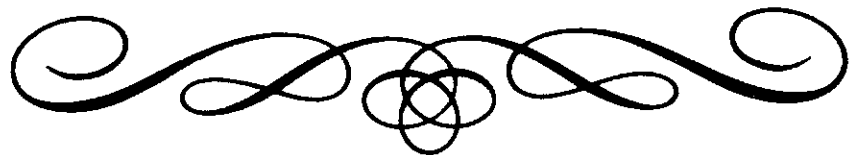
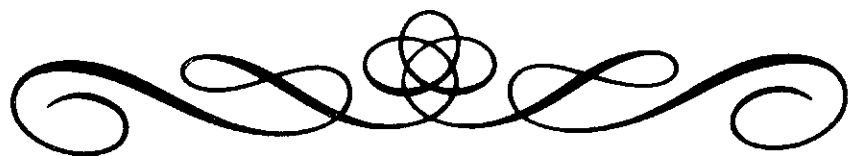


THE CARMARTHENSHIRE HISTORIAN



Vol. XX

THE CARMARTHENSHIRE
HISTORIAN

Edited by
E. VERNON JONES

Published by
Dyfed Association of Voluntary Services
11-12 King Street, Carmarthen
Vol.XX, 1985.
ISSN 0576-7849

CONTENTS

Page

A Champion of Women 's Rights	5
Talley House	22
A Prime Minister 's Carmarthenshire Postbag	34
Admiral Sir Thomas Foley	42
More About a "Becca" Character	48
The Story of Coalbrook Colliery	58
Departed Glories of the Grey Friars	65
George Eyre Evans 1857-1939	72
Rural Rides of Long Ago	77
Llandeilo Church 's Lost Treasure	81
Tearful Memories of a Royal Visit	82
Letter to the Editor .	84

COVER

The illustration, which shows the wine and spirit stores of Mrs. Catherine Bright and her Half Moon Hotel at the corner of Blue Street and Dark Gate, Carmarthen, is reproduced from a billhead supplied by courtesy of Mr. Ralph Siggery. The bill, dated 17 January 1878, charges Mr. John Thomas of the Cresselly Arms (premises now occupied by Messrs. V. G. Lodwick and Sons, King Street) for: 1 Gall. Gin 12s; 1 Do. Whisky 16s; 1 Do. Brandy 16s; 2 Doz. Ale 8s; 2 Doz. Stout 8s; Total £3.0.0.

A Champion of Women's Rights

By E. Vernon Jones

The presence of obstreperous antagonists might easily have turned a harmless situation into an ugly incident at Carmarthen Fair in the year 1913. As it was, sufficient excitement was aroused at the fair - on Tuesday 13 April - for the local Press to report that a group of women armed with hammers had been mistaken for Suffragettes. That there should have been apprehension is not surprising, for Suffragettes had gained notoriety by promoting their cause with militant action; still a potent memory was the London rampage of the previous year, when scores of windows had been smashed in Piccadilly Circus, Regent Street and Oxford Street by activists carrying hammers concealed in their muffs. An eruption in Carmarthen, on the edge of the national scene, was not impossible, but, in the event, a circumstance fraught with potential disturbance ended in light-hearted unconcern upon the realisation that the women were no more militant than students of geology, appropriately equipped with the tool of their academic discipline. Nevertheless, the occasion serves to illustrate the uneasy social tensions that were generated whenever female franchise reared its voice in the years before 1914, when the outbreak of what used to be called the Great War silenced the clamour and concentrated the nation's total attention.

Debate about votes for women had been going on for decades with increasing momentum until early in the present century, when there were those, urged by frustration and defeated hopes, who felt the time had come to turn words into action. As a result, the issue fell into one of divided opinion as to whether female enfranchisement was to be achieved by direct action or by constitutional persuasion. Famous among the direct actionists was Emmeline Pankhurst, whose husband, Dr. Richard Pankhurst (d. 1898), was a lawyer who had aided the women's cause by drafting proposals designed to bring about votes for women on the same basis as men. Mrs. Pankhurst had formed the Women's Suffrage League as far back as 1889, but this had foundered after a few precarious years. In 1903 she established the Women's Social and Political Union and, despairing of securing

female suffrage from the new Liberal government, she embarked, in 1906, on a policy of direct action, which was pursued until the outbreak of war in 1914. The surge in women's demands brought the question of female suffrage into sharper focus and physical demonstrations in pursuit of their aims earned headlines of increasing size in the newspapers of the day. This was the time when the agitators came to be known as Suffragettes, a sobriquet which, some say, appeared to have been coined by the *Daily Mail* in 1906, but it is more likely to have been a borrowing from the United States, where the term had been in use for a long time.

Although it undoubtedly elevated the subject of female suffrage to one for serious notice, militant action did not command universal support; furthermore, there were those who were offended by Mrs. Pankhurst's autocratic rule of the WSPU. Sympathies that were thus alienated brought about a break-away faction which formed the Women's Freedom League, whose policy of militancy was less violent than Mrs. Pankhurst's brand. Those who sought redress by constitutional means ultimately formed the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, which combined the strength of the hundreds of local organisations, many of which had been long in existence. 'The twin virtues of reason and moderation were shown to the best advantage' by this organisation; whose members came to be known as Suffragists to distinguish themselves from the militant Suffragettes, but it was the rival label that was to survive in popular usage despite the Oxford Dictionary's stricture about the misuse of a diminutive suffix. Though these were the main bodies, there were many other organisations which sought to advance the women's cause, among them being those attached to political parties, trade unions, the Co-operative movement, and even ethnic and religious minorities.

Challenged by mounting pressure which prevarication had failed to staunch, the House of Commons felt urged to set up an all-party committee in 1910 to consider the whole question of votes for women and in consequence of its deliberations there was drawn up a Conciliation

1. Roger Fulford, *Votes for Women* (Faber 1957), p. 143.

Bill, which proposed to give the vote to women householders and women occupiers of premises paying ten pounds or more a year. It should be remembered, however, that this was not the first women's franchise Bill to be introduced into Parliament; there had been several earlier attempts to secure legislation during the preceding half-century, many individual MPs having been prepared to act as sponsors, but without government backing the prospect of success was always extremely limited. For the first time, a measure of general agreement had been brought about by the Conciliation Committee's endeavours and hopes of triumph at last seemed to be enhanced. In July of the same year the Bill passed through the Commons at second reading by a large majority, but in November Prime Minister Asquith vetoed it on technical grounds, claiming that, as framed, it was incapable of amendment; any re-drafted Bill would therefore have to wait until the following year before it could be introduced. A new Bill, technically more satisfactory, was drafted by the Conciliation Committee and in May 1911 this, too, passed second reading, only to be killed by Asquith, who announced that because of lack of time a new Bill would have to be introduced.

Although he had announced in public that he was in favour of votes for women, Asquith was, in fact, among the opponents within his divided Cabinet, and these delaying tactics could not fail to infuriate. It needs to be said, however, that circumstances were never so stable that the warring factions were always consistent in their stances and there were times when the protagonists responded to expediency rather than principle. And, if on one hand, increasing violence hardened opposition from those whose influence might have been turned to better account, there were, on the other hand, those opponents who felt that total rather than selective franchise was the solution. Conservatives, if they favoured any enfranchisement at all, tended to support a limited property vote for women as a preferable alternative to the admission of the lower orders to the polling booth; whereas radical Liberals and the fledgling Labour party, objected to a selective franchise because they saw votes for all, men and women, over -twenty-one as the ultimate objective. As for the militants, one suspects a touch of perversity in those who balked at the prospect of seeing their demands satisfied by provisions incorporated in legislation to extend the male franchise; votes for

women was for them a just subject for a Bill solely concerned with the rights of women.

Failure of the Conciliation Bills brought predictable reaction from Mrs. Pankhurst and her cohorts. Already there had been refusal to co-operate in the 1911 census - No vote, no census, had been the cry. Many were fined, although the authorities jibbed at imprisonment when these were unpaid. Civil disobedience, such as ritual chainings to symbolic railings and the like, had been ineffectual; militancy now meant violence, which included window-smashing, stone-throwing, assaults on government ministers and police and even attempted bombings. 'No Taxation without Representation' cried these rebellious spirits as they were hauled off to prison, where some, heroic in defiance, suffered the indignity of forcible feeding. But it was not only the militants who revived the battle-cry of the eighteenth century American colonists; the constitutionalists joined in with the fervour of religious conviction. Even so, relatively few could have been liable to tax, a circumstance which partly explains the middle-class nature of the movement; the less articulate masses remained voiceless in a political wilderness.

Yet these were by no means the only events to distinguish those hectic years of political turbulence. On a different power-front another class battle raged over Lloyd George's land tax budget of 1909; a serious constitutional conflict between Lords and Commons precipitated two general elections within a single year and threatened the creation of hundreds of peers, the crisis being resolved at last by the passage of the Parliament Act 1911, which severely curbed the powers of the Upper House. Throughout this parliamentary confrontation - from 1909 to 1911 - the women's cause was almost submerged. But in 1912 the clamour was renewed with increased fervour, in which were joined the constitutionalists, now spurred to greater effort.

This was the context in which steps were taken to establish an organisation in Carmarthen to secure votes for women, and foremost among those who demanded a new deal was Beatrice Alice Holme, headmistress of the County Girls' School, a post she had held since



Beatrice Alice Holme

1895. Born on 17th February 1866, she was the daughter of a Manchester civil engineer, William Holme, and his wife Sarah Hough. After attending Manchester High School she entered Girton College, Cambridge, where she was a college scholar, in 1884, and in 1887 was successful in the mathematical tripos, being placed in Class II.² This was at a time when women, although allowed to sit the examinations, were not admitted to degrees of Cambridge University; later, the University awarded titular certificates, which was a way of conceding that had they been men they would have been granted degrees, but many women refused on principle to apply for certificates. It was as a result of this circumstance that Beatrice Holme, like many others, received a master's degree in arts from Trinity College, Dublin, which showed its disapproval by offering its own degree to women deprived by the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.³ Not until 1948 did Cambridge University

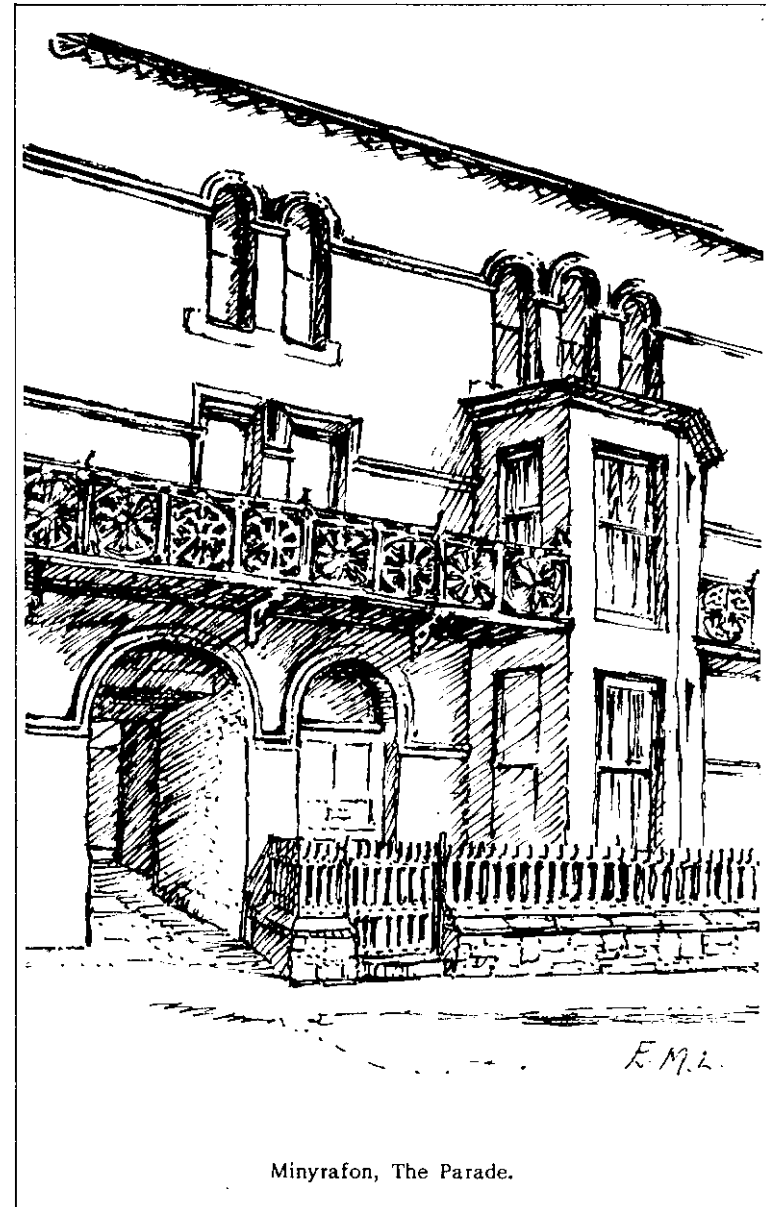
2. Girton College Register, according to which the name Holme was originally Hulme.

3. I am indebted to Ms. Alison Duke, Registrar of the Roll, Girton College, for this information.

admit women to degrees, though Oxford had yielded in 1920 and London as far back as 1878. Such indignity, suffered for no better reason than prejudice against her sex, must have rankled still when, almost twenty-five years later, she set forth upon a local crusade to play her part in the demand for women's voting rights.

Beatrice Holme belonged to the non-militant school and it was as a Suffragist that she took the leading role in setting up a Women's Suffragist Society at Carmarthen. It was appropriate that the society came into being at her home at Minyrafon, 8 The Parade, Carmarthen, where the inaugural meeting was held on Saturday evening, 4 November 1911." The date is worth noting, for the Parliament Bill resolving the conflict between Lords and Commons, which had commanded the attention of the nation, had now passed to the statute book. The time had therefore come when the movement could recapture public interest in full measure. The meeting at Minyrafon, at which there was a 'fair attendance of ladies', was presided over by Mr. E.V. Collier, and among other men present was the Rev. A. Fuller Mills. That men should have played a significant part in the proceedings may appear strange until it is remembered that political power and positions of social and economic influence were exclusively possessed by the male of the species and not until they had been won over in sufficient strength could there be hope of the fulfilment of women's aspirations. Support from men was therefore welcomed and some suffrage organisations even had men's sections. Nationally, many important figures espoused the women's cause, both inside and outside Parliament; even so, no political party was prepared to commit itself. Carmarthen Suffragists were therefore enhancing the possibility of achieving their aims by enlisting the aid of men. Ernest Vale Collier, architect, artist and antiquarian, was a much respected figure in the town, where he served the arts - notably the Operatic Society and the Sketch Club - and cared about the welfare of the young. More influential in local politics was Andrew Fuller Mills, Baptist minister, county councillor, and secretary of the Carmarthen Liberal Association; ten years later he would be mayor of the Borough.

4. The Society's Minute Book, Carmarthen Record Office, Acc. 4495.



Minyrafon, The Parade.

These two were elected to the committee, along with the following: Miss F. Morris, Bryn Roma; Miss Morris, Bryn Myrddin; Mrs. Lewis Giles; Miss Gwladys Lloyd, Lammas Street; Miss Holme; Mrs. Stephens; Mrs. Evan Jones, Green Bank; Mr. J.A. Maguire and Mr. F. Humphreys (treasurer). Miss Ann Jones, Green Bank and Miss Alice Evans, Green Hill were appointed temporary secretaries, but by the end of the year they were added to the committee and succeeded as secretaries by Miss Marion Jones, The Parade and Miss Mary Davies, Priory Street. Affiliation to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and an annual subscription of one shilling (five pence) was agreed and thanks were accorded Miss Holme for 'the use of her Drawing-room'.

Four days later the committee, presided over by Mr. Fuller Mills at Green Hill, agreed that Miss Holme should be chairman, and decided to 'stand by the Conciliation Bill unless there was a possibility of securing something better'. The second Conciliation Bill had already foundered because of lack of time, Mr. Asquith having announced that a new Bill would have to be introduced. In the same month as the Carmarthen Suffragists formed their society Mr. Asquith came out strongly in favour of adult suffrage, i.e. votes for men over twenty-one, and promised that in the next session the Government would introduce a Bill to give it effect; the Bill would be capable of amendment to include women, if the House so agreed. Suspecting treachery, Mrs. Pankhurst reacted violently. This was the time when she and her supporters had wanted nothing to do with any measure that adulterated the principle of women's voting rights by mixing it with the enfranchisement of more men; they insisted on a Conciliation Bill which would be exclusively concerned with women. The issue thus divided itself on party lines, the Conservatives tending to favour the Conciliation Bill's limited property qualification, while the Liberals refused to acknowledge any perfidy in Mr. Asquith's announcement of a policy offering an all-embracing franchise that would bring in the wife of the working man.

The Carmarthen Society's reaction was expressed at a meeting on 2 December, when letters from Mr. Asquith

and Mr. Llewelyn Williams, the Carmarthen Borough M.P., were received. Writing from King's Bench Walk, Temple, London, Mr. Williams stated: 'I am sorry that I cannot agree with the Resolution passed at your meeting the other night and think Mr. Asquith has taken up a very reasonable attitude and if all friends of the suffrage are well advised they will unite to support an Amendment to the Government's Bill providing for the inclusion of women. All that can be obtained from the Conciliation Bill can be won by amendment to the Manhood Suffrage Bill even if the majority of the House of Commons are against universal suffrage.'

Not wholly pleased with Llewelyn Williams's reply, the committee responded by expressing the hope that he would 'vote for that Amendment which will give Votes to Women on the widest basis possible'. At the same time, they affirmed their determination to exert every effort 'to secure votes for women on the same terms as they are allowed to men, but failing this to secure the enfranchisement of as many women as possible'.

