

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



Newsletter 20 – March 2013

Welcome to our twentieth 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.

March Meeting Review

As always the Meeting was in two parts:

- Helen Whyte's short presentation continued her discussion of last month on the value of marriage certificates by describing the processes by which certificates are created, and explaining the pros and cons of the various methods of obtaining copies.
- In association with the Brecon Women's Festival (28th Feb to 10th Mar 2013), BLFHS member Deanna Leboff gave an illustrated talk on a remarkable family she is researching. Her talk was entitled "Notable Women in the Ayrton Family - How the Ayrton family helped women get the vote". Deanna talked about the women (and a couple of men!) who supported or were involved in women's emancipation, including those who took part in the suffragette movement. You might like to look for further information on this branch of the family on various websites. To do so, search for Hertha Marks Ayrton; William Edward Ayrton; Matilda Chaplin Ayrton; and Edith Ayrton Zangwil. Follow any links to other family members.

Remember that both talks are now available in audio and slide format on our website. You'll also find more information relevant to Helen's talk in our guidance notes on "Starting Your Family History" – look under 'Aids to Research' in the 'Resources' drop-down menu in the Members' Section of our website.

A Good Read

Various Authors. "A War of Memories Built Wells 1939-1945". Built Wells and District Heritage Society, 2012; ISBN 13978-0-95151141-1.

This book is a compilation of articles submitted or narrated by people who were residents in the Built Wells area during WW2. It includes stories of the Home Front in Built Wells, stories of Built Wells residents who fought in the war, and stories of evacuees to Built Wells. It is well presented and a good read. Old photographs are to be found on many of the pages.

A Poem glued into the Libanus Chapel Baptism Register reads as follows

THE PENCE TABLE IN VERSE

Twenty-pence is one and eight-pence,
This is paper out I laid;
Thirty-pence is two and six-pence,
This I for a grammar paid.
Forty-pence is three and four-pence,
Which I spent on going to school;
Fifty-pence is four and two-pence,
And with this I bought a rule.
Sixty-pence is just five shillings,
Master this for entrance got;
Seventy-pence is five and ten-pence,
Who dare say that it is not?

Eighty-pence is six and eight-pence,
This is just a lawyer's fee;
Ninety-pence is seven and six-pence,
As you all may plainly see.
One hundred-pence is eight and four-pence,
Which I lent to cousin Ben;
And, as he wanted nine and two-pence,
I gave him the other ten.
Wishing the amount ten shillings,
I then gave him ten-pence more;
I bade him take it, and not plague me,
But never borrow from me more.

Applying to be a Registrar

Reproduced below is a transcription of a professionally printed application for the vacant post of a registrar in 1875 and circulated to the members of the Brecknock Union:

*To the Ex-officio and elected Guardians of the Brecknock Union
Gentlemen,*

The Registrarship for the district of Merthyr Cynog having now become vacant by the resignation of Mr. William Prosser, I trust I may not be considered to have acted too dilatorily in not having canvassed you before the vacancy occurred.

I am a native of the district, and conversant with the English and Welsh languages, and known to every resident within it.

My pursuits as a farmer I relinquished a few years ago to my son, and now have ample time on my hands to fulfil efficiently the duties of the office. If you consider me worthy to receive such a proof of your confidence, you may rely on my not abusing it.

Soliciting your vote, your interest, and your influence on my behalf,

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN WILLIAMS

Nantygwreiddyn, Merthyr Cynog

October 18th. 1875.

Mr John Williams was a brother to Dr James Williams, Medical Officer for the Merthyr Cynog Sanitary Board and there is evidence that at one time John Williams was the Inspector of Nuisances for the area. [The post of Inspector of Nuisances was probably similar to our present day traffic wardens – doing an essential job but disliked by everyone.]

NEXT MEETING

Date and time: Wednesday, 3rd April 2013 at 2.00pm

Venue: Brecon Library

Subject: Madame Adelina Patti

Back by popular demand, Len Ley will tell us about this 19th century opera singer who was one of the most famous people of her time.

Note: Prior to the main talk Helen Whyte will continue her series of short presentations on family history sources.

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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