

# RECORD

Journal

Cylchgrawn



**MONTGOMERYSHIRE  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

.....  
**CYMDEITHAS ACHYDDOL  
MALDWYN**

Rhif 69 Number

Gaeaf 2017 Winter

ISSN 1358-0434

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# RECORD

Journal/Cylchgrawn of the  
MONTGOMERYSHIRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
CYMDEITHAS ACHYDDOL MALDWYN

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***Rhif 69 No.***

***MGS ~ CAM***

***Gaeaf 2017 Winter***

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Payment by standing order is encouraged, but if not paying by standing order renewals must be sent to the Treasurer:

Mrs Julie C. Williams, 20 Napley Drive, Norton in Hales, Shropshire, TF9 4QY

### **MGS Christmas lunch 2017**

The 2017 MGS Christmas lunch will be held at Maesmawr Hall Hotel, Caersws, on Sunday 3 December. For details, please see the enclosed booking form. Bookings for this year's lunch need to be lodged at least two weeks before the day, so please make sure your booking is with the Secretary by **Saturday 18 November at the latest**. A very happy Christmas and New Year to all our members.

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### **Completion of Murray Chapman's Court of Great Sessions Series**

Member 27 Murray Chapman has recently published the last two volumes in his series of calendars of the Montgomeryshire Court of Great Sessions. The volumes in question are:

Montgomeryshire Court of Great Sessions : calendar of Gaol Files 1606-1613;  
and  
Montgomeryshire Court of Great Sessions : calendar of Gaol Files : 1614-1620.

Both are available on the open shelves in the manuscripts room at the National Library.

This brings to a conclusion the work which Murray set out to do in calendaring the Montgomeryshire Court of Great Sessions Gaol Files. He has covered the period from when the court was founded in 1541 through to 1620, and also the Commonwealth period from 1650 to 1660.

*(Continued on page 4)*

# Our Two Thousandth Member!

It gives us great pleasure to announce that this summer the Society passed another important landmark when it was joined by its 2000<sup>th</sup> member, Mrs Janice Holohan.

Janice lives just outside the county at Bentlawnt which for those of you who don't know it, is between Minsterley and Bishop's Castle.

She has been researching her Welsh roots on and off for a few years now but as you may all have experienced, there have been a few stumbling blocks on the way and every now and again she gets frustrated and stops for a while. She hopes that the MGS's concentration on the historical county will help her to move on, and she is keen enough on her family history to have checked out our members' area already.

Officially, Janice's interests are **HUGHES** of Llanerfyl and Llanfair Caereinion 1800-1900, and also **DAVIES** and **HULME** Shrewsbury (Shropshire) 1800-1920.

Janice was born at home in Coton Mount in Shrewsbury in 1948 to Kenneth Cameron Whitaker and Doris Elsie Davies. Doris's mother Susannah Davies was born in 1877 in Butcher Row in Shrewsbury to Evan Hughes and Mary Ann (née Hulme). Evan's mother was from Llanerfyl and on the 1881 census she was aged 66 and a charwoman, hence Janice's interest in the Welsh connection.



After living in London and Hertfordshire Janice moved back to Shropshire with her husband in 1997 and still lives in the cottage they purchased in Bentlawnt.

Janice found she could paint about eight years ago after attending a couple of art workshops and belongs to the Shropshire Art Society. She exhibits in their annual open exhibitions and others in and around Shropshire. She also belongs to the Marches Art Group who have exhibited at St. Mary's Church in Shrewsbury for the past few years.

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## 2018 MGS Spring Open Morning

The 2018 MGS Spring Open Morning will be held on 3 March at Llanfyllin, venue to be announced.

## NEWS (Court of Great Sessions continued)

The National Library of Wales published the three volumes covering the period 1541-1590 and the transcripts for the period 1650-1660. Murray has had the volumes for the period 1591-1620 privately printed, and owing to cost considerations the editions have necessarily been limited in each case to 10 copies.

He is currently finalising some work he did many years ago on the Challenge Pedigrees contained in the Prothonotary Papers of the Court, from the earliest surviving pedigree to the year 1660. It is hoped that this will be published privately within the next few months and, again, because of cost considerations, a limited number will be produced.

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**Publication Correction** .....David Petley-Jones (N<sup>o</sup> 25)

*MR/MI/06 Montgomery Churchyard, 2nd edition:*

Monument N<sup>o</sup> 409 has been omitted from the churchyard map (2nd edition only, it is included in the 1st edition). The actual transcription has not been omitted.

If any member wants to add it to the map, it is a headstone more or less halfway between N<sup>o</sup> 410 and the small bush to its right.

### LATEST PUBLICATIONS

*ALBERBURY BURIALS 1813-1851 MR/B/23 £5.50*

MR/B/23 is the **400<sup>th</sup> booklet** the Society has published. Please see the enclosed publications leaflet for the full list.

Publications are available from **Mr and Mrs Shirley**, address on inside front cover. Please add postage & packing as follows:

	<b>1 booklet</b>	<b>2 or more booklets</b>
UK	£1.50	£1 per booklet
EU	£3	£2.50 per booklet
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**Llandrinio**—Post Office and Service Station

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**Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain**—Griffiths Newsagents

**Llwydiarth**—Post Office

**Meifod**—Post Office

**Welshpool**—Pethe Powys, Severn Street, and Tourist Information Centre, Church Street Car Park

## LIST OF MEMBERS AND MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Notice: *Record* will **only** include interests relating to **Montgomeryshire**. In addition, we will include in this section interests relating to the contiguous counties of Cardiganshire, Denbighshire, Merionethshire, Radnorshire and Shropshire **only**.

Note: Parishes/towns, etc, below are in Montgomeryshire unless stated otherwise.

No.	Members' Names, Postal & E-mail Addresses and Interests
557	<p><i>Updating of interests:</i>                      Miss R.G. Leonard, 22 St. Stephen's Avenue, London, W12 8JH                      Email: rosemarygleonard@btopenworld.com  <b>BENNETT</b> Llandinam pre 1700. <b>BOWEN</b> and <b>SWANCOTT</b> Trefeglwys pre 1700. <b>JENKINS</b> and <b>WOOSNAM</b> Llanidloes pre 1700.</p>
1999	<p>Dr R. Tebbenham, 6 Wordsworth Close, Towcester, NN12 6JU                      Email: rltebbenham@gmail.com  <b>SWANCOTT</b> and <b>THOMAS</b> Carno 1800-1900.</p>
2000	<p>Mrs J. Holohan, 5 Bentlawnt, Minsterley, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY5 0ES                      Email: janice.h129@btinternet.com                      Please see page 3 for interests.</p>
2001	<p>Mr W. Ward, White House Farm, Main Road, Hulland Ward, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 3EF                      Email: wayne.ward.01@googlemail.com  <b>GWILLIAM</b> all Bishop's Castle (Shropshire). <b>HUMPHREYS</b> all Llandinam and Llanidloes. <b>JARMAN</b> / <b>JERMAN</b> Llanidloes 1750-1900. <b>MEREDITH</b> Llanbryn-mair, Llanidloes and Llanwnnog 1700-1900. <b>TUFFIN</b> Priest Weston (Shropshire) 1900+.</p>

**The Old Newtown Town Hall** ..... Stephen W. Jones (N<sup>o</sup> 20)

*Manor of Cedewain, township of Newtown, court leet of 25 October 1684, NLW Powis Castle MA718*

Rich[ard] Tomas wee doe present for an unlawfull mixen [dung heap—SJ] in the midle of the street where the town hall stood.

[Signed:] Joseph Griffithes, Andrew Thikins, Richard Bishoppe, Henry Parry.

(The interest in this snippet lies not so much in the presentment itself as in the reference to the town hall. The town hall in question had probably been demolished within living memory of when this return was compiled in 1684. There is a picture of an old town hall in Newtown in Richard Williams's history of the town in *Montgomeryshire Collections* 32 (1902), opposite page 196. It was located at the Cross end of Broad Street, near Turner's Lane and where the Castle Vaults pub still stands. According to Williams's account, this building was erected by "the ould Turnor", and "nearly three centuries before" it was demolished, i.e. built circa 1552. The identical building is described by B. Bennett Rowlands in his *Brief History of Newtown* (1914) under the heading "The Old Market Hall". In his account, Rowlands says that something like the letters "1769" on an old print seems to indicate its date of erection. The court leet suit roll quoted above suggests that Rowlands, not Williams's article, was correct about the age of the town hall demolished in 1852.—SJ)

**Private Edward Turner of Newtown, Montgomeryshire .....John Turner (N<sup>o</sup> 210)**

Private Edward Turner, born Newtown, Montgomeryshire c1778 was discharged from the 50th (West Kent) Regiment of Foot at Kilmainham Hospital, Dublin in November 1803. The reason for his discharge was that he was blind. His warrant of discharge signed by his commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel George Townshend Walker was signed at Belfast Barracks on the 23rd November 1803. A transcription of the warrant ref. WO119/0067 is shown in [Appendix 1](#).<sup>1</sup>

The infantry regiments in which Edward served were both heavily involved in military campaigns during a tumultuous period in British and European history, the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars, 1792 to 1815.

Edward first enlisted c June 1799 in the 63rd (West Suffolk) Regiment of Foot. This regiment had recently returned from service in Jamaica and had been severely depleted. On arriving in England in August 1799 the regiment was returned to strength from recruits from various militias and it may be this is when Edward joined the regiment.

On returning to strength the regiment embarked for Holland where it took part in the Anglo Russian Helder campaign (27 August- 19 November 1799) under the command of Sir Ralph Abercrombie and overall command of HRH Prince Frederick, Duke of York (The Grand Old Duke of York in the nursery rhyme).

Following service in Portugal and Gibraltar the regiment arrived in Malta in January 1802.

The 50th Regiment of Foot meanwhile had been engaged in actions against the French in Egypt where they obtained their first battle honours. Following the surrender of the French Army in Egypt the regiment returned to Malta in October 1801 and received drafts from various other regiments. Lt Col. Walker took command. It was probably then that Edward Turner transferred from the 63rd to the 50th Regiment of Foot.<sup>2</sup>

In March 1802 the Peace of Amiens was signed which led to a break in hostilities for a short period.

