

# RECORD

Journal

Cylchgrawn



**MONTGOMERYSHIRE  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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

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For Projects, Publications and Library Sub-Committee and Library Room information, please see inside back cover.

# RECORD

Journal/Cylchgrawn of the  
MONTGOMERYSHIRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
CYMDEITHAS ACHYDDOL MALDWYN

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***Rhif 70 No.***

***MGS ~ CAM***

***Gwanwyn 2018 Spring***

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## April Meeting

The last meeting of the 2018 spring season will take place on 7 April. Venue: Brynhafren School, Crew Green. Talk subject: "The Marcher Lordship of Bausley".

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## 2018 Summer Outing

It was unfortunately necessary to cancel our February open morning in Llanfyllin owing to the serious weather conditions at the time, but we have decided that the 2018 MGS summer outing will take place in the town. It will be to the former Dolydd workhouse at the east end of the town and will take place on Saturday 9 June. Please find a booking flier enclosed.

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## Summer Memorial Inscription Transcribing Dates

This summer's MI outing dates are 5 May, 19 May, 16 June, 30 June, 14 July and 4 August. Last year's weather was rather poor so the plan this year is once again to finish the large churchyard at Westbury, then go on to do Yockleton, then Marton, and then Chirbury. Novices are welcome as well as seasoned transcribers. As usual please ring David Petley-Jones beforehand on 01743 356843 if you are thinking of attending any of the sessions.

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## No 2018 Summer Open Morning

We are becoming the victims of our own success! There will be no summer open morning this year (usually on the fourth Saturday in June) as they are invariably organised to tie in with a new booklet launch and it has not been possible to identify a suitable location. Virtually every Montgomeryshire memorial inscription and parish register booklet has now been published!

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## Shropshire FHS Fair

Shropshire Family History Society have announced that they will be holding their annual fair again this year. The venue is the Shirehall in Shrewsbury and the date is Saturday 2 June. We expect to attend this event as usual.

### OBITUARY

#### Clive Cranston

As may be noted from his membership number of 132, Clive Cranston of Huddersfield was an early member of the Society and he retained his membership unbroken until the end. His correspondence and other contributions have appeared a number of times in *Record*. He had a good sense of humour and was a keen genealogist with a particular interest in military history.

## LATEST PUBLICATIONS

*BAUSLEY: COURT ROLLS 1371-1380 MR/MAN/01 £9*

*BAUSLEY: COURT ROLLS 1432-1533 MR/MAN/03 £8*

*LLANIDLOES: DOLHAFREN CEMETERY MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS BLOCKS 11-14 MR/MI/114 £9*

*LLANIDLOES: DOLHAFREN CEMETERY MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS BLOCKS 15-18 MR/MI/115 £8*

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
Worldwide	£4.50	£3 per booklet

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

*Aberhafesp Parish Register Bapts/Burs 1578-1812 (PR/80):*

In the Index for Bapt 365, change the surname "Lanchy" to "Latter"

*Bwlch-y-cibau MI's (MI/59):*

Change all numbers listed under "KEAR" in the Index from 143 to 144

*Churchstoke Cemetery MI's (MI/34):*

Add to Index

"HUXLEY

Catherine Ellen 230

George 230"

*Forden, Ebenezer Chapel MI's (MI/37):*

Add to Index

"FRANCIS

Margaret Gwendoline E123"

*PR/28 Newtown*

Entry for Mar 23 1727/8 should read Susanna MERCER, widow of Richard (not MORRIS)

*PR/121*

Entry for Nov 7 1692 should read Joan TOY, daughter of John TOY (not JOY)

The PR/28 and PR/121 indexes should be adjusted accordingly.

## 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
2002	Mrs G. Stubbs, 26 Lisnore Road, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 9AN Email: glen.stubbs@btinternet.com <b>BOOLE</b> Clunbury (Shropshire) 1700-1900. <b>CADWALLADER</b> Clunbury (Shropshire), 1700-1900. <b>EDMONDS</b> Kerry 1700-1900. <b>JONES</b> Heyope (Radnorshire) 1700-1900. <b>TUNGATE</b> Kerry 1700-1900.
2003	Mr R. Tipton, 17 Willow Tree Gardens, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 1PU <b>REESE</b> all Llanfair Caereinion.
2004	Mr D.N. Jones, 33 Esplanade, Somerton Park, South Australia, 5044, Australia Email: jodn@bigpond.com
2005	Mrs R. Heron, Park Farm House, Tylwch, Llanidloes, Powys, SY 18 6QT Email: lenheron@btinternet.com
2006	Mrs E.M. Thomas, 6 Nant Seilo, Penrhyn-coch, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3HD <b>DAVIES</b> Dolanog (earlier: Llanfihangel) 1806-1886. See Help Wanted
2007	Mr P. Young, Apartment 77, Liberty Place, Sheepcote Street, Birmingham, B16 8JB Email: paulyounguk@yahoo.co.uk <b>EVANS</b> Llanfyllin and Montgomery (the town) 1750-1850. See Help Wanted
2008	Ms. E. Ravens-Seger, 83 Newgate Road, East Granby, CT, 06026, United States of America Email: ravensseger@cox.net <b>DAVIES, PRYCE, TUDOR, WILLIAMS</b> Newtown pre 1860. See Help Wanted

**FIRE!** ..... David Peate (N<sup>o</sup> 2)

*The Montgomeryshire Express, 18 October 1887*

### FIRE AT WELSHPOOL

A fire of an alarming nature occurred on Monday morning at a house in Stanley Street. The fire was discovered at about two o'clock. Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining a supply of water but owing to the presence and application of the firemen the flames were subdued but not before the premises were completed (sic) gutted. Mr. Vickery's establishment and the Star Coffee House were in much danger as well as Lord Powis's cottages in Stanley Street. Great praise is due to Superintendent Ellis and firemen Thomas Davies, T. Jones and P. Morris.

**A 1750 Act of Parliament is still Causing Problems  
for Genealogists ..... Richard George (Member 1785)**

Transcribers of Montgomeryshire records will be familiar with the fact that parish records prior to 1752 were based on the “calendar year” starting on 25<sup>th</sup> March. England, Wales and the British Dominions all commenced the calendar year on this date, which is Lady day. Lady day was also one of the days when monthly, quarterly and annual taxes and rents fell due. However, Scotland had adopted January 1<sup>st</sup> as the start of its calendar year in 1600. All were using the Julian calendar.

The Calendar (New Style Act) of 1750, which is also referred to as the Chesterfield Act was in part introduced in response to an increasing number of European countries changing to the Gregorian calendar, and were also, as in Scotland, starting their year on 1<sup>st</sup> January. When the Act was passed, England, Wales and the Dominions adopted January 1<sup>st</sup> as the start of their calendar year and also, together with Scotland, adopted the Gregorian calendar. The Act had various implications, not least because 1751 was only 9 months in length. The year of 1752 commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> January and to make up for the differences between the Gregorian and Julian calendars that had arisen due to leap years, 11 days were removed from the month of September. Hence, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1752 was followed by Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Tax dates were all adjusted by 11 days, so that the start of the tax year became 5<sup>th</sup> April, although it has subsequently changed to 6<sup>th</sup> April.

One might have thought that more than 250 years later the dust would have settled and there would be no confusion in the genealogical world. How wrong one is to make this assumption. Publications by Montgomeryshire Genealogical Society are a beacon of clarity and consistency. An example of the method of presentation in Montgomeryshire Records are baptisms in Buttington (MR/PR/93) as shown. It is clear that the baptism of 4 children took place between January 10 and March 23 in 1747 under the old calendar, but that under the new calendar we would now refer to these events as being in 1748.

120	Dec	27	John	[blank]	
				Catharine	RICHARDS
121	Dec	29	Richard	John	CLOUGH
				Margaret	
				1747/48	
122	Jan	10	Richard	Edward	WILLIAMS
				Cathrin	
123	Jan	21	Lettisa	Will.	JONES
124	Mar	23	Elizabeth	Thomas	CLOUGH
				Elizabeth	
125	Jan	29	Hanah	Tho's	SALTER
				Elizabeth	
				1748	
126	May	8	John	William	THOMAS
				Susana	

However for the unwary, when using genealogical websites, there is the potential for chaos, confusion and errors. The genealogical website with the most records of

relevance to MGS members is Findmypast. They used to have 2 sets of records on their site. The first being transcripts in their “Montgomeryshire collection” transcribed by Montgomeryshire Genealogical Society. A second set was their “Powys collection” which had images of the registers, together with transcripts by Welsh Archive Services. Recently all the baptism and burial records from the “Powys Collection” have been re-named as part of their “Montgomeryshire Collection”, with a few residual records of marriages and banns left in their “Powys collection”. I suspect these marriages will similarly relocate and become part of their Montgomeryshire collection, and all traces of Powys will shortly be extinguished! Hence for most events there are now two transcripts, both labelled “Montgomeryshire collection”, but they are not exact duplicates. In my experience most of the transcripts by the Welsh Archive service for pre 1752 events in the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January up to 24<sup>th</sup> March transcribe the year of the event according to the old calendar year, although some are listed under the new calendar year system. Examples are given in the table.

Parish, event and accepted date	Findmypast MGS name transcript	Findmypast MGS date transcript	Findmypast WAS name transcript	Findmypast WAS date transcript
Berriew, marriage, 1738	Lewis Pryce Mary Evan	6 January 1738	Lewis Pryce Mary Evan	1 January 1737
Buttington, baptism, 1748	Richard Williams	10 January 1748	Richard Williams	10 January 1748
Buttington, burial 1750	Henry Webb	18 January 1750	Henry Webb	18 January 1749

MGS = Montgomeryshire Genealogical Society transcript. WAS = Welsh Archive Service transcript.