To bring the aims of the branch into the public eye, an open meeting had been held at the Saleroom of the Ivy Bush Royal Hotel on Thursday, 23 November 1911, when Miss Holme, 'the lady principal of the County Girls' School', presided and 'was supported by several prominent townspeople. The room was crowded long before the appointed hour and a large number of people were unable to gain admission, so packed was the audience'.⁵ The invited speaker was Miss Helen Fraser of Cardiff, who had been active in the suffrage movement since 1906 and had taken part in over twenty by-elections. A Glaswegian who had been trained as an artist, she had been one of the speakers at a rally organised by Mrs. Pankhurst's Union in June 1908, when half a million people were said to have assembled in Hyde Park, London. In the meantime, however, she had switched her allegiance to the constitutionalists.

Introducing the guest speaker, Miss Holme said: 'I have supported this movement for many years for I know

5. *Carmarthen Journal*, 1 December 1911.

of no logical reason why women who have to obey the laws of the country and who also in many cases have to pay taxes, should not have a voice in forming those laws. I have heard many arguments against women's suffrage, but none, apart from sex, which, in my opinion, could not be applied to some if not all men.' She went on to say: 'Arguments similar to those now used against women's suffrage were brought about forty years ago against the higher education of women. Women were assured that they were incapable of such work and there were gloomy prognostications as to the results if they dared to enter the portals of knowledge hitherto sacred to men. Well, during the last forty years in spite of much opposition on the part of men... women have shown capacity for intellectual attainments to a degree never dreamt of by our ancestors nor even by the pioneers themselves. The number of women who take Arts degrees at the London University at the present time is in excess of the men. During the three years I was at Cambridge - more than twenty years ago - there were two women who proved themselves superior to all men of their year - one being Senior Classics and the other Senior Wrangler.⁶ I may say in passing that this intellectual superiority did not prevent one of them from being a devoted wife and mother. Many of more recent years have done equally well. Only the other day Madame Curie - the discoverer of radium, the greatest discovery of the age - was awarded ...the Nobel Prize . Florence Nightingale - that noble woman to whom England owed so much, whose name is honoured throughout all Europe - was an ardent suffragist. To such women as these the vote is denied while it is given to an ignorant man who is willing to sell his vote for a glass of beer.'

After claiming that the interests of women and girls had come a bad second to those of men and boys, she continued: 'In the labour market there is a vast army of women - the census of 19pI gave it as 4,000,000 -

6. Ms Alison Duke states: One was Agnata Frances Ramsay of Girton, who, in 1887, was the only candidate placed in the first division of the First Class in the Classical Tripos, a distinction which earned her a signed photograph of Queen Victoria. The other was Philippa Garrett Fawcett of Newnham, who in 1890 (after Beatrice Fiolme had left Girton), came above the Senior Wrangler in the Mathematical Tripos.

who are working for weekly wages and are dependent on their own labour for a livelihood. The Royal Commission which reported on the subject declared that the average wages - not minimum, mind you - earned by the women workers was not more than 7s. [35 pence] a week... Many of these women are driven by lack of food to lead immoral lives. Again, how many companies are there controlled by men, directors who exploit women's labour - doling out to them less than a living wage, and then paying their shareholders dividends of 10, 15, 20 or even 35 per cent.'

Looking forward to the time when their demands would be conceded, Miss Holme said: 'I am firmly of the opinion that when women have the vote their whole social status will be raised, their views of life will be broadened, the sins of emptiness, gossip and slander for which we are often blamed but for which we do not hold a monopoly, will grow less - they will accept their responsibilities and apply themselves to the work they entail. They will use their powers to get better conditions for the mothers and children of the working classes, they will fight the sweating system, the evils of drink, social impurity and vice. I believe, too, that giving women a share in the government of their country will result in closer comradeship between men and women - not in family quarrels, as some Jeremiahs would have us believe - but in more happiness in the home life.'

In 1912 there was 'an access of strength and an increase of activity in the ranks of the constitutionalists',^t which was manifested in Carmarthenshire by a parliamentary by-election brought about early in the year as a result of the appointment of Llewelyn Williams as Recorder of Swansea; at that time the law forbade him to continue as a member of Parliament without seeking re-election. This was an opportunity for the local Suffragists to take practical steps and as a result of a committee meeting at Green Hill on 13 January 1912 it was resolved to confront the candidates with the following questions:

7. Roger Fulford, *ibid.*, p.267.

1. Are you in favour of the Parliamentary Vote being extended to women?
2. In the event of a Bill being brought forward for the extension of the Franchise and such a Bill does not give Votes to women, are you prepared to support an Amendment giving Votes to women on the same terms as votes are allowed to men?
3. If not prepared to give Votes to women on the same terms as to men, to what extent are you prepared to allow the Parliamentary Franchise to women?

But the militants were not inactive, either. In-furiated by thwarted endeavour, their battle-cry was 'Get the Government out', and at every by-election they harried the Liberal candidate. Thus it was that Emmeline Pankhurst visited Carmarthen on Saturday, 20 January 1912 to address a crowded hall at the Assembly Rooms in King Street. Cheered and booed, she proclaimed with fiery passion that 'we are here to do our best to secure the defeat of the Government candidate' unless he secured from the Prime Minister before the election in the following week an undertaking to withdraw the Manhood Suffrage Bill in favour of one ensuring equal votes for women. This, of course, was no more than a rhetorical demand, which Llewelyn Williams could hardly be expected to meet. In any case, he had already made clear his counter-stance in response to the appeals of the local Suffragists.

During question time after Mrs. Pankhurst's speech there came a sparkle of light relief when there was a sudden stir and all eyes turned to the gallery. 'There, with folded arms, eyeing the crowd with a calm and supercilious stare, stood the renowned Dr. Brown', recorded the local reporter. All present, it seems, roared with abandon, while Mrs. Pankhurst, mystified, tried to restore order, only to be dared by the tormenting doctor, who 'suddenly smiled sweetly, took off his hat and waved it to her'. Appealing to the crowd, Mrs. Pank-

8. The meeting is extensively reported in the *Carmarthen Journal*, 26 January 1912.

burst said, 'I am entirely in your hands', whereupon the doctor responded with, 'Will you put yourself in my hands?', an invitation which the assembly chose to mis-interpret amid fresh uproar.

This Dr. Brown seems to have been something of an eccentric carpet-bagger with Parliamentary ambitions. He had associations with Porthcawl and Bridgend and had been a ship's surgeon; now he was tramping around the countryside vainly seeking nomination in the Labour party cause, but his role at the hustings was inconsequential, though not without a bizarre kind of entertainment, and nobody took him seriously.⁹ Neither he nor the women's suffrage movement had any significant effect on the election and Llewelyn Williams found himself returned once more to Westminster.

Asquith's promised measure (the Manhood Suffrage Bill which had been referred to by Llewelyn Williams) that was to be capable of amendment to include women was the Franchise and Registration Bill, which was introduced in June 1912; beside extending male franchise, this sought to destroy plural voting and abolish all property qualifications. Postponement of the committee stage of the Bill until 1913 spawned sporadic outbursts of militancy in the autumn and winter. In the meantime, support for the women came from the Labour party, which had agreed at its annual conference that no franchise bill which did not include provision for women would be acceptable. Even so, this support was far from total. Although the parliamentary party produced outstanding sympathisers - notably Keir Hardie and George Lahsbury - there were many who were less enthusiastic and among the rank and file the miners were opposed to the conference decision.

In due time the Franchise Bill attracted four amendments:

1. Deletion of the word 'male' (but this would not have ensured the inclusion of women).

9. This according to Mr. David Owen, who was present at the meeting and who himself became a Parliamentary candidate for Carmarthen West in 1951.

2. Enfranchisement of women on the same basis as men.
3. Enfranchisement of all women householders and the wives of householders over 25.
4. Inclusion of the terms of the earlier Conciliation Bill.

The debate, which opened on 24 January 1913, produced exemplary oratory that might just as well have been left unuttered, for on the second day the Speaker, wholly unexpectedly, ruled that if an amendment allowing women's suffrage were approved it would cause such a fundamental alteration that, in accordance with the rules of the House, the Bill would have to be withdrawn. Blame for this failure, by tendering bad advice, fell upon the Law Officers, but Asquith could not escape embarrassment, which he sought to assuage by promising facilities for a private member's bill on women's suffrage. This was introduced in May, but the debate, almost the fiftieth of its kind in the Commons, ended in defeat by forty-eight votes.

The failure of these bills goaded the militants into renewed violence, which erupted with an unprecedented rage that resorted to arson and bombing - women were now 'burning to vote', as was said at the time. Imprisonment of offenders was thought by many to be ineffectual and extreme opponents advocated birching and hair-shaving before deportation - to remote Scottish islands, Australia or even St. Helena! Such a reaction had no deterrent effect on those who had unshakeable faith in the justice of their cause, whatever the cost. That cost reached its peak when Emily Davison threw herself before the King's horse in the Derby of 1913 and died of her injuries a few days later. By the summer of 1914 even King George was the subject of mild abuse.

At Carmarthen the campaign proceeded more sedately. A committee meeting at Minyrafon on 2 March 1912 had, on the motion of Mr. Collier, seconded by Mr. Fuller Mills, resolved that a memorial, signed by influential Liberals, be sent to Mr. Hinds,¹⁰ requesting support

¹⁰ John Hinds was returned as Liberal Member of Parliament for Carmarthen West in December 1910.

for the terms of the Conciliation Bill. The committee also resolved that the Llanelly Society be asked to take similar action towards securing the co-operation of Mr. Abel Thomas, the Liberal member for Carmarthenshire East. To raise money for the South Wales Federation, Miss Maude Royden " was invited to give a lecture on 28th April 1912, the admission charge to be sixpence (21 pence). The meeting was held at Lammas Street Chapel Schoolroom and Joan of Arc was the subject of her talk, a piece of allusive symbolism, no doubt, in keeping with the fact that a London procession had been led by a lady in armour astride a white horse, other historic figures invoked from time to time being Elizabeth I and Boadicea. Maude Royden was an influential figure in the movement and was a member of the executive of the committee of the NUWSS.

Local interest appears to have flagged somewhat, for almost a year passed before the next committee meeting, which was held on 13 February 1913, the last to take place at Minyrafon. It was agreed that Lady Frances Balfour and Miss Frances Stirling be invited to speak at the Society's annual meeting 'after the Easter holidays'. Lady Balfour, daughter of the eighth Duke of Argyll, who had married A.J. Balfour's brother, was renowned for the invective she brought to the support of female suffrage. By the next meeting, on 18 October 1913, Miss Holme had moved to a house, which she called Kai Ora, in Myrddin Crescent, where the committee met and accepted the offer of a lecture by Laurence Housman,¹¹ who spoke at the Ivy Bush Saleroom on Thursday evening, 30 October, the chairman being Mr. Fuller Mills. In June 1909, Housman had been the 'distinguished man' who had figured in the uproar in the Central Lobby of the House of Commons. Earlier the same day Mrs. Pankhurst had been arrested in the House after striking a police officer on both cheeks, an eventuality that persuaded a host of followers to cause rumbustious scenes in the Central Lobby and at the height of the clamour Housman called out: 'The women of England

¹¹ Maude Royden, daughter of Sir Thomas Royden, Bt. (later Baron Royden). Social worker and academic lecturer who published many books and became a noted preacher and Companion of Honour.

¹² Author and artist, younger brother of Prof. A.E. Housman, eminent classical scholar and author of *A Shropshire Lad*.

are clamouring outside', only to be bundled out to join the throng of thousands which besieged Parliament."

A committee meeting called for 5 June 1914 had no quorum, but a garden party and a tennis tournament were discussed. No further entry appears in the Minute Book. Soon there were volcanic rumblings of another war, which was to unite the whole nation, men and women, through four tortured years during which women rallied with a patriotic fervour that left the years of agitation in limbo. But recognition came at last, almost unsought. The Electoral Reform Bill, which gave the vote to all women on reaching the age of thirty, passed through the Commons by 364 votes to 23 and became law in January 1918. The so-called 'flapper vote', which gave women equality with men, was granted in 1928.

Beatrice Holme continued as headmistress of Carmarthen County Girls' School until her retirement in 1926 after thirty-one years in the post. When she took up duties in September 1895 the school, which had thirty-five pupils, was housed at 10 Quay Street before moving to new premises between Richmond Terrace and Wellfield Road in 1899. During her time many hundreds of girls passed through the school which she strove unremittingly to improve, both in its educational standards and its facilities. Largely through her efforts and determination the school got its own swimming pool, opened in 1925, an uncommon adjunct in those days; she herself presented the school with a hard tennis court. Her retirement was an occasion for many tributes, reported at length in the local press, which described her as 'being among Wales's greatest educationists'. She received many gifts, and surplus money subscribed by Old Girls all over the country she used to found a scholarship.

Although she left to settle at Lenham near Maidstone in Kent, where she was joined by her brother who

13. Roger Fulford, *ibid.*, p.198.

had been education secretary at Norwich, she maintained contact with many friends and acquaintances in Carmarthen for whom her home was open house. She died on 1 April 1948, aged 82, remembered and mourned by many in the town she had served with so much distinction. Tributes to her memory were paid at a meeting, on 9 November 1949, in the hall of her old school, where a bronze memorial plaque¹⁴ was unveiled and a reading-desk and Bible presented for school use. The authority which she was able to impose by force of personality made up for the inches she lacked in stature and the devotion she gave to her profession earned her the gratitude of her protegees, the admiration of her friends and the respect of her Yellow-citizens.

14. This plaque seems to have disappeared, but another is still in situ beside the swimming pool. Her portrait and the reading-desk are now at Queen Elizabeth Cambria School, Johnstown.

from the inside it becomes apparent that the house contains a number of structures from different periods which have been modified in later years' to produce a more unified exterior.

The early history of the house is unknown. Various suggestions have been made and it seems probable that there was a building allied to the abbey in the position of the present house. Some part of it may be built into the existing fabric. There are records of a Mansion House belonging to the abbey. "At the Court of the Lordship, 22nd April in the first year of Queen Mary (1553): They say that there is a house called Ye Convent Hall, covered with tile, containeth two roomes between the rooffe and the ground, and in the lowermost room there, there is a buttery and a lard-house, and in the uppermost a hall and a parlour called the Abbot's Chamber, which house is decayed and requireth reparation of £5" Although the description is not inconsistent with the structure of part of Talley House, one cannot make any definite association. There are family traditions of tunnels connecting the house with the abbey, ghosts of hooded monks etc., some of which have found their way into the popular press.

In the late eighteenth century the house came into the possession of Daniel Price, Esq., attorney-at-law, and remained the residence of his family and their descendants for 180 years.

Daniel Price (1749-1815) was the second son of John Price, Esq., of Neuadd-fawr, Llanwrda, and the grandson of William Rees of Llansadwrn. John was the first of his family to adopt the anglicised surname; his mother was Anne Fortescue who apparently inherited the Fortescue home of Neuadd-fawr, until recently a large farmhouse in the village of Llanwrda some 300 yards south of the parish church.' It was probably built or

5. The authors wish to thank the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. John Brown, for kindly allowing them to examine the interior of the house in its present form.
6. F.S. Price, *History of Talley and Talley Abbey*, Swansea (1934).
7. For example, *South Wales Evening Post*, Swansea, 23rd December 1966.
8. For this and much other information from this period the authors are greatly indebted' to Mr. D. Emrys Williams, Assistant Keeper of Manuscripts and Records, National Library of Wales.



Daniel Price (1749-1815)

acquired by Anne's great-great-grandfather, Bennett Fortescue, a younger son of Sir Lewis Fortescue, Baron of the Exchequer under Henry VIII,⁹ who left England to settle in the Vale of Tywi in the 16th century.

Daniel came to Talley in 1771 when he was 22 and in 1777 married Elizabeth Williams of Talley. Elizabeth appears to have inherited property from her father, Thomas Williams, who had a business in Talley. He was the son of William ap David ap William ap Morgan ap Lloyd and Elizabeth Jones of Borthyn, Cynwyl Gaeo.

Daniel with his two surviving sons Thomas (1781-1823) and Daniel (1788-1848) founded the firm of Price and Sons, Solicitors, Talley and Llandeilo. They were agents for the Edwinsford estates and the younger Daniel was steward of the manor of Talley for the Crown. As such he represented the manor in the 1832-33 legal proceedings mentioned above.

Despite stories of documents regarding Talley House dating back to 1110 the authors have found nothing specific earlier than some records of the Courts Leet and Baron which controlled the transfer of the local copyhold properties. The report of a meeting on the 26th October 1781 shows the transfer of Ty'r Jenkin Gwynne from a John Harries on his death to his wife Mary. This was two houses joined together which was later, if not then, known as Talley House. On the 11th May 1789 the Court met at "Daniel Price's house" to approve the transfer of Ty'r Jenkin Gwynne and Mynydd Cyn-y-Rhos from Mary Harries to John and Mary's only child, Elizabeth Williams. Ty'r Jenkin Gwynne was described as "now in the possession of Elizabeth Williams widow and Daniel Price Gentleman", apparently meaning that Daniel Price was a tenant at that time.

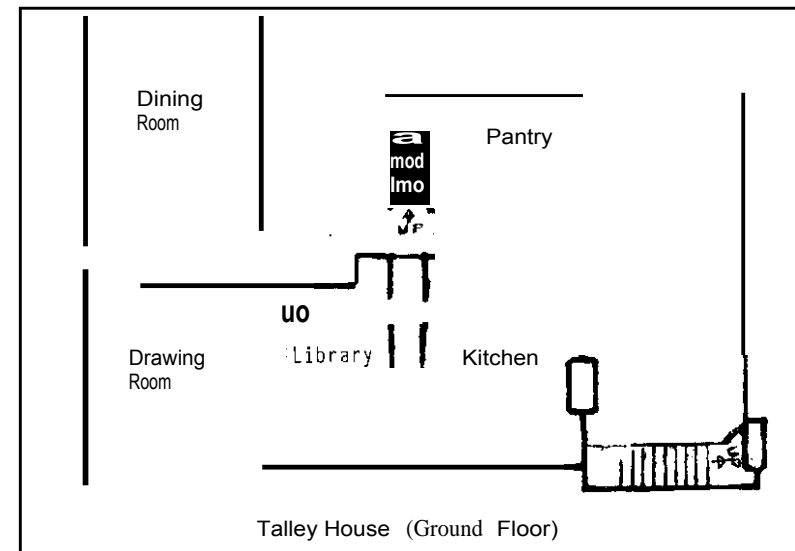
On the 29th May 1793 the Court Baron recorded the surrender of "all those several Copyhold Messuages Tenements or Dwelling Houses being under the same Roof commonly known by the name of Ty'r Jenkin Gwynne....now or late in the several tenures or Occu-

9. Lord Clermont, *History of the Family of Fortescue*.

pations of Daniel Price Gentleman and Jane Lloyd widowalso a Dwelling House called Cegin-newydd and two Copyhold Fields Cae Glas and Bonis-Ucha all occupied by John Harries to pass to the use and behoof of Daniel Price". The cost to Daniel price appears to have been some £200. How the properties passed from Elizabeth Williams in 1789 to John Harries and his wife Margaret who surrendered them in 1793 is not shown by the documents.

