

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



Newsletter 29 – January 2014

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.

January Meeting Review

Conan Daly, Assistant Curator at Brecknock Museum spoke on “The Clark Collection of Photographs and Photographic Equipment”. We had a slight change to the advertised meeting. The Curator himself was unable to attend, but we were delighted to welcome the recently appointed Assistant Curator as our speaker. Conan has begun the important task of cataloguing the “Clark Collection”, recently donated to Brecknock Museum by the Clark family. The Collection records the work of Jack Clark, who began the photographic business, now superseded by Clark’s Toys and Gifts Shop, in High Street, Brecon. Using shots of the Clark photographic equipment, Conan spoke first about the development of photography up to the beginning of digital photography. He then gave us a fascinating insight into the complex and sometimes even dangerous nature of early photography. He closed by showing us examples of the variety of photographs taken by Jack Clark.

A full report on the January meeting, including slide presentations and sound files of the talks, is now available in the Members’ section of our website: <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/members/meetings/index.htm>

Our Society has been involved in discussions about the Clark Collection and will cooperate with the Clark family and the Museum when we plan to exhibit a selection of the Clark photographs at Brecon Library later this year. We will be delighted then if visitors to the exhibition can identify some of the people, places and events depicted. We will provide more information on the exhibition at a later date.

You’ll find a short history of the Clark business on the [BBC website](http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/wales/archive/bbc-mid-wales-brecon-jack-clark-photographer-centenary.pdf):

<http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/wales/archive/bbc-mid-wales-brecon-jack-clark-photographer-centenary.pdf>

Prior to the main talk, Helen Whyte continued her series of short presentations on Family History Sources by looking at old newspapers. On this occasion she focused on the material available on [Welsh Newspapers Online](http://www.welshnewspapers.com), a project to digitise and place online the newspaper collection of the National Library of Wales. She plans to cover other useful online newspaper collections in future presentations.

Finding and Using Newspapers in your Research

Helen gave us a valuable introduction to using the National Library of Wales digital collection of newspapers and has asked me to stress the following points:

- The newspapers being digitised for Welsh Newspapers Online are only those in the collection held by the NLW. The NLW is incomplete and for better coverage you need to consult other sources such as:
 - Powys Archives <http://www.powys.gov.uk/index.php?id=875&L=0> and <http://www.powys.gov.uk/index.php?id=876&L=0>
 - the *Newsplan Project* in Wales <http://www.newsplanwales.info/s001.htm>
- Remember that newspapers published outside Breconshire, Radnorshire and Montgomeryshire (modern Powys) also referred to Breconshire events. You may find news items referring to the Powys counties in newspapers published in the counties bordering Powys: Glamorgan, Carmarthenshire, Cardiganshire, Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and Monmouthshire.
- Helen referred to *The Cambrian* newspaper some issues of which have recently been digitised on the NLW website, but she also referred to the benefit of using the older *Cambrian Index* searchable at <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5673>
- One of the oldest UK newspapers is *The Times*. The *Times Digital Archive* (1785-2006) is available for free searching, viewing and downloading at the NLW or from home via the NLW website: <http://www.llgc.org.uk/e-resources> as long as you have a Readers Ticket (only available if you have a postal address in Wales). Local news may be found in *The Times* and is especially useful for the period before the local newspapers were published.

The Times Digital Archive is also available on subscription. For more information see <http://gale.cengage.co.uk/times.aspx/>

- The *British Newspaper Archive* at <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> provides access to many of the English newspapers that border the Welsh counties. The archive also includes the *Western Mail* (1869-1900) and some north Wales newspapers. This is a subscription site but it can be searched for free.
- General information about historic newspapers can be found on The National Archives website at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/newspapers.htm>
- If you subscribe to Find My Past or use it (free) at your local library, you'll find it offers a collection of digitised newspapers which can be searched and read online. This is a joint project with the British Library. <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/search/newspapers>
- Ancestry.co.uk, accessed by subscription or free at your local library, also offers a collection of newspapers and magazines which can be searched and viewed online <http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/category.aspx?cat=38>
- Remember that historic magazines such as the *Gentleman's Magazine* and the *London Illustrated News* also include obituaries and information about local historic events. Both publications have issues which are searchable on Ancestry.
- Richard Heaton's Index to *Digitalised British and Irish Newspapers Online* (beta version updated 7 Dec 2013) is another source of information about UK Newspapers. <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dutillieul/BritishandIrishNews.html>
- *Cymru 1914: The Welsh Experience of the First World War* is a new website developed by the National Library of Wales and its partners as part of the WW1 commemorations. Newspapers from Wales covering the period 1914 to 1918 have been digitised and may be searched, viewed and saved. The website includes newspapers from this period that not yet on the NLW Digital Newspaper website. Of specific relevance to Breconshire are:
Brecon & Radnor Express, Carmarthen and Swansea Valley Gazette and Brynmawr District Advertiser, Brecon County Times, Neath Gazette and General Advertiser

Below, and in the next editions of our Newsletter, I will provide more detailed information on newspapers published for Breconshire.