The confusion is not unique to Montgomeryshire on-line records, as I have identified similar discrepancies on Findmypast for the neighbouring counties of Denbighshire and Merionethshire. Nor is the problem confined to just the one website, as I have also identified discrepancies on Familysearch (the genealogical site provided by the The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) and on the Ancestry.co.uk. site amongst their “Wales select births and baptisms”.

The problem is not unique to genealogical websites, as I have recently been notified that Durham Records Office has had to update records for one parish which had been transcribed years ago without dates between January 1<sup>st</sup> and March 24<sup>th</sup>, prior to 1752, being advanced to fit the modern calendar. I suspect the problem occurs nationwide, and may sometimes be sporadic rather than universal to a whole set of records.

The moral is that constant vigilance is required when using non-MGS resources. It is always advisable to view the image when one exists as in my experience there are a significant number of other transcription errors on these sites. Amongst my own ancestors MGS always recognised the surname Henley in the parish of Buttington, but Welsh Archive Services’ transcripts incorrectly named a significant number as Henry. Although there were a few incorrectly written originals, which remain, the obvious errors have been corrected by Findmypast in response to my notifications.



**Behind The Curtain.....David Petley-Jones (Nº 25)**

The Parish of Worthen is mainly in Shropshire, but parts of it are in Montgomeryshire so the following may be of interest:

The Burial Register for 1813-1859 has 1575 entries. Most of these are the usual "name, address, date and age" entries, but, when the death was unusual in some way, a few of them have additional notes. Here is a list of these. It is worth noting that Worthen was a lead-mining area, and also that, at this time, there were many house fires as everything was lit by candles.

- Mar 6 1816 Jonathan BLAYNEY, Hampton Hays, 16  
"hanged himself - lunatic"
- Aug 7 1816 William MORGAN, Pentirvin, 21  
"He was wounded at the Battle of Waterloo of which wound he died"
- Oct 14 1824 Thomas EVANS, Walton, 43  
"Drowned in the New Mills Brook in consequence of a very great flood."
- Oct 14 1832 John PREECE, Brockton Beach, 4  
"supposed of the Cholera"
- Oct 15 1832 Joseph PREECE, Brockton Beach, 8 weeks  
"supposed of the Cholera"
- Nov 29 1832 Thomas DAVIES, Brockton, [age blank]  
"supposed of the Cholera"
- Oct 4 1836 John TURNER, Hem Ford, 45  
"Burnt to death by an explosion of Gun Powder"
- Nov 13 1836 Ellen DIGGORY, Pentirvin, [age blank]  
"accidentally burnt to Death"
- Jan 1 1837 William ROBINSON, Worthen, 6  
"accidentally burnt to Death"
- Dec 30 1840 Sarah VAUGHAN, Aston, 18 months  
"burnt to death"
- Feb 17 1841 Mary CORBET, Bromlow, 6  
"burnt to death"
- Nov 21 1841 John DYOS, Asterley, 4  
"burnt to death"
- Mar 22 1842 Mary BUNNER, Bromlow, 21  
"coroner's verdict of visitation of God"  
[this was the usual phrase for "by natural causes"]

- Aug 6 1842 John JONES, Oakedge, 73  
 "killed by a fall off a stack"  
 [ambiguous: did he fall, or did something fall on him? Probably the former but, if this is the case, one wonders what he was doing on top of a haystack at the age of 73!]
- Jan 7 1844 John OWEN, The Rowley, 3  
 "burnt to death"
- Mar 18 1847 William BUTLER, Gravels, 29  
 "Killed by a fall in the Grit Mine"
- Jul 5 1847 Mary BRIGHT, Aston, 11  
 "By Coroner's order - burnt to death"  
 [this, and all similar notes below, is also ambiguous - as phrased it suggests that the Coroner himself ordered her to be immolated!]
- Oct 19 1847 Edward EVANS, Brockton, 32  
 "By order of Coroner - fell into a quarry, & was killed"
- Oct 27 1847 Richard JONES, Meadowtown, 48  
 "By order of Coroner - killed by a fall in a mine"
- Mar 29 1850 William PREECE, Hampton, 5  
 "By order of the Coroner. Burnt to death"
- Apr 8 1850 Elizabeth DAVIES, Brockton, 2  
 "By order of Coroner, found drowned"
- Sept 18 1850 Martha SAMBROOK, Rowens, 5  
 "By Coroner's order, burnt to death"
- Apr 16 1853 Edwin PUGH, Pentirvin, 4  
 "By Coroner's order - Burnt to death"
- Dec 9 1855 Emma HARRIS, Aston Hill, 7  
 "By Coroner's order, burnt to death."
- May 23 1857 Evan MORGAN, The Bentlawnt, 31  
 "By Coroner's order, having been accidentally killed in a Lead Mine"
- June 29 1857 George WILLIAMS, Welshpool, 20  
 "By Coroner's order, drowned in the Severn, near Welshpool"
- Oct 10 1857 William BARRATT, The Bentlawnt, 49  
 "By Coroner's order, having been accidentally killed by a fall from an 'Omnibus' near Welshpool."  
 [see the newspaper report below]
- Apr 26 1858 Samuel LEWIS, Bentlawnt, 35  
 "By Coroner's order having been accidentally killed in a Lead Mine"

Nov 27 1858 Elizabeth MADDUX, Brockton, 9  
"By Coroner's Inquest, Burnt to death"

Aug 16 1859 Thomas DAVIES, Snailbeach, 63  
"By Coroner's order, found drowned in a Pond near Snailbeach Lead Mine."

Oct 1 1859 Samuel BRIGHT, Bromley, 70  
"By Coroner's order, found dead in a field."

There is a sad story behind every entry in a burial register, but very few provide details. When more information is available, it's like a curtain being opened on some unknown family history.

I am indebted to Therese Smout for finding the following account of the death of William Barratt of Bentlawnt. [See burial for Oct 10 1857 above.]

SHREWSBURY CHRONICLE Friday 16 October 1857

THE FATAL ACCIDENT TO CAPTAIN BARRATT. – On Tuesday, the 6th inst., an inquest was held before W. Eddowes, Esq., coroner, at the Cock Inn, Brockton, Worthen, on the body of Mr. W. Barratt, mine agent. He and a party had been at Welshpool on business the day previous. They had engaged the Minsterley omnibus to take them there. They dined at Welshpool, and had six bottles of wine amongst seven. They left Welshpool at nine o'clock, most of them rather worse for the wine. Deceased was urged to ride inside the omnibus, but he refused with an oath. When they arrived at Kilkewydd bridge, a few miles from Welshpool, deceased suddenly fell to the ground off the box, both near wheels passing over his body. The gentleman who was driving immediately pulled up, and he and Mr. Everall, sen., who sat immediately behind the deceased, got down. Deceased asked for something to drink, and they brought him some water in a hat from the river. He was then assisted into the omnibus, being supported on each side. He sat up for some time, but about half an hour after he got into the omnibus he dropped off his seat on the floor, when it was found he was then in a dying state. There being no medical aid near he was brought on to Brockton, when J. Hickman, Esq., surgeon, was immediately called in, but he found him quite dead. Verdict "accidental death."

[Moral: Don't drink and ride on top of an omnibus.]

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**STOCKISTS HOLDING A SELECTION OF LOCAL MGS PUBLICATIONS**

**Berriew**—Allsorts Book Shop

**Llandrinio**—Post Office and Service Station

**Llanfair Caereinion**—Einion Stores

**Llanfyllin**—Llanfyllin Home and Garden, London House, High Street

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

**Llwydiarth**—Post Office

**Meifod**—Post Office

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

## Great War Commemoration

### The Schoolmaster ..... David Peate (Nº 2)

John Peate was born in Llanbryn-Mair on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1889. He was the son of Margaret Peate of Dolfach and known to all in the parish as Johnny. There is no identification for his father. The brother of Richard, his grandfather, was that Edward Peate who emigrated to Ohio in the United States and whose series of letters home is on deposit in the National Library of Wales. Another brother of John's grandfather was David which makes John the second cousin of Dr. Iorwerth Cyfeiliog Peate.

The family members were all bilingual and they were members of the Hen (Independent) Gapel. John Peate attended the local Council Primary School where he was admitted on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1893. In Victorian times, people seemed to have gone to school at a much younger age than today. Later, he moved on to the County School in Machynlleth where he remained and took his Higher School Certificate. John was a keen athlete throughout his short life.

He was admitted to and graduated with honours from the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. He was an enthusiastic member of the Officers' Training Corps at the university. Prior to the Great War, he was a student teacher at the County School in Towyn and he boarded at No. 1 Idris Villas. Other boarders were a schoolteacher and another student. He was a graduate at the school leading to his qualifying for a position in education.



John Peate (1889-1916)

While John was at university, his mother married Richard Evans and they lived at Dolfach. Her sister, Mary Ann, had married Richard and she had died in 1903. I understand that Margaret married her former brother-in-law. Richard and Mary Ann had a number of children. However, Richard and Margaret Evans had a son, Eric H., who was John Peate's half-brother.

When he had served his time as a trainee teacher, he was employed as a schoolmaster at Greenhill School, Tenby, Pembrokeshire. In John's time, this exclusive school was a grammar school which was situated in Greenhill Street. When the school moved to new premises in 1962, the old school was converted into Tenby Library.

In 1915 while in Tenby, he met and married Ethel Gertrude Hicks. This was shortly after he had been commissioned. She had been born in Bristol in 1890. Ethel was the daughter of Kedgwin William and Sarah Hicks who ran a hotel at Belgrave House, Tenby. The wedding took place in the early part of the year.

When he joined up, he was commissioned in early 1915 in the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment and was posted abroad to the 1st Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment. This latter battalion had been in France since the outbreak of the war and continued through to the end of hostilities. It was attached to 3 Brigade, 1st Division. John linked up with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion just in time to take part in the Somme offensive in July 1916. He was immediately thrown into the horrors of the conflict on the Somme.