In 1815 Daniel Price died and on the 2nd May 1817 his younger son Daniel was admitted as copyholder of the same four properties. The elder son Thomas was resident in Llandeilo where he was a coroner. He died unmarried in 1823.

It seems probable that about this time the two houses were combined as one. The younger Daniel married Elizabeth Long in 1821 and by 1843 they had had 13 children, so surely needed the room. Only minor structural changes would have been required. The empty well of the staircase of the second house remains to this day.



Elizabeth Long was born in Swansea in 1800 although is shown in the register as living at Llangadog at the time of her marriage there. Her parentage is not definitely established. It is possible, and has the support of family tradition, that she was the daughter of David Long, a surgeon who lived in Fisher Street, Swansea; the fact that she named three of her sons David Long lends weight to the possibility. Surgeon Long rented "a messuage and tenement called Leeson Wick" in Llanrhidian, Gower, from the Duke of Beaufort, and probably inherited other property in this area; the documents show Longs in Llanmadoc, Llanrhidian and Rhossili going back to the 14th century. Significantly, a "curate of Rhossili" officiated at the wedding of Daniel and Elizabeth. In any case the name was evidently a source of pride to Daniel and Elizabeth's son, David Long Price, who used his middle name in styling himself as did (and do) many of his descendants. Out of 13 children only one son and five daughters survived to adulthood.

In the 1839 Talley Parish Rate Book, and subsequently, there is an exhaustive list of properties but no mention of Ty'r Jenkin Gwynne or the other properties named above- Talley House is shown as owned and occupied by Daniel Price. In the 1841 census Daniel and his family are recorded as living at Talley House.

The younger Daniel Price died in 1848 but it was not until 1868 that his only surviving son David Long-Price (1833-1898) applied for and was granted the copyhold of Ty'r Jenkin Gwynne and the other properties "known by the general name of Talley House". It seems that the old names were maintained in the records of the Court Baron long after they had passed from general use, since the Court was concerned with authorizing and recording the passing of the various named copyhold properties. The locations of Cae Glas and Bonis Ucha are not known but Cegin-newydd was probably a house close to Talley House which has long since ceased to exist.

David Long Price was educated at Froodvale Academy, a large house just west of the river Cothi between Crug-y-bar and Pumpsaint, and there is a record of him

from this period:¹⁰ "D. Long Price, Talley - son of the chief steward to Sir James Williams, Edwinsford...he used to lodge at Trewaun-fawr on his own food, but somehow or other the tea or the sugar or the butter or the bread would come to an end without fail on Friday morning, and mid-day he would present a request to the master to go home that afternoon for fear he would die of hunger before morning. The master would not think of refusing, since he knew that Mr. Long Price would go home in any case".

When David was 15 his father died: "On a summer afternoon a crowd of us were bathing and swimming in the river Cothi below Ffrwdval opposite Penycoed when we could see the servant of Mr. Price, Talley, coming on horseback, leading another by its reins. He imparted the news that his father had died suddenly. He came up from the river in a trice, dressed, jumped on the animal's back and away at a wild gallop, and we did not have a peep of him after that".¹⁰ As far as is known he did not go to school again but was articled to a solicitor in Gloucester and subsequently qualified as one himself.

Following his father, he became Steward of the Manor of Talley and agent for the Edwinsford and Dan-yralt estates. Perhaps with his mother's support, he was soon adding properties to his own estate both by purchase and by building. He is mentioned several times in the journals of Hermione Jennings of Gellideg.¹¹ On one occasion he and Hermione were guests at a large houseparty at Pentre, the home of the Saunders Davies family at Manordeifi, and over four very active days in February 1866 Hermione's notes suggest that David had some romantic interest in her. He is the first to be mentioned as having danced with her at both the first and second Cardigan balls and returned from both in the same carriage. He took her into dinner twice and "insisted" that she should go with him to a meet of the foxhounds. She comments "rather a slow

¹⁰ "Reminiscences of Froodvale Academy" by "An Old Student", *Y Tyst o'r Dydd*, January 4, 1884, translated by Mr. D. Emrys Williams.

¹¹ Major Francis Jones, "Journal of a Young Lady of Fashion", *Carmarthenshire-Historian*, Vol. XI, pp. 3-54 (1974) and Vol. XII, pp. 22-54 (1975).

party" but perhaps this is natural from a bright young lady of 18 who spent half the year in a hectic round of London entertainments writing of a man 15 years older!

He appears to have been an able and energetic man. He had an active interest in local affairs, holding for many years the posts of Under-Sheriff for the County, registrar of the Lampeter County Court and County Treasurer. He was in charge of the excavations of Talley Abbey carried out by means of public subscription over the period 1892-1894, and is commended in the reports of the excavations.¹² He was well versed in Welsh language and literature and local history. Several of his translations were published as well as the article on Talley Abbey already referred to.¹

In 1867 the ground area of Talley House was enlarged by perhaps 30 per cent to its present form. This was done by building new walls outside the north and south of the existing house with two floors of higher pitched rooms at the south matching the total height of the three old floors. An interesting staircase was built and a new roof was put over the whole. At the same time the road from Talley to Cwmdru, which used to pass close to the front of the house and the stables, was rebuilt on the present line to leave room for a lawn between it and the house. Some photographs taken about 1880 show the outside of the house as it is today save for the porch and bay window which have gone in recent years.

These changes were made in preparation for David's marriage in 1868 to Susanne Peel. By this time a substantial estate had been built up with many scattered properties within 10 miles of Talley. The same year Elizabeth Price and her five daughters, who had all been living at Talley House, moved to Lampeter (40 High Street and later Bank House). None of the daughters married but all reached a ripe old age.

Susanne Peel came from Taliaris Park, a large estate four miles south of Talley. Her father was William

12. S.W. Williams, Arch. *Cambrensis*, Vol. XIV, pp.228-247 (1897).



Peel, Esq., J.Y.,¹³ who had bought Taliaris from Lord Robert Seymour around 1830. The Peels were Lancashire industrialists: William's great-grandfather was "Parsley" Peel (so called from the favourite design printed on his calico cloth), founder of the family fortunes. One of his grandsons was Sir Robert Peel, Prime Minister in 1834-5 and 1841-6.

Susanne's mother on the other hand had an impeccable Welsh ancestry. She was Anna Maria Lloyd of the Lloyds of Ffos-y-bleiddiaid, a family with military traditions which traced its ancestry from Cadifor ap Dyfnwal, Lord of Castell Hywel and kinsman and follower of Rhys ap Gruffydd.¹⁴ Cadifor in turn was eighth in descent from Rhodri Mawr, King of all Wales (ruled 843-877).¹⁵

13. The family has a water-colour of him leading a troop of 4th Light Dragoons across the Saxon's Ford (near Danyrallt) in pursuit of Rebecca rioters (1843).

14. L.E. Theakston, *Some Family Records and Pedigrees of the Lloyds*.

15. Rhodri himself claimed descent, for sound political reasons, from the poet Llywarch Hen and Coel Hen (fl. 5th c.), founder of one of the two ruling dynasties of the *Gwryy Gogledd*, the "Men of the North".

David and Susanne had one daughter, Susanne Elizabeth, and seven sons. Following the traditions of the day, two sons (John and Francis) entered the Church, two (Robert Peel and Edmund) the Law, two (Herbert Overton and Cecil Evelyn) the Army, while the seventh (Alan Sydney) went out to Ceylon and made, and lost, a small fortune as a tea-planter. Cecil Evelyn was killed in the Gallipoli landings in the First World War and is commemorated by a plaque in Talley Church.

David Long Price died in 1898, his widow Susanne inheriting the estate. On her death in 1905 it passed to the eldest son, the Rev. John Price, B.A.

John was made vicar of Talley in 1914, after spells as curate of Llanstephan and rector of Pendine, and carried on his ministry from Talley House until his death in 1940. He was a much loved local vicar, preaching regularly in Welsh and English; he never wore a clerical collar and this emphasised his second role, that of squire. He was also a true sporting parson, being a very keen tennis player and kennelling a pack of beagles, and later harriers, at Talley House. He hunted the local countryside for 21 seasons and only gave up when smitten with arthritis.

In 1899 John married Myfanwy, daughter of the Rev. John Price of Llanveigan, Brecon. Myfanwy supported her husband in every way, playing the organ and directing the choir. They had one son and seven daughters. The son, John Meredydd David Long Price, died tragically young in 1951 and on Myfanwy's death in 1960 the remaining estate was sold.

A few members of the family still reside in the county,¹⁶ but many have moved across the border and some overseas. The clerical traditions of the family were continued by the Very Rev. Robert Peel Price, vicar of Christchurch Priory, Hampshire, and later Dean of Hereford, who died on 26th December 1981.

16. The last member of the family living in Talley is Mrs. Long Price of Dark Gate Cottage.

The two Daniel Prices, David Long Price, John Price and their families lie peacefully in the churchyard, "the place above the waters", overlooking the lakes and the abbey ruins. Talley House still stands, without hidden passages or skeletons of walled-up monks but in good repair thanks to the workmanship of past days and the love and care of the present owners.

Naperville, Illinois, 1982

Acknowledgement. The authors are grateful for patient assistance from the staff of several libraries, especially the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, the Dyfed Archives, Carmarthen, the Glamorgan Archives, Cardiff, and the Genealogical Library of the Church of Latter-Day Saints, Naperville, Illinois.

A Prime Minister's Carmarthenshire Postbag

By Roland Thorne, M.A.

Among those who wrote from Carmarthenshire to Prime Minister William Pitt the younger it might be expected that the lord lieutenant would play the part of correspondent-in-chief. Pitt was prime minister from 1783 until his death in 1806, save for an interval from 1801 to 1804 and Carmarthenshire had as lord lieutenant, from 1780 until his death, John Vaughan (1757-1804)¹ of Golden Grove, but not one letter from him to Pitt appears to survive. We know from other sources that Vaughan went his own way; he had given up his parliamentary seat for the county in 1784, when the tide was running in Pitt's favour, and subsequent evidence suggests that Vaughan had no wish to hitch his waggon to this rising star. But if no letter from Vaughan survives, others, usually seeking favours, are not lacking.

Vaughan's successor as county member, Sir William Mansel (1739-1804),² 9th Baronet of Iscoed, was as zealous a supporter of Pitt as Vaughan was indifferent, and he expected Pitt to notice it. On 22 October 1787 he wrote to him asking for the promotion of his eldest son in the *army*. On 17 December he wrote again complaining of the delay in implementing the promotion. Intending to offer himself for re-election, he found no encouragement in ministerial circles. His pleas for their support went unheard, and at the general election of 1790 he made way for the Honourable George Talbot Rice (1765-1852),³ the young heir to the barony of Dynevor. Having yielded the county seat, Mansel contemplated challenging John George Philipps (1761-1816)⁴ of Cwmgwili, member for Carmarthen Borough, but gave

1. Last of the Vaughans of Golden Grove. Dying without legitimate issue, he left his estates to his friend John Campbell of Stackpole, 1st Baron Cawdor.
2. M.P. for the County, 1784-90.
3. M.P. for the County, 1790-3; succeeded his mother as 3rd Baron Dynevor in 1793.
4. M.P. for the County, 1784-96, 1796-1803.

up that intention too. On 5 April 1796 he wrote to Pitt from Swansea, asking this time for promotion for his younger son, Richard, in the *Navy*, in which he had served 'the greatest part of the war' (Britain had been at war with revolutionary France since 1793).

Mansel died in 1804 and was succeeded by his eldest son, William⁵ who, on 1st July the same year took up his pen and reminded Pitt that his late father and his late uncle, George Philipps of Coedgain, had been his supporters in Parliament:

'On their steadiness to your administration, as not having the honour myself of being personally known to you, I presume to request the favour of your application to the King to ask His Majesty's permission for the revival of the barony of Manse] in my favour. I will explain to you my idea of pretention, but first wish to assure you that my view is neither to *place* nor *pension*. I want nothing of pecuniary favour, having a very ample independence of my own, which with my brothers and my cousins commands a great interest in the counties of Carmarthen, Brecon and Glamorganshire. Indeed my father's exertions at the last county election turned the scale in favour of Mr. Hamlyn Williams at a very severe, expensive and critical contest, and as long as Lord Dynevor and ourselves keep together we must bring in our own Member, but I hope never again with a nabob⁶ adversary, nor would it be wise in Lord Cawdor to attempt such an opposition. The Borough likewise, tho' Mr. Paxton has succeeded Mr. J.G. Philipps by stratagem and little difficulty, on account of the sneaking manner in which he retired; however, I trust the next election will with the same trifling difficulty turn him out, but in a more open manner than the one adopted to bring him in'.

After stating in brief his father's claim to the barony, Mansel went on:

5. Sir William Mansel (1766-1829), 10th Baronet.
6. Sir William Paxton (1744-1831), who bought Middleton Hall, a Carmarthenshire estate. Defeated by Sir James Hamlyn Williams in the county election of 1802; M.P. for Carmarthen 1803-6 and for the County 1806-7.

' My father was often pressed to make the application I am now doing, but he declared never to ask a favour from you for himself or family, tho many for others which you granted. Uninterested was his support for you, and his pleasure when attending on his Parliamentary duty was in exertion to bring his friends over to his opinion and interest for yourself - Lord Milford in particular. My intention is to stand for the County myself at the next election should my friend Hamlyn Williams retire, and I do not succeed in this application to you; I am sure your respect to my father will induce you to do with propriety what you can, more I do not ask but certainly my pretensions are solid. My services in the army have been 22 years, tho' now only 37 years of age. I served in the 22nd Regiment - the Life Guards - and Foot Guards, leaving the latter by exchange into the 19th Regiment stationed in the East Indies. I came home extremely ill, but by the medical assistance of Doctr. Reynolds, I have recovered. I am going to reside in my own County to render every service there in my power. I shall consider your delay, to this letter, of reply, to the multiplicity of business you are engaged in, and whenever most convenient will trouble you to answer it directed to me Iscoed Carmarthenshire. I leave Town next Wednesday evening, and should you wish to see me I will do myself the honour of attending your time of appointment by addressing to me at Mr. Williams's Bedford Row".

On 4 July Mansel, who had heard nothing from Pitt, took advantage of a change of plan to remind Pitt of his claims: this time he was to be reached at his brother's, Sketty Hall, Glamorgan. (This was Richard, previously mentioned, who had taken the additional name of Philipps on coming into the Coedgain estate.) Pitt was famous for ignoring letters, and no doubt he ignored Mansel's, or wrote a brief and polite negative. Mansel continued to aspire to a role in Carmarthenshire politics for several years after Pitt's death, but little notice was taken of his efforts to draw attention to himself.

Philipps of Cwmgwili, whom Sir William Mansel senior had hoped to replace as Borough Member, and who had so annoyed Sir William by his 'sneaking manner' of resigning his seat, had no truck with Pitt, being a zealous supporter of Fox and the Opposition in Parliament.

As for the Hon. George Talbot Rice, his correspondence with the prime minister did not commence, it seems, until he had vacated the County seat in 1793, on inheriting his mother's title. He wrote to Pitt from Dynevor Castle on 10 January (no *year* given), asking for his protege Vaughan Horton of Llethrllestry to be appointed comptroller of the port of Milford in succession to the deceased Daniel Lloyd. On 2 March 1795 he wrote from Carmarthen to convey alarming impressions of disaffection in South Wales. Having been on militia duty in Aberystwyth, he reported that 'there appeared a secret ferment through the whole country'. There had been bread riots at Aberystwyth, Cardigan, Narberth, Haverfordwest, Bridgend and Neath, due to the shortage of barley, the staple food of 'our common people'. He suspected, without proof, the presence of republican societies in the towns. No specific mention, however, is made of Carmarthenshire. In one surviving letter, dated 2 April 1805, to Pitt, written in his capacity as lord lieutenant, an office he held for 48 years, he asked to have the nomination of the field officers in the Carmarthen Militia.

No letter to the premier from the Hamlyn Williamses,⁷ father and son, Dynevor's immediate successors in the County seat, has survived; nor did William Paxton, their 'nabob adversary', whose politics were contrary, trouble Pitt. A year after Pitt's death, Paxton was ousted from the County seat by Lord Robert Seymour (1748-1831)⁸ of Taliaris, an estate which he had purchased some twenty years before. Seymour, who had long been MP for Orford, wrote to Pitt from Taliaris, 3 January 1805, in response to a circular for his attendance at Westminster, to excuse himself on account of his bereavement; his wife's recent death had so distressed his two daughters and himself that he expected to remain for some time 'out of public'. It was presumably Seymour's bargain purchase of Taliaris which was referred to by an anonymous correspondent of Pitt's,

7. Sir James Hamlyn, 1st Bt. (1735-1811), of Edwingsford; M.P. for the County 1793-1802; created baronet 1795; married Arabella Williams, heiress of Edwingsford. Sir James Hamlyn Williams, 2nd Bt. (1765-1829), of Edwingsford, took his mother's surname. M.P. for the County 1802-6 after enormous expense on his election.