Newspapers of Breconshire interest – Part 1

Brecon Free Press and General Advertiser (1882-1885)

Published: Brecon

Holdings dates: No. 1 – 130 (?1882 - 26 Jun 1885)

continued as

Brecknock Beacon and General Advertiser (1885-1896)

Holdings dates: No. 131 - 691 (3 Jul 1885 - 27 Mar 1896)

Holdings:

Hard copy

- British Library Newspaper Library No. 42 - 691 (20 Oct. 1883 - 1896)
- Microfilm
- NLW 1883 (20 Oct) – 1896 (Mar)
- Cardiff College 1883 (20 Oct) – 1896 (Mar)
- Blaenau Gwent Library 1883 (20 Oct) – 1896 (Mar)
- Powys Archives 1883 (20 Oct) – 1896 (Mar)
- Brecon Library 1886 – 1896 (Mar)

Incorporated into

Brecon and Radnor County Times (1894-1895)

Published: Brecon

See BRECON COUNTY TIMES, NEATH GAZETTE

Brecon County Times, Neath Gazette and General Advertiser, etc. (1866-1893)

Published: Brecon

Holdings dates: No. 1-1386 (5 May 1866 - 29 Dec 1893)

continued as

Brecon County Times (end date: 1933)

Holdings dates: No. ? - 3439 (? - 26 Oct. 1933)

continued as

The Brecon and Radnor County Times (End date: 1894)

Holdings dates: No. 1387 - ? (5 Jan. 1894 - ?)

Holdings:

Hard copy

- British Library Newspaper Library No.1-3439 (1866-1933) [1871; 1896-1898]
- Powys Archives miscellaneous issues
- NLW No.1 - (1866 - 1869; 1909 - 1933)

Microfilm

- Brecon Library 1866-1896, 1898-1933
- Llandrindod Library 1866 (May)-1870, 1872-79, 1881-85, 1888-96, 1899-1933 (Oct), 1986–
- NLW 1866 (May)-1886, 1888-1896, 1898-1933 (Oct) [1887 incorporated into 1897]
- Blaenau Gwent Library 1909-1933
- Bridgend Library 1866 (May)-1870, 1872-79, 1881-85, 1888-96, 1899-1933 (Oct)

incorporated into

Brecon and Radnor Express, and Carmarthen Gazette (1889-1933)

Published: Brecon

Holdings dates: No.1-2277 (4 Oct 1889 - 27 Oct 1933)

continued as

Brecon and Radnor Express and County Times (Start date: 1933)

Holdings dates: No. 2278 (2 Nov. 1933) -

Holdings:

Hard copy

- British Library Newspaper Library No. 1 - (1889-1933)
- Brecon Library 1969-1970; 1994-
- Brecknock Museum 1910-
- Llandrindod Library 1898, 1889, 1904, 1989-
- NLW No.1-984 (4 Oct 1889 - 13 Aug 1908); 1909 (incomplete holdings)

Microfilm

- British Library Newspaper Library 1897
- Brecon Library 1909-1950, 1987-1993
- Llandrindod Library 1889-1897, 1899-1908
- NLW 4 Oct. 1889 - 16 Dec 1897; 1899-1950, 1991 (Brecon edition)-
- Powys Archives 1909-1950
- Blaenau Gwent Library 1909-1950

I hope this is of use and apologise for any errors. Please let me know if you spot any.

Sources: News Plan Wales; Powys Archives

Family History Information

BLFHS member Jacqueline Harvey wonders whether the following information will be helpful to any of our members.

She writes:

I corrected an entry on Ancestry.com regarding a member of the Wilde family of Cefnlllys. John Wilde was born in 1807 in Llandegly, his wife Joan was also born there in 1820.

I received the following email from a member of the Wilde family in America and wondered if it would be of interest to any other family researchers. My own research is on their daughter Elizabeth (1853), so have no male line of interest to Scott Wilds.

I am a very distant American Wilde cousin, looking for folks for a DNA study. If you are in touch with direct male Wilde family members descended from this group who lived in the Greater Llandrindod Wells area - Cefnlllys, Llanbister, Llanddewi Ystradenni, Llandegley, etc, please get in touch.

Also, I have a pretty good Wilde Tree back to about 1600, so do get in touch if this is our family.

Scott Wilds, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (the "S" was added in America).

Direct e-mail: scottwilds@aol.com

Happy New Year/ Blwyddyn Newydd Dda

Here is a lovely site where you can see traditional winter, New Year and January practices being re-enacted today:

http://www.wales.com/en/content/cms/english/about_wales/traditions/traditions.aspx

A Healthy Place to Live

- Healthy Sennybridge

At an inquest held at Brecon on Monday the Coroner (Dr W. R. Jones, Sennybridge) said he had 550 names on his panel under the Insurance Act, and he had not had a single death yet since the Act came into force. The foreman (Mr W. R. Price) said it was a very satisfactory state of things, but it was probably due to the fact that they had plenty of fresh air in Sennybridge

From: *Brecon & Radnor express Carmarthen and Swansea Valley Gazette and Brynmawr District Advertiser*. 1st January 1914.

Our Website

In November, John and Jennie changed the design of the Public and Members' welcome pages by including direct links to:

- our NEWS page, which provides details of the latest developments and additions;
- our NOTICEBOARD, which displays announcements and forthcoming events.

NEXT MEETING

Date and time: Wednesday, 5th February 2014 at 2.00pm

Venue: Brecon Library

Subject: "10 the Struet"

Keith Lee will talk about the changing fortunes of this notable house with its hidden rooms, secret discoveries and fascinating stories.

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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