The Division had fought during the opening of the Somme offensive at the Battle of Albert, then at Bazentin, Pozieres and at Flers-Courcelette. The latter place involved the taking of High Wood.

On 9<sup>th</sup> September 1916 during the barrage prior to the attack on High Wood, he was officer commanding 'B' company. This unit was 'short-shelled' by British artillery forces. He was killed in action by 'friendly fire' at this time. Of the forty-eight officers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion who lost their lives in the Great War, five of them, including John Peate, were killed on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September 1916. These officers were all lieutenants or second lieutenants.

As misfortune would have it, the 3<sup>rd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion of the Gloucesters was never involved in the horrors of the Great War. On the outbreak of the conflict, this battalion was stationed at Bristol and then at Abbey Wood, Woolwich. In May 1915, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion moved to Gravesend and finally to Sittingbourne where it remained until the end of the war.

At the time of his death, his wife was living at Marlborough House, South Cliff Street, Tenby. This is yet another hotel which her father presumably ran.

Lieutenant John Peate's body was never recovered and there is no known burial site for him. He is commemorated on the Thiepval memorial. He is also remembered on the Llanbryn-Mair war memorial as well as on the memorial in Greenhill School in Tenby. In the University of Aberystwyth, there is a wonderfully carved oak panel that incorporates the names of former and then current students who fell in the Great War and John Peate is included in this sad commemorative list.

On Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> September 1916, the pastor in the Hen Gapel held a special memorial meeting. This was a service for the *fallen heroes* of Llanbryn-Mair who had been killed in the war. The Rev. Samuel Roberts dwelt at some length on the *sterling qualities of the departed*. It is reported that this meeting was well attended. John Peate was one of a number of local men who were noted in this service.

The Department of International Politics in the University of Aberystwyth was founded in 1919. David Davies (first Baron Davies) made a donation of £20,000 towards this unit. It was intended as a memorial to those University students who had been killed or wounded in the Great War. John Peate is a silent beneficiary of this significant endowment.

Ethel was resident at Marlborough House, South Cliff Street, Tenby, when she was granted probate of her late husband's estate. This was on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1916. John Peate's effects amounted to £130.00. On 12<sup>th</sup> July 1921, she applied to the War Office for her husband's medals. At this time, the records show her as living at 45/4 Kensington Gardens Square, Bayswater, London W2.

John's widow never re-married and she continued to live with her father. He returned to Bristol and died there at the age of 84 in 1945. Ethel survived him and died aged 78 in Bristol in 1968.



## HELP WANTED

**This column features in each issue of the *Record* provided there is sufficient copy. It is intended to enable you to advertise your interests in detail, particularly any research items on which you are stuck. The feature is only open to members of the Society and there is no charge for any entry.**

It will be appreciated that, if members receive correspondence in answer to items of Help Wanted, they will reply in all cases, whether or not the information received or contact provided is relevant. Those replying to Help Wanted are themselves waiting to hear whether there may be a connection. No following reply can be extremely frustrating.

*ALL ITEMS OF HELP WANTED MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE EDITOR BY POST OR BY EMAIL TO EDITOR@MONTGOMERYSHIREGS.ORG.UK*

No.	Members' Names, Addresses and Help Wanted
342	<p>Mr Myfyr W. Hughes, Arfryn, 3 Cae Croes, Bala, Gwynedd, LL23 7AQ                      Email : mwhughes@boyns.net                      Myfyr Hughes writes that at Llanycil Cemetery, Bala, there is a gravestone that reads as follows :—                      Here lieth the remains of / Mrs Marg. Charlot Phillip / Wife of Govenor (sic) Phillip of / Botany Bay. Departed this life / Augst ye 3d 1792 aged 70. / Here also lieth the remains of / Mrs Cane her companion.                      Margaret Charlotte Tybott married her first husband, John Denison in 1759 and after his death, married Arthur Phillip in 1763.                      Mrs Cane is recorded in the Llanycil Burial Register as Mary Maria Cane who was buried the 7th April 1789, some three years before Mrs Phillip. The Burial Register does not give an abode for either Mrs Phillip or Mrs Cane. This gravestone has intrigued several persons over the years, but the question that remains unanswered is, why are they buried at Llanycil, Bala. In her will, proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Mrs Phillip leaves bequests to the descendents of three brothers, the late Edward, William and Abraham Tybott of Llanybrynmair, Montgomeryshire. Did the Tybott family of Llanybrynmair have family connections with Bala?</p> <p>If anyone has any knowledge regarding the Tybott family or any information that may be of help, please contact Myfyr.</p>
1861	<p>Mr D. Garbett-Edwards, Normansland, Normansland Road, Dymock, Gloucestershire, GL18 2BE                      1) After the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, David Garbett-Edwards' 4th grand uncle, Gunner John Edwards (born in Buttington in 1787) wrote to his brother Oliver Edwards, Blacksmith of Newtown, to give an account of his experiences. The letter was published in the Journal of the Royal Artillery in October 1954. It had been transcribed by Lieutenant-Colonel M.E.S. Laws who had done a great deal of research into the history of the Royal Artillery. In his introduction to the letter he writes that the original letter was owned by a Mrs H. Davies who gave her permission for its publication, and that 'The letter was found among the papers of a family long resident in Caersws, a small town a few miles west of Newtown, Montgomeryshire. How it came</p>

	<p>into the possession of this family is not quite clear'. Lieutenant-Colonel Laws must have seen the original letter since he comments that some of the words were illegible due to the paper having been torn when the letter was opened since it had been folded and sealed with wax before it was sent.</p> <p>David would be very grateful if any fellow Member could suggest how he could trace "Mrs H. Davies" or her descendants. He would very much like to see the original letter.</p> <p>2) David has several Family Bibles which were passed down to him by his father. One of these has a puzzling inscription inside the front cover. This says "D Edwards, Newtown, Febry 5th 1809". As far as he knows, the earliest Edwards of his family who lived in Newtown was Oliver Edwards, who lived in Newtown from the early 1800's until his death in 1853. The copperplate inscription very definitely says "D Edwards" not "O Edwards". Does any Member have any idea who "D Edwards" might have been?</p> <p>If anyone is able to help with either of these two mysteries, David's e-mail address is david.ge@btinternet.com.</p>
2006	<p>Mrs E.M. Thomas, 6 Nant Seilo, Penrhyn-coch, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3HD</p> <p>Mrs Thomas is interested in the family of <b>John</b> (1806-1886) and <b>Ann</b> (1803-1874) <b>DAVIES</b> who lived at Pantgwyn, Dolanog. Their children included <b>John</b> (1829-?), <b>David</b> (1834-?) and <b>Edward</b> (1836-1890/1). Edward was a great grandfather of our member and she already knows a little about him. He moved to Oswestry in about 1852. She would be grateful for any information about the two elder brothers who remain a great mystery to this day.</p> <p>[Ed.'s Note: The parents and their daughter <b>Susannah</b> were buried at Sardis CM Chapel, Llanfair Caereinion. See MR/MI/24.]</p>
2007	<p>Mr P. Young, Apartment 77, Liberty Place, Sheepcote Street, Birmingham, B16 8JB</p> <p>Email: paulyounguk@yahoo.co.uk</p> <p>Mr Young is searching for a <b>John EVANS</b>, son of <b>David Evans</b> and <b>Mary. David EVANS</b> was a boot/shoemaker, born c.1794 in Llansantffraid.</p>
2008	<p>Ms. E. Ravens-Seger, 83 Newgate Road, East Granby, CT, 06026, United States of America</p> <p>Email: ravensseger@cox.net</p> <p>Any information sought about the family of <b>Thomas</b> and <b>Susan TUDOR</b> in Llanllwchaiarn (Newtown) 1851-1861.</p> <p>1861 census: Thomas &amp; Jane (Price) Davies &amp; family in Gwestydd, Llanllwchaiarn, near Newtown</p> <p>1871 census: Thomas &amp; Jane Davies &amp; family in Newtown on Upper Park Rd.</p> <p>1871 census: Jane (Tudor) Williams (widow) &amp; family in Newtown at what looks like Brick Yd. Broad St.</p> <p>1881 census: Thomas &amp; Jane Davies and family in Newtown on Park St.</p> <p>What Ellen needs at this point in order to trace back another generation, and what she is in the process of obtaining, at the time of writing, are two marriage certificates, namely those of:</p> <p>Pryce, Jane and Davies, Thomas 1854 Newtown, Civil Marriage Newtown/03/11; and</p> <p>Tudor, Jane and Williams, Isaac 1859 Newtown St Mary, North Wales Cn14/1/200.</p>

## Major Henry Williames Parry 1755-98 ..... Frazer Thomas (N<sup>o</sup> 1398)

In transcribing the Manorial Rolls (MRs) certain names cry out for further investigation – if only to confirm what their name actually was! Henry Williames Parry in Poole MRs was one such name, partly because he had a middle name and also it was consistently spelt with an “e”, which turned out to be correct. He is listed in all 14 MRs from Easter 1791 to Michaelmas 1797, and is once described as a Major and 4 times as a Captain.

His parents were Henry Parry jnr, a tanner of Poole, and his wife Elinor<sup>1</sup> whose maiden name was Williames, hence his middle name. They baptised the following children at Welshpool:

1755 – 16 Jan	Henry Williames Parry born, baptised 19 Jan
1756 – 12 Dec	Eleonora Parry born, baptised 19 Dec
1758 – 17 Nov	Floyd Parry born, baptised 26 Nov

His father, Henry Parry tanner, was buried on 16 Feb 1767 and a St Asaph administration bond was granted to Ellen Parry, his widow, and George Read and Griffith Morris, both also tanners of Welshpool. In her PCC will, dated 16 Feb 1770, proved 30 Aug 1770, his mother, Ellena Parry “late of Poole... but now of Shrewsbury... widow” mentions Henry Williames Parry her eldest son, Floyd Parry her youngest son, her daughter Ellenora Parry, and her brother-in-law John Dickin<sup>2</sup> of Poole.

