

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



Newsletter 31 – March 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.

March Meeting Review: Hilary Williams gave an illustrated talk entitled “*Sarah Siddons 1755-1831: What was her fame and why was she claimed as a Brecon Girl?*”

Born in Brecon at the Shoulder of Mutton Inn, and christened in St Mary’s Church in the town, Sarah went on to be an innovative actress, who profoundly changed stagecraft in the British theatre and the public perception of the acting profession, especially of actresses. It is often said that there is nothing new under the sun, and in terms of the media frenzy which Sarah had to navigate, this is certainly the case. “Siddonsmania” was a term coined at the time and was not dissimilar to the public and media appetite for personal information about today’s celebrities.

The talk was followed by a discussion with the audience concerning the reasons why Sarah was adopted as a Breconian. Following a lively and interesting conversation, we concluded that Breconians would have been able to follow Sarah’s career, because the Kemble family were, for decades, regular visitors to Brecon with their Theatre Company. Interest in Sarah’s fame would have been kept alive by regular news of her performances in Bath, London, and on the circuits. The professional inhabitants of Brecon were regular visitors to London and Bath and would have brought home news of her performances. Breconians would not have forgotten that this famous actress had been born in Brecon.

Some links to learn more about Sarah Siddons:

- Search for Sarah Siddons on the Hereford Journal on “*Find my Past*”
<http://www.findmypast.co.uk/search/newspapers>
- The Sarah Siddons fan club <http://www.sarahsiddonsfanclub.org/index.html>
- The Kemble family tree <http://www.kemblefamily.com/>
- The Siddons collection of ephemera at The Claremont Colleges Digital Library (CCDL)
<http://ccdlib.libraries.claremont.edu/cdm/search/searchterm/sarah%20siddons/order/nosort>

As usual, you can access both the audio and visual aspects of the talk on our website. From the member’s page, highlight the ‘Resources’ button and click on ‘Meetings’ from the drop down menu. The March 2014 talk is already there for you and you can access the whole archive of talks from there.

Newspapers of Breconshire interest – Part 3

Monmouth, Glamorgan and Brecon Herald; or Star of Gwent

Published: Newport

Holdings dates: No. 1-40 (1852 – 27 May 1853)

Newport and Monmouth Herald; or Star of Gwent

Holdings dates: No. 41-69 (3 Jun – 30 Dec 1853)

Star of Gwent; Monmouth, Glamorgan and Brecon Herald

Holdings dates: No. 70-835 (6 Jan 1854 – 8 Aug 1868)

Star of Gwent and South Wales Times, Monmouthshire and Border Counties Advertiser

Holdings dates: No. 836-1861 (15 Aug 1868 – 12 Oct 1888)

South Wales Times and Star of Gwent

Holdings dates: No. 1862-2630 (19 Oct 1888 – 24 Jul 1903)

incorporated into

South Wales Weekly Argus

Holdings – Hard copy

- British Library Newspaper Library No. 20-2630 (Jan 1853 – Jul 1903)
- Newport Library 1853-1879; 1881-1903
- National Library of Wales 6 Jan 1854; 4, 11 Aug 1855; 13 Dec 1856; 17 Jan 1857; 11 Sep 1858; 30 Jul 1859; 15 Apr 1865; 22 Aug, 28 Nov 1868; 22 Apr 1871; 5 Oct 1872

Holdings – Microfilm

- British Library Newspaper Library No. 2317-2394 (25 Jun 1897 – 30 Dec 1898) wanting; Jan 1896 – Jun 1897
- National Library of Wales 1853-1903

Radnor Times (1959-1963)

Published: Llandrindod Wells

Holdings dates: 8 Aug 1959 – 19 Aug 1961

continued as

Radnor Times-Brecon Gazette

Holdings dates: 26 Aug 1961 – 29 Mar 1963

continued as

Times Gazette

Holdings dates: 4 Apr 1963 – 29 Mar 1969

Holdings – Hard copy

- British Library Newspaper Library Aug 1959 – 1969
- Llandrindod Library 1961, 1963-1968
- National Library of Wales Sept. 1961-1969

incorporated into

County Times and Gazette (1969-)

Published: Mold

Holdings dates: No. 1 (5 Apr 1969) -

Holdings – Hard copy

- British Library Newspaper Library No.1 (1969) -
- Llandrindod Library 1969-1989
- National Library of Wales No. 1 (1969) –

Holdings – Microfilm

- Llandrindod Library 1990-

Silurian, or South Wales General Advertiser (1836-1855)

Published: Cardiff

Holdings dates: No.1-881 (24 Sept.1836-3 Sept. 1853)

continued as

Silurian, Cardiff, Merthyr, and Brecon Mercury, and South Wales General Advertiser

Holdings dates: No. 882-1031 (10 Sep 1853 – 29 Dec 1855)

Holdings – Hard copy

- British Library Newspaper Library No. 68-1031 (6 Jan 1838-1855) [1844, 1847, 1848 wanting]
- National Library of Wales 4 Aug 1855

Holdings – Microfilm

- National Library of Wales 1838-1843; 1845-1846; 1849-1855
- Brecon Library 1838-1843, 1845-1846, 1849-1855
- Bangor College 1838-43, 1845-46, 1849-55
- Cardiff College 1838-43, 1845-46, 1849-55
- Cardiff Library 1838-43, 1845-46, 1849-55
- Powys Archives 1838-43, 1845-46, 1849-55

incorporated into

Monmouthshire Merlin (1829-1891)

Published: Newport

Holdings dates: No. 1-(23 May 1829-27 Nov. 1891) (ceased publication)

Holdings – Hard copy

- British Library Newspaper Library No. 1 (1829-1891)
- Chepstow Library Jan. 1837-1885 (incomplete holdings)
- Newport Library 1829-1847; 1849; 1851-1875; 1877-1888
- National Library of Wales 1829-1834; 1838-1844; 1855-1884

Holdings – Microfilm

- British Library Newspaper Library Oct.-Dec. 1875 wanting; Jan.- Sept. 1875
- National Library of Wales 1829-1891 (incomplete holdings)

I hope this is of use and apologise for any mistakes which you may find. Let me know if I need to make corrections.

Source: News Plan Wales; Powys Archives

Where is this place?



BLFHS Member Geoff Sykes has acquired this print entitled

Pont Pwl Gwyn, River Usk

From the Mail Road between Trecastle & Brecon

The artist is W. Radclyffe, a well known Victorian engraver, and the date of the engraving is possibly 1840.

Can anyone identify the place, which should probably read *Pont Pwll Gwyn*? I think the view is not necessarily accurate, as was often the case.

NEXT MEETING

Date and time: Wednesday, 2 April 2014 at 2.00pm

Venue: Brecon Library

Subject: "*Archaeology at Risk*": Natalie Ward from Brecon Beacons National Park will talk about some local sites and why they need protection.

BLFHS WEBSITE: Our website address: <http://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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