

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



## Newsletter 35 – August 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.

### **August Meeting Review: “Brecon Remembers World War I”**

Over the past year, BLFHS member Steve Morris and members from the Brecon branch of U3A (University of the Third Age) have been researching the men of Brecon who fell in World War I. A short profile has been prepared for each of the men, including some remarkable stories. The large audience greatly appreciated the amount of work which had gone into researching the Brecon war casualties. This illustrated talk gave a taste of what has been accomplished and we look forward to much more information being made available during Brecknock History Week, especially at the launch event entitled *‘Brecknock Remembers: Reflections and Memories of the Great War’*, on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2014 from 6.00–9:00pm at The Studio, Theatr Brycheiniog. Steve and others from the various Brecknock communities will give short profiles of many more of the war casualties. If you can, do come along to this free event.

You have all received either an e-mail attachment or postal hard copy of the *“Brecknock History Week 2014”* programme.

### **This month on our Website**

Since our last Newsletter (published 19 July 2014), we have added/updated the following:

- **Committee Meeting Minutes** for July meeting: <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/members/minutes/>
  - **Members’ Articles**: new item added 29 July <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/members/articles/>
  - **Public Articles**: new item added 17 August <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/articles.htm>
  - **Public News Pages**: last updated 16 August <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/news.htm>
  - **Members’ News Pages**: last updated 16 August <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/members/news.htm>
- **Check the News Pages every few days and the Noticeboard at least weekly.**

**Help urgently needed!** No new Parish Pages have been added since the last newsletter because John Ball, who is developing the pages, desperately needs more information and photographs for the next parishes on his list: Crickadarn, Crickhowell, Garthbrenge, and Glasbury. If you can contribute any such material, email John at [john@jlb2011.co.uk](mailto:john@jlb2011.co.uk)

Please report any problems with the website to our webmaster, John Ball, at [john@jlb2011.co.uk](mailto:john@jlb2011.co.uk)

### **WW1 – On the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Britain entering War, we offer four examples of how Breconshire local newspapers represented the Declaration of War on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914:**

*“The Brecon & Radnor Express, Carmarthen and Swansea Valley Gazette and Brynmawr District Advertiser”*, Thursday 6th August 1914.

No Need for Panic. All day Tuesday there was a run on the stores in Brecon, and during the day prices rose considerably. Many persons living in the country ordered very large stocks of supplies from grocers in the various towns in the county, and this gave rise to the impression, that there would shortly be a shortage of food supplies. It should be stated, however, that there is no need of panic. In this regard the Government have signified its intention to take this matter in hand and ensure fair play to all classes. The public are warned against paying very high prices which in some cases are being asked,

because such prices are no true criterion as to the state of the market. The trade routes of the Empire, at the time of writing, are still open, and there is no reason to doubt that ample supplies of food-stuffs will be forthcoming from Canada and the United States in sufficient quantities to satisfy the general demand. In fairness to traders, it should be pointed out that they are experiencing great difficulty in getting supplies from the wholesalers, and that the prices asked by retail merchants are necessary owing to the prices which they themselves are called upon to pay to their wholesale houses.

*"The Brecon & Radnor Express, Carmarthen and Swansea Valley Gazette and Brynmawr District Advertiser", Thursday 6th August 1914.*

ADVERT: The war excitement is trying to the nerves. Let me suggest that you try a cup of Morris's 2s Tea. This celebrated tea will quiet and steady the nerves as no other can. Just you try it. Morris, The Value Giving Grocer, 17, Bridge Street, Brecon. 746.

*"The Brecon & Radnor Express, Carmarthen and Swansea Valley Gazette and Brynmawr District Advertiser", Thursday 6th August, 1914*

#### 'EXPRESS' WAR SERVICE

Ever since the sensational movements on the Continent the 'Express' Office at Brecon has been the rendezvous of very large crowds anxious to read the latest messages posted up on the windows at frequent intervals.

Arrangements have now been made whereby this service will be extended to private individuals in all parts of Breconshire and Radnorshire. The 'Express' has established a Private Telegram Bureau, and on receipt of a shilling will forward a message of 12

words (including name and address), or a message up to 24 words for 1/6. All wires must be paid for in advance, and the name and address clearly stated, also the nearest, Post Office and its hour of closing. No more than two messages can be supplied during any one day, but telegrams will be despatched at any hour chosen by recipients, or at such times as the 'Express' receives any startling information. Envelopes should be addressed: Private Wire Department, 'Express,' Brecon.

*"The Brecon County Times, Neath Gazette and General Advertiser", Thursday, 6 August 1914.*

Territorials Off. There were stirring scenes in Brecon on Tuesday night when it became known that the Territorials were to be mobilised and sent to their War Station for duty. The mobilisation order included the whole of the Reserves, who have to come to the Depot, but many of these live some distance away and they came in gradually. Not so with the Territorials. They had just come, from camp with the expectation of being mobilised, and before mid-night Tuesday probably every man in the county had had his order. At Brecon headquarters several young fellows helped as despatch riders on motor cycles. The Brecon headquarter company had instructions to parade at the Drill Hall at 5.30 on Wednesday morning and every man was there. Medical examination by Lieutenant Dr. Bridge followed, and very few were rejected. The previous day, in anticipation of a mobilisation, tradesmen had been consulted as to a temporary supply of

provisions, and as a result full provisions for the battalion for two days were ready for the train on Wednesday morning. After settling in their new quarters the Brecknocks will be supplied like any other Army unit. The work of equipment was rapidly done during Wednesday both at Brecon and at the other company headquarters in the county, and one by one the various companies reached the county town. Mount Street School was requisitioned for the use of some of them, the accommodation of the local Drill Hall not being sufficient. The orders were for departure of the battalion in two trains to Pembrokeshire in the evening, and at the time of writing practically everything was ready for the start. A number of Brecon men have already come forward to join the Territorials. The Special Reserves of the S.W.B. (the old Militia) are coming in, and it is expected they will be ready to leave, in command of Colonel Stuart Morgan, on Friday.

#### Welsh newspapers can be read online at:

- <http://welshnewspapers.llgc.org.uk>
- <http://cymru1914.org>

#### NEXT MEETINGS

Date and time: Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014 at 2:00 pm  
Venue: Brecon Library  
Subject: *Walter Wilkins, Governor of Chittagong, Brecon Banker and MP for Radnorshire 1796-1828*  
Ken Jones will tell us about Walter Wilkins, one of the notable Brecon residents of his time. After travelling the world, he settled in the town as an influential business man.

Date and time: Monday, 8th to Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2014 during library opening hours.  
Venue: Brecon Library  
Subject *Brecknock History Week*: BLFHS exhibition of material showing the impact of World War 1 on the town of Brecon – the Home Front. The exhibition will be manned from 10:00am to midday each morning, so if you have any family memories to share, please come along and tell us your story.

**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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