Ellena Parry also mentions in her will two properties in Melyniog Vechan in Llansanffraid, occupied by tenants John Jones and Robert Lloyd, a carpenter. Henry Williames Parry is mentioned in documents in the Cefnbryntalch Estate Records at NLW, dated 6 Dec 1770 and Feb and March 1782, which reveal that these properties were called Dole Rees ap Probert, and that they were part of the estate of his grandmother Ellin Williames. The 1782 documents identify him as a Captain in the Montgomeryshire Regiment of Militia.

Captain Henry Williames Parry was promoted Major on 23 Apr 1794. On 26 Jan 1798 the Regiment was ordered to march from Dungeness to Welshpool, there to be disembodied. A fresh warrant, ordering the Militia to be embodied, was issued on 20 Feb, and the Regiment appears to have been at Tunbridge on 24 Mar.<sup>3</sup> “On Wednesday last at Tenterden, was buried with the military honors due to his rank, Henry Williames Parry. Esq. Major of the Royal Montgomery Regt of Militia, who died February the 7<sup>th</sup> [1798].<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> There is a St Asaph licence dated 25 Oct 1752, but no other marriage record. Elinor was the eldest daughter of Lumley and Ellen (Lloyd) Williams who were married at Llansanffraid-Ym-Mechain in 1730.

<sup>2</sup> John Dickin attorney married, by licence, Elizabeth Williames, on 4 Jul 1768, at Welshpool.

<sup>3</sup> Mont Coll Vol 17 (1884) P193-4.

<sup>4</sup> Kentish Gazette 20 Feb 1798



# THE GENEALOGISTS OF MONTGOMERYSHIRE

## 12. Summary and Conclusions ..... Stephen W. Jones (Nº 20)

After some years writing this series, it dawned on me recently that it is actually a book, issued in parts like a Victorian novel. Well now, a book should have a beginning, a middle and an end. The time has come to draw the threads together and consider the results of the exercise.

I suppose, had it been necessary to give the work a title, it might have been something like *The Genealogists of Montgomeryshire from the Earliest Times until the Foundation of the Powysland Club* (i.e. until 1867). The idea was basically to cover the genealogical history of Montgomeryshire before the start of the modern age. In this respect it is just a narrower version of Major Francis Jones's great pathbreaking article "An Approach to Welsh Genealogy", which provided a history of the subject in the whole of Wales from the earliest recorded times to about 1825.

I first read Major Jones's article in 1981 and have dipped into it occasionally ever since. What a remarkable, erudite man he was. I will talk in more detail about his article below and consider how far his theories are borne out by the Montgomeryshire evidence.

A concluding part also provides the opportunity to clear up one little matter that has been niggling away at me for years, namely the identity of the Ynysmaengwyn and Ystumanner manuscripts, which are the names given by Gwallter Mechain to two pedigree collections he transcribed.

Thirdly, before concluding, I would like to provide a couple of summary tables, the first being of the individuals previously covered in the series, listing which of their main pedigree collections have been published and which not, and a second table of possible candidates who have not made it in.

### "An Approach to Welsh Genealogy"—The Montgomeryshire Evidence

As noted above, Major Jones's article provides a history of genealogy in Wales from the earliest recorded times and, rather than its actual nondescript title, it might better have been entitled *A History of Welsh Genealogy*. Although published in article format (in the 1948 *Cymmrodorion Transactions*) it is of book length, extending to 163 tightly written pages. In its course, the author describes numerous Welsh genealogists in detail and mentions numerous others in passing. As might be expected of a man born in Pembrokeshire, he is much stronger on south than north Wales. The section headings of the work provide some insight into its scope and depth:

- I      Introductory
- II     Early Times (a) to 1282 (b) 1282-1450
- III    The Golden Age 1450-1600 (a) The School of Guttun Owain (b) The School of Griffith Hiraethog (c) The New School (d) Genealogy and the Great Sessions
- IV    The Seventeenth Century (i) The Bards (ii) The Squire-Genealogists (iii) Official Genealogists
- V     The Eighteenth Century

VI	The Nineteenth Century
VII	The Present Century
VIII	In Conclusion

It is only at the end of his article that Major Jones really sets out his stall and elevates his discussion from the descriptive to the thesis. His final conclusions are so strong that they are worth quoting verbatim, albeit with excisions to reduce the length of a couple of them. He concludes:

- “1. That genealogy is an essential part of Welsh history, and must be considered as an aid to its understanding.
2. That it is an essential part of Welsh law and land-tenure.
3. That Welsh genealogical manuscripts form an essential part of Welsh literature.
4. That Welsh genealogy has had an influence on the formation and development of the Welsh character. ...
5. That the tradition of Welsh genealogy is unbroken, and it is one of the few true Welsh characteristics that has survived to this day. It is possible to trace the growth of many Welsh pedigrees as they are found in our collections. ...
6. That Welsh genealogy cannot be dismissed as useless lumber, and it cannot be ignored by historians or literateurs who propose to present an adequate and true picture of our national life. Neither can it be studied as a subject on its own; as part of our heritage it cannot separate itself from the conditions that produced it.”

It no doubt comes as a surprise to some family historians of Welsh extraction who assumed that there would be nothing more to their Welsh research than a few census and parish register lookups, to discover a subject with a special status and a 1,000 year recorded history behind it!

And not only a long history, an equally long recorded national obsession. As quoted by Major Jones, there is a reference to this as long ago as Gerald of Wales in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century when, among other comments on the Welsh and genealogy, Gerald writes: “Even the common people retain their genealogy, and can not only readily recount the names of their grandfathers and great-grandfathers, but can refer back to the sixth and seventh generations, and beyond them...”. Major Jones’s article also contains examples from more recent works where outsiders remark upon the curious obsession that even ordinary people in Wales have with their own and others’ pedigrees.

Behind his discussion lie some trenchant observations. Although he is not the first to have done so, he makes the link between the status of genealogy in Wales and Welsh land law. I agree. Prior to the 1536 Act of Union, Welsh land law was subject to the gavelkind rule, in other words, all the sons (including the illegitimate) inherited equally, so every male line had a vital interest in knowing and being able to prove the pedigree. After 1536, this was replaced by primogeniture, under which only the eldest son got everything and all the other children got nothing. This narrowed considerably the field of those who had a practical interest in their pedigree. If a man married 3 times and had 40 children over the course of a long lifetime, only the eldest son of the first marriage would inherit. The other 39 would get nothing. Primogeniture was only finally abolished in England (and Wales) in 1925.

Major Jones died surprisingly recently, in 1993, long after the start of the family history boom that had begun in the 1970s, and he was probably pleased with what he saw at the end of his life. It is easy to underestimate the extent of that upsurge in interest. Both the 1841 and the 1851 census had been open to the public since 1912 but it was only in the 1980s that systematic transcription and publication began. Major Jones was probably less pleased with the continuing lack of a Welsh Record Office and a Welsh Genealogical Society, the latter of which he mentions explicitly and regards as a good idea.

His theories are mirrored by the Montgomeryshire evidence as discussed in this series. He separates the history into two basic phases, before about 1600 when Welsh genealogy was controlled by the bards with their literary rather than historical training, and after 1600 when historical and other more scientific principles began to influence the subject. He identifies the first representative of the later tradition as Thomas Dugdale (1605-1686), a south Walian Garter King of Arms, who placed genealogy on a sound historical basis and probably influenced other 17<sup>th</sup> century Welsh genealogists.

In the days when the bards controlled genealogy, pedigrees played a central role in the “marwnadau” or obituaries declaimed after a person’s death, and at “neithiorau” or wedding feasts, where bardic degrees could be conferred. The last great representative of the bardic tradition was Lewis or Lewys Dwnn, the previous entrant in this series, and as emphasised in that article, Dwnn was a poet i.e. a bard as much as an official genealogist.

Francis Jones regards c. 1450-1600 as the Golden Age when a solid body of Welsh pedigrees was newly committed to writing, but stresses that there were still many good genealogists active in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Montgomeryshire evidence bears this out in the form of John Cain (Rhys Cain’s son), Hugh Rogers, Morris Evans and others.

Since about the early seventeenth century, one of the tests of the quality of individual genealogists has been, how well their collections bring the historical pedigrees down to the present day. There is an interesting example of this in the case of Morris Evans of Llanfyllin, whose pedigree collections at BL Add MSS 9864 and 9865 appear to have been based on the Salusburies’ (mid C17) but are brought down to about 1700, when Morris Evans was writing.

Francis Jones characterises the 18<sup>th</sup> century by comparison as an age of great genealogical decline in Wales, where nothing new of value was written. The general argument is sound but he was perhaps a little harsh in his condemnation as Walter Davies (Gwallter Mechain) and other genealogists resident in north Wales such as John Jenkins “Ifor Ceri” and Richard Lewis “Bard of Snowdon” were born long before 1800. Interest in the subject never died and, as Francis Jones says, it has continued unbroken to the present day.

### The Ynysmaengwyn and Ystumanner pedigrees

The two large blue volumes that make up NLW MS 1776F contain mainly genealogical manuscripts by Walter Davies (Gwallter Mechain 1761-1849). The manuscripts in question consist of numerous bound-up “gatherings” or “sections” of leaves folded in the middle and each containing between about 4 and 16 pages. They were evidently

still loose at the time of his death and only bound quite recently into the volumes that now make up MS 1776F. Many of the gatherings contain transcripts of Montgomeryshire pedigrees and Gwallter Mechain often writes that they are copied from what he calls the “Ynysmaengwyn” or the “Ystumanner” pedigree manuscripts. It is unclear at first sight how much of the material comes from “Ynysmaengwyn” and how much from “Ystumanner” and Gwallter Mechain does not describe either manuscript in sufficient detail for it to be identified as a manuscript that is still in existence today. It is all rather confusing. As the contents of the Gwallter Mechain transcripts are so heavily orientated towards Montgomeryshire, I have taken a closer look.