The 50th Regiment sailed for Ireland and arrived in Cork on the 4th May 1802.

The 50th Regiment of Foot was given the nickname, the Blind Half Hundred on account of the high incidence of Ophthalmia amongst the troops during their service in the Egyptian campaign (160 became completely blind and 200 lost one eye). Edward Turner however, had not served in Egypt so why had he become blind? The answer may be found in an inquiry which took place in 1804 where the surgeon of the 50th Regiment and the military authorities were concerned about the number of service personnel being discharged from the army with a pension due to disabilities such as blindness.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Warrant of Discharge WO119/0067.

<sup>2</sup> The History of the late 63<sup>rd</sup> (West Suffolk) Regiment, Major James Slack, 1884. Available online.

<sup>3</sup> The History of the 50<sup>th</sup> (or the Queen's Own) Regiment, Colonel Fyler, 1895. Available online.



A reference to the inquiry is contained in a book titled 'Sketches of Imposture, Deception and Credulity' published in 1845 by GR Zieber and Co. Philadelphia.<sup>4</sup>

To quote from Chapter VIII (Malingering or Simulation of Diseases): "In the year 1804, the great increase of ophthalmia in the 50th Regiment, and the reported detection of frauds in other regiments, led to a suspicion in the mind of the surgeon of that corps, and a consequent investigation, by which a regular correspondence was detected between the men under medical treatment and their parents or friends. Those suffering from ophthalmia, within the walls of the hospital, requested that those without would forward to them corrosive sublimate, lime, and bluestone; and by the application of these acrid substances to their eyes, they hoped to get them into such a state of disease, as would enable them to procure their discharge, with a pension. And they mentioned the names of men who have been successful by similar means. Proofs of guilt having been established, the delinquents were tried by a court-martial, convicted and punished.

It is hardly possible to believe, that men would endure not only the inconvenience of a severe ophthalmia, than which, perhaps, nothing is more painful, but would even risk the total loss of sight, for the uncertain prospect of a trifling pension, and with the conviction, that even if they gained it, they reduced themselves to a helpless dependence on others through life. But it is nevertheless certain, that whole wards have been filled with soldiers labouring under this artificially excited disease; this inflammation of the eye having been produced, and maintained, by quicklime, strong infusions of tobacco, Spanish flies, nitrate of silver and other metallic salts. The inflammation thus caused is most painful, yet it has been kept up under every privation which can make life miserable."

The collapse of the Peace of Amiens on the 18 May 1803 and the prospect of renewed hostilities may have been the impetus for Edward and others to find a way of discharging themselves from the army before hostilities began.

The Warrant of Discharge describes Edward as a Blacksmith aged 25 years. The details in the description, height, age etc may have been recorded when he enlisted therefore the age may not be that of when he was discharged. An Edward Turner son of Charles and Mary Turner, Blacksmith was baptised at St Mary's Parish Church, Newtown on the 3rd March 1776. If this is Private Edward Turner then he is the younger brother of my gt, gt, gt grandfather Arthur Turner born Newtown in 1771. There are two other Edward Turners baptised in approximately the same period.

Questions remain as to what happened to Edward when he walked out of the hospital in Dublin and blind. Did he have any assistance in returning to his home town, Newtown? Was the blindness temporary and did the investigation by the regimental surgeon discover that the blindness was self inflicted resulting in court martial and loss of his army pension?

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<sup>4</sup> Available online.

## Appendix 1

### Transcription of Warrant of Discharge for Private Edward Turner. GBM WO 119/067/001/090

Lieutenant Colonel George Townshend Walker Esquire commanding His Majesty's 50th Foot (West Kent) Regiment, whereof Lieutenant General Sir James Duff Kn. is Colonel. These are to certify that the Bearer hereof Edward Turner has served well and faithfully in the above named Regiment for one year and eleven months and in other Regiments according to the Annexed Return GB 44.

The said Edward Turner is now hereby Discharged having first received his Pay, Arrears of Pay, Cloathing (sic) and all other just demands that accrue from the time of his enlisting into the said Regiment till the day of his Discharge as appears by his Receipt on the other side.

He is discharged being blind.

As more fully appears by the Surgeons Certificate describing the Origin nature and state of his Complaint of why unfit for Service and is hereby Recommended as a fit object of His Majesty's Royal Bounty of Kilmainham hospital.

#### SERVICE

	Sgt major	Qtr Master Sergeant	Sergeant	Drummer	Corporal	Private	Total Service
Corps	years	years	years	years	years	years	years
63rd Foot	"	"	"	"	"	2y 6m	2y 6m
50th Foot	"	"	"	"	"	1y 11m	1y 11m
						4y 5m	4y 5m

#### DESCRIPTION

Name	height		years	Trade	Where born	County
Edward Turner	feet	inches	25	Blacksmith	Newtown	Montgomeryshire
	5	10				

Given under my hand seal of the Regiment at Belfast Barracks This 22nd Day of November 1803

Signed G Walker Lt. Col.

## The Montgomeryshire Imperial Yeomanry ..... David Peate (Nº 2)

The Montgomeryshire Yeomanry Cavalry was raised in 1803 at a time when there were fresh fears of a French Napoleonic invasion after the re-commencement of hostilities. Charles Watkin Williams-Wynn founded the unit and he commanded it for more than forty years. Originally, there were four squadrons:

'A' Squadron.....	Llanfyllin
'B' Squadron.....	Welshpool
'C' Squadron.....	Newtown
'D' Squadron .....	Llandrindod Wells (Radnorshire)

By 1906, the distribution and strengths were:

Officers	15	(1906 list is shown later excluding colonel)
'A' unit	84	(Llanidloes 63, Montgomery 21)
'B' unit	123	(Newtown)
'C' unit	74	(Welshpool)
'D' unit	83	(Machynlleth)
'E' unit	74	(Aberystwyth College)
'F' unit	91	(Towyn 70, Aberdovey 21)

The squadrons featured prominently in the Boer War as part of the 9th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry. It goes without saying that the yeomanry was also fully engaged in the First World War. In 1917, the yeomanry ceased to be a principally cavalry unit and became an infantry corps. The latter war saw the force involved in the hostilities in the Middle East particularly those that took place in 1917 at the second and third Battles of Gaza and at the subsequent capture of Beersheba. Later, one of the three units of the yeomanry served creditably on the western front in northern Europe. Its most prominent commander was Col. Robert William Herbert Watkin Williams-Wynn KCB, DSO (1862-1951). He was in charge of the yeomanry from 1906 to 1917.



### *Anorchfygol*

In November 1917, the *County Times'* special correspondent reported: *Your readers will be more interested in the doings of the "Seventh" than in any précis of the general movements. Our fellow countrymen, Yeomanry, I may add, have also been in the thick of it, so Montgomeryshire and Merionethshire are well represented, and what is more, have upheld the honour of their regiments splendidly. Our Battalion took part in the movement which led to the fall of Beersheba ... Despite many casualties, the Battalion has not lost its cohesion, and is now busy following up the followers of the Crescent in support to the cavalry. The Seventh refers to the seventh battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. The Montgomeryshire Yeomanry's motto was anorchfygol (invincible).*

In collaboration with W.N. Stable, Col. Williams-Wynn wrote a fascinating history of the Montgomeryshire Yeomanry down to 1908. This history was published at Oswestry in 1909. It contains some wonderful coloured plates of the various bright uniforms worn by the volunteers during the Victorian era. The plates are completely

protected by tissue paper. The styles of dress were changed relatively frequently. I have been fortunate in owning a copy of this history.

Perhaps the two best-remembered members of the Montgomeryshire Yeomanry are:



**William Herbert  
Waring**

William Herbert Waring, VC, MM (1885-1918) of Welshpool. He was a budding footballer with Welshpool Town FC. He had been in the Montgomeryshire Yeomanry since 1903. William rose through the ranks until he was promoted to the rank of lance-sergeant. He was awarded the Military Medal in 1917 for gallantry in the field in Palestine and was mentioned in despatches. His Victoria Cross came in northern France in 1918 when he attacked singlehandedly an enemy position while under heavy fire. He bayoneted four and captured two soldiers together with their guns. Tragically, he was mortally injured and died of his wounds in the General Hospital in Le Havre.

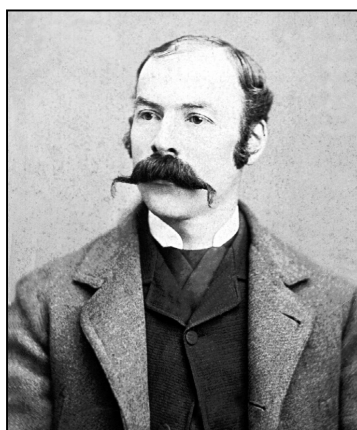
George Latham, MC and bar served in that unit in the during the First World War, awarded the M.C. for his positions on the Turkish front heavy fire and, in 1918, he decoration. He was a international footballer clubs, Liverpool and Cardiff. Fusiliers were British Forces included George Latham and Harold Beadles of Newtown.



**George Latham**

(1881-1939) of Newtown. He Second Boer War. In 1917, Lieutenant Latham was to be gallantry in capturing enemy while his unit was under received the bar to this professional and Welsh playing for, amongst other The 7th Battalion Royal Welsh Champions in 1919. The team another Welsh international, Additionally, George Latham

was the trainer for some extremely successful years with Cardiff City F.C. The home ground of the present Newtown F.C. was named Latham Park in his honour.



