

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



## **Newsletter 2: July 2011**

Welcome to our Newsletter. We invite you to contribute articles, tips, questions and answers for others to share. Feedback is always welcomed.

### **July Meeting Review:**

Subject: The Castell Du Iron Foundry, Sennybridge

Speaker: Mr Glyn Powell

Glyn Powell gave an excellent illustrated talk on the history of the Castell Du Iron Foundry. The Foundry was at the eastern terminus of the Brecon Forest Tramroad. A digital recording of the talk, together with the slides with which Glyn illustrated his talk, are now accessible on our website: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wlsblfhs/siddons/110706.htm>

If you cannot access our website, please contact Hilary Williams so we can discuss finding an alternative way for you to hear the talk.

### **Obituary – Rev Herbert Hughes:**

I am sorry to have to report the death, at the end of May, of this respected local author. He wrote sympathetically about the Epynt in his book "*Mae'n Ddiwedd y Byd Yma*" and then in translation "*An Uprooted Community: a History of Epynt*". He also wrote about Howell Harris, Trefecca "*Gwr Duw a Thraed O Glai*". He made available to the public the wealth of historical information gathered by the Llanwrtyd historian and antiquarian in his last book "*Cymru Evan Jones: Detholiad O Bapurau Evan Jones, Ty'n y Pant, Llanwrtyd*". Rev Hughes has left behind a valuable legacy: his considerable contribution to our knowledge of the history of Breconshire.

### **Internet sites for Local and Family History:**

1. **GENUKI: UK & Ireland Genealogy:** <http://www.genuki.org.uk/>  
Genuki is a free website for UK and Ireland genealogy. It lists a number of useful resources as well as a detailed guide to the parishes of the UK.
2. **Powys Archives:** <http://www.powys.gov.uk/index.php?id=647&L=0>  
"...the official repository for the records of the modern county of Powys (established in 1974) and the three former counties of Breconshire, Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire. Powys Archives forms part of Powys Library, Archives and Information Service."  
Click on **Our records** in the light green panel on the left. There are a number of searchable catalogues of holdings on the website.

### **Brecon Clockmakers:**

I saw this interesting short article about a c1760 long-case clock, whilst browsing Google:

*Richard Watkin of Breconshire.... Clocks by Richard Watkin have been recorded with the place-names of Llywel, Merthyr Tydfil, Trecastle and Brecon, one having the address "Ceuen y Gweision [sic], Llywel, Brecknockshire". Amongst his customers was William Williams, Pantcelyn. He normally produced the simpler 30-hour movements, although his probate inventory of 1782 mentioned three clocks in his shop at values of 5 pounds, 2 pounds and 1 pound – the first presumably having an 8-day movement.*

<http://www.welshantiques.com/longcase-clock2.htm>

Other Breconshire clockmakers include:

Thomas Bannister, Brecon

John Lloyd of High Street, Brecon (succeeded by John Davies)

George Lomax, Brecon

William Williams of Lion Street, Brecon

Can you name any more Breconshire Clockmakers? Do you have a clock made by a Breconshire clockmaker? Do let us know.

Further reading: *WALES Clocks and Clockmakers*, by William Linnard, Mayfield Books, Derbyshire, 2003; ISBN 09540525-5-2.

### Snippets from the press

An advert in the 18<sup>th</sup> August 1921 edition of The Brecon County Times:

Rich & Sons, Brecon agents for:

*"The Famous Overland Touring Car reduced from £495 to £395"*

The description of the car refers to the styles:

*"Roadster, Coupe, Sedan, Landaulette and Van." "All are completely equipped, including Electric Starter and Lighting Set."*

Finally interested parties are encouraged thus:

*"It is advisable to place your order immediately to secure the benefit of the reduction on THE ECONOMY CAR."*

The contact telephone number tells us a great deal:

*"Telephone 23"*

Note: £495 in 1920, would have had the same spending power as £10,500 does today.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency/>

The advert for an Overland (below) was found on

<http://www.fotolibra.com/gallery/17403/bean-motor-car-1928/like/>



**Overland** for NATIONAL SERVICE

Willys-Overland Ltd  
161-153 Great Portland Street London W.