It soon becomes apparent on closer inspection that NLW MS 1776F only occasionally draws on the Ynysmaengwyn manuscript, whatever it is, but contains a systematic transcript of the manuscript Gwallter Mechain refers to as Ystumanner. The Ynysmaengwyn estate was located in the parish of Towyn in west Merionethshire, in the commote of Ystumanner, and at the time Gwallter Mechain had the manuscripts in his possession, Ynysmaengwyn had been owned by the Corbet family since the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

It is apparent from a reading of 1776F that Gwallter Mechain did not himself know the origin of the Ystumanner manuscript. Indeed he speculates on the subject at some length in 1776F(i) pages 246-247. He says when discussing the pedigree of a certain Rogers family:

“This seems to be a proof that the pedigree of the family of Rogers was set forth by Thomas Jones, and that he finished it at such a date: but it does not follow that the same person was the Compiler of the Volume of pedigrees from which the above is extracted. In the Gogerddan pedigree it is thus attested—“Fynished at Ffountayn Gate the last daye of Julye Anno Dom 1590 By me Thomas Jones of Tregaron – attested by “Richard Adams paynter of Ludlow servant to Mr Thomas Jones.” This is a positive proof owing to the words “By me” being included – which are wanting in the other. What makes me doubt [i.e. consider—SJ] that the Ystum Anner Collection of pedigrees is the work of some other herald is this – that it consists chiefly of the pedigrees of Montgomeryshire families – about Pool, Berriew, Kerry, Newtown, Llanidloes, &c, which we could not have expected in a degree exclusively, if the volume had been put together by a Cardiganshire Collector, such as Thomas Jones was. There was a contemporary with Thomas Jones, a native of Bettws near Newtown, called Lewis ab Rhys, alias Lewis Dwinn, “Deputy Herald under Clarencieux” as he stiled himself, and who left compiled two or three folio volumes of Welsh pedigrees: and in my opinion this Ystum Anner Volume is one of those by Lewis Dwinn. XXX See next page. In p. 133 – among the descendants of ..... the last in one line is “Lewis ab Rhys alias Dwinn”. It is however of no great consequ[ence] which of these two was the compiler. WD.”

Thus his initial view is that the genealogist Thomas Jones of Fountain Gate, Cardiganshire (c.1530-1609) was the author of one of the pedigrees in the Ystumanner collection, but he goes on to conclude that the collection as a whole was more likely to have been the work of Lewys Dwinn.

The “XXX” in the above quotation was inserted by Gwallter Mechain in order to write a footnote to his comments. This follows on page 247:

“XXX Since writing the last page I have changed my opinion as to the Compiler of The Ystum Anner MS – from a voucher apparently in Thos Jones of Tregaron’s own hand-writing, which in fol. .... is as follows – and was overlooked at the first perusal. WD.

“This is the pedegree descent and armes of Mrs Jane Gwynne of Kilpell in the County of Cardigan now married to Miles Staneley of Rippon parke in the County of Yorke nowe living Esqr and how that she is descended from many ancient and noble houses as this pedegree mentioneth and set forth by me Thomas Jones of Tregaron finished at Fountaine Gate the 12th of May 1602”

So Gwallter Mechain’s last word, probably erroneous, is that the Ystumanner MS as a whole was the work of Thomas Jones of Fountain Gate.

Many years ago I came across a pedigree manuscript, NLW Minor Deposit 138B, that immediately struck me at the time as of great interest. It is catalogued as “Corbet book of Welsh Pedigrees”. From a Montgomeryshire point of view, there is nothing at all “minor” about it: it is 376 pages long, of approximately folio size and full of Montgomeryshire pedigrees and coats of arms. Could this, I wondered, be what Gwallter Mechain calls the Ystumanner manuscript?

On several occasions Gwallter Mechain records the number of the page from which he is transcribing and states explicitly that it is in the Ystumanner MS. Minor Deposit 138B contains two sets of page numbers, probably reflecting its rebinding and rearrangement at some stage. What is clearly the earlier of the two sets matches the page numbers quoted in Gwallter Mechain’s transcript. The manuscript that Gwallter Mechain dubs the Ystumanner MS is undoubtedly NLW Minor Deposit 138B. I cannot identify Ynysmaengwyn.

It is quite possible that Minor Deposit 138B is also the manuscript which the Shrewsbury genealogist Joseph Morris believed contained many unpublished Dwnn visitation pedigrees. As previously noted in this series, the 1846 edition of Dwnn’s “official” Montgomeryshire pedigrees (his *Heraldic Visitations*) was based on John Rhydderch’s 1710/11 transcript of Dwnn, which has always been regarded as incomplete.

Joseph Morris’s views are quoted in the Introduction to Valentine Lloyd’s 1888 edition of the same Dwnn pedigrees as had been published in 1846, where Morris indicates that he has seen unpublished Dwnn material which belongs to the *Heraldic Visitations*. Morris provides a list of the pedigrees in question in the following terms:

“I have myself some right documents which enable me to state, that in the original visitation book of Lewys Dwnn the following families, in addition to those included in this work, had their pedigrees entered by Lewys Dwnn in his *Visitations of Montgomeryshire*.

Bowen of Trefeglwys; of Trallwng Coch (1595);	Evans of Ceri; of Penegos ; of Montgomery (1591);
Davies of Coedyberen;	Griffith of Brongain;
Derwas of Sarne, etc;	Hughes of Llanfyllin (1586);

James of Weeg;  
Jones of Arwystle (1586); of Llanfair  
Kerry of Llanfyllin (1586);  
Lloyd of Trefnant; of Dolobran; of  
Domgay; of Gwernygo (1586);  
Maurice of Trevedryd; of  
Llansaintffraid; of Montgomery (1592);  
of Caersws (1586);  
Morgan of Newtown ; of Fronfraith;  
Morris of Ucheldre in Bettus;  
Oliver of Neuddwen;

Owen of Machynlleth; of Llundlo (1595-  
1603);  
Price of Llanfyllin (1586);  
Pierce of Keri;  
Powell of Llanidloes (1586);  
Thomas of Ystymcollwyn; Thomas of  
Aston in Lydham (1610);  
Vaughan of the Glyn; of Melyniog Fawr  
in Llansantffraid  
Williams of Llwynrhyddod in Llangurig;  
Williams of Dolanog.”

“This work” is presumably the 1846 edition of Dwnn. Unfortunately Joseph Morris does not state what the “right documents” are that lead him to his conclusion, or provide other identifying information. There is another difficulty in that he gives the pedigrees in his list titles in the form of surnames, whereas most of those in Minor Deposit 138B are headed with placenames. It is not therefore a matter of comparing like with like.

It is possible, however, to say on at least four occasions that pedigrees in Joseph Morris’s list are to be found in Minor Deposit 138B. They are: Bowen of Trallwng Coch (Welshpool) 1776F(i) p. 147 and Minor Deposit 138B p. 111; Maurice of Caersws 1776F(i) p. 149 and 138B p. 113; Vaughan of the Glyn 1776F(i) p. 134 and 138B p. 103; Vaughan of Melyniog Fawr in Llansantffraid 1776F(i) p. 175 and 138B p. 148.

As to who might have written Minor Deposit 138B, some of the handwriting does look late 16<sup>th</sup> / early 17<sup>th</sup> century but it is definitely not Dwnn’s. Nor are any of the pedigrees identical to those in the 1846 edition. There is no doubt in my mind, however, that the contents are Dwnn pedigrees. Many of them are marked with the date “32 Elizabeth / 1586”, which it will be noted features frequently in Joseph Morris’s list above. I cannot see Thomas Jones of Fountain Gate or anybody else other than Dwnn as having made such a deep genealogical study of Montgomeryshire in that year, especially as Dwnn had been granted a patent to be Deputy Herald for all Wales in the previous year 1585 and regarded himself in 1597 as still holding that status.

Further general evidence of the manuscript’s Montgomeryshire connections, if only at a later date, is provided by the fact that there is repeated mention in it of another Montgomeryshire-related manuscript, the “Dolforgan MS”. Dolforgan is in the parish of Kerry and in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was the home of John Bancroft Willans.

Minor Deposit 138B is most likely a copy of pedigrees taken in the course of Dwnn’s *Heraldic Visitations*, written during or shortly after his lifetime and amended at later dates to include some other material. It had probably not been at Ynysmaengwyn long when Gwallter Mechain saw it. At the bottom of page 245 is the following crudely written note, which he does not include in his transcript in NLW MS 1776F:

“the good, and noble, worthy family of the Pugh’s of Matharvarn’s Book – especially them that are gon to rest – none but the ashis of the just – smell sweet and blossom in the dust. – Susannah Wynn Stephens Davis of Newtown June 30 1751.”

Susannah Wynn Stephens Davis is probably the Susanna Stephens widow who married John Davies gent at Newtown on 22 August 1737. Her note includes a reworking of the final couplet of the poem “A Dirge” from James Shirley’s *The Contention of Ajax and Ulysses* (published 1659). That the manuscript belonged to the Mathafarn family as she asserts is quite possible. Wherever it originated, Minor Deposit 138B is an important repository of pedigrees that appear to be Dwnn’s and it merits closer scrutiny.

