



Newsletter 13 – July 2012

Welcome to this, our thirteenth Newsletter. We invite you to contribute articles, tips, questions and answers for others to share. Feedback is always welcome. Have you missed an earlier edition? If so, read the archived Newsletters on our website.

July Meeting Review

Len Ley gave a talk on farming in the 1780s, based on the contemporary diaries of a farmer at *Glynllech Uchaf* near Abercrave. Len's account of the daily running of the farm as well as the politics and social mores of the time was fascinating. The talk was followed by a lively discussion between Len and his audience. Everyone seemed to enjoy the session.

A sound recording of Len's talk is now available on the Members' section of our website: www.blfhs.co.uk/members/ (select *Meetings* from the *Resources* drop-down list).

A Good Read – Part 3

"*The Diary of Benjamin Newton Rector of Wath 1816-1818*" covers Newton's visit to Breconshire lasting from 16th to 25th August. Diary entries are for the 16th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th. The days were occupied with dining at prominent houses in the area. Catching up on the gossip was obviously important. He writes:

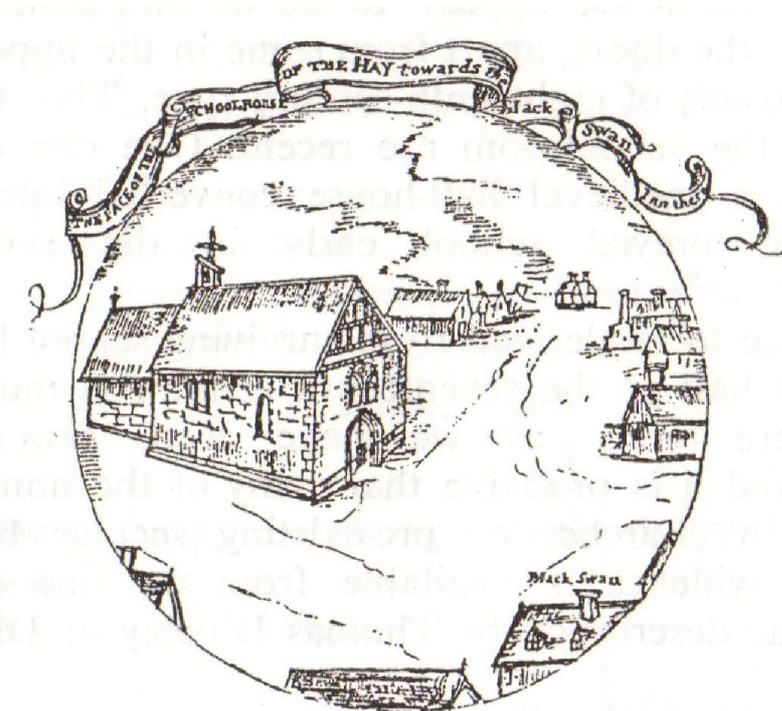
Archbishop Davies still lying in bed reading novels. All his relations agree that he is better in bed for that when he is up he does so many extravagant things that he will certainly ruin himself. In the case of North the wagoner's bankruptcy he went to London to make North an honest man and afterwards called him a great scoundrel, yet desired that the bank at Brecon would pay North's notes and place them to his credit, supposed this frolic will cost him five hundred pounds.

More on Benjamin Newton's visit in the next Newsletter.

Victorian and Edwardian Memorial Cards

This project is up and running with three contributors so far. If you have any Breconshire-based memorial cards from this era and want to add them to our database, just send a transcription of their contents to me, Hilary Williams.

An early view of Hay on Wye school



The school was situated in the market square and was founded in 1670. The sketch (left) is from Thomas Dineley's "*The Account of the Official Progress of His Grace Henry the First Duke of Beaufort through Wales in 1684*"

Welsh Genealogies

Anyone interested in old Welsh Genealogies might enjoy the following:

1. *'The Heraldic visitations of Wales and Part of the Marches between the years 1586 and 1613'*, by Lewys Dwnn. The two volumes are available to read on Internet Archive, as digital books, at the following: <http://www.archive.org/>. Select the text option and then enter *Lewis Dwnn* in the search box.
2. Compilations of old family trees from a variety of Welsh Genealogical sources form the basis of <http://histfam.familysearch.org/>. The website offers a surname search whose results are fully referenced. To refine your search select *Welsh Medieval Database* from the *Trees* drop-down menu.
3. A searchable digital version of *'Welsh Genealogies AD 300-1500'* by Peter Bartrum, compiled by Aberystwyth University, is available at <http://cadair.aber.ac.uk/dspace/handle/2160/4026>. Bartrum attempted to make a database of early and medieval Welsh genealogical information preserved in old documents and visitations. Although there are problems with his work, it makes interesting reading. You'll find more about Peter Bartrum's Genealogies in *"Second Stages in Researching Welsh Ancestry"* by John and Sheila Rowlands, published by FFHS in 1998. Chapter 9, *'Using Peter Bartrum's Welsh Genealogies'* by Michael Powell Siddons, may be read in full at <http://books.google.co.uk/>.

Breconshire County Histories

The county histories provide useful information about parishes in Breconshire and about the more influential families who resided there, including their genealogies.

- Theophilus Jones, *'A History of the County of Brecknock'*. A 'Glanusk' centenary edition was published in four volumes between 1909 and 1930. Volumes 1 and 2 are available to read or download from <http://archive.org/>, but <http://www.archivecdbooks.ie/> has all four volumes of the Glanusk Edition available to purchase on a CD, and Brecon Library has the full set in the locked cabinet of its reference section. Volume 2 of Jones's original two-volume version of *"A History of the County of Brecknock"*, published in 1809, is available (free) on Google Books: <http://books.google.co.uk/>.
- Edwin Poole, *'The Illustrated History and Biography of Brecknockshire from the Earliest Times to the Present Day'*, published in 1886. This book is now available for around £20 as a 'print on demand' paperback from www.abebooks.co.uk/ and from www.amazon.co.uk/.
- Since 1955, the Brecknock Society and Museum Friends has published *Brycheiniog*, an annual historical and archaeological academic journal. The volumes from 1955 to 2006 are available on the National Library of Wales website <http://welshjournals.llgc.org.uk/>. Volume 30 (1998) is a comprehensive index to the previous volumes. Brecon Library also holds a collection of *Brycheiniog* in its lending section.

None of the above publications are error-free, so read them with caution and where possible look for corroborative evidence. Hilary Williams can give individual help on the above if you contact her.

NEXT MEETING

- Date and time: **Monday, 6th August 2012 note different day**
Venue: Brecon Library
Subject: *"Captain Thomas Phillips of Brecon"*, a joint talk by Ken Jones of the Brecknock Society, and Sister Bonaventure Kelleher of Brecon Ursuline Convent
Prior to the main talk, Helen Whyte will continue her series of short presentations on using the new www.FamilySearch.org/ website.

CONTACT DETAILS

If you wish to respond to or comment on an item in this newsletter, or contribute to the next newsletter or to our website, please contact our Chairperson:

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