



Breconshire Local & Family History Society (BLFHS)

Cymdeithas Hanes Lleol a Theuluoedd Brycheiniog

Newsletter 68 - August 2017

One Man – Two Lives.

The last instalment in our story of
Rees Price Pritchard

Frank arrives

From this point on the records start to show him as Francis Samuel Pritchard. However, when Frank disembarks in Melbourne he is not yet in his 'new home' and it takes another three years before he settles in Otago. During his time in Melbourne there is little record of what he did and who he met. He arrives with money in his pocket in New Zealand, though where from, is unknown. Years later he is reported to be growing grapes, so perhaps he spent time with the blossoming French wine-growing society of Victoria. By 1873 we can say Frank has truly arrived! The old Welsh boy is no more. A man with a future as land owner and successful gardener steps on to New Zealand soil. And what a spot! Oamaru is place of spectacular vistas. The landscape is wide and clear from the twin peaks of Mount Duster and Domett in the Southern Alps to the Waitaki River and rugged coastline. It is here that Frank purchases property on the township's High Ward and sets about establishing an orchard. He meets James Davey's younger sister, Elizabeth Jane of Somerset and they marry in Dunedin in the spring of 1874.

This month on our website

Just a reminder

Update: development of the new website is going well. Most of the new pages have now been converted and our web master is working on ways to display the documents, photographs and other media as well as to make things easy for us to add more content in the future. We hope that the new website will be ready to launch by the end of September 2017 but we will continue to update members as we have more information on this.

Members continue to be able to access the current website as normal but as reported previously, no new items will be placed on it, no old items will be removed, and no amendments will be made. When the new website is up and running, visitors will be able to access old and new data as before. Access to the member's section of the new website will require a different username and password from the ones currently in use; members will be informed about this in time for the launch. I hope that everyone understands the need for this change and will bear with us until every section of our website has been converted to the new CMS website platform.



Figure 20 Samuel Francis' Brother-in-Law, James Beadon Davey, with his wife, Jessie. Possibly taken in Bay of Plenty.

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Part 3 – Frank; husband, father, gardener

A happy-ever-after was not to be, and barely a year later poor twenty-two year old Lizzie and her newborn baby die. Lizzie contracts a fever shortly after birth and the wee baby girl dies of bronchitis sixteen hours later. Within three days Frank's world comes crashing down. He blesses his precious little girl with his mother's name, Mary and buries her and Lizzie together under a yew tree in the Anglican section of Oamaru cemetery. For a while Frank seems to retreat into history. Understandably so.

Peace in the Orchard

Later he will buy another ten acres and a shop up the line in Pukeuri Junction, six miles north of Oamaru. For now though he recovers in Oamaru. He lets the council run a water-race through the property; he wins first prize at the local Horticultural Show for his 'selection of black and red grapes'

and largely, he stays put. It is preferable to think of these intervening years as a time when Frank is comfortable. That his grief fades and perhaps like many gardeners, he finds a kind of solace trimming trees and digging soil.

He has chosen a good place to put down roots for the soil in Oamaru is well renowned. So good that it was reported (without bias!) in the Oamaru Mail; "phenomenally luscious apricots and peaches are in such superabundance there that they are often a drug, and it has also been declared during a whole generation that "over the wall" excellent grapes will grow in profusion" (The Oamaru Mail, 1909).

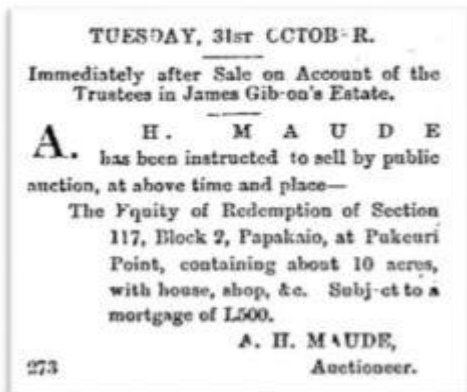


Figure 21 Oamaru Mail, 23 Oct 1882

Figure 21 Oamaru Mail, 23 Oct 1882

Then when Frank is fifty-three love returns. He marries an Irish Catholic immigrant by the name of Mary Collins. She is twenty-two, just as Lizzie was, but this time he appears to find a strength in Mary. She seems a staunch wee thing or maybe it is the circumstances ahead that make her so. Her father and brother are both miners and she has two sisters, one in Dunedin and one living in Melbourne, Australia. She marries Frank in the St Patricks Catholic cathedral of Melbourne with her sister as witness. She persuades her husband to bring up their children in the faith too, despite him being Anglican!

