

Breconshire Local & Family History Society (BLFHS)
Cymdeithas Hanes Lleol a Theuluoedd Brycheiniog



Newsletter 14 – August 2012

Welcome to our 14th Newsletter. We invite you to contribute articles, tips, questions and answers for others to share. Feedback is always welcome. Have you missed an edition? Read the archived Newsletters on our website.

August Meeting Review

Sister Bonaventure Kelleher and Ken Jones, gave a well-researched illustrated talk on Captain Thomas Phillips of Brecon. Sister Bonaventure outlined his family connection with Brecon. He lived at what is now the Ursuline Convent in Brecon and Sister was able to prove that he was responsible for the building of an area for promenading, still known as Captains Walk in Brecon. Ken Jones spoke Phillip's voyage as Captain of the Hannibal slave ship (1693/4) and the light shed on this Voyage and the personality of Capt Phillips from the Journal which he wrote, entitled "*A Journal of a Voyage made in the Hannibal of London, ann. 1693, 1694, from London, to Cape Monseradoe, in Africa; and thence along the Coast of Guiney to Whidaw, the Island of St Thomas, and so forward to Barbadoes. With a cursory account of the Country, the People, their Manners, Forts, Trade, etc.*" The journal is available as a free e-book on Google Books.

Prior to the main talk, Helen Whyte continued her series of short presentations on using the new www.familysearch.org/ website.

Sound recordings and illustrations are available on the Members' section of our website: www.blfhs.co.uk/members/ (select *Meetings* from the *Resources* drop-down list).

New e-mail address for Society Chair

The BLFHS Chairperson, Hilary Williams, now has an official e-mail address, chair@blfhs.co.uk. Please use this new address for Society business. (Previously, the contact address for the Society was Hilary's personal e-mail address.)

A Good Read- part 4

The Diary of Benjamin Newton Rector of Wath 1816-1818. On the 23rd August, Rev Newton wrote:

"Went to Devynnock, called on Mr and Mrs Williams the curate, saw Miss Morgan all dirt and rags. N.B. Never saw the poorest parishioner of Wath half so untidy tho' she is very handsome and has £6000, about 21 years of age. If an instance was wanting to shew how very little advantage money is unless properly directed it is impossible to adduce a stronger than that of Phil Morgan's family, all of them make beasts of themselves with the £40,000 he left behind him, some by drink and the rest by dirt."

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

Victorian & 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, at chair@blfhs.co.uk.

Members Interests Database

Do remember to let me know if you want your family and local interests to be displayed in the Members' Section of our website, together with your contact details, so that other Members with similar interests may contact you. These details will only be accessible to Members.

Useful website

National Library of Wales www.llgc.org.uk

Wills Online

The covering dates of the surviving probate records are:

Bangor: 1635-1858

Brecon: 1543-1858

Chester (Welsh wills): 1557-1858

Hawarden: 1554-1858

Llandaf: 1568-1857

St Asaph: 1565-1857

St David's: 1556-1858

Of relevance to Breconshire are the Brecon and St David's probate records. These are searchable and the images of the wills are available on the NLW web site. The records for Brecon pre-1660 have not yet been scanned. There is, however, an alternative way of seeing the index to these probate records. Familysearch <https://familysearch.org/> has its "Wales, Probate Abstracts" for all the Welsh probate records from 1544 to 1858 on-line. It is not searchable but there are place-name, given name and surname indexes at the start of each digital document. The Brecon Abstracts come under the St David's tab. Unfortunately, the original probate images are not available on Familysearch.

Hot off the Press

FALSE TEETH LOST AND FOUND

from *The County Times*, 13th. February 1913

At the Devynock Petty Sessions on Thursday – before Messrs. Owen Price (in the Chair), Morgan Morgan, Brychan Jeffreys and David James – Walter Carroll, of no fixed abode, was charged with stealing false teeth valued at 3 guineas, the property of David Morgan, Cwmclydach.

Prosecutor said he lost his teeth, which he had loose in his pocket going home from Senny bridge the afternoon of January 2st. The teeth produced were his property, and he paid 3 guineas for them.

John Thomas, High Street, Llandovery, tailor, said defendant came to his workshop and showed the teeth produced, stating that he had picked them up on the road near Sennybridge. He offered to sell them for 10s. Witness offered to give him 2s. - (laughter) – and after further bargaining, bought them for 5s.

The Clerk: What did you do with them?

Witness: I heard that constable had been looking for some teeth and I gave them to Sergt. Deans, Llandovery, the following Monday.

The Clerk: You did not wear them?

Witness: No. (laughter)

P.C. Turford, Trecastle, said he traced the defendant to Llandovery, where he was sent to Carmarthen gaol for 14 days for being drunk and disorderly and on February 5th he received him into custody from the Carmarthenshire police. When being placed in the cell at Devynock defendant said he was guilty. Defendant had not reported finding the teeth to the police at Llandovery or Trecastle.

Defendant said he picked the teeth up on the road and did not really know what to do with them. He had never heard of anybody picking up a set of false teeth before. He had no intention of stealing them.

The Chairman said the Bench found that the evidence to convict the defendant of larceny was very slight; but at the same time they regretted that he had not reported the matter to the police. On the grounds of the slight evidence of any felonious intent, they discharged defendant. The Bench complimented the Police on the ability they had shown in investigating the case.

NEXT MEETING

Date and time: Wednesday, 5th September 2012

Venue: Brecon Library

Subject: "Railways into Brecon" by Tudor Watkins.

Prior to the main talk, Helen Whyte will continue her series on using the new Family Search website: www.familysearch.org/.

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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