8. A younger son of the 1st Marquess of Hertford. M.P. for the County (1807-20).

who, dating his letter merely 2 Sept., complained that landed property in Wales was in a parlous state when Taliaris could be sold in Chancery for only fourteen times its annual value.

Carmarthenshire had also its spiritual grandees in the persons of the bishops of St. Davids, when they chose to reside at Abergwili. Bishop Samuel Horsley (1733-1806),⁹ who held the see from 1788 until 1793, made no secret of his hostility to nonconformity: he tried to have Philipps of Cwmgwili turned out of his seat in Parliament for his support of the Dissenters' campaign for relief. On 9 April 1791 he wrote to Pitt to protest against the continuation of that campaign in Parliament and referred to the petitions of his clergy to the same effect. On 28 May 1791 he wrote in a different vein: he needed more income. As one of the eight children of a modest clergyman, he had never had enough of it, even though he had retained the rectory of Newington on becoming a bishop.

His successor at Abergwili, Lord William Stuart (1755-1822);¹ wrote on 30 October 1793 to Pitt on his return from Wales to view his new diocese. He was disappointed that Pitt seemed to exonerate his predecessor's insistence on his domestic chaplain at Abergwili not being replaced by the new bishop's nominee. Stuart, who was looking for a niche for a clerical protege named Holcombe, complained that Horsley had already 'disposed of the best preferment in the diocese' and, 'by a strange indulgence', was being allowed to retain possession of the see of St. Davids till the middle of next December, 'or, in other words, to enjoy the full income and patronage of two bishoprics during four months'. On 28 March 1800 Bishop Stuart again approached Pitt, from Curzon Street, Mayfair, as 'the poorest bishop on the bench'. Having a young family to support, he wished to be 'more at ease', as his brother Lord Bute had doubtless informed Pitt. His absence from the

9. Subsequently bishop of Rochester 1793-1802, and of St. Asaph 1802 until his death, a controversial figure.

10. Fifth son of John, 3rd Earl of Bute; bishop of St. Davids 1793-1800, archbishop of Armagh 1800 until his death from accidental poisoning.

House of Lords was due to 'absolute want', and not to disaffection. As bishop and also canon of Windsor he did not have £1,200 a year, and long journeys and a ruinous palace added to his expense. He could not afford to live in London or, indeed, anywhere else. He once more protested at the conduct of his predecessor in retaining the Welsh diocese for five months after his translation to Rochester, during which he 'stripped the bishopric of its richest emoluments'. Relief was at hand: before the year was out Stuart became archbishop of Armagh and primate of Ireland. His successor at Abergwili, Lord George Murray (1761-1803),¹¹ a brother of the 4th Duke of Atholl, wrote to Pitt on 7 November 1800, thanking him for recommending him as Stuart's successor and seeking the office of prebendary at Westminster as well, as the bishopric was so poor. St. Davids was his for only three years before his death. He had really wished to be bishop of Oxford.

Clergymen were among the writers of letters to Pitt by less exalted people, whose ambitions were proportionately humbler. The Rev. David Richards¹² of Llandyfriog, Cards., writing from Llanbyther on 9 September 1796, started by informing the premier that his wife was the sister of Captain Sir Erasmus Gower, now at sea, and therefore unable to back his application. This was for the living of Manordeifi in Pembrokeshire, near his wife's home, vacant by the death of the Rev. William Holcombe. It was in the gift of the Lord Chancellor and Pitt's intercession on the writer's behalf was requested. An identical request, 1st January 1797, came from the Rev. John Edwards (1765-1847)¹³ of Frood, prefaced with the information that he had been bereft of his wife soon after their marriage. He added that he had always voted for Pitt in the Cambridge University elections, being an ex-fellow of Queens. On 18 February 1797 he

11. Fourth son of John, 3rd Duke of Atholl, best known for improvements he suggested for the semaphore system in wartime.

12. Married Barbara, daughter of Abel Gower of Glandoran, Cilgerran. She outlived him, and died 14 June 1840, aged 90.

13. Youngest son of Admiral David Edwardes of Rhydygors, Carmarthen, and later rector of Gilesron, Glamorgan. He married secondly Margaret, daughter of the Rev. William Willis of Gileston; their daughter Elizabeth married John Johnes of Dolaucothi.

wrote again. Hearing that Manordeifi had been bestowed on the Rev. Turner, he asked for the living of Rudbaxton, vacated by Turner. On 16 August 1797, he wrote to ask for the living of Kidwelly, reminding Pitt that he was 'one who has ever been your firm supporter at Cambridge'.

Little more than a begging letter from a lady in distress reached Pitt from Elizabeth Williams, writing from Begelly, Pembs. on 29 April 1794. She thought fit to inform the premier that she was the sister of Johnson Butler of Carmarthen. Another lady, Elizabeth Bowen, wrote from King Street, Carmarthen on 11 July 1794, asking Pitt to make her nephew James Morgan, collector of the excise at Tenby, where he was already supervisor. George Herbert Adams (d.1809)¹ wrote to Pitt, 5 December 1792, asking him to settle his salary claims as lieutenant-governor of Goree, which were in dispute. David Scurlock, a member of the Carmarthen family of that name, now resident at Lovehill House, Langley, Bucks., wrote on 15 February 1790 to his county MP, James Grenville - who passed it on to Pitt - lamenting how much the government, of which he was a firm supporter, lost by the evasion of duties charged on small carts. John Jones of Llandovery wrote on 14 December 1797 to suggest that travelling salesmen at country fairs should be obliged to take out licences to peddle their wares.

To complete the ragbag, Howell Price addressed three letters to Pitt. On 24 February 1791 he wrote from Carmarthen to tell Pitt how much he admired him, and to submit various proposals for raising taxes. While we do not know how much of Pitt's incoming correspondence has not survived, we can be sure that such proposals interested him, as hundreds of them have been preserved. On 6 July 1793 Howell Price wrote to him again, from Ferryside, to make further proposals for tax raising. His third letter, dated 26 April 1796, was written from 3 Leicester Square, London, and had to do with improving the public lottery. This Howell Price evidently thought highly of himself, and I am indebted

to my friend Major Francis Jones for the suggestion that he was the man of that name who married Catherine, Lady Aylmer, widow of the 4th Baron, and sister of Charles, Earl Whitworth.

The letters detailed above are all in the Chatham papers deposited in the Public Record Office (PRO 30/8). The particular volumes are 155 (Mansel), 131 (Dynevor), 177 (Seymour), 194 (anonymous), 146 (Bishop Horsley), 181 (Bishop Stuart), 162 (Bishop Murray), 171 (Rev. D. Richards), 132 (Rev. John Edwards), 190 (Elizabeth Williams), 114 (Elizabeth Bowen), 107 (G.H. Adams), 176 (Scurlock), 148 (John Jones), and 169 (Howell Price).

London 1983.

14. Younger son of John Adams of Whitland Abbey; served in the Peninsular War and died (1809) in Spain.

Admiral Sir Thomas Foley

By Thomas Lloyd, M. A.

Passed without notice was the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the death of one of the most distinguished of Welsh naval officers and one who had long connections with this our own county. Though the details of his career are fully set down in the Dictionary of National Biography and elsewhere[, a short note of his life seems particularly appropriate now that Abermarlais, the fine house he built in the heart of the Towy Valley has within the last few years been razed utterly from the earth.

Thomas Foley was born in 1757 the second son of John Foley of Ridgeway, Pembrokeshire, a family long settled there. His mother, however, was Sarah daughter of John Herbert of Court Henry, Llangathen and so Foley would have known the vale of Towy from his childhood. In his choice of career he followed his uncle, also Thomas Foley, who was to sail with Lord Anson when he circumnavigated the world in 1784.

Young Thomas entered the Navy in 1770 aged just thirteen as a midshipman on the *Otter*, then employed protecting British interests in Newfoundland and Labrador. From there he saw duty on the West Indies trade routes keeping down the pirates. In 1780 he took part at the battle of Cape Finisterre and was given command of one of the captured Spanish frigates to be taken back to England. In 1790 he was promoted captain and given his own ship. Over the following decade he gained steadily in experience and in the estimation of his seniors.

Though present at the notable victory off Cape St. Vincent in 1797, it was Horatio Nelson, his contemporary

and friend, whose star rose in ascendancy that day. Foley's glory was however, to come in the next year on his ship the *Goliath* at the Battle of the Nile. Here Napoleon's fleet was anchored in a broad curve just off the treacherous shoals of Aboukir Bay, waiting for the British line to bear down on their seaward side. To Foley, now a senior and highly experienced officer, fell the exacting honour of leading the British line. Apparently, at the last minute, he conceived the daring idea of sailing in on the landward side of the French at great risk from running aground but catching the French completely unawares, without even their gunports open on that side. The resulting victory was one of the most complete in British naval history - in Nelson's words, "Victory is a name not strong enough for such a scene" - the French losing two thirds of their ships.

It has been suggested that Foley could not have effected quite such a radical change of planned tactics without first consulting Nelson, his commander, but contemporary evidence does not apparently support this; indeed it was reported that, had Nelson spotted in time Foley's manoeuvre, he would have signalled him not to go behind the French line. Foley's wife, writing to her cousin the famous general Sir Charles Napier², some years later, remarked that Nelson has "acknowledged the truth in the fullest manner that Foley had without instruction performed the manoeuvre".

In 1801 Foley was again serving under Nelson in the campaign led by Admiral Sir Hyde Parker culminating in the battle of Copenhagen. In the battle itself Nelson made Foley's own vessel, the *Elephant*, his flagship and Foley was at his side at the memorable moment, when upon Admiral Parker raising the signal for discontinuance - the battle appearing ^stalemated - Nelson put his telescope to his blind eye, disregarded the signal and went on to ultimate victory. "You know, Foley," he is reported to have said, "I have only one eye and I have a right to be blind sometimes: I really do not see the signal". In his despatch to Parliament afterwards, Net-

1. See in particular *The Red Dragon* 1884, Vol. VI, (pp.97 forward and 193 fwd.), upon which much of the material for this article (particularly the quotations) is based.

2. General Napier was a first cousin of Foley's wife and, no doubt through his acquaintance with Foley, married Frances Dyer of Aberglasney, Foley's own great-niece. His statue may be seen in Trafalgar Square.

son wrote: "To Captain Foley, who permitted me the honour of hoisting my flag on the *Elephant*, I feel under the greatest obligation. His advice was necessary on many important occasions throughout the campaign".

The firm friendship between the two is recalled both in Nelson's visit to Ridgeway to dine with Foley and his elder brother, John Herbert Foley, in 1802 on his way back from a visit to Pembroke Dock in the company of Lady Hamilton and in surviving letters. Nelson, writing in 1803 stated, "I should be most ungrateful if I could for a moment forget your public support for me in the day of battle or your private friendship which I esteem so highly" and looking to future campaigns: "I shall be truly happy to have you near me and to have frequent opportunities of personally assuring you how much I am, my dear Foley, your faithful and affectionate friend".

Sadly, however, this was not to be, for come the fateful year of 1805, Foley's health broke. When the renewed threat from France became apparent, Nelson was called upon to command the fleet and bidden to choose his own officers. His first call was to Foley at his London house in Manchester Square. The offer was for Captain of the Fleet - the highest Nelson could bestow on an officer of Foley's rank - but Foley was forced to decline. His wife Lady Lucy Fitzgerald, daughter of the Duke of Leinster, whom Foley married in 1802, later recalled the visit: "Lord Nelson expressed his regret in a manner so strong and affecting as to have made a great impression on my memory". Foley was not to go to sea again.

In 1795 he had purchased (it is said with the proceeds of Spanish booty) from Sir Cornwallis Maude, Viscount Harwarden, the Abermarlais estate with its ancient house, once the home of Sir Rhys ap Thomas. His own description of his purchase is as follows: "I purchased this place called Abermarlais Park with its Manor, Royalties of the River Towy and Presentation to the Vicarage of Llansadwrn, in which parish it is situated in the year 1795".³

3. See *The Red Dragon* 1884, Vol. VI p.480.

Foley rebuilt the house entirely in the pleasant plain classical manner of the day, the whole being raised on a platform extending slightly on the eastward side which appeared to be the vaulted basement of a much earlier house.⁴ Unfortunately, this was recently demolished before proper investigation could be made. That part of the platform extending beyond the house was formed into a raised terrace onto which the dining room opened directly. Traditionally it is said to have matched the dimensions of the quarter deck of one of Foley's ships and that he paced methodically around it to recall his seagoing days, viewing the surrounding countryside through his telescope. Those who remember the house still refer to "Foley's quarter deck".⁵ While the new house was under construction, Foley lived temporarily at Brownhill, a farm just east of the park, which he had also purchased and rebuilt. It is said that Foley had wanted to call this property Copenhagen in memory of the battle, but his Scottish wife insisted on its present name, being apparently the name of a house once owned by Robert Burns.⁶

Captain and Lady Foley resided mainly at the new Abermarlais from their marriage in 1802 until 1812 (one visitor in this period being Richard Fenton the antiquary)[when Foley, having been promoted to Rear Admiral in 1811, was that year made Vice Admiral and appointed Commander in Chief in the Downs, based at Deal, his duty being to guard the Channel coast. Despite the overwhelming victory of Trafalgar this was no empty task; in his three years there more than thirty enemy ships were captured or sunk. Upon retirement in 1814 he was knighted and he returned to Abermarlais, where he devoted himself to the improvement of his estate and the lot of his tenants, assisted by his agent Mr. John Lewis of Bryneithin. One particularly happy incident in

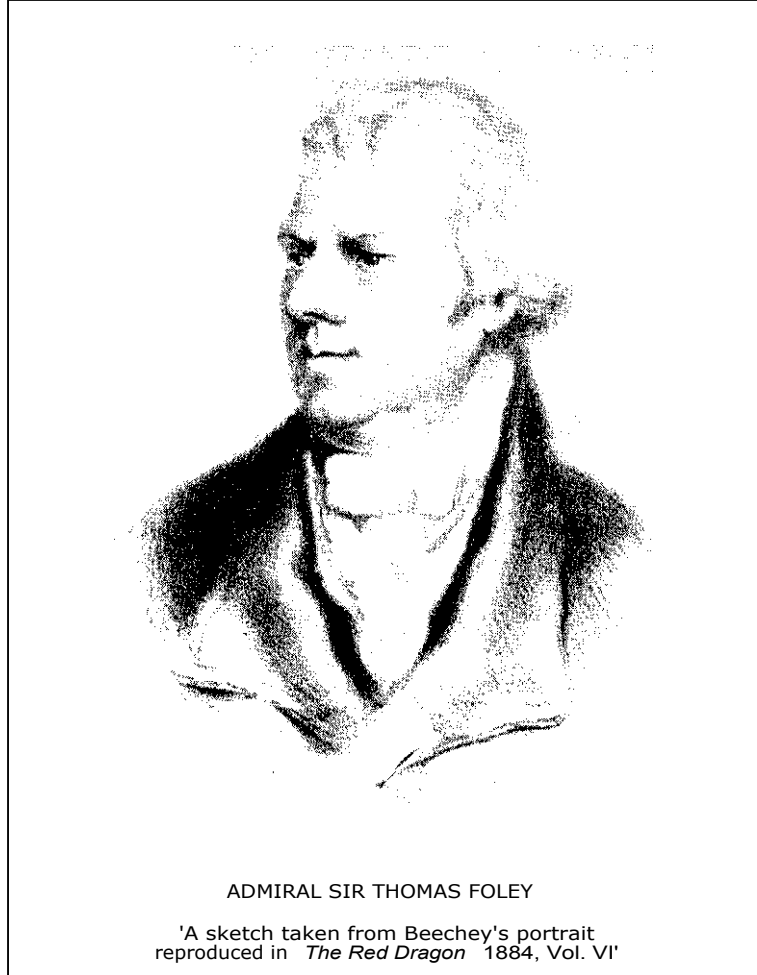
4. Lewis (Topographical Dictionary: L.lansadwrn) says "near the site and from the ruins of the old house".

5. See also "Welsh Interiors 2: Abermarlais" by Major F. Jones, Arch. Comb., 1967. There never, however, appears to have been a balcony on the house.

6. See Western Mail, 17 February 1937. Brownhill was later the home of Llewelyn Williams, the Liberal M.P., for whom see *The Carmarthenshire Historian*, Vol. XVIII, p.81.

7. *Tours in Wales* by Richard Fenton, published 1917, p.72.

these years occurred when the Duke of Clarence, later King William IV, passed by Abermarlais on his way back from Pembroke Dockyards. Foley and the Prince had served together many years previously and there was a warm reunion beneath a triumphal arch erected at the Abermarlais gate. In 1820 he received the G.C.B. and five years later became a full Admiral.



In 1830 he was honoured with the prestigious appointment of Commander in Chief at Portsmouth, where his duties required him to live; and there on 9th January 1833 a few months before his term expired, which would have brought him back to Abermarlais, he died aged seventy-five. He was buried with great ceremony in the Garrison Chapel there, his coffin made from planks of his old ship the *Elephant*, since broken up. He left no issue and Abermarlais descended through the marriage of his niece to the Thursby Pelhams, until the present century. Lady Foley never returned after her husband's death, dying in France in 1851.

Sir Thomas' portrait was painted by Sir William Beechey and a copy of this may be still seen at Hanbury Hall in Worcestershire, the home of his cousins the Foley-Vernons. The original cannot presently be traced. Descriptions of him talk of a tall handsome man with blue eyes and a ready humour. His obituary described him as "this venerable and distinguished officer....esteemed for the most unbounded generosity and hospitality: a most entertaining and delightful companion...." No memorial however, may be found to him in this, the county in which he made his home.

More About a "Becca" Character

By Dr. Peter M.S. Jones

David Williams' definitive text *The Rebecca Riots* included a great deal of information about the leading rioters.¹ This is certainly true for John Hugh and John Hughes, who were transported for their leading role in the attack on the Pontardulais toll house. Much less is known about David Jones, the third transportee, who died within days of his arrival in Van Diemen's Land.