Figure 22 Marriage notification in Oamaru Mail, 1890

The business does well and Mary even runs a small shop. It seems that the Welsh proverb holds true for Frank and Mary; "A seed hidden in the heart of an apple is an orchard invisible" for their life together starts to bloom. Within ten years they have six children under ten. Surprisingly their time together is also too short for Frank is admitted in April 1901 to Oamaru Hospital with fluid retention and year later he is diagnosed with Prostate Cancer.

And so this story comes full circle. Frank lies in a bed in Oamaru hospital dying of a long and sad illness. There are some endings you wish did not need to be written. That somehow you could find an error in the research; rub out the records and extend a life. If only Frank could have lived until his seventies or eighties. Just a little while longer. He seems to have only just set down roots in the 'Gods Own'. To only just have grown his beloved orchard. To only just have found lasting love. This new man; our Frank, has lived half a life on either side of the world and on the morning of the second of September, 1902 he slips away.

His legacy

It is easy to think that Frank would have been very proud of Mary and his children. She picks up and carries on. She nurses her own father until he too passes away two months after Frank. She finds

time to teach her girls to sew and play the piano. She nurses Arthur through disease of the knee and an operation to have it straightened two years later. She gets involved in school like any good parent, even giving them the use of her land for sports days. She carries on the shop and moves in to Oamaru with the business. One of the boys, Roy goes on to run a skating rink in town and later she watches with heavy heart as he heads off to war. If she was anything like her grandson, Allen Pritchard then I'd imagine it was her faith and resolve that carried her through.

Finally in 1920 she is in No.1 Torridge Street, Oamaru. Her children are grown and Roy has returned safely from France, so she and her daughters (Maud, Eva May and Kitty) move to Palmerston North. There they live above The Square in Maud's little shop and flat. The boys also do well as bootmaker (Arthur Llewellyn Pugh), boilermaker (Edward Joseph Fitzroy) and Railway Fireman and Driver (William Roland Dalzell). Unusually only two of Samuel and Mary's children go on to have children of their own: Arthur and William. And although, much like Frank, she only lives until her sixties, Mary sees their family grow in to fine young women and men. She knows he would have been proud! She also sees their oldest son Arthur marry a London lass, Juliet Crawford and she blesses each of Arthur and Julie's four children, including cheeky wee Allen Pritchard born just four years before she passed.

Conclusion

I understand that there is something very precious about the relationship between father and son. Fathers carve out the foundational stone of the adults their sons will become. And whether the boy strongly agrees or disagrees with his Dads behaviour and beliefs a father's influence is undeniable. So, what happens then to a son who moves away from his father when he is young? What does it do to the boy when his Dad is already nearly sixty when the lad is growing up? Both Samuel and his son Arthur lost their fathers early. Samuel Francis never goes home after age thirteen and Arthur is only nine when his father passes away. The answer lies in the story of 'two halves'. If the roots of a child's life are unearthed then they must find another grounding and Samuel did that. It is as if Samuel left the middle-aged Welshman behind and reinvented himself here. And yet it is important to remember that his Welsh life was crucial to the success of his time in New Zealand. At the same time losing Lizzie seemed to make him stronger, not weaker. We are never truly half a person though, just as Samuel Francis wasn't really either 'Samuel' or 'Frank'. We may take a while to find a comfortable space or a loving partner in which to truly be ourselves, but when that happens it is the sum of our parts that becomes greater than the whole.

The sum of Samuel's short life represents more than his mere sixty years. His influence has reached out even past death to touch the generations that came after. Some have sought to be like Frank and others have reflected his character without even realising it. The gardener, the traveller, the singer, the risk-taker, the family man and even the loner. We are all of us a little akin to our ancestors no matter how far we travel from their presence. This is what legacy is. This is what family is. This then is Samuel Francis 'Frank' Pritchard.

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This concludes our serialisation of “One Man, Two Lives” with many thanks to Clair Callaghan for allowing us to serialise and share it with our members.



Free Online Resources

There are lots of free resources out there on the Internet. Copy and paste the web addresses into your browser.

Places of Wales

Search and browse over 300,000 entries from the tithe maps of Wales and accompanying apportionment documents using original and present-day maps. <https://places.library.wales/>

Railway Work: Life and Death

The website for the Railway Work, Life and Death project, a joint initiative between the University of Portsmouth and the National Railway Museum (NRM) aims to make it easier to find out about railway worker accidents in Britain between 1911 and 1915 – who was involved, what they were doing on the railways, what happened to them and why. In this project a team of volunteers from the NRM have painstakingly been through reports produced by the state-appointed Railway Inspectorate between 1911 and 1915, detailing investigations into railway worker accidents.