Table 1: Previous Genealogists in this Series

<b>Name</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Published</b>	<b>Unpublished</b>
John Brooke	1520- c.1597		NLW MS 872D
Rhys Cain	?1550-1614		Parts of NLW Peniarth MS 139(ii) Dr Michael Siddons’s <i>Welsh Pedigree Rolls</i> lists 31 Rhys Cain pedigrees
Lewys Dwnn	c.1550- c.1616	BL Egerton MS 2585 BL Egerton MS 2586 (not in Dwnn’s hand) BL Egerton MS 2587 (not in Dwnn’s hand) NLW Peniarth MS 268 Cardiff MS 4.17	Cardiff MS 2.36 NLW MS 5270B (poetry) NLW Peniarth MS 96 (poetry) (see also this article)
Hugh Rogers	?1588-after c.1628		NLW Llanstephan MS 158 (mentions his “other book”)
Evan Gwyn	c.1600- 1681		None known.
Lewis Lewis	?c.1620- 1674/5		None known but “Mr Lewis’s MS” mentioned by the Salusburies may be his.
Thomas Francis	?1621-1700		Shropshire Archives 2874/2 (pedigree roll) NLW MS 24015G (pedigree roll) His will mentions “all my books of heraldry”, now lost.
Humphrey Davies	c.1625- 1683		His “Collections” existed but no mention of them after the Salusburies (C17).
Morris Evans	c.1630- 1701		BL Add MS 9864 BL Add MS 9865 Cardiff MS 2.286 (pedigree) Cardiff MS 4.19 (armorial)
John Rhydderch	1675-1735	BL Add MS 14917	
Walter Davies (Gwallter Mechain)	1761-1849		NLW MS 1738B NLW MS 1739B NLW MS 1776F NLW MS 1780F

## The Summary Tables

In addition to the names in Table 2, I should mention that of Joseph Morris, who has already made an entrance in this article. A brief biography is given of him in the 1901 issue of the *Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Natural History Society*. It begins: "Joseph Morris, of Shrewsbury, was the son of Mr. John Morris of that town, by his wife Ann, daughter of Mr. George Vaughan, and was born April 24, 1792, and baptized at St. Chad's Church, June 3rd."

He was not, therefore, a Montgomeryshire genealogist but his parents' surnames betray a Welsh origin. If anybody is to be an "honorary" entrant in this series, it is he. It was Joseph Morris who transcribed the Salusbury Pedigrees before they perished in the 1859 Wynnstay fire. His transcript of the Salusbury MS has particular virtues in that it often quotes page numbers in the book copied from and many lines are brought down, apparently by Morris himself, to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

His neat handwriting and punctilious page arrangement testify to his conscientious approach. I remember perusing his original volumes of pedigrees many years ago, in the salubrious surroundings of the old library in the middle of Shrewsbury where they were located at the time. No microfilm in those days!

## Conclusion

It is difficult to imagine a county outside Wales with a population at one time far below the 60,000 or so it is today producing a list of genealogists down the centuries such as has been described in this series. It is one of the great ironies that, whereas so many researchers with Welsh surnames find it difficult to make progress because of the common name problem (which as Francis Jones points out, ultimately began with the Act of Union), the rewards for those who are able to hook themselves onto the pedigrees are considerable.

In the manner of a traditional Welsh genealogist, I should now begin where Francis Jones left off and bring his account down to the present day. He says nothing about a movement that strikes me as important in historical terms and laid the way for modern internet genealogy, namely the systematic, widespread publication of records, particularly parish registers, that flowered in the last two decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and then equally suddenly disappeared. It was this late 19<sup>th</sup> century movement that took off again in the 1980s and vast numbers of records, notably censuses and some parish registers, were published on paper before the internet came along. That publication frenzy has now disappeared but it has left behind it a legacy of convenience for genealogists. At one time, if one wanted to find a parish register entry, one usually had to go to the relevant record office and search years of entries in the actual register – on microfilm!

While on that subject, I have personally always found microfilm limited in quality and inconvenient to use. It is now obsolete, but there are still many works that are available on microfilm but are not online. It shouldn't be beyond the mind of man to devise a machine that is capable, if one inserts one end of a reel of microfilm in a feeder, of recognising each image in the film automatically and converting the whole film into pdfs or some other suitable digital format.



Table 2: Possible candidates for Genealogists of Montgomeryshire

<b>Name</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Detail</b>
Howel Swrdwal M.A.	fl. 1430-1460	Entry in DWB. Francis Jones p. 357: "To this period belongs Howel Swrdwal (1430-60) of Cydywain, who is stated in <i>Llyfr Baglan</i> (p. 225) to have helped to make out the Herbert pedigree. According to Llanstephan MS. 156, fo. 9, "Howel Swrdwal M.A. penkerdd—a wnaeth Rhol deg o Adda hyd at Edw: I yn lladin or holl frenhinoedd, ag ef a wnaeth llyfr kronig kymraeg y sydd gidag O. Gwynedd."
Sir John Powys	fl. 1514	Mentioned by FJ p. 357. Monts connection tentative, even having regard to his name.
Sion Wyn ap Dafydd ap Gruffydd	fl. 1550	Dwnn's description: "Shon Wynn ap Dafydd ap Gruffudd, o Sir Drefaldwyn, wr boneddig, a ysgrifennodd am holl Gymru" (Sion Wyn ap Dafydd ap Gruffydd from Montgomeryshire, gentleman, who wrote about the whole of Wales). Note on page 236 of Rhydderch's MS of Dwnn, regarding the pedigree "Llan Idlos, the Gwynn's to Adam": "This Pedigree was Testified by John Wynn ap David ap Griffri. Written by his own hand 60 years before the Original of this Book, which was written about the year 1610 or thereabouts."
Morys ap Dacin ap Piers Trefor	fl. c.1550	Of Bettws. Entry in <i>Montgomeryshire Worthies</i> . Mentioned by Dwnn: "Maurice ap Dackin ap Pierce Trefor of Betus in Cedewen gent. hath written concerning all Wales".
Owain Gwynedd	fl. 1550-1590	Francis Jones has a footnote: "Owain Gwynedd, bard to Lewis Owen of Dolgelle (murdered 1555). He was a disciple of Griffith Hiraethog." Gwallter Mechain has a note on him in NLW MS 1776F(ii) p. 62. The name suggests a Gwynedd origin but his father was "Sir Evan of Carno".
Thomas Tanat	d. 1583?	His book is mentioned in John Davies's <i>Display of Heraldry</i> p. 72 which has him as "of Neuadd Wen" [Llanerfyl]. There is a 1583 St Asaph will in this name at Abertanat, Llanyblodwel, Shropshire.
Thomas Jones	d. 1626	Vicar of Meifod. According to the Salusburies (mid-C17), his book was with "Thomas Price". Thomas Sebastian Price of Llanfyllin (d. 1704) is said to have given his MS collection to the Vatican, but enquiries there in 2002 and 2014 revealed no trace.
Thomas Edwards	Mid C17?	Of Pant Glas in Meifod. Gwallter Mechain mentions him in NLW 1776F(i) p. 21. Mentioned in the Maurice of Lloran pedigree (now NLW PA1-2) as having scrutinised it along with Morris Evans and John Davies of Rhiwlas.
William Jones	1726-1795	DWB entry by Enid Pierce Roberts. Well known Llangadfan scholar. Published in the Cambrian

		Register in 1796 and elsewhere later. He collected pedigrees and transcribed the Cae Cyriog pedigree MS (NLW MS 159, assembled in 1697-8), which Joseph Morris includes in his transcript of Salusbury pedigrees now shelfmarked as NLW Wynnstay MSS 143 and 144). His own book was NLW Llanstephan MS 159 (Crosswood 5).
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Quite possibly such a machine already exists and it is just costs that are prohibiting its widespread deployment.

It should be clear from the first of the two tables set out above that, whilst there has been a lot of borrowing on the internet from pedigrees committed to print in past ages, there has been remarkably little recent original work on committing further historical pedigree collections to print. In this respect, the record of transcription and publication since the start of the genealogy boom falls short of the output of the 19<sup>th</sup> century enthusiasts.

The position in the case of no less a figure than Dwnn provides an example. Not only has his poetic output not been published, there has not been a full, critical edition of his pedigrees. This despite the three weaknesses in the 1846 version of his output: that where Dwnn's original pedigrees are in Welsh, the 1846 edition provides a translation not a transcript, that the 1846 edition is far from complete, and that according to Major Jones in his article, it is marred by numerous mistakes.

Thanks to the ever increasing availability of original records, our present age has seen a revival in the widespread production of original pedigrees. But no matter how much new transcription of records there is, one eventually gets back to a time when records are too few and far between to build a pedigree. Then, reliance has to be placed on the historical pedigrees and, even now, far from all the collections have been published.

Apart from the internet, there are two recent innovations that Francis Jones doesn't mention in his 1948 article. One is the invention of the database. This has speeded up record searching enormously, but is not very different in principle from the paper indexes that preceded it.

The other one has transformed the subject of genealogy exponentially and this one really is different in principle from anything that came before it. It is DNA. It is still too early to predict exactly what far reaching effects the science will have but, apart from establishing as a matter of certainty who is related to whom in the pure male or female line, it may eventually be possible to do the same for relationships in any combination of them. Ultimately, we may all be able to find out as a matter of certainty all those to whom we are related and how.

Even this will not do away with the value of the historical pedigrees, for certainty about one's ancestry in the scientific sense does not tell one a jot about who one's ancestors were or what they thought or did. The work of the Genealogists of Montgomeryshire will not be forgotten.



**Powys Archives Update** ..... Julie Ryan, Archivist

Roz Williamson left Powys Archives back in October and I've now taken over the role of Archivist. I have been with the service for several years but working with the Information Management team who manage modern records.

Powys Archives are now settled into our new building and are currently looking for volunteers. We have a range of roles available, from working in the searchroom to creating a calendar of the Quarter Sessions.

Please have a look at our website for more information or you can contact us directly [archives@powys.gov.uk](mailto:archives@powys.gov.uk) 01597 826088.

