]

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2021

PRICE ONE PENNY.

A CHARTIST CONVENTION

will be held on November 6th 2021
at Newport Cathedral, Stow Hill
Between 10 and 4 o'clock.

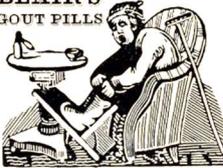
In attendance will be the following personalities:
Roger Ball & Mark Steeds will discuss
"The Rise and Fall of Edward Colston"
Joan Allen will debate "Legality and
injustice in the Age of the Chartists",
Les James investigates the life of
"Zephaniah Williams"

After lunch **Dave Steele** will talk about "The
1848 Kennington Chartist Meeting"

followed by a tribute from
Ray Stroud of the esteemed historian
"David J. V. Jones". The final speaker,
Peter Strong will examine links between
Henry Vincent and Tolpuddle

HENRY BOOTH
PRIME OX BEEF
LAMB & MUTTON
VEAL PORK
PICKLED TONGUE

BUTCHER
159, Commercial street.

BLAIR'S
GOUT PILLS

FROM HERBERT WILLIAMS
CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST
42 COMMERCIAL STREET

H. PEARMAN

MEMBER
OF THE
PHARMACEUTICAL
SOCIETY OF
GREAT BRITAIN
11 COMMERCIAL STREET
PRESCRIPTIONS CAREFULLY DISPENSED

BRISTOL & NEWPORT
STEAM PACKETS
USK AND GLAMORGAN

WILL SAIL during the next week from BRISTOL and NEWPORT
Apply at the Bristol General Steam Navigation Company's Office,
Quay Bristol or at the Packet Offices, Rowham Wharf, Horwells
and Rodney Wharf Newport.
John Jones, Agent

BUY
JOHNSON JOHNSON & CO'S
PURE TEA
2/- per lb.
CHOICE QUALITIES
"NEW SEASON'S"
2/8 - 3/- - 3/8 - 4/-
Supplied in Packets only
From 2 ozs to 1 lb
and 3-lb and 6-lb Tin Canister
FAULKNER
CHEMIST
81 COMMERCIAL ROAD

S.T. HALL

West Gate Hotel, Commercial Inn
NEAT POST CHAISES WITH GOOD HORSES & CAREFUL DRIVERS
NEWPORT MONMOUTHSHIRE

Ruperra

Some who attended the Ruperra Zoom Talks Series One in the Spring and have said how much you enjoyed them. Including members of GHS and other societies, over 80 people registered, and I have just sent out an email to everyone who registered for Series One asking them to re-register for Series Two, which is described below.

The talks are free and if you register now for Series Two you will be sent a Zoom link which will apply to each of the talks, whether you can attend all or not! Some people find that they still prefer to stay home listening to zoom talks as the winter weather approaches. In our own small way, we can reduce the effects of climate change by not travelling to meetings!

There is the downside of not having social occasions to enjoy but many people are still not anxious to meet in an enclosed space. Looking forward to your registration and for some, your re-registration. Please contact me at Patjonesjenkins@cooclemail.com.

Ruperra Zoom Talks Series 2 every other Thursday at 7.30 pm.

November 11th Thursday - Huw Williams

Industry in the Heads of the Valleys and the Birth of the Town of Tredegar.

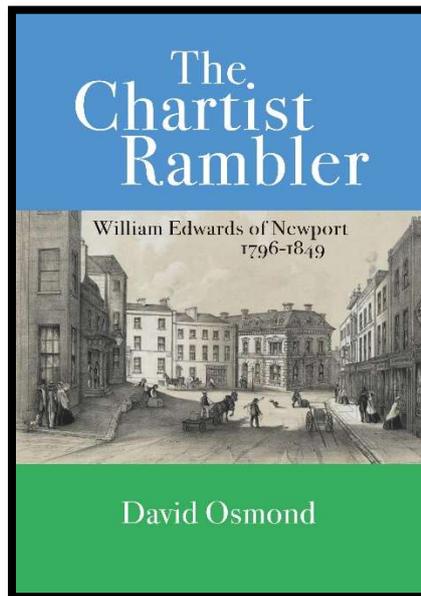
November 25th Thursday - Dr. Celyn Durden-Williams

Lady Llanofor and Her Battles for Her Symbols of Wales.