Williams records his age and his mother's name²; Tobit Evans³ notes the severity of the wounds inflicted on him in the course of his arrest; and Lewis Evans³ wrongly, links his name with Hen Goetre in the parish of Llannon. The purpose of this short article is to fill in some of the missing detail.

David was the son of William Jones, tenant of the 180 acre⁴ farm at Celli Fechan (otherwise Gelly Vaughan) which was situated some three miles north of Llanelli. By the standards of the time the farm was quite large⁵, and had been the seat of John Morris, gent., in the late eighteenth century⁶. It may also have been the home of Woodford Rice, High Sheriff of the County in 1764⁷.

David's mother, Lettice, was the daughter of William Lloyd who farmed at L.Lwyn-y-bustach in the parish of Llangendeirne⁸. She and William Jones were married at Llangendeirne parish church on October 23rd 1812 and moved to Gelli Fechan in Llanelli parish, where their four children were born and baptised: Thomas, the eldest, on 19 July 1818, David on 7 December 1821, and their sisters Margaret on 1 March 1824 and Mary on 10 July 1829⁹.

During David's childhood the family would have been relatively well off and employed farm labourers and house servants. The children would have been educated at home or in one of the schools that existed in the Llanelli-Llannon area at that time¹⁰. We know that David himself could read and sign his name and that he had been 'well instructed'¹¹. The ability to read but not write was common among the farmers of the time¹².

David would have helped around the farm and we also know that he could plough¹³, probably using a team of oxen to pull the clumsy wooden plough which was still in common use.

As the younger son he would have expected to remain on the farm to help his parents, with the expectation that he would ultimately take over the tenancy¹⁴. His father died, apparently while away from home, on 10 July 1835, and the widow took over the administration of the £200 estate¹⁵. She continued farming at Celli Fechan but remarried on 24 October 1836 at Llanelli. David Davies, her second husband, was twenty years her junior¹⁶ and could well have been an elder brother to her fourteen year old son.

In February 1840 David's brother, Thomas married Rachel, the daughter of Jenkin Hugh, at Llannon", and the couple took the tenancy of Lletty, Llannon, a 60 acre farm situated two miles to the north-east of his parents' home in the adjacent parish" Jenkin Hugh, who was a farmer with small freehold properties at Cae Glas and Llwyn-y-rhos in Llanedi parish¹⁹, was the brother of Morgan Hugh of Ty-issa, Llannon, and uncle to John Hughes, the Jac Ty-issa who led the attack on the toll gate at Pontardulais²⁰.

The problems of the farmers in south-west Wales were becoming increasingly difficult, with falling prices for farm produce, fixed rent, and rising rates and tithes. Many farmers were finding it hard to earn sufficient to pay their rent. For this or other reasons David Davies and Lettice moved to: the smaller 60 acre farm of Cilwnwg fach, half a mile to the east of Celli Fechan²¹. Resentment at this time was growing and focussed on the numerous toll-gates which were adding greatly to farming costs, and on the tithe proprietor and landowner, Rees Goring Thomas, who held rights in Llannon, Llanelli and Llangendeirne²².

The pace of events leading up to the attack on Pontardulais accelerated sharply in the summer of 1843. A meeting of 200 parishioners at Llannon on 9 August called for a reduction of tolls, tithes and rents; a call which met with immediate response from the sympathetic William Chambers²³. A further meeting was held

on 14 August to answer questions concerning the parishioners' demands from a procrastinating Rees Goring Thomas²¹. His failure to respond led to yet another meeting of 100 to 150 parishioners in the Llannon National School on the evening of Monday, 21 August²⁵. Patience had by this time run out and the following evening a crowd estimated at some 500 strong marched through Llannon village, dressed in white with their faces blackened, to attack the house of Rees Goring Thomas' agent, John Edwards, whose severity in collecting tithes was a source of anger²⁶. The march to Gelli-wernen (home of John Edwards) would have passed within earshot of Lletty, Llannon with horns, trumpets and shouting, and it seems probable that both Thomas Jones and David would have been in their number. Cilwnwg-fach is only a mile from Gelli-wernen and William Chambers noted that 'Dai of Cilwnwg' wanted Dai Cantwr to 'go to Mr. Edwards of Cellywernen'²², presumably to frighten him.

It also seems highly likely that David Jones, his brother and step-father would have joined the crowd of 3000 at the mass meeting on Mynydd Sylen on the following Friday, 25 August, since feelings were sufficiently raised to persuade the farmers to leave their harvesting²⁸. The meeting passed resolutions condemning Rees Goring Thomas for his 'unfair and deceitful' behaviour with regard to the Llanelli tithes, commended the more sympathetic landlords and formulated a petition to the Queen²⁹.

We are on more certain ground regarding the events which, following a short lull, began on the night of 6 September. A crowd, numbered at 100 to 150 by the police, gathered in Llannon, many dressed in women's white garments with straw bonnets and blackened faces, and set off on some 100 horses, with horns blowing, in the direction of Pontardulais: according to one eyewitness, a most romantic and fearful sight³⁰. They arrived at the Red Lion inn in high spirits between 12.30 and 1.00a.m. on 7 September, firing off shotguns and blowing their horns, little knowing that Captain Napier and his men lay in wait on the Glamorgan side of the Pontardulais bridge whilst William Chambers, the magistrate, was approaching from the Hendy direction³¹. After allowing the crowd to attack the gate and toll-house,

from which the toll-keeper had already removed his furniture, the police sprang the ambush.

According to the evidence of Captain Napier and his men the rioters fired at them and attacked them before fleeing³². About three of the rioters appeared to take the lead and were mounted. They rode at the police and Captain Napier set out to capture them. The Rebecca, John Hughes, had his horse shot under him and was himself hit in the left arm, which was broken. David Jones was surprised in the toll-house, after most of the rioters had run off, by P.C. William Robertson Williams of Merthyr Tydfil, who found him prising up the floor boards³³. He apparently struck P.C. Williams with his crowbar and Williams 'immediately put his pistol in his left hand and drew the cutlass with which he struck Jones on the head'. David ran out of the toll-house into the arms of Sergeant George Jones of Cadoxton, whom he pushed away but was again held after a scuffle and taken into custody and handcuffed". He was wearing his coat which was turned inside out and had a white apron at the front and 'something white behind': he was hatless³⁴. Captain Napier said that he had seen Jones put up considerable resistance and that he had had a stout stick in his hand with which he had struck at Lewis Llewelyn Dillwyn. He believed Jones was wearing a white smock-frock³⁵. Henry James Peake who was close by when David was taken believed he had struck him on the head on the bridge but he did not see him with a stick or see him strike Dillwyn³⁶. William Chambers intercepted four fleeing rioters on the Carmarthenshire side of the river and arrived to see Hugh, Hughes and Jones lying on the ground handcuffed. Shortly afterwards they were taken to Swansea in a phaeton with an escort of dragoons".

This account, based on the formal examination of police witnesses, did not go uncontested. Local witnesses, including a Baptist minister, told reporters that the police had fired first and that one of Napier's party, who was neither a policeman nor magistrate, had shot John Hughes and stabbed one of the other men with a knife. There was concern that this man and others had not been called to give evidence at the examination of the prisoners³⁸.

Word of the capture spread rapidly and a large

crowd had gathered in the inspector's room at Swansea when the prisoners were brought in at 5am. on the Thursday morning. David Jones appeared near to death³⁹ and Dr. Bird, the Mayor of Swansea had him conveyed immediately to the infirmary on a stretcher, along with John Hughes. There he did all that 'skill and humanity could suggest to alleviate the sufferings of the wounded men'³⁹. He told the *Times* reporter that Jones was severely and most dangerously wounded: there were several wounds in his back caused by slugs or shot, also one which appeared to have been a stab. The prisoner also had three wounds on his head, apparently inflicted with a sword. He was in a low and depressed state and Dr. Bird was fearful that some of the slugs might have passed into one of the large cavities in the body although the only evidence for this was the position of the wounds and the exhausted and depressed state of the prisoner⁴⁰.

Depositions were taken from police witnesses on Saturday 9 September and the prisoners brought into the dock at Swansea on the following Monday. They were provided with seats and David Jones, who had appeared in a dying state on the Thursday, seemed to have recovered surprisingly well". The hearings were held in private and the press were excluded. The prisoners' legal representatives were not allowed to question the witnesses and bail, which was requested by Hugh Williams, their solicitor, was refused^{b2}.

After their examination the three men were committed for trial at the next assizes charged with feloniously and riotously assembling and beginning to demolish, pull down and destroy the toll-house, and Hughes with shooting at Capt. Napier with intent to do him grievous bodily harm. Jones and Hugh were charged with abetting him on the second count. In the event the second charge was not pressed by the Attorney General. The Government hastily convened a special Commission at Cardiff before Mr. Justice Gurney and a Grand Jury met on Thursday, 26 October. The case proceeded despite counsel for the prisoners challenging that the jury was not chosen indifferently or impartially. Contrary to usual practice, all its members were drawn from the east of the county (Glamorgan) and none were farmers⁴³. After the Grand Jury found a true bill the trial of John Hughes began, at which the same evidence was presented,

together with appearances by Llewelyn Dillwyn, who claimed to have struggled with David Jones prior to his capture, and by his brother Dillwyn Llewelyn, who claimed to have helped him⁴⁴.

After hearing the evidence and summing up, the jury retired for thirty minutes before finding Hughes guilty but recommending mercy. On the following Monday at 9a.m. the court reconvened to hear the case against Jones and Hugh. Both pleaded not guilty but changed their plea on counsel's advice and the assurance that the Attorney General would not press for an aggravation of punishment⁴⁴. In his summing up, their counsel stressed that all three prisoners had come from good families and a few months ago could have held up their heads with the proudest in the land. He pointed to the fact that the men had already suffered and that Jones still had slugs lodged in his body that the medical men had been unable to remove⁴⁴. Gurney, in passing sentence, noted the plea for mercy but remarked that their former respectability and rank of life were reasons why it was particularly necessary to make an example of them. He sentenced Hughes to twenty years transportation and Jones and Hugh to seven⁴⁴.

Whilst in Cardiff gaol the three prisoners were persuaded to sign a letter of confession and an appeal to fellow Welshmen to observe the law and avoid their fate. The document was printed and published as a letter from Cardiff gaol dated 1 November 1843"⁵. Many of their friends were reported to have regarded the confession as a fake, presumably because it accepted that the three had attacked the police. On the other hand some press comment regarded the document as a cynical attempt to gain a remission of sentence and claimed that it showed no remorse for the actions which had led to the arrest⁴⁶.

There was certainly great sympathy for the three men who, of the hundreds involved, had had the misfortune to get caught and singled out for exemplary sentences. The *Welshman* called for remissions on the grounds that the 'erring rustics' had been excluded from all sources of knowledge, uneducated, untaught and excluded from the rest of the world by their language". Further petitions followed from relatives and friends⁴⁹ and some of their relatives approached William Chambers,

volunteering to become special constables to help restore order⁴⁹.

The men were soon removed from Cardiff gaol and, under the custody of Mr. Woods the gaol's governor, taken by sea to Bristol and on by road to Millbank gaol in London. They were well treated and found the sea passage and the city of Bristol a source of wonder and interest. This kept their spirits up, but they wept on arrival⁵⁰. They probably expected a solitary and dreary time in a gaol in which the warders were not allowed to speak to the prisoners and where exercise was taken alone in a court 'of small dimensions'⁵⁰. Their dress was to be a harlequin attire with one side yellow and one blue; one leg white and the other green.

In fact the prisoners received better treatment than they had expected and they were not held in solitary confinement⁵¹. Nevertheless, despite further widely supported petitions, they were put on the ship *London* on 12 March 1844 and set sail for the Antipodes". The *Welshman* reported on 5 April that the Home Secretary did not deem it his duty to advise the exercise of the Royal Prerogative and the editor regretted that the poor inoffensive peasant boys could not be given a good whipping and sent back about their business behind the plough⁵⁵.

When he embarked on the *London* David Jones' health was described as good. The indents indicate that he was single, a protestant, and 5ft.3ins. tall. The ship's surgeon called him tall, florid and robustly built, but of indolent habit and depressed spirits when he reported sick on 23 May". He had apparently been having some trouble from the outset of the voyage and sickness and diarrhoea were leading to loss of weight and strength. Despite medication and a special diet his condition persisted. After a brief improvement in mid-June he suffered a relapse and by 10 July, the day before he went ashore in Tasmania, his illness had assumed the character of chronic dysentery. He died a week later on 17 July 1844 at the colonial hospital in Hobart town⁵⁷.

One of the police constables with Capt. Napier at Pontardulais was a P.C. Thomas Jones of the Glamorgan-

shire constabulary⁵⁵. But he was not David Jones' brother, although he had abandoned farming to join the Carmarthenshire constabulary⁵⁶ as P.C.51 in September-October 1847. Like many recruits, he did not survive for long although he was not discharged for drunkenness as were so many of the Carmarthen town and London forces⁵⁷. His dismissal in July 1849 was for 'having prevaricated very much about the loss of the ears off the skin of the ram produced at the trial of Thomas Richards (and I fear even committed perjury in his evidence at the trial at the last quarter sessions)'⁵⁶. After his discharge Thomas Jones moved to Swansea where he worked as a labourer⁵⁸, possibly on the railway which was then being constructed⁵⁹.

Whatever the views of the compatriots of Hughes, Hugh and Jones, there is no doubt about the satisfaction of the authorities at their capture and punishment. Sir James Graham, the Home Secretary, wrote to Sir Robert Peel expressing himself well satisfied and hoping that the sentences would strike terror by example". He also urged that Mr. Dillwyn Llewelyn and his brother be rewarded for their gallantry and good conduct". The police in their evidence went to some pains to suggest that David Jones' gunshot wounds were not of their doing but that he was shot by his own people. In view of their severity and the fact that the rioters had fled before Jones was found pulling up boards in the toll-house, the police account seems improbable. A more likely view would be that he was shot and possibly stabbed during the scuffle which followed his escape from P.C. Williams.

The actions of David Jones and his companions and the many other unknown rioters, though extreme, served to bring the grave injustices of the time to public notice in a manner which previous complaints and petitions had failed to do. The Commission of Inquiry set up by the Government to look into the problems of South Wales found that there were grounds for the grievances and steps were put in hand that eased the lot of the farming community.

Crookham Common, Berks.

Acknowledgement. The author gratefully thanks the following for their assistance in providing documents and information: British Library, i Carmarthen Record Office, Tasmanian State Archives, Public Record Office, National Library of Wales, Chief Detective Superintendent Pat Molloy, Mr. R. Baker, curator of the Police Museum, Bridgend, Glamorgan.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. D. Williams, *The Rebecca Riots*, 1971, p.288; note 81, p.349.
2. H. Tobit Evans, *Rebecca and her Daughters*, 1910, p.169.
3. E. Lewis Evans, *Hanes Pontardulais*, 1949, p.48.
4. Llanelli Parish Registers, 1851 Census 110/107/2468; Celli d'echan appeared on the 1st Series 6" Ordnance Survey at a point shown on the current maps as SN50 507:051.
5. Prys Jones, *The Story of Carmarthenshire*, 1972, Vol. 2, p.412.
6. J. Innes, *Old Llanelly*, 1902, p.166; A Mee, *Llanelly Parish Church*, 1888 and parish registers listing of churchwardens..
7. *A History of Carrarthenshire*, Cardiff, 1939, list of Sheriffs.
8. Lettice Lloyd baptised Llangendeirne 27/1/1789; William Lloyd baptised 31/3/1755 and buried 1830 aged 76.
9. Llangendeirne and Llanelli Registers.
10. N. Gibbard, 'Llanelly Schools', *Carmarthenshire Historian*, 1968, Vol. V, p.67.
11. Convict Indents, Tasmanian Archives Office, CON 33/56; HO 27/69 M BP276 at PRO Kew.
12. E.T. Lewis, *Lionfyrnach* (Haverfordwest), p.84.
13. CON 33/56.
14. A.D. Rees, *Life in a Welsh Countryside*, 1950, p.68-71.
15. Probate 7/6/1836, NI.W; no burial records in church or chapel records for Llanelli or surrounding parishes.
16. Llanelli Registers; Census returns HO/107/1379, HO/107/2468. RG/9/4114.
17. Rachel baptised Llanedi 3/11/1819; Census returns for Hannon HO/107/1379; Llannon registers; son William born at (Jetty 24/11/1840
18. Map ref. SN 50 534:070.
19. Census returns Llanedi HO/107/1379; HO/107/2469; RG/10/5472.
20. Jenkin and Morgan were sons of John and Ann Hugh of Clyngwernen ucha, born on 16/7/1793 and 30/5/1795 and baptised at Cape] Newydd, Llanedi, RG/4/3819.
21. Map ref. SN 50 516:049.
22. Report of Commissioners of *Inquiry* for South Wales, Parliamentary Papers and Reports, 1844 (531) XVI, pp. 351, 354, 359, 362. 462; *The Times*, 8/8/1843, p.6; *Corm. Jl.* 11/8/1843, p.1
23. *CarmJL*, 11/8/43, p.2; *The Times*, 12/8/43, p.6.
24. *The Times*, 18/8/43, p.5; *Welshman*, 18/8/43, p.4.
25. *The Times*, 25/8/43, p.5, col. 6; p.6, coll.
26. *The Times*, 26/8/43, p.3, cols. 1,2; *Carm. Jl.*, 1/9/43, p.3, cols. 3-5; see too refs. 1 and 2.
27. Undated note by Wm. Chambers, *Corms. Antiquary*, 1943-44, p.53.
28. *Corm. Jl.*, 1/9/1843, p.3.
29. *The Times*, 29/8/1843, p.5, cols. 3-6; *Welshman*, 1/9/1843, p.4., *Glam., Mon. and Brecon Gazette*, 2/9/1843, p.3.
30. Lengthy accounts appeared in *The Times*, 8/9/1843, p.5; *Welshman*, 8/9/1843, p.2; *Corm. Jl.*, 8/9/1843, p.3.
31. *The Times*, 9/9/1843, p.5; 18/9/1843, p.5; *Welshman*, p.3.
32. Formal depositions of Napier, Peak, Sgt. Wm. Jones, Wm. Cox, Sgt. Geo. Jones, P.C.s Thos. Jones, Price and Williams appear in HO/ASSI/72/1/00706.
33. Evidence of P.C. Wm. Williams.
34. Evidence of Sgt. George Jones.
35. Evidence and questioning of Capt. Napier.
36. Evidence of Supt. Peak.
37. *The Times*, 9/9/1843, p.5.
38. *Welshman*, 22/9/1843, p.2; *The Times*, 29/9/1843, p.3.
39. *Welshman*, 8/9/1843, p.2; *Carm. Jl.*, 8/9/1843, p.3.
40. *The Times*, 15/9/1843, p.3.
41. *Carm. Jl.* 15/9/1843, p.3., col.4.
42. *Welshman*, 15/9/1843, p.3, and ref.41.
43. *The Times*, 27/10/1843, p.5; 28/10/1843, pp.4,5, 30/10/1843, p.5; *Welshman*, 3/11/1843, p.4. *Corm. Jl.* 3/11/1843, p.2; p.4.
44. *The Times*, 31/10/1843, p.5.
45. *Glom., Mon. and Brecon Gazette*, 4/11/1843, p.2, col.5; *The Times*, 6/11/1843, p.3, cols.4,5; reproduced in ref.1, p.245.
46. Ref.3 and *The Times*, 9/11/1843, p.3.
47. *Welshman*, 3/11/1843, p.2, col.6.
48. *Welshman*, 17/11/1843, p.2, col.7.
49. *The Times*, 6/11/1843, p.3., col.4,5; HO/45/454, f.897.
50. *Welshman*, 22/12/1843, p.4; Earl of Besborough, *Diaries of Lady Charlotte Guest*, 1950, p.1157.
51. *Welshman*, 2/2/1844, p.3.
52. CON/33/56.
53. *Welshman*, 5/4/1844, p.3.
54. Surgeon's reports from London, ADM/101/43.
55. P.C.27 Glamorganshire Constabulary, sworn in on 23/10/1841, (Police Museum records, Bridgend).
56. General Order Books for Carmarthenshire Constabulary; birth cert. of John, son of Thomas Jones, police officer, and Rachel (nee Hugh), Lammass St., Carmarthen, 23/11/1847.
57. P. Molloy, *A Shilling for Carmarthen*, Chap.6; *Four Cheers for Carmarthen*, p.201, note 18.
58. Son Henry born Swansea 29/10/1854; Census returns Green Hill, HO/107/2466; Cae Pandy Aberbederthy St., RG/9/4099; Courtney Sr., RG/11/5355; probate 19/10/1877.
59. W.G.V. Balkin, *Swansea and its Region*, 1971, p.171.
60. Peel Papers, *Brit. Liby.*, Add 40449, f.172.
61. *Ibid.*, f.208, 210.