The following is a list of our most recent accessions relating to Montgomeryshire:

- Welshpool Town Council, Montgomeryshire: agendas and appendices for meetings May 2004 - April 2009 [Acc 2443];
- Two Bad Character books for Welshpool, Montgomeryshire covering 1911-1931 and 1869-1947 [Acc 2444];
- Minutes for meetings of Machynlleth Town Council, Montgomeryshire covering January 2017- December 2017 [Acc 2445];
- Accounts of James Bowen Esq. of Tyddyn, Oakley Park, Llanidloes, Montgomeryshire 1833-1835; black and white postcard of Old Baptist Chapel in Nantgwyn, Radnorshire n.d.; black and white photograph of group outside Baptist Chapel in Newtown, Montgomeryshire c.1930s [Acc 2446];
- Records from Radnorshire and Montgomeryshire Baptist Association: Annual Report 2016-2017; half-yearly meeting report, October 2016 [Acc 2450].

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**MORE FIRE!** ..... David Peate (Nº 2)

*Shrewsbury Chronicle* May, 1818.

On Sunday morning about two o'clock, an alarm of fire was given in several parts of Newtown, Montgomeryshire, and the bells of the church by a retrograde peal, also announced the calamity. Many inhabitants instantly assembled when the buildings of the late Mr Bennett (adjoining the stables of E. Stephens, Esq., and those of the Oak Inn) were entirely wrapped in flames, which speedily communicated to the Oak Inn stables and threatened extensive ruin. By the zeal, order and activity of all persons, men and women, in supplying water, and by the powerful effect of the Salop Fire Office, the flames were subdued by four o'clock. This calamity has destroyed the whole of the premises occupied by Mr. Blockley with part of the Oak stables and injured other contiguous buildings. Not more than one-fourth of the damage is covered by insurance.

[Edward Turner was the landlord of the Oak Inn. This pub was in the Horsemarket. Mr. Bennett is most likely to have been Gilbert Bennett who died in the February of 1818. Mr. Stephens is Evan Stephens, attorney, of the Bank and father of the J.P., Edward Morgan Stephens. Mr. Blockley is an unknown resident of Newtown. John Turner was the agent for the Salop Fire Office.—DP]

## Montgomeryshire Subsidy Roll "1 March 1606 – 1 March 1610"

(Denbighshire Archives: DD/CP/299) ..... Michael Gibbon (N<sup>o</sup> 465)

I have been prompted to write this brief piece by the letter from David Peate in *Record* issue 69 (page 23). At the end of his letter David added that he had seen this early Subsidy Roll, comprised of seven double-sided membranes, at Denbighshire Archives, where it is part of the Cefn Park Estate collection, and that it is mentioned in the Denbighshire catalogue. According to the National Archives website the document is the same as a copy at Kew which can be dated to March 1610, and records the fourth collection in respect of a series of subsidies granted by Parliament in 1606 (National Archives reference: E 179/222/393). However, I have left the dating in the title above as per the Denbighshire Archives online index.

As it happens, I recently obtained a copy of the membrane containing the assessment details for the Hundred of Machynlleth in connection with some of my own research, and I made a transcript of it. This membrane is in very good condition. I assume that the details and state of preservation of this membrane are fairly representative of the Roll as a whole. It may be of interest to members to see my transcript.

I have transcribed the membrane as is, the only addition being to include apostrophes to show where there are abbreviations in the original. Many of the individuals can be identified easily from other sources, though I have not attempted that here. Although it is in Latin, there are probably only two words which need specific explanation. First, all the taxpayers appear to be assessed on the value of land ("*in terr[is]*") rather than on the value of goods; and secondly, certain individuals are described as "*gen[erosus]*", which means gentleman.

It is clear that there was, in broad terms, a form of banding system for the value of lands, rather than an attempt at specific valuation of particular properties. The values are shown in the left hand of the two columns of figures. It looks likely that the Roll records a notional amount of income the lands were assessed as capable of producing each year. So, two taxpayers had lands valued at £5; one taxpayer had lands valued at £3; five taxpayers had lands valued at £2 (shown as 40 shillings); and all the rest had lands valued at £1 (shown as 20 shillings). The assessment is shown in the right hand of the two columns of figures, and was at a rate of 1 shilling and 4 pence (shown as 16 pence) in the £. So, the Roll can be used as broadly indicative of the extent and value of the lands owned by individual taxpayers.

The other thing the Roll records is the social status of the taxpayers. A degree of correlation with the value of lands owned is evident. Only one individual, Rowland Owen of Machynlleth, is shown as an esquire (with lands of the value £5). Twenty one individuals are shown as gentlemen (one with lands of the value £5; one with lands of the value £3; five with lands of the value of £2; and the rest with lands of the value of £1). The remainder of the taxpayers are without description (so, by default, we can I believe reasonably consider them to be yeomen), and each of them is assessed as having lands of the value of £1.

The two assessors (for whom we simply have names) were presumably Rowland Pugh of Mathafarn in Llanwrin parish (a different man from the "Rowland Pughe gen' " of Cemmaes) and Moris Owen of Rhiwsaeson in Llanbrynmair parish, the principal landowners in the Hundred of Machynlleth of the time. They would no doubt have

been considered esquires as well. Interestingly, they do not appear as taxpayers under their parishes of residence. I do not know whether their responsibility as assessors meant they were not assessed (to recognise the burden on them of having to undertake the assessment), or whether any amounts assessed on them were recorded elsewhere.

### Hundred de Machenlleth

#### Machenlleth

Rowland Owen esq' in terris	5 li	vi s viii d
Harry vaughan gen' in terr'	xl s	ii s viii d
Richard Owen gen' in terr'	xl s	ii s viii d
Edward Owen gen' in terr'	xx s	xvi d
Morgan ap John ap Ruddz gen' in terr'	xx s	xvi d
John d'd lle'm ap griffith in terr'	xx s	xvi d
Lewis Evans in terr'	xx s	xvi d
John ap hughe ap Jo'n in terr'	xx s	xvi d
Oliver d'd ap Jeuan ap Jenkin in terr'	xx s	xvi d
John ap hughe Davies in terr'	xx s	xvi d
Richard Harbert gen' in terr'	xx s	xvi d
David lloyd ap hughe in terr'	xx s	xvi d
John m'edith in terr'	xx s	xvi d
David ap thomas in terr'	xx s	xvi d
Edward ap John in terr'	xx s	xvi d xxviii s

#### Penegos

Griffith Pughe gen' in terr'	5 li	vi s viii d
Rytherch gr. ap mores in terr'	xx s	xvi d
Harry Pughe in terr'	xx s	xvi d
Griffith ap lle'm in terr'	xx s	xvi d
David ap morgan in	xx s	xvi d

terr'

Robert ap hoell ap lewis in terr'	xx s	xvi d
Humffrey ap Owen in terr'	xx s	xvi d
Griffith howell in terr'	xx s	xvi d
Morgan Rees in terr'	xx s	xvi d
David ap Jeuan ap d'd in terr'	xx s	xvi d
David ap d'd gr. ap Jenkin in terr'	xx s	xvi d
Rees Lewis in terr'	xx s	xvi d
Owen David ap Jo'n in terr'	xx s	xvi d
David ap Jeuan ap Jo'n in terr'	xx s	xvi d xxiii s

#### Llanwrin

Thomas ap Humffrey gen' in terr'	xx s	xvi d
Meredith ap griffith gen' in terr'	xx s	xvi d
Humffrey ap John gen' in terr'	xx s	xvi d
David ap Jeuan ap lle'm gen' in terr'	xx s	xvi d
Owen ap Jeuan ap morgan in terr'	xx s	xvi d
David ap John griffith in terr'	xx s	xvi d
Morgan ap Rees wynn in terr'	xx s	xvi d
Moris william in terr'	xx s	xvi d
Evan Thomas in terr'	xx s	xvi d
Humffrey ap Jeuan ap lle'm in terr'	xx s	xvi d

Rytherch ap John in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Richard Steevens in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Lewis ap Jeuan ap d'd in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Thomas ap Robert in terr' xx s xvi d  
 David lloyd m'edith in terr' xx s xvi d  
 xx s

**Darowen**

M'redith ap Rees gen' in terr' xl s ii s viii d  
 Edward lloyd gen' in terr' xl s ii s viii d  
 Edward Pughe gen' in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Richard griffith in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Lewis ap Jeuan d'd ap Owen in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Humffrey ap thomas vaughan in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Thomas ap Jeuan ap Ric' in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Hugh ap thomas ap R's in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Owen ap Rees in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Rees ap morgan in terr' xx s xvi d  
 John lewis ap griffith in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Lewis gr. ap Jo'n in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Thomas ap Rs ap Jo'n in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Lewis ap Jeuan ap Owen in terr' xx s xvi d  
 xxi s iiiii d

**Kemes**

Rowland Pughe gen' in terr' iii li iiiii s

Edward Harbert gen' in terr' xx s xvi d  
 William Pughe gen' in terr' xl s ii s viii d  
 Richard ap mores ap gr. in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Griffith ap Ednevet in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Richard ap Owen ap mores in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Hughe Vaughan in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Griffith ap howell d'd in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Jo'n ap R's lle'm ap gw'll'm in terr' xx s xvi d  
 David ap Jeuan ap griffith in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Richard ap hughe ap thomas in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Hughe ap hoell ap Jeuan Bedo in terr' xx s xvi d  
 xx s

**Llanbrinmair**

Edward Owen gen' in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Humffrey ap Jo'n gen' in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Cadd'r ap Rees Goz gen' in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Thomas ap Jon gen' in terr' xx s xvi d  
 John ap Jeuan ap Jo'n gen' in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Morgan ap hoell ap gw'll'm in terr' xx s xvi d  
 Thomas Ballt(?) in terr' xx s xvi d  
 John Brice in terr' xx s xvi d  
 John ap Jeuan ap Jo'n S'r d'd in terr' xx s xvi d  
 xii s

In toto vi L v s iiiii d

Row' Pughe  
 Moris Owen

## Report On MGS Meetings

The last talk in the 2017 section of the programme was given on 4 November by the well known genealogist **Alec Tritton**, a former Chairman of the Federation of Family History Societies. He spoke on the subject "The Parish Chest", that is, parochial records including the parish registers.