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

Apologies for following the lead taken by many businesses who advertise their Christmas wares earlier each year. Apart from the much-awaited PARISH OF GELLIGAER IN THE NINETEETH CENTURY, soon to be published by the Society, readers may be interested in the following

The Chartist Rambler: William Edwards of Newport 1796-1849, by David Osmond



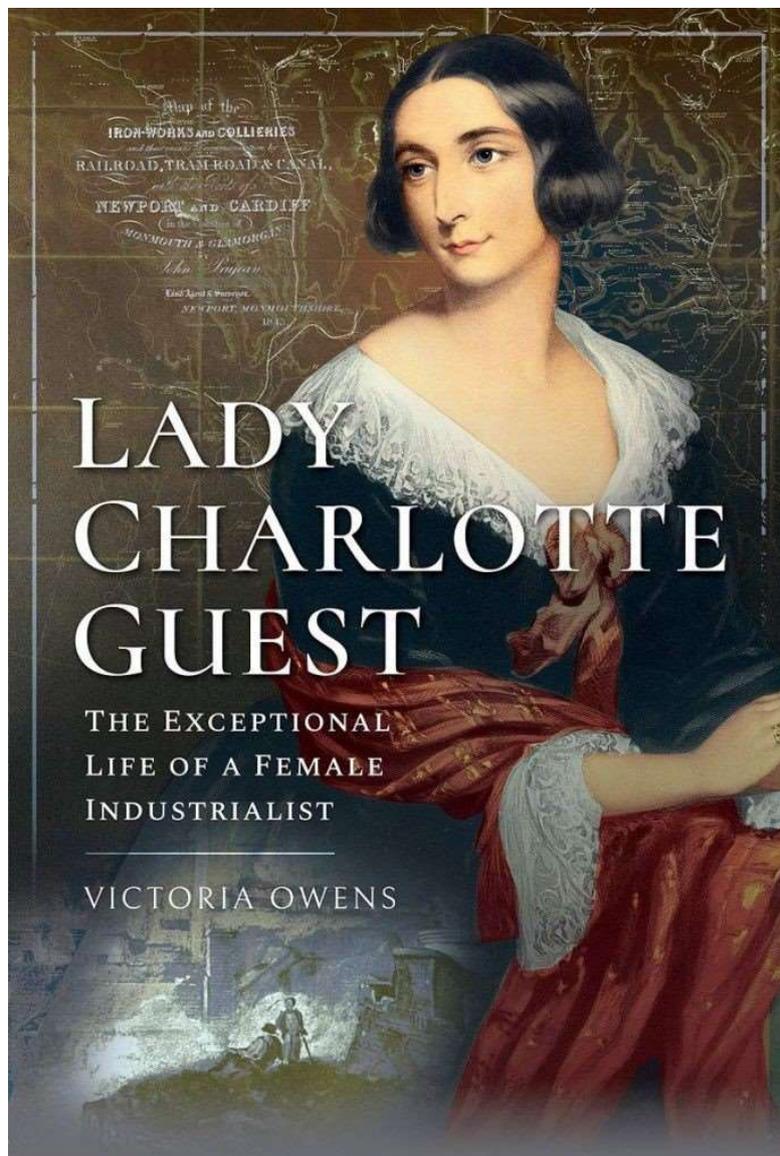
Adored by the people of the Monmouthshire valleys, twice gaoled for sedition, burnt in effigy by his former supporters; preacher, baker, bookseller: William Edwards had a turbulent and eventful life during a period when the decayed medieval borough of Newport, reduced to little more than a riverside village, was rapidly growing into the biggest town in south-east Wales. Edwards was a major figure in the South Wales Chartist movement but today he is largely forgotten, his achievements overshadowed by the drama of the 1839 Newport Rising, which he instigated yet eluded due to his first spell in prison. This book tells his story and restores him to his rightful place in the history of the struggle for democratic rights.

David Osmond was born in Newport and educated at Newport High School. He obtained an MA in Local History at Cardiff University in 1994 and has had a long-term interest in the Chartist movement. This is his first book. Published by **Six Points**.

Available from <http://sixpointscardiff.com> price **£10.00** including UK post and packaging.

Another book with a distinctly Welsh flavour received favourable comments on *The Melting Pot*, a blog which is part of merthyr.history@gmail.com

I would like to congratulate Victoria Owens, a regular contributor to this blog who has won the Literature Wales Creative Non-Fiction Award for her excellent book on Lady Charlotte Guest - Lady Charlotte Guest: The Exceptional Life of a Female Industrialist. The award is well deserved, as the book is exceptionally well researched and brilliantly written. Well done Victoria!!!!