**John Griffiths  
(1857-1916)**

As with all Welsh yeomanry outfits, camps were held annually at various places throughout Wales. These were not just for basic training. There were competitions such as swordsmanship and horsemanship. These activities were labelled *sports*. Trooper John Griffiths, the grandfather of our member, Tom Griffiths, and, incidentally, my great-uncle, was presented with a snuffbox following the annual camp at Powis Castle, Welshpool, in 1875. This box is inscribed:

*Lieut. Col. Sir W.W. Wynn. Bart: MP to John Griffiths*

*the best swordsman in Captain William Henry Adam's  
Troop 1875*

Tom Griffiths still has the presentation box. Captain William Henry Adam was almost eighty years of age when he retired from the yeomanry in 1877. This was the same year that swordsman John Griffiths of Pontdolgoch uprooted himself from the

Newtown Butchers' Hall and emigrated to Emporia, Kansas, later settling in Hartford in the same state.

In 1905, the camp was at Dolforgan, Kerry, and, in 1907, at Hope Farm near Leighton, Welshpool. In between, in 1906, the Montgomeryshire Imperial Yeomanry held its annual camp in May at Tyn-y-Coed, Garth, which is about seven miles west of Builth Wells. Our county yeomanry was in company with the yeomanry group from Pembrokeshire.

Through the efforts of Col. Wynn, it had been planned that the four Welsh Imperial Yeomanry companies would train together *in brigade* at Llangammarch and Garth in Brecknockshire. For some reason though, noted by Wynn and Stable as the *faulty camping grounds being selected by the authorities*, the Denbighshire and Glamorgan Yeomanry refused to participate. They held their own separate camp at Margam near Port Talbot. This left the Montgomeryshire and Pembrokeshire Yeomanry to go it alone.

The manoeuvring area on Eppynt Hill turned out to be an ideal location. The suitability of the area is well illustrated by the War Office's taking over the hill and the surrounding region in 1940 for artillery training during the Second World War. It was then called the Sennybridge Training Area. The training in 1906 was only made difficult by the appallingly and incessantly poor weather. It was at this camp that the newly designed hat was supplied to the men. This consisted of a new pattern cap with a black peak. It was of blue cloth with a scarlet band and welt. The front was graced by the dragon and *anorchfygol*, the regimental motto, in silver. The camp was pitched under the supervision of the Adjutant Quarter-master Scotson and Regimental Sergeant Major Summers.

The inclemency of the weather was amply (and quite amusingly) exemplified in the columns of the *Montgomeryshire Express*. Its reporter included: *Wretched weather prevailed at Garth on Saturday week and in such a puddle was the Montgomery's camp that a number of ducks came down from Tynycoed Farm and had a far better time than men or horses.*

The officers in camp numbered fourteen. The Commanding Officer, Colonel Williams-Wynn, was not in full-time attendance. The officers who turned out were:

Major R.W. Williams-Wynn, DSO	Lieut. Archibald Cumberland Eyton
Major George Herbert Mytton	Lieut. W. Harold Bovill Whittaker
Captain William Marshall Dugdale	Lieut. George R. Devereux Harrison
Captain Frederick James Walton	Lieutenant E.V. Wynne
Captain George B. McLean	Lieut. Q'ter-master James Edmund Scotson
Lieutenant L. Tamworth	2nd Lieutenant Gerald Dugdale
Lieut. Richard Maurice Bonnor-Maurice	R.S.M. Summers

The medical officer in 1905 was Surgeon-Lieutenant H. Connop. He was not numbered among the officers' strength and was absent in 1906. His replacement may have been Lieut. L. Tamworth who was not on the strength in 1905. Col. Williams-Wynn was absent from the camp. He did, however, appear to address the men on the Thursday following their *sports*. He advised them of his imminent resignation and

disclosed that his brother, Major E.W. Williams-Wynn would be taking over command. According to the *Montgomeryshire Express*, the retiring commander *received a hearty ovation!*

The photograph opposite illustrates the troops in preparation for parade. This was possibly the church parade. The tall soldier in the left foreground is R.S.M. Summers. This is obviously not a posed picture; it is rather informal. The men are at a casual at-ease while the officers are merely lounging around. One important element that is missing is the rabbit. It was at this camp in 1906 that the Montgomeryshire Yeomanry adopted a pet rabbit as its regimental *mascot*. This odd animal mascot caused quite a stir throughout Wales and England and it was widely reported on in numerous local and national newspapers as far afield as Nottingham and Sheffield.

The reality of the rabbit story was reported on by the *Montgomeryshire Express*. The event happened as the camp postman was clearing the letterbox in one of the canteens. On opening it, he found a young rabbit inside. Around its neck was a label addressed to a *well-known gentleman residing in Wrexham*. There was a halfpenny stamp on the label. Unfortunately, what was symbolic about the rabbit is unknown. Anyway, the rabbit *upon being liberated sought the affections of the startled postman by jumping on his shoulder*. 'Tommy' was so startled by the incident that he neglected his despatches *which were subsequently found by a fellow yeoman*. It was certainly nothing that the recipient would have welcomed or appreciated unless it were intended for the pot! The event created such a sensation throughout the camp that the rabbit was adopted as the "*pet*" of the regiment. Col. Williams-Wynn failed to record this amusing and bizarre incident in the history.

After the Sunday service parade, presentations were made to the yeomen of Long Service medals. It is more than likely that the list in the *Montgomeryshire Express* includes yeoman from both Montgomeryshire and Pembrokeshire. These awards were made to ten yeomen:

Band Sgt. W.A. Smith  
Sgt. E. Morgan  
Cpl. J. Edwards  
Cpl. J.J. Harris  
Cpl. H.B. Davies

Cpl. W. Mathias  
Bandsman Bowles  
Cpl. J.H. Jones  
Cpl. C. Make  
Cpl. T. Evans

Despite the state of the weather, one rainy and muddy afternoon *like a mire* was given over to the usual *sports*. The *Montgomeryshire Express* reported that a large crowd was there to watch the fun. The results of the competitions were:

#### Victoria Cross Race

1st Trooper Hamer (MIY)  
2nd Trooper Wilcocks (MIY)  
3rd Sergeant Collard (MIY)

#### Nose Bag Heat

1st Trooper Tucker (PIY)  
2nd Trooper Davies (PIY)  
3rd Trooper Waring (MIY)

#### Jumping

1st Sergeant G. Jenkins (PIY)  
2nd Trooper Lewis (PIY)  
3rd Trooper Davies (PIY)

#### Tug-of-War Final

'C' Squadron MIY (i.e. Welshpool unit) beat 'A' Squadron PIY

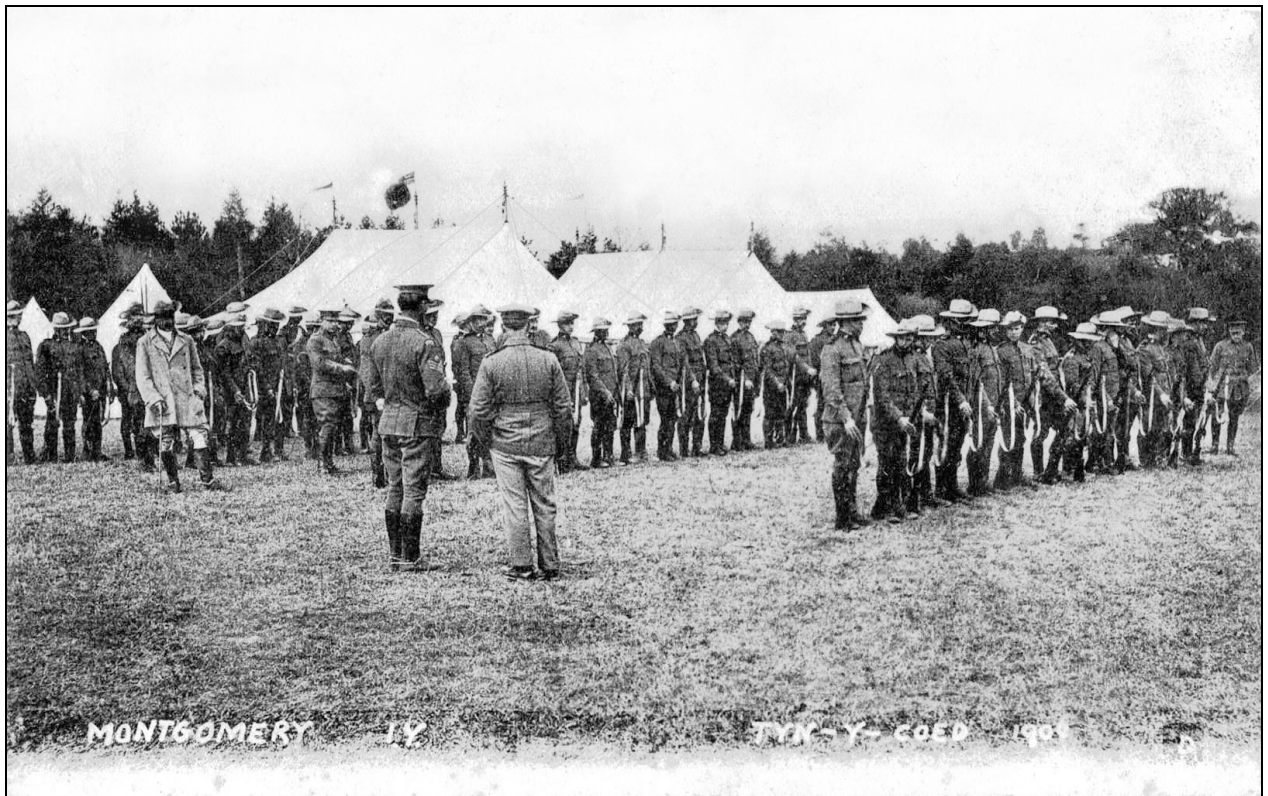
During one of the horse events, an unnamed local youth ran in front of a galloping horse. He was knocked down and received a broken collarbone.

Was this Victoria Cross race an omen for Trooper William Herbert Waring who came third in the Nose Bag Heat?

The 1906 camp was the last annual military gathering for Col. Williams-Wynn. His resignation letter is dated 31st October 1906. In this, he wrote, *I can say with confidence that the Montgomeryshire Yeomanry compare most favourably with any Yeomanry Regiment in the kingdom for discipline, soldier-like behaviour and fighting capabilities.*

Under its colonel, the Montgomeryshire Yeomanry was the first unit to make itself completely independent of all civilian help by running its own kitchens and canteens. This saved the men a great deal of money.