Alec began with a brief history of the parish registers, in relation to which there was mention of William Bradbrook's *The Parish Register* (1910) as a background work. At the beginning, there were no firm rules as to what had to be written down, and it was not until Rose's Act (1812) that formal baptism and burial registers were established for the first time. You had to be 21 to inherit and there are examples of mysterious changes in birthdays in parish registers to make a person the right age! Under 21s could be married by banns if there was no parental objection to the marriage.

All sorts of oddities turn up in parish registers, some of them amusing, and we were treated to a selection of them. The parish of Seasalter in Kent had a very strange vicar for 53 years between 1711 and 1764. His parish registers contain a number of entries that are both eccentric and highly insulting to the parishioners!



*Alec Tritton at the November 2017 meeting*

Alec went on to talk about settlement and poor law records, referring to *The Genealogy of the Submerged*, a 1908 genealogist's guide by Charles Bernau. From there he moved onto vagrancy. There had been vagrancy laws since 1349 to discourage wandering, and the key legislation was the Vagrancy Act 1824. An earlier Act of Parliament of 1744 had included minstrels in the definition of vagrants.

The Tithe Commutation Act 1836 converted tithes into a financial payment. [As previously noted in *Record*, Welsh tithe records are now online at: <https://places.library.wales/>—Ed.] Other parochial records of genealogical interest were the parish vestry minutes and glebe terriers.

The **2017 Annual MGS Christmas lunch** took place at Maesmawr Hall on 3 December as advertised. Turnout was fairly modest this year but everybody seemed to have an enjoyable time. The hotel has been redecorated since we were last there and surroundings and food were both agreeable. The raffle prize winners at this year's lunch were **Glyn Jones** and **Peter Brebner**.

The speaker at our first meeting of the new year on 3 February was local author **Carol Pearce** and there was a good turnout, especially considering that her talk started at

2.30pm and Wales had kicked off at 2.15pm in the Six Nations on the same afternoon! Carol's subject was "Early Montgomeryshire Quakers" and she spoke in some detail about a number of them, including Richard Davies (1635-1708) who wrote an autobiography, "An Account of the Convincement, Exercises, Services and Travels, of that ancient Servant of the Lord Richard Davies: with some relation of ancient Friends, and the spreading of truth in North-Wales, &c.", Charles Lloyd of Dolobran (1637-1698), John Kelsall (1683-1743), George Fox (1624-1691), Sion ap Sion (1625-1697) and John Thomas (?1690-1760).

She spoke in detail about the quakers' sufferings, especially of those sent to Welshpool prison. First it was a dirty lockup, then a black and white house which survives to this day.

Our speaker's attention then turned across the Atlantic where William Penn established an early quaker community: both Richard Davies and Charles Lloyd took large lands in Pennsylvania. William Penn had the idea of a Welsh-speaking Welsh tract in Pennsylvania. A 1687 map of Philadelphia (which when translated means "the city of brotherly love") was displayed.

Another early quaker of Montgomeryshire interest was John Kelsall. Kelsall came to Dolobran, the Lloyds' residence, in 1701 and taught there. He left behind a manuscript diary which is in Quaker House, London. He worked for Abraham Darby (who built the Dolgun Furnace near Dolgellau) and was then invited to build a new forge at Dolobran by Charles Lloyd.

Charles Lloyd eventually went bankrupt, but his younger brother Sampson turned out to be a great success and was a co-founder of Lloyd's Bank. Sampson Lloyd bought back the meeting house which his elder brother had built at Dolobran and returned it to the quakers. It is still there. There is even a Dolobran House in Pennsylvania.

On the subject of quakers emigrating, our speaker also said that the quakers' formal "Meetings" in this country had to approve emigrations to the United States.

**David Peate** gave the vote of thanks. On this occasion the raffle prizes were won by **Frank Shirley, Therese Smout and Monica Woosnam.**

This year's MGS Spring Open Morning, which was due to take place in Llanfyllin on 3 March, had to be cancelled owing to the appalling weather conditions at the time. Everybody in this country who experienced "The Beast from the East" will know exactly what we mean!

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**The Homager's Good Name**..... Frazer Thomas (N<sup>o</sup> 1398)


*Cedewain Court Leet of 17 Oct 1776. MA857 MGS ref. Image 34. The Return of John Howels petty constable of Trwst Llewelyn, Berriew:*

Homeger Name We forget but had a good one

[The homager's name was John Morgan: see MGS ref. Image 4—FT]



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- **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.

## A Montgomeryshire Miscellany

**Serious Crime** ..... David Peate (Nº 2)

*The Montgomeryshire Express, 17 July 1888*

Berriew Petty Sessions

STRAYING ON THE HIGHWAY

P.C. Jones, Berriew, charged Evan Edwards, Pentre Llivior, with allowing a mule and a donkey to stray on the highway. Fined 6d. and 6s. costs.

[Evan Edwards was a hawker who lived with his wife, Ann, at Pentre Cottage, Berriew.—DP]

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**Welsh Records Office Proposal—1913 (Take Two)** ..... Stephen W. Jones (Nº 20)

With regard to the snippet about “The Welsh Records Office” in *Record* 69 (from the *County Times & Express*, 12 August 1913, page 6), I didn’t have the space to squeeze in a further wrinkle to the story. The article states that a Welsh MP, W. Ll. Williams, claimed that he would have got his bill establishing a Welsh Records Office through but for a Mr Randal Booth having risen in opposition when the Bill came in.

W. Ll. Williams is William Llywelyn Williams, 1867-1922, a journalist, barrister and Liberal MP for the united boroughs of Carmarthen and Llanelly. He wrote a number of historical articles, some of which found their way into his book *The Making of Modern Wales* (1919).

More interestingly, there was no Randal Booth sitting in Parliament in 1913. The name is apparently an error for Frederick Handel Booth, 1867-1947, Liberal MP for Pontefract 1910-1918. He was convicted of fraud in 1917 and never sat in the Commons again!

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**On the Ball Authorities** ..... Frazer Thomas (Nº 1398)

*Cedewain Court Leet of 16 Apr 1778. MA859 MGS ref. Image 17. The Return of John Harris petty constable of Bryn-talch, Llandyssil:*

I present a Small piece of Land about 6 or 8 Roods which was fenced by Evan Meredith About 28 years ago. fin[e]d 2s

[An Evan Meredith was buried 8 Jan 1777 at Llandyssil.—FT]

*Cedewain Court Leet of 18 Oct 1781. MA866 MGS ref. Image 27. The Return of Edward Jones petty constable of Pen-y-maes, Llanwyddelan:*

To Be Presentable at the Above Leet a Bay Colt Long Man[e]d ye Long Tail – has been Here, 2 or 3 Years and Any Person to Own it.

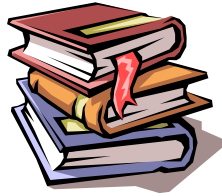
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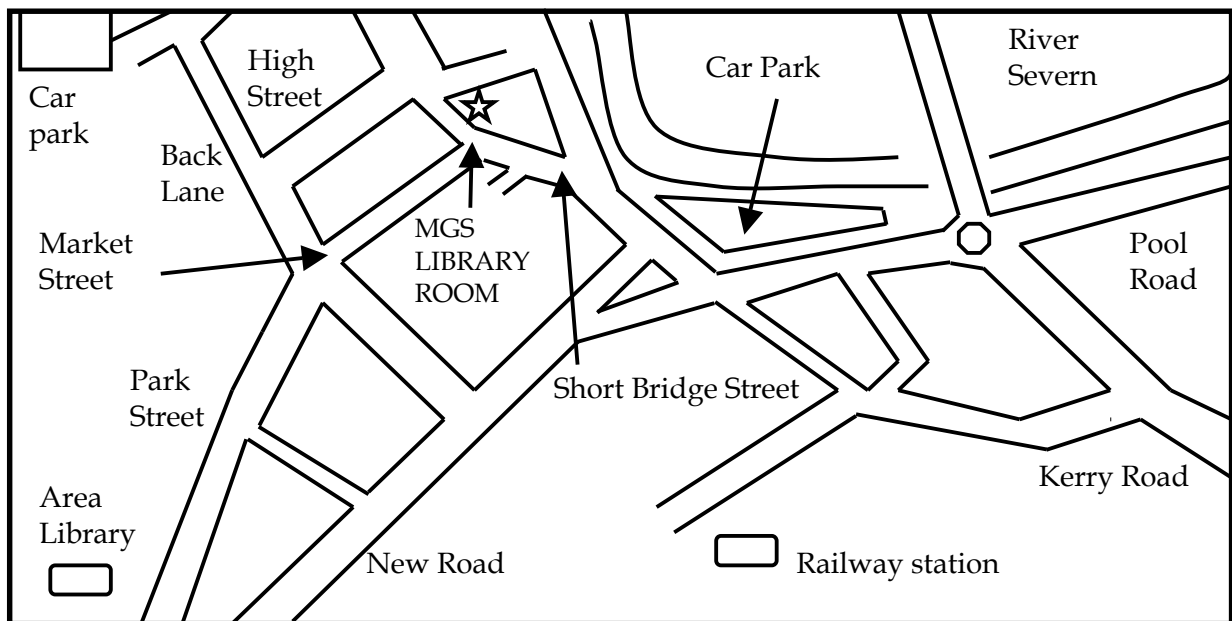
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**MGS LIBRARY ROOM IN NEWTOWN**



Address

2 Shortbridge Street, Newtown, Montgomeryshire, Powys, SY16 2LW

Enter via the court on the east side of Owen's Travelmaster, take the doorway on the left hand side and proceed to the first floor.

Opening Arrangements

Anybody wishing to use the room should contact the Revd. Graham Lloyd, on 01588-630517, at least two weeks before the intended day of the visit.

Members' offers to help staff the room continue to be required and are always appreciated – no family history knowledge is required. To offer to staff the room and for related enquiries, please also contact Graham.