The Story of Coalbrook Colliery

By J. Edmund Healy

While motoring between Pontyberem and Cwmmawr in 1984, I realised that the former Coalbrook Colliery site had been completely obliterated by opencast mining operations - there was now nothing to show that there had ever been a colliery there. My mind wandered to the first time I had seen Coalbrook. It was in 1912, and I was six years of age. I was accompanying a cousin from Burry Port, who was an apprentice ship's engineer, and he had been granted permission to see the operating generators and transformers at the newly built power house. As we were approaching the colliery my attention was concentrated on the high wooden bridge which crossed over the colliery sidings, the road and the railway to the waste tip. On top of this tip were two men and a horse. I remember wondering however did the horse get up there! It was being used to haul the trams of rubbish along the tip edge to the dumping point.

Over 70 years have passed since then, and I pondered whether there was any written record or history of the colliery. I am not aware of any, and I am tempted to set on paper some of my knowledge of the colliery, augmented by information gleaned from older friends in the past. The story may be appreciated by some who remember the colliery, and others who are interested in the history of the Gwendraeth Valley.

But why a story especially about Coalbrook as distinct from the dozen or so collieries that existed in the valley? Well, there are justifying reasons, such as:-

- 1 The excellent quality anthracite, regarded at the turn of the century as the best in the world.
- 2 This - as far back as the 1830s - attracted developers from as far *away* as Kent, and later from Lancashire.
- 3 The foremost colliery in the valley to expand on a commercial and export basis.
- 4 The immense stocking shed and the story behind it.

5 The reservoir known as Pond Mawr.

There were many small drift mines in the valley at the beginning of the 19th century, and the biggest in the Pontyberem district was known as Gwendraeth Colliery. (This had no connection with the later Gwendraeth Colliery, Pontyates.) In Pontyberem the Gwendraeth South Pit was situated near Gwendraeth Row, and the connecting drift mine was situated to the north of the old Coalbrook mansion. The quality of the anthracite mined in this area was regarded as ideal for malting purposes, and around 1840 a firm of brewers in Kent took over the Gwendraeth Colliery as a subsidiary. The firm was called Watney, Coombe and Reid, and two of the Watney brothers - David and Daniel - came to Pontyberem to manage and administer the mining operations here. The Watneys soon became popular and respected in the locality, and were said to have earned a name as benefactors, using their influence and practical support towards improving conditions in the community.

There were no schools anywhere in the district at that time, and with the mining industry developing at a reasonable rate, the Watney brothers recognised the need for educating young men as potential officials, supervisors and craftsmen. So they organised a rudimentary school at a house in Gwendraeth Row, which soon became attractive to learners. After proceeding through stages of the three R's, the students were given instructions on how to understand and comply with regulations governing mining operations at that time.

The area was going through a comparatively prosperous period in the 1840s, progress being made with transportation via the Valley canal, and the demand for coal increasing with expansion of industry generally through the country. But the Gwendraeth Colliery was to endure a tragic calamity in 1852, when an inrush of water from disused workings was of such magnitude that of the 28 men working on that night shift only one man survived. It was the worst mining catastrophe ever to occur in the Gwendraeth Valley. The mine was drowned, and it took some weeks to recover the bodies. Apparently conditions at the mine had not been good for some time, and management had already begun driving a new mine a quarter of a mile to the east of Gwendraeth

some time before the flooding. This new mine was called Coalbrook, and was to have a satisfactory existence until 1910. The flooding of the Gwendraeth mine had a very adverse effect on mining in the district for some years. The colliery had to be closed, and the site thereafter became known as Y Syrthf a, which means "collapse", though this is not a true explanation of what happened. Development at Coalbrook was a slow process, employing comparatively only a small number of men. With the gradual expansion more men were required, but recruitment was slow and prejudiced by the flooding at the Gwendraeth.

The Gwendraeth Valley canal had been extended as far as Pontyberem by the mid-1830s, and although it provided a cumbersome mode of transportation some of the difficulties were eradicated as time went on. But it became obvious that progress in the Gwendraeth Valley was not to compare with that in other coal-producing valleys in South Wales. True, these were developing on a bigger scale, with greater output demanding greater investment and efficiency. The canal would have been replaced by a railway by 1850 had there not been a lack of foresight and initiative on the part of the industrialists at the lower end of the valley in Burry Port and Kidwelly. It seems that the construction of docks at Pembrey and Burry Port was also burdened by lack of enterprise and finance and for a few decades progress was anything but satisfactory.

The Burry Port and Gwendraeth Valley Railway eventually reached Pontyberem by about 1870, and this was a recognisable boost to coal-mining in the area. Even so, matters were financially precarious. Coalbrook (by then known as Pontyberem Colliery) was involved financially with the B.P. & G.V. Railway Company, whose capital outlay was not being redeemed satisfactorily. The failure of the West of England Bank in 1880 was disastrous for the Pontyberem Colliery Company, as well as for the B.P. & G.V.R.Co., and although coal continued to be produced at Coalbrook, there was a period of uncertainty and gloom. The Pontyberem Colliery Company was eventually re-formed in 1887 by a Mr. Hugh Herring, who also opened a new mine at Cape] Ifan about that time.

There was by now a growing shortage of manpower,

and an appreciable number of men were attracted from the rural countryside around Carmarthen to obtain work in the valley. This often entailed finding lodgings at Pontyberem and most residents took in lodgers. Many of these immigrants married locally and built their own houses in the district. Later, recruitment was extended down the valley to Burry Port and Kidwelly. Eventually arrangements were made for the provision of workmen's trains, an innovation which prospered and was well patronised - especially between 1900 and 1930.

Around 1890, a new era of prosperity began for the old Coalbrook mine. With the valley railway and the dock facilities now well established, markets for coal were found in France Spain, and even Canada. In fact the demand for Welsh anthracite in Canada provided a boom at Coalbrook, and this is where the large stocking shed comes into the story. The difficulty with the Canadian market was that the shipping route was through the St. Lawrence river, and this was frozen and not negotiable for about six months of the year. As the market was healthy and looked good for some years to come, it was decided to build a huge stocking shed where thousands of tons of coal produced during the winter months could be stored for release when the St. Lawrence again became negotiable in the spring. The shed was built in 1892 and proved a great asset for 20 years. It enabled production to continue throughout the year without interruption by shipping delays.

An interesting side-aspect of the stocking-shed activity was the provision by management of sustenance for the men who worked overtime when shipping to Canada was resumed in the spring. Beer was obtained in two-gallon cans (sten) from the New Lodge Inn, and a quantity of 'Pice Peggy' from Mrs. Thomas, Pen-y-bont cottage, near the New Lodge. Peggy was among the first to know that cargoes for Canada could now be loaded, for she would have received an advance order for her popular large currant buns for the workers. Another more important aspect of the release of stock-coal was the priority given to Coalbrook by the railway company in the form of empty trucks during such periods, much to the dissatisfaction of other collieries in the valley. There was usually a shortage of empty trucks, mostly owned by the railing company, and the company con-

tended that they could not afford additional trucks. Consequently, the various companies in the valley commenced providing their own trucks; these new trucks were distinctively painted: 'Pontyberem Best Anthracite', 'Pentremawr Colliery', etc.

The construction of the reservoir (Pond Mawr) took place in the 1880s, when the need of a constant and adequate supply of water was required for generating steam, as steam-driven plant was introduced. The *colliery* owned all the land for approximately a square mile around the mine and this gave ample room for a reservoir. A brook running from Mynydd Sylen was dammed, and in time Pond Mawr became a landmark. It was about 100 yards in length, 60 to 70 yards at the widest point, and 30 feet deep at the wailed end. A small pump-house was built, together with two filter-beds, near the weir. Besides providing ample water for the colliery boilers, it had been stocked with brown and rainbow trout for anglers. In suitable weather, it was popular for swimming, but was dangerous, and a number of swimmers drowned there over the years. The reservoir was drained in 1967 to permit opencast mining operations, and the fish transferred to the Gwendraeth Pawl- river.

In 1908 Coalbrook Colliery, as well as two collieries near Ammanford, were taken over by a subsidiary of the Wigan Coal and Iron Company. The new company became known as the Atomarford Colliery Co., with the brothers Howe and Erne Hewlett as managing directors. With this change of ownership a number of officials and workmen were brought from Lancashire to take employment at Coalbrook and Ammanford. Most of these were previously employed at Clockface colliery near Wigan. "This change also had a marked effect at the colliery and in the life of the community. Previously, the district was mainly Welsh-speaking, but communication with the newcomers had to be in English, although quite a few were able to converse in Welsh in due course. Soon after settling down in Pontyberem, the Lancashire people took over the Old Soar Chapel near Parcymynach, and held religious services there up to about 1921.

By 1910 Coalbrook had become an uneconomic unit, partly because of the distances over which the coal had to

be conveyed, and also the lack of suitable reserve coal seams. The company then opened a new drift-mine further up the valley, which became known as Glynhegog. As development at the new mine proceeded, the men from Coalbrook were transferred to the new colliery. Thereafter, Coalbrook was kept open for ventilation and pumping purposes. In 1923, Glynhegog was absorbed into the United Anthracite Combine, and a year or so later, by Amalgamated Anthracite Collieries, Ltd.

About this time Mr. Erne Hewlett, former managing director, emigrated to South Africa, having an interest in coal mines there. He became involved in the great Johannesburg Trade Exhibition in 1924, and at his request a block of anthracite was cut in the pumpquart seam at Coalbrook, crated and shipped to Johannesburg for display at the exhibition. This rectangular block of coal weighed well over a ton, but was delivered intact and was an item of much interest. It is also of interest to record that Coalbrook coal was used by Capt. Robert F. Scott during his famous Expedition to the Antarctic in 1910. When his ship "Terra Nova" was being prepared at Cardiff Docks, the stores being loaded included 16 tons of best anthracite coal from Coalbrook.

In writing a story of this kind very many personalities associated with Coalbrook come to mind, and much as I would like to refer to a number of them, I have brought my list down to two only. Foremost must be Mr. Thomas Seymour, who was appointed manager at Coalbrook around 1870, and remained in that position until his death in 1917. Mr. Seymour was very highly respected in Pontyberem, and took a prominent part in the social and religious life of the community. He was a J.P. and local representative on the Llanelly Board of Guardians, a body which was ultimately abolished and superseded by the County Council. The other personality to be named was Mr. Joseph Roberts, J.P. who was for many years lodge secretary and leader of the Workmen's Federation. He was a sound negotiator on behalf of the miners, and a valued link between men and management.

At the outset, I stated that there was nothing left to commemorate the now obliterated Coalbrook Colliery. But still recognisable is the waste-tip on the north side

of the road, the tip being now overgrown with trees. Then there were the Coalbrook stables which at one time accommodated as many as 40 horses. These buildings now comprise Coalbrook Garage. There are also the houses at Gwendraeth Row, originally built by the first Gwendraeth Colliery Company, but later renovated to modern standards.

Gwendraeth House and St. John's Church were built from Cornish Sandstone. The former as an official residence and office by the company in the 1880s, while St. John's Church was built much under the influence of the Seymour family and the Pontyberem Colliery Company in 1893. Much of Coalbrook coal was shipped to Cornish tin-mines, and Cornish Sandstone was brought back as ballast for use in colliery buildings. When St. John's Church embarked on the building of a church hall in 1965, the Governing Body of the Church in Wales insisted that the hall should be of the same stonework as the church. By coincidence, buildings at Coalbrook were being demolished for roadwidening at that time and the Church authorities were enabled, for a nominal sum, to obtain Cornish stone for the church hall and belfry. And so, some of the remains of Coalbrook are still visible for those who have a mind to see.

Rhuddlan.

Departed Glories of the Grey Friars

By Major Francis Jones, C.V.O., T.D., F.S.A.

In this paper I shall discuss a manuscript compiled over four hundred and fifty years ago, now safely preserved within the walls of an institution devoted to historical matters, and which I had the pleasure of examining shortly after the last war. Part of the manuscript concerns Carmarthen and it is appropriate that it should appear in the *Historian*, in Volume III (1966) of which an account was published of the Grey Friars of Carmarthen, wherein (at page 15) reference was made to the manuscript reprinted below. We shall glimpse the folios of an ancient manuscript and gaze on the meagre remains of a medieval church which recent labour has literally unearthed.

Those interested in heraldry will benefit from a perusal of a record compiled in 1530 containing descriptions of coats-of-arms copied from memorials in the church of the Grey Friars in Carmarthen, by a herald conducting a visitation in South Wales and Herefordshire under the authority of the College of Arms where the manuscript is still preserved. He was William Fellow, Marleon de Aye Pursuivant to Charles Brandon, Duke of Norfolk and Earl Marshal, promoted Lancaster Herald on 1 November 1527, and advanced to Norroy King of Arms on 28 July 1536, an appointment he held till his death shortly before Christmas 1549.

During the visitation Lancaster called at a number of religious houses - the churches of the Grey Friars in Carmarthen, Brecon, and Cardiff, the cathedral of St. Davids, churches in Tenby and Haverfordwest, the church of the College of Abergwili, the abbeys of Neath, Wigmore, and Dore, as well as various secular homes. Since several of the religious edifices enumerated above have been destroyed and the surviving ones greatly renovated over the centuries, these descriptions are the only surviving records of the tombs and their heraldic embellishments, descriptions made just in time so far as Carmarthen is concerned, because five years after the herald's sojourn the Friary was surrendered to the Crown, then conveyed to lay persons, and by the end of the

sixteenth century, the fabric had been largely destroyed and the attached cemetery converted into a field of pasture. In 1598-1600 Thomas Parry who had inherited the friary and its surrounds from his father, brought an action against Humphrey Toy of Carmarthen for forcible entry on Parry's close and house consisting of a messuage and a stable in "Le Grey Frieres", a dovecot, a garden, another garden in "Le Dam Street" [later called Mill Street], and a piece of land "lately enclosed being a parcel of the Cemetary of Les Grey Frieres", treading down herbage growing there and depasturing cattle therein.

Thus, Lancaster Herald's record is the only one we possess of monuments that graced the Friars' church, once ablaze with the colours of heraldry. What a sight it must have been! Today, not a single relic appears above the green meadow to remind us of its former existence. Happily, the eleventh-hour labours of Mr. Terrence James of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust, and his brisk auxiliaries have uncovered a large area of stone foundations that had slumbered so long beneath the sward. Alas, this graphic revelation is but for a brief moment and I write in the shadow of impending tragedy, for shortly the very site is to pass away wholly from the eyes of townsfolk, to be covered by an ambitious structure sponsored and erected by courtesy of the Carmarthen District Council for the delectation of modern man. I wonder what it feels like to-pull up history by the roots. Sad days for Carmarthen these, my masters. The second and final Dissolution has arrived. The commendable exertions of the excavators are by no means completed, but they continue to soldier on, and in due course a full and illustrated account of their activities will be made available to the public.