In a footnote in Wynn and Stable's book, *The Historical Records of the Montgomeryshire Yeomanry Cavalry*, it records that, in his *Life*, Field Marshall Sir Evelyn Wood, V.C. (1838-1919) *makes special mention of the Montgomeryshire Regiment in camp.*



Later in 1906, the Montgomeryshire Yeomanry re-assembled at Conway for eight days of further training. This time it was a joint exercise with the South Wales Borderers. This additional training camp took place in mid July. On this occasion, the Denbighshire Yeomanry deigned to take part. After all, it was held in its own back yard.



# THE GENEALOGISTS OF MONTGOMERYSHIRE

## 11. Lewys Dwnn of Bettws (c.1550-c.1616) ..... Stephen W. Jones (Nº 20)

It is now with some trepidation that I finally venture to discuss the man who has always held an unofficial position as the greatest of the Montgomeryshire genealogists, Lewys Dwnn. I have deliberately omitted him from the series before now on the basis that it should concentrate on new and unknown characters, and also because there is already an excellent article on him in issues 45 and 46 of *Record*, in which Dr David Stephenson discusses a number of his early pedigrees in the light of the historical record. In this article I want to attempt a broad overview of Dwnn and his works. It follows that we can divide the article up in the usual way, taking the life first and then the work.

### *The Life*

Dwnn's approximate years of birth and death have long been estimated to be those quoted above, and are given as such in the *Dictionary of Welsh Biography* and elsewhere. The year of his death is based on the last date given by Dwnn himself in his books of pedigrees and poetry. Despite the passing of time, it is still not possible to firm up these dates: Dwnn did not make a will, at least not one which has survived, and he is not noted in any known parish register.

His main claim to fame for genealogists is as the compiler of the series of Welsh pedigrees that was eventually published under the title *Heraldic Visitations of Wales*. Heraldic visitations commenced in 1530 and were designed to check that everybody holding a coat of arms, or claiming to be a knight, esquire or gentleman, was doing so legitimately. This all depended, of course, on one's pedigree. On 3 February 1586, Lewys Dwnn was granted a patent to record and register Welsh pedigrees, and there is mention in the patent of his former services.

Dwnn's *Heraldic Visitations of Wales* were published in 1846 by Sir Samuel Rush Meyrick, and it is a work of outstanding authority for its time. It can easily be downloaded free from the internet by anybody interested (it is on archive.org). The original manuscript of the Montgomeryshire section of Dwnn's pedigrees has not survived, Sir Samuel having to rely on a copy of it made in 1711 by entrant number 4 in this series, John Rhydderch. The Montgomeryshire pedigrees in the *Heraldic Visitations of Wales* are probably incomplete.

Where exactly Dwnn lived is unknown. The 1586 patent mentioned above states that he was of the parish of Bettws Cedewain, and he has traditionally been placed in the township of Garthgelyn there. Richard Williams, in his *Montgomeryshire Worthies*, speculates that he probably lived at Glanbechan but I am aware of no proof to that effect.

Sir Samuel discusses Dwnn's own pedigree at some length in his Introduction, which includes copies of Dwnn's paternal and maternal line pedigrees. Dwnn acquired his surname from his mother, a highly unusual development for the time. I can think of no other example of the practice in historical Montgomeryshire. In the male line, he was the only son of Rhys ap Owen ap Morus ap Howel Goch ap Mredydd ap Ieuan ap



Madog. Of Dwnn's biography, Sir Samuel was unable to find anything, despite enlisting the help of others.

Such are the basic facts about our subject and I have just one further point to discuss in this section. I have long wondered if the Welsh surname Dwnn generated the English surname Donne or its associated forms, Dun, Dune, Dunn or Dunne, and I am not the only person to whom this has occurred (see below). The name is probably best known to some of us in the form Dunn, as that of an extinct firm of gentlemen's outfitters!

It does not appear in the Morgans' *Welsh Surnames*, but must be potentially of Welsh origin: "dwn" means "dark", "dusky", "dark red" or "brown" in Welsh and in principle there is no reason why it should not have generated a surname just like any other descriptive adjective (others being Gethin (dark), Gough (red) etc etc). The only real objection I can think of is that there is also the English adjective "dun" as in "the dun cow" which has the same meanings. However, this, according to the OED, may have been derived from the Welsh word, or from an Irish word which was presumably the same as, or very similar to, the Welsh one.

The Dwnn family had settled in Montgomeryshire long before Lewys was born. Lewys Dwnn's mother was the 6<sup>th</sup> daughter of Captain Rhys Goch Dwn of the Gwestyd in Llanllwchaiarn. According to Meyrick's pedigree, this Captain Rhys Goch Dwn was the fifth generation of the family in Montgomeryshire, to which it had moved from south Wales in about 1400. The first Dwnn in Montgomeryshire had come up to serve Edward Charlton Lord Powys (1370-1421).

If they had always used Dwnn as a surname, it would have had ample time to become disseminated in the area by Lewys's lifetime. The surname may have developed in other families too, and indeed variants on Dwnn are to be found in Montgomeryshire from an early date. A Richard Doonne married a Margret Guttyns at Guilsfield on 2 November 1584, and there are records relating to an Anne, Elizabeth and David Done in the Llangyniew parish registers between 1595 and 1597. There are also examples of Dunn and variants in the border area after about 1600.

Slightly later, there is a large series of early 17<sup>th</sup> century papers about Edward Dunne, a Bailiff and Alderman of Shrewsbury, which contains numerous Montgomeryshire references and so merits further scrutiny. The papers comprise a 1629 will (PROB 11/156/44) and various inquisitions post mortem in the National Archives (C 142/595/72, C 142/506/155, C 142/606/52, C 142/609/52, WARD 7/86/159 and WARD 7/94/161).

In Shropshire Archives is also to be found the 1630 marriage settlement of Edward's widow Margaret and Sir Philip Eyton of Eyton. Many of the properties mentioned in the settlement are located in Montgomeryshire: "messuages" in Llandyssil, Garth, Penstrowed, Caersws, Rhydesgyn and Haughton.

This Edward Dunne does not appear to be a son of Lewys Dwnn's, and cannot have been a brother as Lewys is supposed to have been an only son. It does, however, seem very strange that a prominent Dunne should turn up owning extensive property in Montgomeryshire so soon after our subject's death. It would be interesting to know if this Edward Dunne was related to Lewys or, more widely, of Welsh origin.

## *The Work*

Secondly, and more importantly, there is the question of Dwinn's writings. As noted above, his heraldic visitations were published in 1846 and I do not propose to say anything further about the contents of his published works. The key point here is that, unlike a number of the entrants in this series, Dwinn was a prominent and prolific writer and, in any broad overview of the man, it is inevitable that one should consider every aspect of his work, including any unpublished material.

There is, to my knowledge, no comprehensive bibliography of Dwinn's writing in existence, academic or otherwise, but it is clear from perusal of the major catalogues that, in addition to the manuscripts published by Sir Samuel Rush Meyrick in 1846, there are a number of other manuscripts in Dwinn's handwriting or annotated by him. It is not possible in an article of this length to discuss everything Dwinn wrote or annotated (there is even, for example, a manuscript bearing his signature in Trinity College, Dublin), and I intend to concentrate in the following comments on just three manuscripts:

- Cardiff MS 2.36;
- NLW MS 5270B;
- Peniarth MS 96.

If I have made any major oversight with regard to their published or unpublished nature, I shall be delighted to set the record straight and, with my editor's hat on, allow anybody in possession of the right up to date information to expound the correct position in this journal.

The first question of interest to us genealogists of course is whether any genealogical works of Dwinn's have escaped publication. One possibility which presents itself for consideration is Cardiff MS 2.36, in the manuscript collection in Cardiff Public Library. Having checked recently, it is still there and may still be consulted, but it is in storage and notice needs to be given in advance by anybody wanting to see it. There is a microfilm copy of it at the National Library of Wales, but readers with day photo passes are not allowed to photograph the microfilm.

Cardiff MS 2.36 is in Dwinn's handwriting. It is paginated up to page 498, just under 500 pages, almost all of which is composed of pedigrees from across Wales. A number of them, as evidenced by their titles, relate to Montgomeryshire. In drawing up the following list, I have adhered to the use of capital or lower case letters in the titles as in the original:

<b>Place</b>	<b>Other Details</b>	<b>Page</b>
Arwystli	yr wystli y Not o Bardwn. Mention of Tref Gastell (possibly Caersws).	450
Berriew	Y Faenor. Edwart ap Howel ap Ieuan Llwyd.	447
Bettws	Y betws tre garth gellin y Pentre. Gutun ap Deio ap Gruffith ap Rrys Goch ap Ieuan ap tryhaiarn ap pasgen.	131
Castle Caereinion	Dol Arddun. Starts with Pasgen ap Gwyn ap Gruffith.	330-3
Churchstoke	Bachelldref yrystog (Churchstoke). Starts with Fylib Dorddu.	326