Rev. Gwilym Davies CBE 1879 – 1955. *Carwyn Hughes*

In the newsletter 56-June 2021 I outlined how The Rev Davies became the founder of the Goodwill Message from the children of Wales to the children of the world which is broadcast every May 18th.

Born in Commercial Street, Bedlinog he moved with his family to Llangadog where his father, also a minister, continued his Baptist ministry. Gwilym became a pupil at Llandeilo Grammar School then went on to the Midlands Baptist College in Northampton. After winning the Page Scholarship he continued his studies at Jesus College, Oxford.

In 1906 he became a Baptist minister in Broadhaven Pembrokeshire. Tragically during that first year of his ministry he lost both his wife and baby son. In later years he was a minister in Carmarthen, Abergavenny, and Llandrindod Wells where he retired from pastoral duties in 1922.

After this date he devoted his time to the Welsh Council of the League of Nations of which he was the Director until 1945.

From the 1920s he was a prolific traveller (especially to Geneva) writer to journals and newspapers and became a regular broadcaster. During the war he produced a draft constitution for an international organisation which was influential in the future development of UNESCO. His work brought him into contact with British and foreign politicians and government ministers. He was the cofounder of the Welsh branch of the League of Nations until its dissolution in 1945. Then he helped form the Welsh UNESCO Committee. In addition, he helped set up the Welsh School of Social Service an area of work in which he was interested.

He died in January 1955 and the next day *The Times* headed his obituary with – ‘The Rev G Davies, A worker for world peace’.

His personal papers, notes, correspondence, etc, are to be found at the National Library of Wales where they are archived in 12 boxes.

Playing skittles on Sunday-a heinous crime

A report appeared in the *Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian* of 4th July 1868 detailing why it was necessary to appoint an additional police-constable in the Newbridge (Pontypridd) district to be stationed at Gelligaer. It was stated that there was a population of 1,347 without a single policeman and *that public houses were kept open from Monday to Monday and persons met at these places and played skittles and behaved in a very disorderly manner all day on Sunday.* A petition had been signed by numerous inhabitants of the district in support of the proposal.

Some notes on the Hanbury (Pontypool Park) estate-*David Mills*

I was recently shown some documents concerning Bedwellty Church before they are deposited in the Gwent Archives. One document is an undated typed note which has *Gelligaer Trust* written on it. It briefly outlines the Lewis Charity Trust, the unknown author comments that he had attended the annual Trust meetings, whenever possible, for forty years.

He starts by writing that Capel Hanbury bought the considerable estate of Gilfach Fargoed in 1751 and *the estate was intermingled with farms bequeathed by Edward Lewis to endow a school in the area*, pointing out that the owner of the Gilfach Fargoed estate was to be an ex-officio member of the trust which would oversee the charitable intentions. At the end of the 18th century Capel established a committee with one of the members being *John Perrott who lived at the Cascade, near Pengam and rented two of the Trust's farms*. Two members of Capel's family, both rectors were also on the committee. The Hanbury estate eventually passed to his second grandson Capel Hanbury Leigh in 1795 when he attained the age of eighteen.

It seems that Capel Hanbury Leigh did not regularly attend meetings of the trust, probably initially because of his age, hence a Robert Smith, who acted as a clerk to the charity, frequently stood in for him. In 1809 Robert Smith had to deal with a complaint from the Rector of Gelligaer that the person appointed as a schoolmaster at Gelligaer by Mr Perrott was *A highly improper person to hold that sacred trust and his appointment was derogatory to the founder's pious intentions and a degradation to the parish*. In a subsequent letter the rector made it clear that his complaint is over the *contumacy of the present school master who does not bring the children to Church or attend himself*.

The author turns his attention to the sporting exploits of Capel Hanbury Leigh and recounts details from game books kept by the estate. There are notes about organised shoots over the Bargoed-Pengam area between 1789 and 1806. The evidence points to the events being lavish picnics as well as shoots because a separate column is devoted to *wine drunk*. The first shoot recorded was on 30th November 1789 when a Thomas Stoughton, who seems to have been the organiser of the event, together with Capel's two cousins from St Pierre attended, they were both in Holy Orders; two rectors also made up the shooting party. On this occasion they drank *18 bottles and shot 4 cocks, one hare and one snipe*. Capel was just age 12 at the time so probably therefore the shoot was led by Thomas Stoughton. Capel first started going out on the shoot in 1795, thereafter Stoughton's name no longer appears in the records.