Although the church contained numerous armorial shields, not all of their owners were interred there (e.g. nos. 6,7,18,19,21,32 infra), and their arms were probably introduced by descendants who desired to commemorate the brighter stars of their heraldic firmament. Three members of the Reed family of Green Castle, one of them a knight, as well as nearly thirty other West Wales notables were buried there. Let us now read what Lancaster Herald has to tell us.

"In the fryers of Carmardyn"

1. Thomas Weryot of Oriulton [Pems]-quarterly, chequy gules and sable, on a chief or a lion passant sable; and gules, on a chief azure a lion passant sable. [A Wyrriot daughter had married a Reed].
2. Thomas Rede of Ye Roche [near Laugharne]-quarterly, argent 3 pipes in fess (?or), handed azure; and on a chief azure a lion passant sable.
3. Henry Owgan of Wyston [Pems], or on a chief sable 3 martlets or.
4. Guyan Penare [Gwion Penarw lord of Mabel-fyw, son of Iorwerth son of the Prince Rhys Gryg d. 1234], azure 3 greyhounds *argent*, courant in pale, collared.
5. David ap Llewelyn ap Phelipp, a lion rampant *ermine*.
6. Llewelyn ap Iorwerth Drwyndwn, quarterly, vert and or 4 lions couchant, forelegs raised, counterchanged. [This was Llewelyn the Great, Prince of Gwynedd, d. 1240].
7. The arms of Ryce ap Tewdyr, Prynce of South Walys [arms not described].
8. William Aylewarde, merchaunt, of Carmardyn, quarterly, *gules*, on a fess or a crosslet gules, and, gules on a bend cotized azure 3 leopards' heads azure [sic].
9. Henry Vernon of the Peke, quarterly, argent, fretty sable, and, argent a lion rampant or, collared.
10. Ryce ap Harry, sable, on a chevron *argent*, between 3 owls argent, 3 horseshoes gules.
11. John ap Llewelyn ap John, azure, 3 greyhounds courant *argent*, collared, over all a bend azure.
12. John Bryne [or Bruyne, related to the Reed family]. *argent* an eagle displayed or, holding in its beak a fleur de lys argent.

13. [] a chevron sable between 3 ermine spots on a chief or a lion passant [].

14. John Rede of Roche besyde Laghan, quarterly, *argent* 3 pipes or banded *azure*, in fess, and, *gules* on a chief *argent*, a lion passant sable: crest, 2 demi-doves addorsed, proper, beaked *gules*.

15. Richard a boyen [ab Owen] of Gowerland. Perrott. On a chief or a lion passant sable, impaling ermine and a bend *gules* 3 escallops *azure*.

16. [], ermine, on a bend *gules*, 3 escallops *azure*.

17. Thomas apowell of Carmardenshyre, *argent* a lion rampant sable.

18. John Talley, Chancellor of St. Davyd [Chancellor 1493, d. circa 1509]. Party per bend *argent* and *azure*, on a cross forme entire sable, thereon 5 lunettes or.

19. Robert Tully, Bishopp of St. David, borne in Brystoure [Bishop 1460 till 1480 when he died], *azure* 3 swans' heads erased at the neck *argent*, beaked *gules*, around each neck a collar attached thereto a cord ending in a ring.

20. Griffeth Lloyd apryse, sable a boar statant *argent*, the field semee of trefoils *argent*.

21. Edmond Malyfant in Kydwallysland, *gules*, fretty *argent*, on a chief or, a lion passant sable.

22. Gueyth Voyde [Gwaethfoed] lord of Hemlyne [Emlyn], sable, a lion rampant *argent*.

23. Sir Ryce ap Gryffyth [of Abermarlais, born 1325], *gules* on a fess dancetty *argent*, between 6 lioncels rampant or, 3 birds statant sable.

24. Robert ap Gwrwarett [Pems. His son Owen was alive in 1342], *gules* a chevron *argent* between 3 love-knots *argent*.

25. Doctor Cantynton [of Eglwyswrw, Pems] *azure* a lion rampant or within an orle of 9 roses or.

26. [], a chevron *azure*, between 2 fleurs de lys or in chief, and between the fleurs de lys a

stag's head caboshed or, and in base a lion rampant or between 2 fleurs de lys or.

27. Davyd Voell [of Trewern, Pems], *argent* a lion rampant sable.

28. (Sir) Ryce ap Gryffeth ap Sir Ryce app Thomas ap Gryffithe ap Nicholas [of Dynevor], *argent*, a chevron sable between 3 ravens proper. He married Lady Katheryne daughter to the Duke of Norfolk that dedde ys, and they had yssue, Thomas, Griffith, and Anne [Sir Rhys ap Griffith married in 1524 Lady Katherine Howard, daughter of the 2nd Duke of Norfolk, and was executed for treason in 1531].

29.(a) Memorand. that in the graye fryeres in Carmardyn, in the myddest of the quyere lyeth buried in a Tombe of Marbill Edmond Erie of Richemond ffather to King Henry the VIIth, which Edmond beareth quarterlye the arms of Rychemond and Sommerset and the sayde Edmonde deceased the fyrst daye of November in the yeare of our Lorde 1456.

(b) Item more, in the saide quyere on the Northside a lytle from the high aulter lyeth buried in a goodly tombe Sir Ryce ap Thomas, Banneret, in a place where laye Sir Rice ap Griffeth [born 1325] great uncle to Sir Ryce app Thomas. This Ryce ap Thomas beareth in his armes *gules* a fece daunce betwene VI lioncels ramping or, on the fece iii ravens sable.

(c) Item more, in the sayde Quyere betwext the high aulter and the sepulture of Edmonde Erie of Richemond, Beth buried Willyam de Valencia, a Norman that came in with the Conquest and was made Erie of Pembroke; he was slayne with an arrowe out of the Castle of Lanstiffande [in 1282]. He beryth in his armes *azure* appon iii lions passant *argent*, a labell of three pointz *gules*.

(d) Also in the sayed Quyere on the South syde lyeth buried Thomas Rede knight, whose armes be sett furthe among others in the fryers here before [vide 2 and 14 supra].

(e) Item more in the sayde Church before

thymage of St Fraunces, lyeth buried in a Tombe of Allabastre, Gryffyth Nycolas esquier who was graundfather to Sir Ryce aforesayde.

In ye fryers of Carmardyn [contd.]

30. George Herbert of Swansea, or on a fess party per pale azure and gules, 3 lions rampant azure: crest, on a wreath gules and or, a wyvern with a man's arm in its mouth.

31. Thomas Pekoche of Penbrokesh, quarterly, on a fess between 3 peacocks, in their pride, 3 roses, and, on a chevron 3 escallops sable.

32. John Hygon of Carmardyn, azure a chevron sable between 3 claws sable [Mayor of Carmarthen 1487].

33. Thomas Whyte of Tynbyghe, gules a chevron or between 3 stags' heads caboshed or.

34. [], argent a lion rampant sable.

Lancaster also included arms "in the College of Aberguly a myle from Carmardyn" blazoned party per pale gules and azure 3 cats' heads affrontee ermine erased, and on a chevron or, a rose gules between 2 cocks gules both facing inwards towards the rose.

Although not mentioned by the herald, the wife of Sir Rhys ap Thomas was also interred in the church of the Grey Friars, and by his will dated 1525 the Knight expressed a wish to be buried beside her when his time came. Of the galaxy of tombs and memorials in that temple of God in Lancaster's time, only two have survived - those of the Earl of Richmond, removed to St. David's Cathedral, and of Sir Rhys removed to St. Peter's church, Carmarthen, after the ravages of Dissolution. Recently, a statement has come to light making it extremely likely that the remains of other kinsmen of Sir Rhys, as well as the alabaster tomb of his grandfather Griffith ap Nicholas, were also taken to St. Peter's. A distinguished visitor * who entered St. Peter's

church on Sunday 20 June 1802, noted "...it contains the interesting monument of Sir Thomas ap Rhys [sic]...We have to lament the loss of three other fine alabaster effigies in memory of personages of the same illustrious house, which were absolutely beaten to pieces by masons and converted into plarster for the moulding of the cornice of the church then repairing about 12 years ago". Are descendants of those masons serving on any of our Councils today I wonder? How thorough are men when they turn their hands and hearts to destruction! And what a debt we owe to the custodians of the fragile folios of bygone centuries, and to the spades of the persevering antiquaries of our times.

Carmarthen
February 1984.

**The Journeys* of Sir Richard Colt Hoare through Wales and England 1793-1810, edited by M.W. Thompson (Alan Sutton, 1983), p.214.

George Eyre Evans 1857-1939

In the league of indefatigable enquirers who have devoted their lives to the collection and recording of information that comes to the aid of researchers into local history George Eyre Evans must surely rank high. Born on 8 September 1857 at Colyton Parsonage in rural south Devon, he is yet another example of those fated to enter the world at a place far removed from the environment that would command a lifetime's interest.

In 1856, his father, David Lewis Evans (1813-1902), had married Ophelia Catherine, daughter of Capt. George Eyre Powell, RN of Colyton, the first child of the union being the future Carmarthenshire historian. From his mother George Eyre Evans learnt the values and habits of Victorian gentle-folk, an English legacy which was to fuse with a Welsh heritage; from his father, a scholar of no mean attainment, he doubtless derived that spirit of dedicated inquiry that was to serve him well in the fields of West Wales history, particularly in Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire.

His early education came to him via John Ashbridge's Carmarthen Collegiate School, the Queen Elizabeth Grammar Schhol in the same town and the celebrated Unitarian academy of Gwilym Marles at Llandysul. During this period his father was professor of Hebrew and Mathematics, an unlikely combination, at the Presbyterian College, Carmarthen, an appointment he held with distinction from 1864 to 1874. The family's removal to Birkenhead resulted in young George's entry into the university of Liverpool from yet another school in that city. That he should be destined for the Unitarian ministry - his father was strong in that faith - is no surprise, and he embarked upon service to that cause by taking up the pastorate of the Church of St. Saviour at Whitchurch in Shropshire. Later he devoted many years of unpaid service to the Unitarian ministry at Aberystwyth, though in time he abandoned the style of Reverend.

During the many years he lived at Aberystwyth he delved into the history of Cardiganshire, upon which he expended thousands of written words, many of them in

weekly articles in the local Press under the name of Philip Sidney, before transferring his interest to the neighbouring county, where, in 1906, he became secretary of the newly formed Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society and Field Club, an honorary appointment he held with scholarly devotion for the rest of his life, though this did not prevent him from sharing his unbounded enthusiasm in later helping to form a similar society in Cardiganshire. From the beginning he was inspired by an ambition to create a county museum, an institution which was to become an essential part of the cultural life of Carmarthen, where it was housed in Quay Street, and earned an enviable reputation which overspilled the county boundaries. There, in an upstairs sanctum, besieged by antiquarian books and specimens, he was to administer the affairs of the society, receive visitors in agreeable conversation and write down his notes whenever time allowed. In a corner gloom, during his last years, would often sit Ernest Vale Collier, all along a companion in the promotion of the society's welfare.

Already a member of the Cambrian Archaeological Association, he graduated to membership of its general committee in 1915 and was elected to its editorial board three years later. In 1910 he was appointed Inspecting Officer of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire, an appointment he relinquished in 1928. By 1919 he was a member of the Court of Governors of University College, Aberystwyth and two years later he was elected to the Council of the National Museum of Wales. In 1924 he became a member of the Council of the National Library of Wales. All these appointments, just recognition of his worth, he filled with characteristic enthusiasm.

His was a life full of physical and mental activity, devoted to a labour of love that was its own reward. His travels all over Wales on behalf of the Ancient Monuments Board made him familiar with every pre-seventeenth century monument and site worthy of note. Additionally, his connection with the antiquarian societies of Cardiganshire and Carmarthenshire urged him around those counties with enquiring eye and mind, all the time acquiring museum specimens, making field notes, examining historical sites, visiting houses where he could elicit information, never missing a church or its incum-

bent, and always admiring the countryside. He shunned transport, which he used only when necessary, preferring to walk whenever it was possible. By 1920 he was proud to claim that he had walked 21,000 miles,¹ to which many more were added in the remaining years. He loved the open-air and weather never worsted him.

Perhaps it was this love of outdoor life that had some influence upon his decision to join the Scout movement. That he was already sixty-seven years of age was irrelevant; an active body and an alert mind were all that mattered. At seventy-five and more he wore his uniform as though it were the most natural thing to do, his shorts exposins weathered knees and limbs still sturdy. He delighted in the name of Sing Songs, a self-chosen sobriquet by which he was affectionately known throughout the movement in Wales and probably further afield. He became Commissioner for Carmarthenshire and Assistant Commissioner for Wales and was among those entitled to wear the Silver Wolf.

His patriotic loyalty was perhaps inspired by his proudly acknowledged grandfather, Capt. George Eyre Powell, who had served in the Royal Navy and was aboard HMS Heron when it brought home dispatches from St. Helena which gave news of Napoleon's death. A precious memento Powell took with him when he left this vessel was the Union Jack which had been flown on HMS. *Virginie* 'when Nelson's death was announced; he flew it frequently from HMS *Victory*, to which he was posted long after Nelson's time. This flag, George Eyre Evans, 'not having a single relative in consanguinity', presented to the Welsh Scout Council. On national occasions he flew a Union Jack from the mast outside his Carmarthen home on the Parade; at other times the mast boasted the Scout flag.

One of the many stories told about George Eyre Evans has been recorded by Sir Mortimer Wheeler, pre-eminent among archaeologists in his time, who has related at length the events which attended the funeral of a venerable aunt, the last of George Eyre's relatives. Never willing to miss an opportunity to add to his antiquarian knowledge, he seized upon the funeral journey from

1. Who's *Who in Wales* (Western Mail, 1921).

Devon to Woking as a means of exploring historic parts of southern England, only slight deviation, he perceived, being necessary to visit Sherborne Abbey, Stonehenge and other places. During these inspections the coffin was abandoned to the protection of the Union Jack, a gesture in honour of the fact that the deceased's father had been a naval officer. The belated arrival of the mud-spattered motor-hearse at Woking crematorium was confronted by a large public assembly, which George Eyre, unaware that he had forestalled the stately cortege of famous statesman, viewed with deep satisfaction?

Another story illustrates typical forthrightness. To one who had talked of his private collection with not a little pride, he blasted: 'You ought to be ashamed to say so. What becomes of a private collection after the collector's death? Thrown out, destroyed, lost. Lost, sir, lost to the great world of science. If I may say so, private collectors should be treated as destructive and dishonest people.' By way of appeasement, he promised this visitor to Carmarthen 'that if you submit anything of real interest to our excellent museum in this town - than which there is no better in the Principality, small I admit, small but good - then you will receive every attention and courtesy. I may add that some of the departments are under my special care.'³

Strangely, both these writers describe a small or little man; one wonders whether the passage of time tricked memory into reducing the stature of a picturesque personality. The present writer remembers a taller, more imposing figure, deep-chested and broad-shouldered, that commanded attention in any street scene. In his later years he strode from another age in a suit well-cut by a rural tailor from tweed that must have come from a Teifi-side mill, one suspected. Walking Carmarthen streets with a confident air, he invariably clutched to his breast a book or a wallet of written notes, the bountiful product of a fertile pen. Sometimes he carried a small attache-case covered with labels advertising his foreign travels. When other men had long forsaken the fashion, he still wore a close-cut beard which tapered to a tangled tuft. But by his last decades he had discarded knickerbockers and

2. Still *Digging* (Michael Joseph, 1951, pp.81-2)

3. Arthur Arnold, *A Winding Trail* (Western Mail, 1943), pp.26-7. G.E.E. is not named, but the person described can be no other.

Norfolk jacket. Through gold-rimmed spectacles peered a pair of inquisitive eyes that scrutinised man and manuscript, book and relic with insatiable curiosity; a high pitched voice never shrank from uttering a decided opinion, nor tired of lecturing any group eager to learn something of the history that surrounded them in their daily lives; withal came enthusiasm that never grew stale with advancing years. Having seen eighty summers pass, he was belatedly admitted to the roll of Freeman of the town whose heritage he had done so much to cherish. Unmarried, he died on 9 November 1939, the last of his blood and an incongruous survival in an age that had lost the serenity of former times.

George Eyre Evans wrote prolifically, being a frequent contributor to the Transactions of the Cardiganshire and Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Societies and *Archaeologic, Combrensis* among other journals, as well as the local Press, to which he sent regular notes, his manuscripts being instantly recognisable by the green ink which he favoured. Notable in the Carmarthenshire Transactions, for which he wrote countless articles, notes and reports, was a series concerning the history of the Quakers in Carmarthen. During his time as inspecting officer for the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments seven county volumes were published in respect of Wales, the Carmarthenshire volume, a treasure-chest of historical information, being very largely the work of George Eyre Evans. His published books include: *A History of Renshaw Chapel, Liverpool* (1887); *Happy Hours of Work and Worship* (1889); *Whitchurch of Long Ago* (1893); *Record of the Provincial Assembly of Lancashire and Cheshire* (1896); *Vestiges of Protestant Dissent* (1897); *Colyton, a Chapter in the History of Devon* (1898); *The Midland Churches* (1899); *Antiquarian Notes* (a private magazine, 1898-1906); *Aberystwyth and its Court Leet* (1902); *Cardiganshire, A Personal Survey of some of its Antiquities* (1903); *Lampeter* (1905); *The Lloyd Letters, 1754-96, edited with notes* (1908), a valuable record of religious life in Cardiganshire during the eighteenth century, as well as guides relating to Carmarthen and Lampeter.

His cremated remains lie near those of his father in the burial ground of the Unitarian chapel at Allt-y-placca, not far from the waters of the Teifi which divide and yet unite the counties to which he so willingly devoted his talent.

E.V.J.

Rural Rides of Long Ago

By A. B. Randall, B.Sc. (Econ.)

In 1762, just two years before he died, the Rev. Thomas Price, former rector of Merthyr Tydfil, spent eight weeks or so taking the waters of Dolycoed, Llanwrtyd Wells. While there he kept a journal, now published by permission of Mr. David White, Carmarthen, but the manuscript may be incomplete, as it relates only to the final week before Thomas Price returned to Merthyr Tydfil. Nevertheless it is of particular interest because it records information about his excursions into Carmarthenshire from Llanwrtyd Wells.