Churchstoke	Children of Gruffith ap Howell ap David were 3 sons.	385
Darowen	Aber Gwidol	233
Guilsfield	Gwynn ap Gruffith	96
Guilsfield	gwern vele and thre gastell. Descendants of Gruffydd ap David ap David and Lowri verch Ieuan Gwynn.	122
Guilsfield	Children of Pasgen ap Gwyn ap Gruff ap Beli (says Pasgen is of Guilsfield stock)	337
Guilsfield	kigidva (Guilsfield) tir mynych Ryd Hoesgyn (Rhydheskin). Children of David Lloyd ap Ieuan ap Gruffith ap Madog.	353-5
Guilsfield	Tir y Mynych again.	357
Kerry	Machaethlon. Richard Lloyd ap ?Richard ap Richard.	488
Leighton	Children of Wmffre (Humphrey) Lloyd	184-5
Leighton	y llai y llwydiaid (Leighton the Lloyds)	263
Llanbrynmair	tre benant twym (Pennant Twym township). David ap Howell ap Owain ap Gruffith.	149
Llanbrynmair	Sir Gruffith ap Morgan ap John ap Rudderch ap Ithel.	151
Llanbrynmair	Riw y Saeson in Cyfeiliog and its ancestry	225
Llandinam	Tre Weithan. Ieuan Koch ap David ap Siankin [of] Kaerug ap David Lloyd ap Llywelyn.	128
Llandyssil	kefn y koed gwern y buarth	334-6
Llanfihangel	llwydiarth ymhowys (Llwydiarth in Powys). Master John Vychan esq ap Owain ap Sion esq	212
Llanfihangel	Llwydiarth in Powys. Children of Holl ap Gruff ap Siankin ap Llywelyn ap Einion ap Klynin.	382
Llanfihangel	Yr Rriwlas. Kynurig Vychan ap Kynurig ap llowarch ap heilin.	439
Llanidloes	Jankin Wiliam ap Siankin ap Rys ap Howell	154
Llanidloes	Llanidloes again	231
Llanidloes	Y Gilvach Wenn Neuadd Glynn Hafren	232
Llanllwchaiarn	Aberbechan. Y Kreuddyn.	269
Llanllwchaiarn	Aberbechan Rrys ap Morus ap Owain esq	311
Llanwnog	Tre Gastell. Children of David ap Howell ap y Bedo	124
Llanwrin	Mathafarn ynghyfeiliog (in Cyfeiliog)	223-5
Lydham	(and Churchstoke). tre gastellfry[?h]llan Ieuan. Children of Howell ap Huw ap Gruff ap Hopkyn ap Robart.	196
Lydham	(Shropshire part) Children of Huw ap Owen ap Howell ap Sion.	355
Machynlleth		227
Machynlleth	Machynlleth again	228
Machynlleth	Machynlleth again	229
Montgomery	Y Neuadd Ddu (Black Hall)	254-262
Newtown	Ancestors of Edwart Prys ap John Prys esq	222
Newtown	Mathe Goch esq	312
Tregynon	tref gynon llety meylir gryg (Tregynon abode of Meilir Gryg)	219-221
Welshpool	Children of David Lloyd Vychan esq (includes Robart Llwyd of Welshpool)	169

No parish is given in Cardiff MS 2.36 for the following pedigree, but it is found in Meyrick, where the place is:

There is no mention of Cardiff MS 2.36 in Francis Jones's list of Dwnn manuscripts in his article "An Approach to Welsh Genealogy" (Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion, 1949, page 376, footnote 1), and there is no reference to it in the Introduction to Meyrick's 1846 edition of Dwnn's works, which contains a detailed account of the manuscripts on which Sir Samuel drew (or anything that looks like it). These factors tend to suggest that it was not known to Meyrick, but in order to be clearer, I have compared all the above pedigrees with the pedigrees in the Montgomeryshire section of Meyrick's 1846 publication.

In one or two cases, I was unable to find any trace of the Cardiff MS pedigree in Meyrick. In no case was I able to find the identical pedigree reproduced, a persuasive point as Meyrick seems to have printed the manuscript pedigrees as formatted, and comments are restricted to footnotes. In most cases, I was able to find a pedigree on the same family in Meyrick, but never in quite the same form as in the Cardiff MS.

Some of the differences between the Cardiff and Meyrick versions are quite interesting. For example, Meyrick's printed copy of a Lydham and Churchstoke pedigree has the family's place as "Castell Trynn", whereas it is "tre gastellfry[?h]llan Ieuan" in the Cardiff MS. In some cases, the Cardiff MS pedigree is more detailed, in others the pedigree printed in Meyrick is.

For the above reasons, I conclude that Cardiff MS 2.36 remains unpublished.

So far, despite the importance of the pedigree volume Cardiff MS 2.36, I have only touched on half the man for, apart from being a practising and officially sanctioned genealogist, Dwnn was also a lifelong poet. Quite how prolific he was may be estimated from the size of the other two manuscripts listed above, namely NLW MS 5270B and Peniarth MS 96, which is also in the National Library. NLW MS 5270B consists of 907 pages and Peniarth MS 96 of 696 pages.

I would not venture into the poetry in any detail if it were devoid of family history interest, but that is far from the case. A certain amount of Dwnn's poetry appears to be of religious subject matter, but a far larger proportion of it is about specific individuals and families. His works include elegies following a person's death, which may contain family information, and praise poems addressed to particular persons. There are also many poems which seem to be about individual people but where "elegy" or "eulogy" is not included in the title.

There is, accordingly, a significant amount of hidden family history in Dwnn's poetry, and of course he was writing at the early period (mainly before 1600) when any information about individuals is hard to come by.

I take first NLW MS 5270B. A study of the titles written above each poem, apparently after the volume had been completed, reveals the places and people in Montgomeryshire listed below. There may be others not in the list.

I should stress also that the references which follow may not be accurate as there are a number of occasions where the last verses of a poem at the bottom of a page appear to

be followed by verses from a completely different poem at the top of the next page. The list will, however, give some impression of the extent of the Montgomeryshire material in this volume:

<b>Place</b>	<b>Other Details</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Folio</b>
Aberhafesp	Sion Tomas of Fachwen	1597		134
Aberhafesp	Marged wife of Sion Tomas of Fachwen	1597	Elegy	136
Arwystli	Ed[ward] ap Moris ap John ap Ieuan Gwynn			448
Berriew		1584		4
Berriew	Rrys ap Siankin ap Meredudd ap Llywelyn	1580	Elegy	12
Berriew	Kyddylgla (cuddiglau = cells)	1580?		15
Berriew	David Llwyd ap Kydwaladr	1579		17
Berriew	Garthmul	1598		168
Berriew	The heir of Pen Rynn	1599		180
Berriew	Sion ap Gruff ap Owain PenRryn	1579		224
Berriew	Y Felindref	1578		226
Berriew	Y Kyddygle (cuddiglau = cells)	1580		228
Berriew	The Ffrith. Rrichiart ap Wiliam Harbart ...	1582		372
Berriew	Y Vaenor	1597?		396
Bettws	Mr Huw Lloyd			120
Bettws	Wiliam ap Rys ap Morys	1597		398
Chirbury	(Shropshire) Lodwic Lloyd serjeant at arms	1589		430
Chirbury	(Shropshire) Lodwic Lloyd serjeant at arms (again)	1585		432
Chirbury	(Shropshire) Lodwic Lloyd serjeant at arms (again)	1584	Eulogy	436
Churchstoke	Rrichiart ap Kydwaladr	-		2
Churchstoke		1598		164
Churchstoke	Huw ap Iemwnt esq	1599		189
Churchstoke	Richard ap Kydwaladr	?1570		197
Criggion	Kraig Ureiddyn Gawr (the Breiddin)	1580		409
Darowen	Aber Gwidol	1600		246
Deuddwr	Howel ap Sion ap Howel	1597	Elegy	138
Forden	Gunley (Gwennle)	1598		192
Kerry	Wife of Rys ap Morus	1585		60
Kerry	Rrichiart ap John ap Meredudd	1588	Elegy	81
Kerry	Rys ap Morus	1589	Elegy	86
Kerry	Morus ap John ap Rys	1589		93
Kerry	Keilibyr (Caeliber)	1580		154
Kerry	Perth y By	1590		162
Kerry	Kwm y Ddalf (Cwmyddalfa?)	1598		175
Kerry	Rrys ap Morus of Kefn y Koed	1574		195
Kerry	Edward Prys	1590	Eulogy	350
Llanbrynmair	Rryw r Saeson	1598		150
Llandinam	Morus David ap Ieuan	1587	Elegy	70
Llandinam	Y Maes Mawr	1598		221
Llandyssil	Syr John Gruffith vicar of Llandyssil	1597	Eulogy	142
Llandyssil	Kefn y Koed	1598		145
Llandyssil	Kefn y Koed	1593		318
Llanfihangel	Llwydiarth in Powys	1583		316
Llangurig		1577		156

Llanidloes	Morgan Gwynn esq	?1586		83
Llanllwchaiarn	Tomas ap Rrys ap Morus of Aberbechan esq	1580	Song	157
Llanllwchaiarn	Rys ap Dafudd Goch	1584		437
Llanwnog	Morus ap Ieuan ap David ap Howel	1584		6
Llanwnog	Morus ap Ieuan ap David	1597		141
Llanwrin	Meredudd ap Gruffith	1600		242
Mainstone	(Shropshire part) Rrichiart Powel	1585		423
Manafon	David ap Rys ap Sion	1580	Eulogy	8
Manafon	Sir John ap Edward parson of Manafon	1575	Eulogy	68
Manafon	The parson's ...	1597		118
Manafon	Ieuan Sion	?1598		158
Manafon	Sir John ap Edward parson of Mynafon (not same poem as on folio 68)	1580		376
Mochdre?	Morgann ap Ieuan ap Morgan	1580	Elegy	55
Montgomery	Kae Howell Edward Goig			115
Montgomery		1593		167
Newtown	Sion Prys esq	1580		452
Penegoes?	Rros y Gareg	1594		295
Penstrowed	Tomas Johns	1588	Elegy	77
Tregynon	Lewys Blaeney heir of Sion Blauniau	1615	Eulogy	28
Tregynon	Richart ap Owain ap Sion	1577		194
Tregynon	Rys ap Ieuan	1594		300
Tregynon?	David Llwyd Blaeniau esq	1580		383
Tregynon?	David Llwyd Blaeniau esq when he was ill	1583?	Cowydd	386
Welshpool	Howell Porter	1587		43
Welshpool	Olfir ap Rroegiar	1580	Elegy	64
Welshpool	Y Trallong Koch Ymhowys	1595		263
Welshpool		1594		292
Welshpool	Y Trallwng Koch	?		307

I have been unable to find a transcript of NLW MS 5270B and conclude that it remains unpublished.