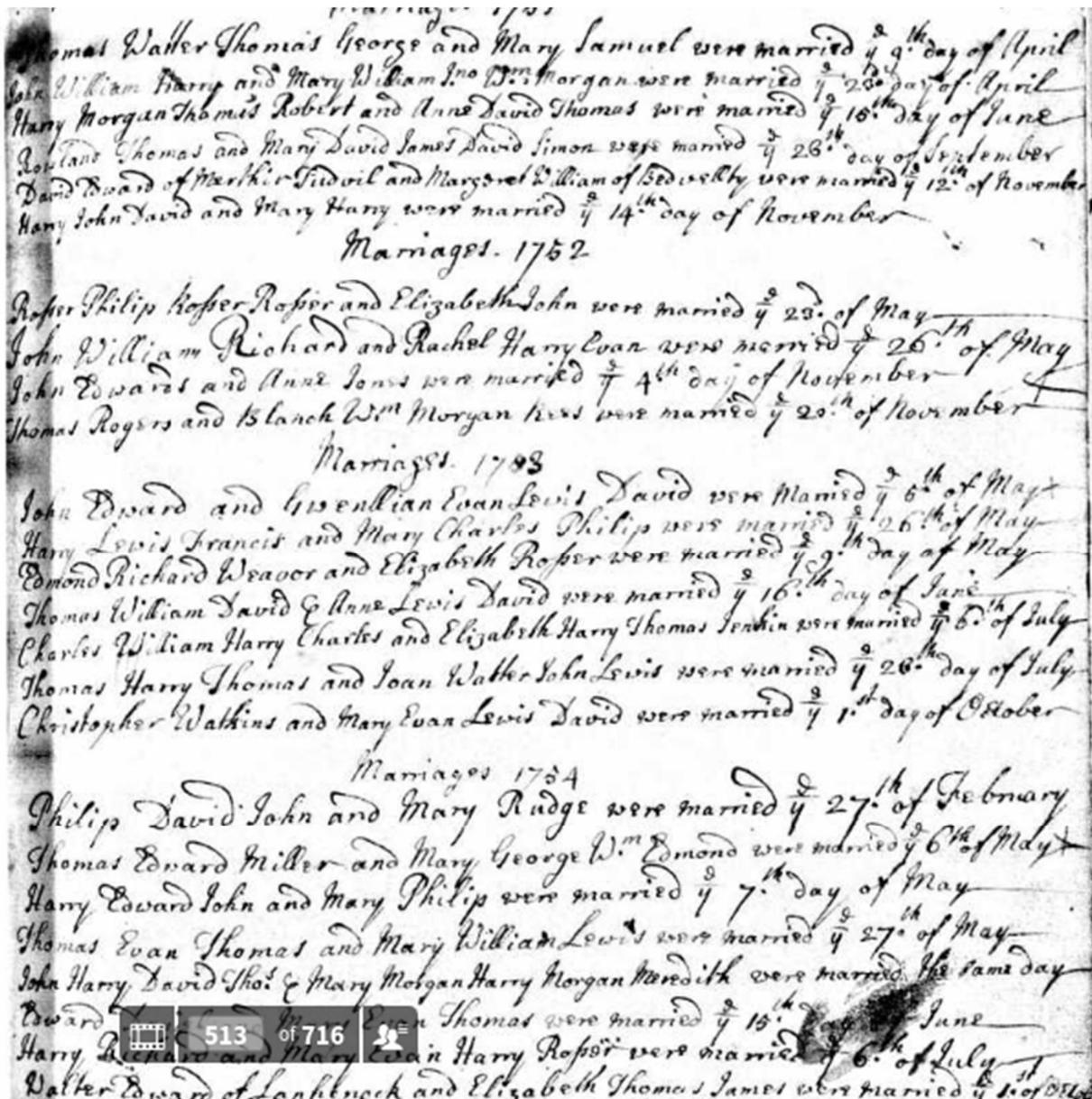
The next comments by the author reveal even more about the alcoholic nature of the shoots. He wrote *records show that 1796 was a very jolly occasion, adding only three guns were out, Capel, his future brother-in-law and Anthony Hawkins. 28 bottles were consumed, and the bag was four cock, two duck (almost certainly domestic as there were no ponds on that bit of country) one goat, one cat and one dog*. He was keen to mention the duck may have been domestic, but one wonders why he chose not to say anything about the unfortunate cat and dog. His next sentence is "enlightening" *However, 1802 was regarded as the best year as regards the bag, when four guns albeit consumed 20 bottles of port wine, 9 of bottled ale, 2 of rum and 1 of brandy*. Somehow, despite the consumption of copious amounts of alcohol, the author noted that they managed to shoot 19 cock, 3 hares, one snipe and one partridge. In fairness to the gentlemen involved most of the alcohol may have been consumed at the end of the shoot.