The well at Dolycoed had been discovered in 1732 by the Rev. Theophilus Evans, who claimed that the water helped to cure his "inveterate scurvy which yielded to no medicines commonly prescribed", (See Jones, *The History of the County of Brecknockshire*, 1909). Of the water, Evans recorded that "in a word, it is a noble tincture of sulphur, concocted and perfected in the bowels of the earth, which no art of man can imitate; it drinks as soft milk, and is not at all nauseous but is generally grateful to the taste".

The author of the journal should not be confused with another Thomas Price, also rector of Merthyr Tydfil, who, as an active member of the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge, played a prominent part in founding prison libraries, and died in 1729.

Thomas Price, the author of the journal, was the son of Thomas Price of Burrington in Herefordshire. His mother Margaretta was a Scudamore, a descendant of Sir John Scudamore, -Dwain Glyn Dwr's son-in-law. Thomas Price was educated at Trinity College, Oxford, where he obtained his B.A. degree. He married Constance Anstey, by whom he had two children, Mary and John. He was chaplain to Lord Windsor at Ringwood and also served as Vicar of Ellingham in the county of Southampton. It was Herbert, Viscount Windsor, as patron of the rectory of Merthyr Tydfil, who presented Thomas Price to the Bishop of Llandaff to succeed Thomas Johnson in 1751.

The journal, which is printed below, is reproduced from a transcript made by the late Irene Brunel White, a descendant of the Rev. Thomas Price.

Jr +

The Journal of the Rev. Thomas Price.

July 25. Went from the Well to dine with Roger Price Esq. of Maceron (a very sensible gentleman of good learning and great reading) where I met with a very kind Reception and had the agreeable Company thither of Miss Vaughan of Castle Madock; Mrs. Griffiths, Richard Cony Jones Esqr. and Mr. David Williams Attorney at Law, the three last of Carmarthen.

On Saturday July 31st went to Llandovery in Carmarthenshire, and by the way to that Town had an agreeable view from the Hills of an antient seat of William Gwin's Esqr. of Cunghordy a very good natured and friendly old Gentleman, and within a little mile of that Place had also a distant view of Lanbran* the noble seat with a Park adjoining, and of a more modern building of Roderick Gwin's Esqr. and had on Sunday the following day a closer view of the two fore mentioned houses, and in my way to Llandovery accidentally overtaking William Gwin of Cunghordy Esqr. (who seemed to me to have in him the truly noble spirit of an old Briton) and was so kind as to give me a very pressing invitation to call at his house the next morning (being under an engagement to be back at the Well by dinner time) to drink part of a Tankard of exceedingly good Ale which I accordingly did the' not so proper a Liquor for a water-drinker at that time of the day.

On Saturday above mentioned arrived at Llandovery between ten and eleven in the morning and set up at the old Boar, kept by a civil good natured landlord Mr. Woodhouse where I heartily eat of a good beef steak, being exceedingly hungry, tho so very early in the morning, and immediately after dinner, and drinking two or three glasses of wine, proceeded on my journey in a

* See 'Fingers of Forsaken Stone: The Story of Glanbran', *The Carmarthenshire Historian*, vol. IX, 1972.

very pleasant Road to Langatock, and by the way thither went close by a very pretty Seat (called Kilgwin) of one Mifs Price a young Lady of a very considerable fortune, being in the Possession of between seven and eight hundred Pounds a year; and a little way from Kilgwin saw another pretty Seat of Morgan Lloyd Esqr. called Lanscevin.

From Lanscevin went on to Langatock where I made a visit to the Revd. Mr. Evans the Vicar of that Town and Parish who about two O'clock at a little Inn there sat down to dinner to a good Loyn of veal but did not myself eat thereof being not in the least hungry but my good friend and conductor thither Mr. Thomas Jones the younger having a better stomach eat a little of it; however I got acquainted there with some very good Ale which for many week before I had been a stranger to. At Langatock being treated by Mr. Evans we staid about an hour and half and so returned back to Llandovery.

On Sunday the following day reached the Wells some hours before dinner. But before we left Llandovery were in a very elegant manner entertained at breakfast by Doctor Williams Surgeon and Man midwife, a very good natured young man and also *very* skilful in his Profession about three miles from Dole ^o goed. August 2nd, went to Aberannel a Countrey Seat of John Loyd's Esqr. of Brecon, with my friend and Conductor Mr. Thos. Jones, and had the agreeable company thither of Mrs. Phillips of Lambadar Velfrey near Tenby Pembrokeshire, and likewise of Miss Poyer a near neighbour of hers. At Aberannel the Ladies drank Tea with Miss Loyd Sister to [lacuna] Loyd's Esqr. afore-mentioned; and as it was situated near Chairy we called there also, alighted, and took the freedom of seeing the whole House, for which I must beg Mr. Bullock [Lloyd's pardon.

After I had received the Benefit of drinking Doleoed water for eight weeks, being before my going to that well in a very weak, sickly and languishing condition as above hinted, I arrived back at Merthir Tidvil on Saturday August the seventh 1762 (God be praised) in perfect health, and now for a conclusion to the foregoing Short journal I cannot help making the following Remark upon Doleoed The water whereof is of such an healing Quality I am strongly persuaded were more buildings erected there for better accom-

modation that all the Gentlemen and Ladies of South Wales, and most other Counties, who laboured under any complaint, and are within hearing of the Fame of that excellent water, would every summer have recourse to it.

N.B. As I myself was a considerable time upon the spot I have seen many casks and bottles of the water carried off from the well into Carmarthenshire, to Bristol and also daily to the Neighbouring Gentry at any reasonable distance from Dole^ocoed.

by the

Rev. Thos. Price

Late Rector of Merthir Tidvil. 1762

Betsey Thompson Remembered

Readers of Betsey Thompson's account of her journey to Carmarthen in 1835, retold by Mr. A. B. Randall in Volume XVIII of *The Carmarthenshire Historian*, will be interested to learn that Betsey has won remembrance in her home town of Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Her story, related by Mike Weaver in *The Woodbridge Reporter*, revived local interest in her father, George Thompson, and her brother, Francis. Mr. Weaver reminded Woodbridge folk of George Thompson's role in the history of Woodbridge, where he built for himself Doric Cottage, which still stands; he also built Seckford Hospital to the design of C. R. Cockerill. Francis Thompson became a notable railway architect and, according to Mike Weaver, his drawings of early railway stations 'bear many of the familiar Woodbridge symbols', including the characteristic Dutch gabbling.

Reproduced are the portrait of Betsey and her drawing of Carmarthen, 'that lovely Welsh town, remarkably similar to Woodbridge in some ways', says Mr. Weaver, who is familiar with both towns, as he hails from Swansea. For the benefit of the townspeople, Mr. Weaver has deposited a copy of Mr. A. B. Randall's article in Woodbridge library.

Llandeilo Church's Lost Treasure

A collection of facsimile copies assembled by the Vicar of Llandeilo Fawr, the Rev. Desmond Price, has revived interest in the famous Lichfield Gospels, some of the finest medieval manuscripts extant. At one time they were deposited in the church at Llandeilo.

One of the pages in the collection bears an inscription which states: 'Gelhi bought the manuscript from Gual for a best horse and gave it on behalf of his soul to the altar of St. Teilo in the Church of Llandeilo Fawr where St. Teilo the sixth century Welsh monk was buried'. This inscription is said to date from the ninth century. On another of the pages is an almost illegible inscription, which is thought to be the earliest surviving written Welsh.

Scholars hold the opinion that the Gospels were not created in Wales, but it is not known how they got to Lichfield, where they seem to have been in the possession of Wynsy, who was bishop there between 974 and 992, for his name is inscribed on the manuscript. Their stay at Llandeilo must have lasted under a hundred years.

The Lichfield Gospels comprise a series of beautifully decorated pages*. There are eight of these with portraits of the Evangelists and a remarkably beautiful 'carpet page'. Carpet pages were the highlights of illuminated manuscripts in the Middle Ages. They are pages of pure decoration, a distinctive feature being the fact that they are reversible; viewed from either side of the page, the pattern is the same. The technique employed had a Persian origin, familiar in carpet design, and was known in the Coptic Church. The Lichfield carpet page, of rare beauty, is contained in a page frame of exquisite interlacing lines. Geometrical patterns are woven around a central Latin cross and the page is freely decorated with dogs, birds and beasts, identifiable and otherwise. The script is one of the finest - insular majuscule, which illuminators reserved for their most precious work.

The Gospels, said to have been created about 730 AD, are still used when the Bishops of Lichfield swear allegiance to the Crown.

Eirwen Jones.

* Readers may recall that the Gospels of Henry the Lion, Duke of Saxony, done in 1173, were sold at Sotheby's for more than £8,000,000 in December 1983 - Ed.

Tearful Memories of a Royal Visit

The impending closure of Alltymynydd Hospital, Llanybydder brings to mind a royal visit to Carmarthen-shire in 1905, when Princess Christian, the youngest (laughter of Queen Victoria, came to stay for four days with the Lord Lieutenant of the county Sir James Williams-Drummond at Edwinsford. She was a close friend of Lady Drummond, and an oak tree was planted on the lawn at Edwinsford to commemorate her happy visit.

Slightly less happy was the memory of the chief public engagement of her stay, that of laying the foundation stone of the Alltymynydd Sanatorium, Llanybydder on 25th April, the driving force behind the project being Lady Drummond herself. However, the weather was far from kind and as a building site is not the best place for one's best shoes in pouring rain, the excitement of the occasion was sadly marred.

Mrs. Lorna Blandy of Dolaubran, Cynghorby, then a girl of seven, was present and took a brief part in the ceremonials that day. Her father, H. Meuric Lloyd of Glanyrannell Park, Crugybar was high sheriff that year and closely concerned with the arrangements. As public donations were being sought to help finance the building, it was arranged that the Princess would, before laying the stone, accept the gifts from donors, which were to be contained in crimson satin purses made for the purpose and, as a touching addition, to be presented by their children. Sir James and Lady Williams-Drummond had only one son and in order to preserve an appropriate air of chivalry, the high sheriff's two young daughters were picked to lead the procession. Mrs. Blandy takes up the story:

"The morning started finely enough but as the day wore on it came on to rain. Against this a makeshift awning was hurriedly rigged up over the Princess' chair. Once the people began to arrive however the site quickly became a sea of mud. My sister Nest (aged ten) and I were driven over from Glanyrannell in a closed carriage, dressed in white muslin hats and dresses and white satin shoes, each carrying our crimson satin purses full of gold coins which were our father's donation.

"The Princess' chair had been placed on a slightly raised piece of ground to afford the crowd a good view. With all the rain this now meant there was a very

muddy and slippery slope to be ascended in order to reach Her Royal Highness. My poor sister started up the slippery slope, all eyes on her. Half way up to the Princess' chair, her foot stuck in the mud and she lost her shoe, arriving finally in front of the Princess in floods of tears, from where she was helped away. My turn came next! Seeing my poor sister's plight I too was on the verge of tears but then a kind man seized me and carried me right through the mud and dropped me down right in front of the Princess. Just managing to restrain my tears in the Royal presence I gave my purse and was then immediately whisked off again in someone else's arms, packed back into the coach and driven straight back to Glanyrannell, soaking wet and my feet covered in mud.

"After that someone found some gravel and a proper path was made through the mud for the children who followed us, but I never saw this, nor the actual laying of the stone which followed. You can imagine how much I had been looking forward to the day and what a terrible disappointment at that age it was."

Court Henry.

Thomas Lloyd.

A NATION'S TEACHER

Yet another book, in Welsh, about Wales's most famous teacher is the recently published *Griffith Jones, Llanddowror: Athro Cenedl* by Gwyn Davies (Gwasg Efengyllaidd, Bridgend), 120pp. Price £1.75.

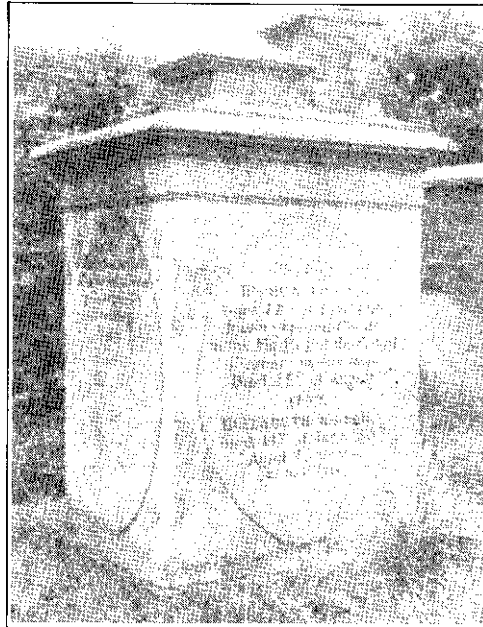
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

BAPTIST HISTORIAN

I was interested in the article about Joshua Thomas, the great Baptist historian (The Carmorthenshire Historian, Vol XIX).

My wife and I were staying in Leominster a few years ago and I took the opportunity of photographing Joshua Thomas's grave in the burial ground of the Baptist Chapel there. The inscription on the tombstone reads:

*The Revd. Joshua
Thomas born 22nd
of Feby 1719
having served
Christ in the
Ministry of the
Gospel 43 years
in this town.
Died 25th August
1797.
Elizabeth his relict
Died 14th of June
1807 Aged 85
years.
To die is gain.*



On one side is a memorial to Ebenezer, John, Mary and Sarah, their children, all of whom died young. On another side is a memorial to Richard Nicholls and his widow, Elizabeth, daughter of Joshua and Elizabeth Thomas.

GWILYM OWEN, 1, Love Lane, Bangor, Gwynedd.

Talley House

By David Long Price and Jack D. Willson

The village of Talley (Tal-y-Ilychau) lies in a narrow valley connecting the Vales of the Cothi and the Tywi in N.E. Carmarthenshire. Somewhat isolated by its remoteness and limited communications with the outside world, it is still today an enchanting site, dominated by the ancient ruined abbey whose remaining walls look out onto the lakes from which the name of the village is derived. This abbey was built exactly on the watershed so that the rain from the north roof ran via the lakes to the Cothi and that from the south roof through the Afon Ddu to the Tywi.

According to surviving documents, Talley Abbey was first founded by Rhys ap Gruffydd (d.1197) and belonged to the order of the White Canons (Premonstratensians), although there is some evidence for an earlier foundation.¹ A confirmation charter from the time of Edward II (1324) lists the lands in Talley and neighbouring parishes endowed by Rhys and subsequent benefactors. At the Dissolution the lands were taken by the Crown, the sovereign becoming the lord of the manor. "They are, and immemorially have been, held as copyholds of inheritance by suit and service, now commuted into a small money fine and fealty, and are transferred by surrender and not by deed. This manor is one of the few, if not the only one, in South Wales in which the custom of Borough English prevails: the land descending, in the event of intestacy or a general entail, to the youngest son of a customary heir, and the widow being dowable, in 'freebench', of the whole of her husband's lands during her chaste widowhood".

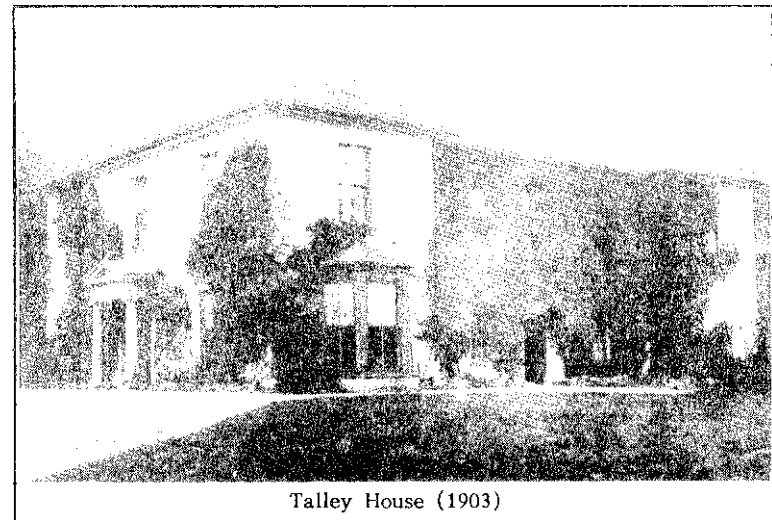
Major Francis Jones has published two interesting documents about the customs of the manor, one relating

1. D. Long Price, *Arch. Cambrensis*, Vol. X, pp. 163-187 (1878).
2. Giraldus Cambrensis (d. 1223) describes it a rough and sterile spot, surrounded by woods on every side and beyond measure inaccessible and sufficiently meanly endowed" (*Speculum Ecclesiae*, written between 1200 and 1223).

to a meeting of the Court Baron about the boundaries of the manor in 1668,³ the other to an inquisition into the customs of the manor held in 1725.⁴ The former was addressed in legal proceedings in 1832-3 when some of the tenants refused to pay rents on the grounds that their lands were part of the manor of East Greenwich and not of Talley.

The village surfaces a few times in national affairs. In 1215 Iorwerth, Abbot of Talley, was appointed Bishop of St. David's in preference to Giraldus after a bitterly contested struggle. The poet Dafydd ap Gwilym spent his later years in Talley and, according to an englyn ascribed to Hopcin ap Tomas (1380), was buried in the abbey precincts, a claim disputed however by the Cistercian house at Ystrad Fflur.

One of the principal buildings in the village is a moderately sized whitewashed house lying between Talley Mountain (Mynydd Cyn-y-rhos) and the abbey precincts, now going by the name of Talley House. It has today a pleasing, somewhat Georgian appearance, but



Talley House (1903)

3. *Bull. of Board of Celtic Studies* (Oxford), Vol. 24, pp 518-526 (1972)
4. *Bull. of Board of Celtic Studies* (Oxford), Vol. 25. pp 185-188 (1973)