Thirdly and lastly there is Peniarth MS 96 (formerly entitled Hengwrt 176). Fortunately, there are published lists of the titles of the poems in this manuscript (not least because the microfilm copy that readers are expected to use at the National Library is well nigh illegible!).

The titles of the poems were first listed by W.W.E.W. (W.W.E. Wynne) in *Montgomeryshire Collections*, volume 8, 1875, pages 123-130 as "Odes in the Autograph of Lewys Dwnn the Montgomeryshire Herald". They later appeared in Gwenogvryn Evans's *Report on Manuscripts in the Welsh Language* (2 volumes, 1898 and 1902). Volume 1 of Gwenogvryn Evans lists at pages 592-603 both the titles of the poems and their first lines. Peniarth MS 96 is entitled by him "The Poetical Works of Lewis Dwnn and others".

Gwenogvryn Evans is downloadable free from the internet so I shall not list the poems of Montgomeryshire interest in Peniarth MS 96, but will summarise them. The fact that Wynne's titles are in English should not, by the way, disguise the fact that Dwnn's poetry is in Welsh.

There are 182 poems listed in Wynne's article. As noted above, Dwnn's poetry is heavily personal, containing many eulogies, and also elegies about people after their death. The titles of the poems in Wynne's list strongly confirm the pattern. He lists numerous examples of both, terming the eulogies "odes in praise". There are also many poems described simply as "odes" which are addressed to a particular person, without being specifically eulogies or elegies. The large number of personal names in Wynne's list itself underlines the nature of this poetry.

Gwenogvryn Evans quotes 203 headings of works dating from 1565 to 1616 and, as he sometimes groups ancillary works as "b", "c" and "d" under his titles, it would appear his list contains few, if any, more items than W.W.E. Wynne's.

By my calculation there are 242 items in NLW MS 5270B, so the total number of poems in the two manuscripts amounts, if one adds the 182 poems in Peniarth MS 96 listed by Wynne, to 424. Some are admittedly not by Dwnn. Nevertheless, it is a remarkable figure.

The other point to make about Peniarth MS 96 is that there is a 19<sup>th</sup> century transcript of it in the National Library, NLW MS 582E by Thomas William Hancock. I have not checked it against the original so cannot confirm if it is complete or not.

Once again, Peniarth MS 96 appears to remain unpublished.

### *Conclusion*

Lewys Dwnn has always been recognised as one of the leading Welsh genealogists and, having regard also to his extensive poetic output, one might argue that he is the leading candidate for the title of the greatest cultural figure that the County of Montgomery ever produced.

Like many other members of the society no doubt, I have often dipped into the printed volumes of Dwnn's pedigrees over the years, and on that basis, and also my familiarity with Cardiff MS 2.36, I thought I had a pretty good general knowledge of all Dwnn's main works. It came as a shock, in working up this article, to discover that this was not the case, and that there are **over 2,000 pages** of unpublished Lewys Dwnn manuscript pedigrees and poetry, the latter of which is also of family history interest.

So what is his overall status? Richard Williams, as evidenced by his *Montgomeryshire Worthies*, was a great admirer of Dwnn. He describes him as "eminent" and speaks of the "singular accuracy as well as the enormous labour and research" for which his pedigrees had a reputation, adding that he "was also an excellent poet". The author of the article in the *Dictionary of Welsh Biography* had a very different opinion, stating of Dwnn negatively that: "He was an exceedingly prolific poet, but the marks of the decline of the poetic art are only too obvious in his works."

In the absence of published editions of all Dwnn's work, and hence of any widespread public debate over his qualities, it is difficult to adopt a firm position on the question.

As matters stand, there are a number of obstacles to the use of Dwnn's unpublished works. His handwriting is idiosyncratic and, in my view, slovenly at times, probably owing to the speed at which he wrote. Welsh has probably changed grammatically

less since his time than English, but the Welsh spelling in use nowadays is certainly different from the Welsh of 1600.

Nevertheless, whether the spelling is modernised in a published text or not, the production of a modern published version makes works more accessible. The fact that a text is in Welsh is not an absolute obstacle in terms of genealogy, as it is possible to search a text for names and follow up any that look relevant. If a parallel text with modernised spellings is available, so much the better. If a text is available in digital format, an electronic search for names can be carried out in seconds.

Quite what it is possible to achieve, and how interesting the results can be, is exemplified by a fairly recent publication which, in the context of Lewys Dwnn, is very close to home. This is the work *Astudiaeth o fywyd a gwaith Siams Dwnn* (Study of the Life and Work of James Dwnn) about Lewys Dwnn's eldest son James, published in 2005 by Dr Dafydd Huw Evans, who taught for many years at University College, Lampeter.

Like his father, James Dwnn was a poet, and volume 1 of the 4-volume set (202 pages) contains an introductory biography of him, followed by a transcript of a poem entitled "Kowydd Dychan Afon Taranon" (River Trannon Satirical Poem) about a lady being saved from drowning in the upper Trannon when in flood. This in turn is followed by a series of satirical poems by other authors.

Interestingly enough—and I touched on this above—Dr Evans also makes the connection between Dwnn and Donne in the preface to volume 1, which includes a discussion of whether the well known 16<sup>th</sup> century English poet John Donne might ultimately have been of Welsh origin.

Volume 2 (446 pages) then provides a transcript of the remainder of James Dwnn's 76 surviving poems. These seem to be very similar to his father's output, consisting as they do of a certain amount of religious poetry, with the majority being about specific people.

As noted above, there are over 400 items in Lewys Dwnn's two surviving manuscript books of poetry, which would suggest that Lewys's surviving poetic output is perhaps four or five times that of his son.

Volume 3 of the *Astudiaeth* (460 pages) consists of notes on the contents of volume 2 and volume 4 (299 pages) contains a number of miscellaneous headings.

James Dwnn lived to be about 90 and the publication of his works has provided a useful resource for anybody interested in the man himself, the people he worked for, or the 17<sup>th</sup> century Montgomeryshire milieu in which he lived.

It is now not so far from 200 years since Meyrick published Lewys Dwnn's heraldic visitations. The publication of all Dwnn's unpublished pedigrees and poetry is long overdue.





## CORRESPONDENCE

*From: Member 2 David Peate*

*By email:  
peate@tesco.net*

Dear Editor,



Members may be interested in details of the following early Montgomeryshire subsidy roll, which cannot be found in the national online "Discovery" catalogue or any of the other usual sources for Montgomeryshire genealogy.

The roll is dated 1641 and its heading suggests that it originally comprised a list of all individuals taxed, and by how much, in the hundreds of Cawrse, Deytheur, Llanfyllin, Mathrafal and Welshpool. Parts of it may be lost but there are surviving returns covering the following places: Welshpool hundred (Ystymcolwyn and one other illegible place), Guilsfield parish, Welshpool town with "recusants" listed separately, Llanfechain parish, Llansantffraid in Pool hundred, Cawrse hundred "ffordins" (Forden) parish, Pool parish in the hundred of Cawrse, Buttington parish, ?Castell parish in the hundred of Cawrse, Criggion, Uppington and Middletown, township of Brithdir, two other illegible places; and in the hundred of Deytheur - Bausley, Llandysilio, Trefnanney and Cil, Llansantffraid in Deytheur and Llandrinio.

The roll is formally catalogued as Original Subsidy Roll of Montgomeryshire for 1641, accession number 1724, reference DD/2B in Nottinghamshire Archives in Nottingham.

A copy of the subsidy roll has been obtained which is now available for viewing in the MGS library. With this copy being a photocopy it is not available for general reproduction, only for viewing. The roll has been drawn to the attention of Powys Archives.

There is a further subsidy roll in the collection. This is in Latin and according to Nottinghamshire Archives is so badly damaged in places that it would not be feasible to provide a good copy.

While on the subject of subsidy rolls, members may also be interested to read of another early Montgomeryshire roll, this time in Denbighshire Archives. The date of this roll is 1606-1610, and it is noted in the Denbighshire catalogue under reference DD/CP/299. It is from the Cefn Park Estate, NRA 21725. The roll is comprised of seven double-sided membranes. I have sighted this roll, which covers the whole of Montgomeryshire but with fewer names for each parish than in the 1641 roll in Nottingham.

Yours sincerely,  
David Peate

## Report On MGS Meetings

The twenty third Annual General Meeting of the Society took place at Northside in Newtown on 2 September 2017. This was the first AGM presided over by our new Chairman Nia Griffiths, our retiring Chairman the Reverend Graham Lloyd, who was also in attendance, having been elected the Society's first President in the course of the year.

Nia welcomed everybody present and spoke about the meetings and outings held over the past year, lingering particularly on the summer events. She then went on to speak about and thank the members who helped to run the Society, whether on the committee or less obviously but also importantly, in activities such as dealing with membership applications and manning the entrance table at meetings.

Nia was followed by Monica Woosnam our Secretary, who stressed the interesting season of talks ahead.

Julie Williams, Treasurer, in presenting the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2017, pointed out that there had been a significant development this year in that the Society had operated over the year at a total loss of £519.57. Please see the Statement of Accounts which is reproduced in full opposite. There was some discussion of the position, including of measures the Committee was taking to balance the books.

After general introductory remarks, David Petley-Jones, Chairman of the Projects and Publications Sub-Committee, proceeded to give a thorough account of the activities of the past year, covering each aspect of the Society's transcription and publication activities. Extracts from his report are quoted below:

### "Parish Registers

Work is ongoing at Shropshire Archives on transcribing and checking the parishes of Trelystan, Alberbury, Lydham, Mainstone, and Worthen. There are still about 15 booklets waiting to be published before the parish register project for the county is completed."

### "Manorial Project Update

An encouraging amount of further progress has been made with this project in the last year.

Manorial records survive in vast numbers in Montgomeryshire and the returns share some of the characteristics of a census held twice a year. They typically list heads of household and their place of residence. In many cases, additional information is provided such as occupation and land use.

The total number of records transcribed and placed on database to date is 100,593. More records have been digitised and await checking and databasing.