The joys of family history research and working with Welsh surnames. Jen Pritchard.

My early experience of the online census records for Wales left me rather disappointed by the prosaic and very narrow choice of names in common use. In my naivety I had expected Welsh speaking 19th century Wales to reflect its heritage with resounding and glorious Welsh names. But, instead of Aneurin, Bleddyn and Caradoc, I found only Tom, Dick and Harry. I have never quite got used to this limited pool of Welsh names or how 'anglicised' it all sounded. In

my family tree the names Lewis Lewis, William Williams, John Jones and David Davies abound with sons named in honour of their fathers, grandfathers and, in the case of the surname, more distant forebears. When Edward Edwards, a distant Caernarfonshire cousin born in the 1820s, named his eldest son, family tradition resulted in the poor boy being baptised Edward Edward Edwards.

Nearer to home, across the old county border in the parish of Mynyddislwyn, a page from the marriage records (below) shows the patronymic names still in use in this area of Wales during the mid-18th century. Names exist like Rosser Philip Rosser Rosser, Mary Morgan Harry



Morgan Meredith and Mary David James David Simon honouring multiple generations of forefathers. There is also a David Richard Weaver and Thomas Edward Miller whose occupations are used to identify them and perhaps may have been adopted as surnames for future generations.

The limited pool of names seems to have caused problems ‘back in the day’. It is often cited as the reason for the widespread, and imaginative, use of nicknames especially in the populous

Welsh valleys. There was an urgent need to distinguish between father, son, uncles, nephews, and cousins who shared the same family names with each other and with their neighbours. It was also common to distinguish men with the same name by their place of birth – John Jones Talsarn and John Pumpsant Jones, both Calvinistic Methodist preachers - or occupations like Jones the shop, milk, bread, or coal.

And the women fared little better than the men. Mary, Margaret, Ann, and Elizabeth account for about half of the given names of girls born in the 19th century in my family tree. Throw in Catherine, Ellen, Jane, Martha, Esther, Sarah, and variants thereof and that just about covers them all. Hence all the diminutive names - Sally, Milly, Molly, Maimie, Polly, Bessie, Betty, Lizzy, Liz and Liza, Beth, Bet, Katie, Kitty, Cat, Cath, Cathy, Nell, Nellie, Peggy, Maisy, Peg, Megs, Mags, Maggie, Tessie, Tess, and Tessa – used to distinguish the women and girls within the family.

The only up-side I have found from the perpetuation of family names across the generations is that it has allowed me to identify women in my tree who, having changed their name on marriage, continue to name children after their side of the family. My grandfather is named after his maternal grandfather –John Benjamin as is my uncle – John Griffith. A woman's maiden name may also be passed on as a forename to one of her sons. All these little clues can help confirm the identity of which of the myriad Mary Jones, Ann Lewis or Maggie Williams in the records is the one I'm looking for.

My online family tree currently boasts 21 Elizabeth Williams, 18 Ann Jones and 17 Mary Lewis. But, to date, the most common name among my ancestors is John Jones with a staggering 26. Imagine the occasional relief, therefore, in finding someone with an unusual name. When I first saw the name of my 3x great grandfather, Levi Griffiths, I naively thought that searching for evidence of his existence would be straightforward. But no – you cannot imagine how many men are recorded in Pembrokeshire with the name Levi Griffiths in the 19th century. Were all these Levis potential relatives of my ancestor? It puzzled me for quite some time. Meanwhile, Levi's niece married a man called Essex Harries. Again, I felt a little thrill based on the hope that not many boys in early 19th century Pembrokeshire would have been baptised Essex. It did not take long to be disabused of that idea either.