Touring Cars, completely equipped from £225 upwards. Delivery Vans, 7 cwt. and greater capacities, from £200 upwards. Ask the 'Overland' dealer in your town.

## A good read

Booklets written about local churches are often a mine of historical as well as family history information. Examples of such booklets include:

Davies: Rev Ivor "*The Story of Llanfigan*"  
Evans: D "*Church of St Mary and St Cynidr Aberyscir*" 1982  
Henderson: J "*History of Llanddetty Church*" 1962  
Rees: Rev. E. H. V. "*Trallwng Church and People*" 1983

We will recommend books of value in the study of Breconshire parishes when we develop the parish pages on our website.

## Member reports successful research request

Sue Welham from Suffolk has been researching her **Maddy** family for many years and has come up against many genealogical 'brick walls'. Earlier this month, she asked the BLFHS for help with one of the major obstacles to her work on the Glasbury/Llanigon branch of her family. She had been unable to locate a property called Llwyn Maddy. The Society was able to identify the property in Llanigon and point her to records held by Powys Archives, the National Library of Wales, etc., who held information on this property and possible family connections. She is now able to tie up some previously unconnected Maddy individuals, and trace them back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

However, Sue would still like to know if anyone can throw further light on her query. She says:

I would like to ask if anyone has any more information about the MADDYs in the Llanigon, Hay area. I do know there were a number of Maddys at Hay. There were also two quite substantial families in Clyro, one of which I think might have been the brother of my 3x gt grandfather Evan Maddy. His name was William Maddy born 1768, Llanigon. Evan was born 1774, Llanigon. They had two sisters, one married a Powell and the other a Williams. I have no information on the sisters as I have not followed their lines but my family seems to have been entwined with Powells, Williams's, Lewis's and Prices all through the family line. I know one Maddy lady married a Thomas Williams who was the Chemist in Brecon during the 1800s.

If you can give Sue any further help, please ask Hilary Williams to put you in touch with her.

## Howell Harris, Trefecca

The following news item appeared in the *Brecon County Times*, dated 24<sup>th</sup> April 1913.

### HOWELL HARRIS'S SWORD - Presentation to Trefecca College.

The authorities at Trefecca Calvinistic Methodist College, Breconshire, have been presented with the sword which Howell Harris, the famous Methodist pioneer and divine, carried when he

joined the Militia in 1760. The sword had been in the possession of a Mid-Wales family for many years, but it has now been added to a number of the old Methodist relics at Trefecca."

There is a museum dedicated to Howell Harris at Trefecca College. Visits can be arranged with the Warden: <http://www.trefeca.org.uk/en/>

## Links

Glyn Powell, who gave our monthly talk on 6<sup>th</sup> July, was closely involved in the successful battle to save the Senni and Usk valleys from being flooded in the late 1960s and early '70s. This website not only gives details of the campaign, but also provides information on the hamlet of Senni and its surrounding area. Senni is in the parish of Defynnog.

[http://www.senni.org.uk/Academic/History/Documents/1971/Daily\\_Telegraph\\_1971\\_E.html](http://www.senni.org.uk/Academic/History/Documents/1971/Daily_Telegraph_1971_E.html)

## NEXT MEETING: - Visit to the newly renovated Talgarth Mill.

Numbers limited – booking in advance essential. **Booking now closed – all spaces filled.**

Date and time: Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2011

Venue: Talgarth Mill, centre of Talgarth Village

Meet at Talgarth Mill at 2:00pm.

There will be a small entry charge. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

## **SOCIETY WEBSITE**

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wlsblfhs/>

Googling **WLSBLFHS** will also find the public page. You then need to add your password to the address to enter the Members' pages.

## **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:**

**Hilary Williams**

**Maesycod, 39 Camden Road, Brecon, LD3 7RT**

**Tel: 01874 624432**

**E-mail: [williams.o.h@ic24.net](mailto:williams.o.h@ic24.net)**