The total number of records in the database so far, by manor, is as follows:

**MONTGOMERYSHIRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**Statement of Accounts for the year ending 30 June 2017**

	2015/2016	2016/2017	2015/2016	2016/2017
<b>INCOME</b>			<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Subscriptions	£3,321.44	£3022.12	Room Hire	£1,807.00
Donations & Underpaid Subs	£188.00	£363.50	Tea Milk Cleaning	£11.92
Teas and Raffles	£94.62	£117.60	FFHS	£145.92
Sales Booklets	£2,684.29	£2,158.35	Manorial Project	£170.00
Sales Genfair	£1,000.89	£665.47	Insurance	£310.47
Sales Findmypast	£2,065.55	£1896.06	AFHSW	£80.00
Sales Library	£11.71		Booklets Printed	£1,731.40
Research	£30.00		Post & Packing	£671.81
Xmas Dinner	£600.60	£621.25	Telephone	£34.81
Summer Outing	£114.00	£525.00	Photocopying/glue	£87.06
			Stationery	£94.04
			Gift/Railway Vouchers	
			Travel and Subsistence	£836.10
			Refund Booklet out of stock Genfair	
<b>Totals</b>			Record Printing	£1,747.78
Plus Interest Savings A/C	£10,111.10	£9,369.35	Record Post & P	£1,319.45
	£75.80	£57.00	Record Articles for Shropshire Archives	£30.00
	£10,186.90	£9,426.35	Speakers	£289.65
			Outings 2015/16	£620.46
Bank Balance 30 June	£3,315.28	£3,317.71	Xmas Dinner 2016	
Less Unpresented Cheques	£80.00	£659.00	Outing Summer 2017	£585.00
	£3,235.28	£2,658.71	Eisteddfod	£135.16
Bank Balance 30 June	£15,162.19	£15,219.19	Auditor	£50.00
Total	£18,397.47	£17,877.90	Web	£55.00
Income	£10,186.90	£9,426.35	<b>Totals</b>	£10,228.03
Expenditure	£10,228.03	£9,945.92		
<b>Balance Expenditure over Income</b>	<b>£41.13</b>	<b>£519.57</b>		

On an honorary basis and without carrying out an audit I have examined the books and records of Montgomeryshire Genealogical Society and confirm that the financial statements set out above are in accordance therewith. Helen Barlow.

Arwystli Iscoed:	567
Cedewain:	81,611
Clas Arwystli:	117
Kerry:	1,041
Mechain Iscoed:	4,362
Mechain Uwchcoed:	5,109
Strata Marcella:	4,134
Welshpool:	3,652

Most progress has been made towards completing the Cedewain returns, namely the area around Newtown. The earliest ones, from the middle of the 17th century, have recently been entered in the database."

#### "Memorial Inscriptions

During the year transcribing, checking and mapping has taken place at the cemeteries in Llanidloes and Machynlleth. We are also continuing work at Westbury, which hasn't ever been transcribed. The stones here contain quite a few references to Montgomeryshire families, and many are badly worn, especially ones which date from 50 years before registration in 1837. It is very important to record these before they are completely illegible."

"The following 9 booklets have been published during the year:

#### Memorial Inscriptions:

MI/29 Berriew PC and Chapels (4th edition) MI/110 Middleton-in-Chirbury MI/111 Mallwyd: Aberangell Chapels MI/112 Llanidloes: Dolhafren Cemetery (Blocks 1-6) MI/113 Llanidloes: Dolhafren Cemetery (Blocks 7-10)

#### Parish Registers:

PR/136 Middleton-in-Chirbury CMB 1846-1972  
C/60 Trelystan: Baptisms 1815-1960  
B/23 Alberbury Burials 1813-1851

#### Manorial Records:

MAN/02 Bausley Court Rolls 1418-1431

The total number of booklets the Society has published to date, excluding extra editions, is exactly 400."

#### "Publications at Printers at the moment:

None, but just about to go are:  
MI/112 Llanidloes: Dolhafren Cemetery (Blocks 11-14)  
MI/113 Llanidloes: Dolhafren Cemetery (Blocks 15-18)"

David's report included detailed thanks to everybody who has been involved in any of the above and any related work, including publicity, sales, booklet introductions, indexing and MI transcribing.

All the reports were formally accepted by the meeting and the current officers and other committee members of the Society were re-elected.

[Note: Since the Annual General Meeting, Roz Williamson, the Powys Archives representative on the committee, has given notice that she has left her position at Powys Archives to take up a new archive post in Staffordshire and so will no longer be discharging her former role. We wish her all the best in her future career.]

After the AGM, our new chairman took the floor again, as our scheduled speaker had unfortunately withdrawn shortly before the meeting and Nia very kindly offered to step in. She was joined by Nick Venti. In the event it turned out to be a splendid talk, and far more than merely a “filler”. As a replacement, we don’t even have a title for it, but it would have been something like “The Llanidloes War Memorial”.

Nia and Nick have been researching this war memorial since November 2011, and have constructed a simple website about the work:

<http://welshrootscymru.com/index.php/en/>

Whilst the information isn’t online, they have also developed an iphone app, which takes users on a guided tour round Llanidloes and shows them sites associated with some of those that died:

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/llanidloes-great-war-town-trail/id897855139?mt=8>

Ultimately the aim is to produce a book on the subject, just as Newtown Local History Group has produced a book on the Newtown war memorial. In fact there are two: *Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Cenotaph: Biographies of those who fell in the 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 wars and who are commemorated on the cenotaph* (Newtown Local History Group, 2011) and *Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn: the fallen in World War I additional to those named on the town cenotaph* (Newtown Local History Group, 2013).

Looking in depth at the people named on the Llani war memorial has been a fascinating experience, and has exposed a number of errors on it. The talk ranged across many interesting individuals, and also categories of people such as schoolmasters.

For example, Lady Hooson’s uncle Tom Pryce was captain of Llanidloes Football Club and an amateur international who left a diary behind him. Also, Nia’s own great grandfather David Mills (1881-1918) died 24 March 1918 at Marrieres Wood on the Somme and is commemorated on the Pozieres memorial, a member of the South African Infantry (he seems from what was said to have emigrated to South Africa before the war).

Some themes came across clearly, for example the amount of Llanidloes involvement in Gallipoli. Also, some Scots seem to have entered Montgomeryshire in the years before the Great War to become land agents. Cases were cited of multiple brothers dying in the conflict (the Everingham sons), and even of fathers and sons both being killed.

Monica Woosnam delivered the vote of thanks and the raffle prizes at this year’s AGM were won by Graham Lloyd and Heather Lawton.

On 7 October we welcomed as our speaker John Titterton from Derbyshire, on the subject "Making the Most of a Will". This was an audience participation event and members had the opportunity beforehand to ask the secretary to email them a copy of the papers which were spoken to during the talk.

The talk was split into sections, starting with general information about wills. The middle section consisted of a discussion of wills relating to the Titterton family of Grindon in Staffordshire. Then finally there came a section of conclusions.

The general information section at the beginning described the beginning, middle and end of wills, but also included some interesting detail. Until 1858, the making and administration of wills was entrusted to the Church of England. In most of England and Wales, wills had to be made in the PCC ("Prerogative Court of Canterbury") if the testator owned property in more than one diocese. In addition, PCC wills were the only kind made during the Commonwealth period (1650s).

PCC wills also had to be used after 1812 if the testator was leaving any investment in public stocks or funds in which the Bank of England had an interest.

Executor duties could be inherited, so if a testator's executor died before the will had been proved, the executor's heir could step in. Many wills contained "shilling bequests" (statements that a particular heir had been granted a shilling, a minimal sum) in order to fend off court action, which would be possible if an heir was granted nothing at all.

Before about 1500, wills were different from testaments and each was restricted to certain kinds of property. You had to leave freehold using a will, whereas under a testament you could leave leasehold. This fundamental legal division between property technically owned by the king (land) and other kinds of property later manifested itself in the fact that, until 1858, both the ecclesiastical courts and the Court of Chancery (the king's court) had jurisdiction in probate cases.

Our speaker then moved on to his Titterton wills, dating from around 1700. This section included an interesting explanation of some of the terminology used in them. An expression such as "brother" had to be approached very carefully as the meaning of words has changed since that time, when "brother" could also include "brother in law". At this period, your sister's husband became your brother and their children became yours, so a person described as the testator's "daughter" in a will could be the testator's daughter in law.

The punchline to the discussion of the Tittertons was the revelation of the "missing link" in the family trees circulated before the meeting, namely the answer to the question of who William Titterton's father was. The talk demonstrated that the vital information was not to be found in parish registers, but had to be worked out from collating the information in wills. Parish registers miss events and sometimes these may be central to a pedigree.

Frank Shirley gave the vote of thanks. He also won one of the raffle prizes, the other winners at the October meeting being Ann Evans and Julie Williams.

## NOT the Great War Commemoration

### The Walter Mitty Syndrome ..... David Peate (Nº 2)

John James Borthwick was born in Aston, Birmingham, in 1881. In later life, it was claimed erroneously that he had been born in Wiltshire. The family name was pronounced Bothick.

At the time, his parents, William and Jessie, were living at 19½ Gladstone Road in Birmingham. Even half of this narrow, three-storey house with its basement was more than ample room for a couple and one child. William Borthwick was, like his own father, James, a coal merchant and was employing one man. William was a first generation Liverpoolian of Scottish descent and Jessie was from Moffat in Dumfriesshire. Tragedy struck early in the Borthwicks' married life. Their daughter, Isabella Scott, died within a few days of her birth in 1884.

The family remained in Birmingham until the 1890s when the Borthwicks relocated to 26 Antonio Street, Bootle, Liverpool, a smart, terrace house. Matters must have become difficult for William Borthwick as he was reduced to working for a coachbuilder. John James was occupied as a bookkeeper. Worse was to follow for his father. In 1911, the parents were living at 189 Hawthorn Road, Bootle, where William was now relegated to being the caretaker of church premises.

John Borthwick does not appear in the United Kingdom in the census for 1911. From the later revelation that he had been in the Canadian Army Pay Corps, it is probable that he had emigrated to Canada between 1901 and 1911.