It was only recently that I decided to Google both these names and therein I believe I have found the answer to the abundance of the names Essex and Levi in such a small geographic area. Essex Harries was associated with Brimaston Hall, Hayscastle in the 18th century. He was a landowner and member of the minor gentry. It seems anyone called Harries or otherwise within a 10km radius of Hayscastle appropriated the name Essex for one of their sons to curry favour with the local landowner. Essex Harries Esq. was after all an employer and landlord – possibly a magistrate - and someone worth keeping on side.

A family with any property to pass on can be traced through the wills they make and the bequests to their heirs. Several generations of the Essex Harries family can be found in their wills made in the 18th and 19th century. It was no surprise to find one Levi Griffiths doing likewise at the same time and for the same reason. As a landowner or yeoman, the 'original' Levi Griffith had something valuable to pass on to his descendants other than his name. His family acquired Ricketon Hall and the land associated with it in the 18th century (and which largely formed the airfield at old RAF Brawdy built during WW2). There is no evidence, however, that my ancestor was a yeoman himself or even distantly related to Levi Griffiths of

Rickeston Hall. It is more likely his father John appropriated the name Levi for his son either to ingratiate the family with the local landowner or just because he had heard the name and thought it had a nice 'ring' to it. Levi must have been in the top 10 boy's names in 19th century Pembrokeshire.

Have I found my Tess of the d'Urbervilles? Online family research websites are constantly updating and adding new records. The recent addition of many original documents from Welsh parish records has allowed me to trace my ancestry back one or two generations into the 18th century. Without census returns and only the birth, marriage or death records, it is impossible to be absolutely certain of family relationships, but I may have found my Tess (for those of you less familiar with Thomas Hardy's eponymous heroine, Tess Darbyfield's father claimed to be a descendant of the local noble family - the d'Urbervilles)

She is called Mary Picton born 1755 in Meline, Pembrokeshire who was buried in Moylegrove in 1813. She is/may be my 5x great grandmother and, through her father William, is related to the family from Picton Castle near Haverfordwest. There is a direct line of descent which can be traced from this family back to Ednyfed Fychan, seneschal to Llewellyn the Great and who was the founder of the Tudor dynasty. Potentially that puts the Lord Rhys, King of Deheubarth and Owain Glyndwr in my family tree – as well as the current royal family of course.

There is a fun website called fabpedigree.com that has ancestors of interest and tells you who you could be related to and how. This makes me a distant cousin to several US presidents, Diana Spencer, Winston Churchill, and David Cameron. It all reminds me of an episode of 'Who do you think you are?' Picture the comedian Greg Davis sitting in a packed-out pub in North Wales when a genealogist told him he was a direct descendant of Llewellyn Fawr, the last Prince of Wales.... and so were all the other people in the pub!

Mathematically, as well as biologically, we all share a common ancestry. Anyone with British ancestry dating back to the 17th century can claim to be related to the Queen based on mathematics alone. When I started my family research I wondered if I was related to *the* David Lloyd George having found a distant cousin also named David Lloyd George born in Merthyr in the mid-19th century. Given how many ancestors I had from Pembrokeshire and North Wales with the surnames Lloyd and George it seemed highly probable. Now I find that, if Mary Picton is my Tess, I am also likely to be a cousin to Winston Churchill. While none of this actually matters, it does feed the imagination while trawling through my family records which seem to churn out the same names repetitively over the generations.

OLD ADVERTISEMENTS

The previous edition of this newsletter contained an advert for Doctor Williams' Pink Pills. Continuing the "health" theme are two more adverts which appear below. Although the one for **DRIPO**, which originated from a Bacon Curing Company so is probably lard, may be somewhat loosely described as relating to health as it may have caused some of the problems mentioned in **Mother Seigel's Syrup** advert.

MOTHER
SEIGEL'S
SYRUP

For toning and **FAMILY**
strengthening the organs **REMEDY**
of digestion—stomach **FOR**
and liver—there is nothing
so good as Mother Seigel's
Syrup. It enables these
organs to do their work
efficiently, and you are thus
spared the penalties of
DIGESTIVE DISORDERS

“DRIPO”

For Cake and Pastry Making.

**FRYING AND COOKING
PURPOSES.**

SIXPENCE PER POUND. 

In One Pound Packets.

 **ASK YOUR GROCER.**

Wholesale of the Welsh Bacon Curing Co.,
LLANDAFF. 4718.