

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



Newsletter 16 – October 2012

Welcome to our sixteenth 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.

October Meeting Review

John Ball gave an excellent illustrated talk on Using Tithe Survey Records for Research.

Members might like to know that the National Library of Wales book *The Tithe Maps of Wales: A Guide to the tithe maps and apportionments of Wales in the National Library of Wales* by Robert Davies (1999) is now available from the National Library of Wales at half price (£15). It can be bought from the NLW on-line shop. Also available from the NLW online shop, for half price (£5) is *Parish Registers of Wales*. second edition: updated details of all the parish registers of Wales and the copies of them held by The National Library and the County Archive services.

Helen Whyte concluded her series of short presentations on using the new www.FamilySearch.org/ website. This series has been greeted with great enthusiasm by Members. Thank you, Helen, for your excellent presentations. We look forward to having the benefit of Helen's expertise again in the future.

Sound recordings of, and illustrations from both talks are now available on the Members' section of our website: select *Meetings* from the *Resources* drop-down list. Remember that we remove the oldest archived sound file and illustrated talk from our website each month.

A Good Read- part 5

The Diary of Benjamin Newton Rector of Wath 1816-1818. The Rector was most concerned at the state of the roads and the dangers of being driven in a carriage:

26th August The Bolds and Griffiths dined here. Mrs Bold not of the party having been terribly alarmed by a drunken driver returning from Penpont Saturday night. In going down the hill about two miles from Brecon the driver nearly ran the carriage over a precipice and pulling up very abruptly the pole of Major Price's carriage which was following close struck the sword case of Bold's carriage and drove it in so violently as to send the door of the sword case with such violence against Mrs Bold and her son as to send their heads through the window, the glass of which luckily was down.

On the 30th August, The Rector left Brecon and journeyed to Hay and on to Leominster.

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 wish to allow your family and local interests to be made available alongside your contact details, so that other Members may contact you. These details will only be accessible to Members.

Useful websites:

- YouTube: Write Brecon into the YouTube search box and look for *BBC Domesday - a walk around Brecon in 1985*. Recognise anyone or remember the old shops?
- <http://wbo.llgc.org.uk>: "The Welsh Biography Online presents the lives of eminent Welsh people who have made a significant contribution to Welsh life"
- <http://imagingthebible.llgc.org.uk> "Images and information about biblical scenes, characters and subjects from Wales in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries."

Family History Tips:

- **Find My Past:** have you tried putting a surname, parish name and county name into the search box for parish register searches only to find that nothing comes up? You may have spelled the parish and county names in a way which the search engine does not recognise. The <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/content/welsh-collection/parish-registers> webpage not only takes you to the "search Welsh Parish Registers now" page but also has links to PDF pages

for the baptisms, banns, marriages and burials covered by *Find My Past*. Here you will not only find the counties, parishes and dates of the records covered in *Find My Past*, but also the spellings of county and parish names used by *Find My Past*. Use these spellings in all your searches.

- When searching for a specific baptism, marriage or burial record, if the search facility fails to find the record, try putting a common surname such as Jones into the search engine with the county, parish and date plus or minus five years. When you get a hit nearest to your date, browse the images until you find the person you are seeking.

Hot off the Press:

The Express dated 27th February 1913

THE MAENDU WELL – The well-known and ancient well is situated four fields from Maendu Street, and is to the north of the Priory Church. There is a pathway leading from Maendu Street, but this path for many months of the year is simply a gutter to carry away the water overflowing from fields higher up which badly want draining. The well was for many years the chief supply for the people residing in the Baileyglas and Pendre, and in ancient times it also supplied the Brecknock Castle. Old Sam Cooke, whose father was at one time wood-man to the Camden estate at Brecon, tells us that the well for some years also supplied water to Priory House, being carried through pipes to a tank placed in one of the fields near the Priory Churchyard. There is always a strong and clean supply of water. The well is arched over with stone-work and behind is planted a

holly tree. On a stone at the entrance are the letters and figures “W.W. 1754” - probably the date when the present arch was erected. The stone-work shows signs of decay on the N.E. The dimension of the well inside is about 5 feet square, and the roof is about 10 feet from the water, which is only a foot deep, but very clear. The water runs away to a place outside, where those who were in the habit of fetching the water could descend steps and there place their water vessels, beneath the running stream. This well is very generally known as “The Wishing Well”, and love sick maidens are said to make pilgrimages and drop pins in the water whilst making their wishes. Richard Hall, the Brecon poet, has a reference to this well in his “Tale of the Past and other poems.”

READER

The Express dated 17th April 1913

Right to Visit Workhouse

REPLY TO RATEPAYER'S LETTER

In regard to a letter which recently appeared in our columns asking whether a ratepayer had the right of access to the Workhouse, Mr. Molyneux F. Thomas, clerk to the Brecon Guardians, informed a representative of the

“Express” that he had ascertained the legal position on the matter, and had come to the conclusion that there was no absolute legal right. It was improbable, however, that if courteous application was made such permission would not be refused.

NEXT MEETING

Date and time: Wednesday, 7th November 2012 at 2.00pm
Venue: Brecon Library
Subject: “History of Abercamlais House” by Susan Ballance.

BLFHS WEBSITE: Our website address: www.blfhs.co.uk

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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