

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



Newsletter 24 – July 2013

Welcome to our 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.

July Meeting Review – Geoff Brookes: "A Welsh Crime Miscellany". We enjoyed a most entertaining illustrated talk highlighting criminal behaviour in the Victorian era in South Wales. Geoff brought the subject to life by describing a number of fascinating case studies.

Prior to the main talk, Helen Whyte gave the latest in her series of short presentations on Family History Sources.

Public Houses in 19th Century Brecon

The Beer Act of 1830 allowed home owners to brew and sell their own beer – in effect setting up their own pubs – for a single payment of two guineas. The result was the opening of up to 30,000 new "beerhouses", similar to the modern pub.

The political aim of the Beer Act was to reduce public drunkenness, but Act was a disaster. One observer, writing in 1831, said: "Everybody is drunk. Those who are not singing are sprawling."

The licensing restrictions introduced in the 1869 Wine and Beerhouse Act finally put a halt to the increasing number of pubs across the country: landlords complained they could no longer make a profit.

The Parliamentary Commissioner's map of Brecon in 1834 shows the locations of 47 public houses in the town.

The book "*Old Brecknock Chips*" edited by Edwin Poole and comprising a series of articles contributed to the "*Brecon County Times*" from 10 Sep 1886 to 2 Sep 1887 included the following letter on 10 Sep 1886:

"I saw it stated in last week's Brecon County Times that there are 54 licensed houses in Brecon. I have in my possession a map of Brecon, dated 1834, and it gives the following as the names and number of licensed houses existing in the town 52 years ago. Perhaps some elderly inhabitant will identify the location of the "old houses now extinct. The population in 1831 was 5,026"

The list of pubs from the map is then given. This 1834 map is reproduced on page 4 and is also available in the Members' Section of our website: www.blfhs.co.uk/members/mem-maps.htm.

The discussion is continued on 24 Sep 1886:

"Replies Public Houses in Brecon in 1834 (Sept. 10th)

J. G., The Acacias, Hammersmith, London, sends a list of 63 public houses that existed in Brecon in 1834. We append those not mentioned on the Boundary Commission map of that year. They are:-

- The White Horse, Dorlangoch
- Fusilier (now Camden Arms), Watton
- Barley Mow (now Clarence), Watton
- Military Arms, opposite Mr Morris, Chemist
- Victoria, High Street
- Market Tavern, where Mr Butcher now lives
- Harp, where the entrance to the Market House is, or Queen's Head, in High Street
- Britannia, Struet
- Brewery Tap, Struet
- Nag's Head, Struet
- Rising Sun, Pendre
- Castle Hotel

The Brewery Tap, Church Lane
Fountain, Ship Street
Drovers' Arms, Llanfaes
Red Cow, Llanfaes
The Carpenter' Arms,

and another one which I cannot now remember, existed also in the town. The time the Fusilier existed in the Watton, the Camden Arms Hotel, kept by Mr Wm. Jones, of Belle View, was an hotel as well as a coach and posting house opposite Mr Webb, the jeweller's."

There is also a reply from R. W., Orchard Street, Llanfaes

"The following are the names of the licensed houses that existed in Llanfaes 65 years ago [1821]:

Red Cow, 24 Newgate Street
Drovers' Arms, 1 Newgate Street
Black Lion Fawr, 23 Church Street
Black Lion Fach, 27 Church Street
Royal Oak, 65 Newmarch Street
Ivy Bush, 2 Newmarch Street
Crown, 36 Orchard Street
Square and Compass (now Tradesman's Arms), 32 Orchard Street
Three Horse Shoes, 48 Orchard Street
Butchers' Arms, 50 Orchard Street
Old Buck, 25 Orchard Street
Farmers' Arms, Board School
Turners' Arms, 68 Orchard Street
Farmers' Arms, 62 Orchard Street
Coach and Horses, 14 Orchard Street
Flag and Castle, 12 Orchard Street
Vine, 7 Orchard Street
Cross Keys, 4 Orchard Street
Waterloo Arms, 26 Silver Street
Dolphin, 22 Silver Street
Rose and Crown, 19 Bridge Street
New Greyhound, 13 Bridge Street
Old Greyhound, Bridge Street
Ship, Horse and Jockey, 8 & 9 Bridge Street
Skinners' Arms, 2 Bridge Street
Old Vine Spirit Vaults, 23 Bridge Street
White Lion (now Bridgend), 24 Bridge Street

The Editor then writes "There appears to have been 63 licensed houses within the confines of Brecon some 50 years ago, when the population was some 1,346 souls less than in the present year. There are now 54 such houses in the town. Certainly a great improvement on "ye good olde tymes" "

Family History Summer "To Do" List

With this hot weather and visits to relatives on the cards, why not refresh your Family History "To Do" List

- Label your old (and new) photographs with date, place, and names of individuals. This is an essential task if you and your descendants are to make sense of your photographic heritage. Please **DO NOT WRITE ON PHOTOGRAPHS WITH A BALL-POINT PEN** because the ink used can penetrate through to the front of the photograph and spoil the image. Instead, label them with a soft pencil

- With families meeting up for the Summer Season, it is a good time to ask elderly relatives and friends about their memories of your family and record this information. Always head your notes with the name of the interviewee and the date of the interview. REMEMBER that much of the interesting titbits of family history is NOT available in official records.
- Write down any family details which would help anyone in your family who wanted to compile a family tree at a later date.
- When you begin researching your family tree, remember to start with the present generation and work backwards. First gather any documentary material (e.g. birth certificates, etc.) that you may be able to obtain from relatives and register offices. This may enable you to take the generations back to the period when censuses are available, currently every 10 years from 1911 back to 1841. Use oral information from family members to fill in the gaps.

NEXT MEETING

Date and time: Wednesday, 7th August 2013

Visit to Abercamlais House. There will **not** be a meeting in Brecon Library.

The list of those wishing to go to Abercamlais House on that day, is NOW **CLOSED** as we have reached the maximum number of persons permitted for the tour.

To arrange your own tour of the House independently, contact:

Mrs Susan Balance, Abercamlais House, Abercamlais, BRECON, LD3 8EY

Tel: (01874) 636206. E-mail: info@abercamlais.co.uk

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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