Absolutely nothing was known about his experiences in the Great War except for his assertion that he had served in the Wiltshire regiment and had been awarded the Military Cross. This regiment had been involved on the Western Front throughout the hostilities. After his war service, he spent some time in London. He made an appearance in Montgomeryshire in the 1930s. In 1937, he married Mari Elena Jones in the Newtown area but not in a parish church. A few years later, he was appointed to the bench as a Justice of the Peace. His other civic activities included being chairman of the Welsh Pony & Cob Society.

As Major J.J. Borthwick, he had been the general manager of the Montgomeryshire Farmers' Association since before the Second World War. For many years, he was estate manager for the first Lord Davies (1880-1944). Borthwick's obituary stated that his wife was a cousin of Lord Davies and the sister of Mrs. Lloyd Owen Owen of Machynlleth. J.J.B. was a churchwarden at Llanllwchaiarn parish church as well as being the chairman of the Parochial Council.

In October 1941, it was announced that Lt. Col. J.J. Borthwick, who had been in command of the Montgomeryshire Battalion of the Home Guard since its inception in May 1940, was relinquishing his position. He said he had taken the decision due to pressure of business. A few weeks later it became quite clear that the phrase 'pressure of business' failed to tell the whole or the real story.

He appeared before the bench at Newtown in November 1941 charged with 'falsely representing that he was entitled to wear the Military Cross and failing to furnish information in the interests of public safety'. The magistrates said that they were somewhat embarrassed to have Borthwick before them as he had only recently been appointed to sit as a Justice of the Peace with them. Nevertheless they felt that they were able to hear the case.

Evidence was given that he had never been a Major in the Royal Wiltshire Infantry during the Great War as he had claimed. Furthermore, he had not been awarded the Military Cross. The highest rank that he had ever achieved was that of Acting Lance Corporal in the Canadian Army Pay Corps.

He was fined a total of £70 with the bench taking the view that by far the most serious offence that he had committed was that of wearing medals to which he was not entitled. Had it not been for the medals, he might never have been found out. Apparently, someone in Newtown had noticed that he had displayed his medals in the wrong order and began asking awkward questions. The bench expressed surprise that there had not been closer scrutiny of his background when he was given command of the Home Guard. Despite this obvious rebuff, Borthwick continued his civic pursuits undeterred and unabashed.

The need for industrial development in the town after the Second World War was appreciated by most of the businessmen and politicians in the town. In February 1946, the inaugural meeting of the Newtown Development Association was held at the Cross Hotel. The organisation was ostensibly apolitical. J.J. Borthwick was its first chairman. Later the same month, he was elected chairman of the newly formed Newtown Conservative Association. The following year, he was made chairman of the Newtown Hall sub-committee.

Borthwick continued to be heavily involved in the local political and civic scene. He was deputy mayor for three successive years: 1946/1947 (when the mayor was David Hamer), 1947/1948 and 1948/1949 (when the mayor was T.H. Pugh in both years). However, he was never elected mayor of Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn.

John James Borthwick moved to Shropshire on his retirement. He and his wife settled at The Foxholes in Bishop's Castle. After an illness of some five weeks, he died on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1965, aged 83, and was cremated. His obituary continued the fallacy that he had been born in Wiltshire. His wife, Mari Elena Borthwick, lived on in Bishop's Castle until November 1988 when she died at the age of 83. John and Mari Borthwick had no children.

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**Welsh Records Office Proposal—1913** ..... Stephen W. Jones (N<sup>o</sup> 20)

*County Times & Express, 12 August 1913, page 6:*

THE WELSH RECORDS OFFICE

Mr W. Ll. Williams, M.P., has decided to drop for this session his bill to set up a Record Office for Wales and to reintroduce it next session. He claims that he would have got the bill through this session but for Mr Randal Booth having risen in opposition when the Bill came in.



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- **MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS:** David Petley-Jones has an index which covers all Montgomeryshire parishes and includes references to nearly 59,000 monuments and over 4500 surnames. He will undertake searches *free for members*. The charge for non-members is £2.50 per half hour. Address on inside cover.
- **LONDON RESEARCH:** Stephen Jones will undertake limited research *for members* in London repositories. This includes, National Archives Kew, City of London Library and Archives Guildhall, British Library etc. The charge is £2.50 per half hour or part thereof. Payments for this service go into Society funds. Address on inside cover.
- **MONTGOMERYSHIRE MANORIAL RECORDS DATABASE:** The Society's database of Montgomeryshire manorial records is searchable via our website members' area and contains over 100,000 records.
- **SHREWSBURY BURGESS ROLLS:** John Speake will examine the rolls *without charge*. Address: 211 Milton Road, Cambridge, CB4 1XG.

Health and Safety ..... David Peate (Nº 2)

*Shrewsbury Chronicle and North Wales Advertiser*, 4 July 1828

An Inquest was held at the Bull Inn in Bishops Castle by John Sayce, gent., coroner for the borough, on the body of Wm. Evans, waggoner to Mr. Weaver of Montgomery who was returning from the former place where he had been with a load of bark and, on descending the hill near the town, the chain of the wheel broke, by which means the man was thrown against the ditch and, the wheels passing over his arms and legs, he was dreadfully lacerated: he lingered from Thursday night to Monday following when he expired. Verdict, accidental death.

Montgomery parish register records his burial on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1828. His abode was simply Montgomery. He was 52 years of age.—DP

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**Funeral cards—BROWN and EDWARDS**

The Librarian has received two funeral memorial cards from a non-member who remarks that she is sure she is not related to the people named in them, but that there might be a family to which they would mean a lot. Her family had long connections with the Welshpool area. The first is in loving memory of Nancy the wife of John Brown, of 40 Horse Market Wrexham, who died 10 November 1920 aged 27, and was interred at Christ Church Cemetery, Welshpool, on 13 November. The second is a Shropshire card, in loving memory of Alice Jane Edwards, wife of James Edwards, Eaton-on-Tern, Wellington, who died 17 February 1924, aged 49, and was interred in Great Bolas churchyard 21 February.

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**Edward Barrett**..... Frazer Thomas (Nº 1398)

Brian Owen in “Transportation by Montgomeryshire Courts 1788-1868”, in Appendix H – Not Transported (P201), mentions Edward Barrett and suggests the possibility “that he may have remained or died in Montgomery gaol”. However, “The Story of Montgomery” by Ann & John Welton, reproduces a newspaper advertisement from the Salopian Journal dated 5 & 11 Nov. 1795 (P124), offering a reward for the recapture of “Edward Barrat” of Forden, Escaped Felon. Who was I assume:

1727 – 11 Feb Edward Barrett baptised, son of Richard and Elizabeth, Forden.

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**Surprising Anybody Noticed** ..... Stephen W. Jones (Nº 20)

*Manor of Cedewain, township of Newtown, court leet of 25 October 1684, NLW Powis Castle MA718*

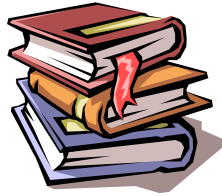
We present Rich[ard] Humphreys for unlawfull building in the midle of the street.

PROJECTS, PUBLICATIONS AND LIBRARY SUB-COMMITTEE

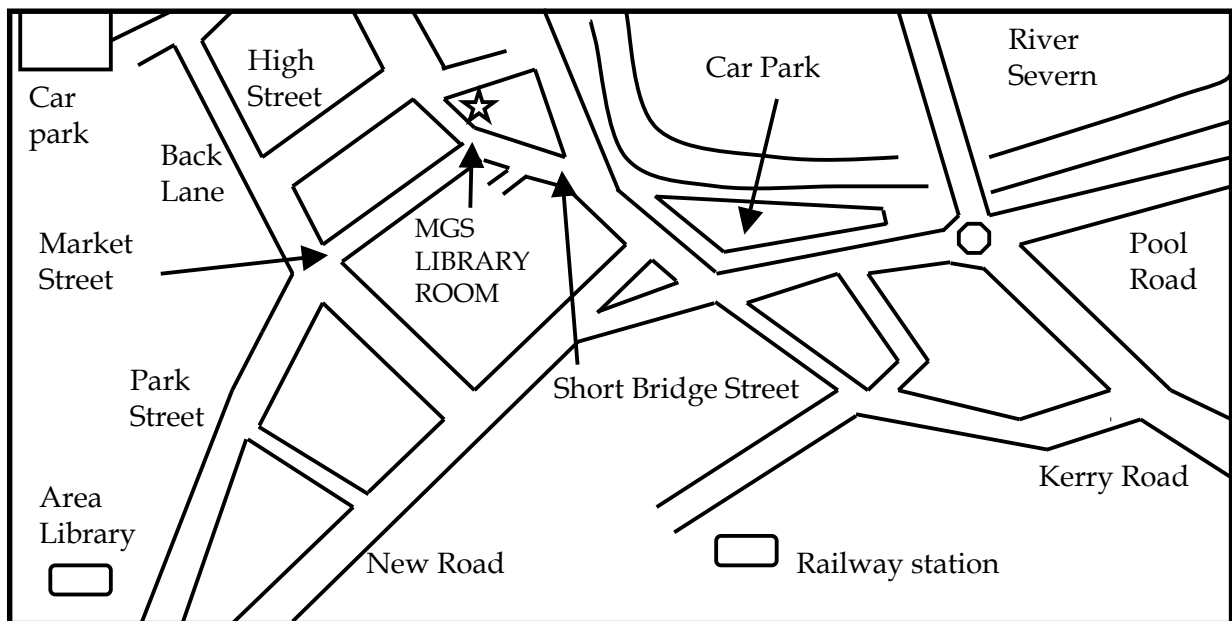
Chairman: Mr David Ll. Petley-Jones

Additional members: Miss Patricia G. Egerton -  
Mr Phillip B. Evans - Mr Stephen W. Jones – Mr Frank Shirley

ASSISTED BY: Mrs Kathleen M. Jones, Newtown and Mrs Anne Owen, Newtown



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