They’ve extracted the details found in the reports – things like names, ages, roles, companies and details of the accident – and entered them into a spreadsheet. This spreadsheet is now available at the website:

<http://www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk/the-accidents/>

Royal Voluntary Service Archive and Heritage Collection Online Catalogue



A fully searchable catalogue containing listings, many with preview images, of a selection of historical material housed in the Archive & Heritage Collection.

The catalogue is also the gateway to digital downloadable versions of all 419 issues of the WVS/WRVS Bulletins from 1939-1974.

As an example: typing Breconshire into the Bulletin keyword box in the Advanced Search brings up many references to places in Breconshire. To find the relevant section in each Bulletin first download it and then search using Control F and type Breconshire into the search box which appears at the top right of your screen. This will then highlight the

number of instances that the search word occurs and you can page through them.

<http://catalogue.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/calmview/>



MEMBERS' INTERESTS

New Member interests. If you can provide any assistance to these members please contact them using the details on the website or via our general enquiry email address; enquiries@blfhs.co.uk

You can access the list from the Resources drop down list on the Members' homepage or by going directly to www.blfhs.co.uk/members/members-interests.htm

MEMBER: Mrs Alison Crum

NAME	DATES	PLACE
Prothero	1900's	Cwmtaf



The Beacon

This free A5 monthly glossy magazine distributed in Brecon and its surrounding villages contains a "Your History" column, contributed by the BLFHS, which often offers an interesting article about the area. July's article was about The Old Bank (Lloyds Bank)

The Old Bank (Lloyds Bank)

The Old Bank was founded in 1778 by Walter and Jeffrey Wilkins to finance the drovers and ironmasters of South Wales, and to pay the wages of their own foundries of Cyfarthfa, Penydarren and Dowlais at Merthyr and the Abernant works at Aberdare.

The building in which it was started is still used as a branch of Lloyds Bank, today, and must have looked much

the same throughout its two hundred and thirty-nine year existence.

The four original partners, Walter, Jeffrey and Richard Wilkins and Walter Jeffreys each put up £1000 to form the joint-stock bank. The bank dealt mostly with agricultural business, Brecon was on the route of the drovers, who bought cattle in West Wales and drove them to the West Midlands and London.

Wilkins Bank issued their own banknotes until they were bought out by Lloyds Bank in 1890. Wilkins & Co opened a branch in Merthyr in 1812, and David Evans, who had been clerk in the Brecon Bank was made manager of the Merthyr branch, and later became a partner in "The Old Bank". Branches of "The Old Bank" were opened as follows: Brecon 1778, Merthyr 1812, Haverfordwest 1828, Cardigan 1831, Llanelli 1837, Aberdare 1854, and Cardiff 1856.



BRECONSHIRE STRAYS

MONMOUTHSHIRE

LLANFOIST

Marriages

Jas Wm Hinckley, widow, 42, farrier, Llangattock Crickhowell: [Father?] Jas Hinckley, farmer
Married

Sarah Ann Forty, spinster, otp. [Father?] John Forty, market gardener.

9 Apr 1887

[Witnesses] David Pugh, Mary Ann Davies.

Superintendent Registrar's Certificate.

NOTE: Both witnesses were regulars; they witnessed many of the marriages.

LLANGATTOCK LINGOED

Baptisms

Henry Chas illegit s/o Esther Teague, Crickhowell, servant. 20 Sep 1861

Wm Jas s/o Geo & Ann Coombs, Ystradfellte, Brecs., gardener. 20 Sep 1878. Conditional baptism.

NOTE: A Conditional Baptism is where a Christian baptism is administered where there is doubt whether a person was ever baptised or whether a former baptism is valid.

Marriages

Edwin Clifford Evans, 29, bach., dairyman. Cardigan Dairy Llanelly. [Father?] Theophilus Wm Evans (deceased), farmer. (assume this is Llanelly, Brecs.)
Married

Kathleen Mary Gwillim, 29, spin., otp. [Father?] Edward Gwillim, farmer.

4 Sep 1939

Witnesses; David Brinley [&] Edward Gwillim. [By] Licence.

Noel Henry Jones, 34, bach., gardener, Llangattock Crickhowell.

[Father?] Rumsey Jones, retired.

Married

Lilian Elizth Purveur, 19, spin., otp.

[Father?] Wm Purveur, builder.

20 Nov 1951

Wit[nesses]: Rumsey Jones [&] Joyce Purveur. [By] Banns.

BRECONSHIRE STRAYS

MONMOUTHSHIRE

CAERLEON

Marriages

Willoughby Arlingham Davies, 22, bachelor, Flight Superintendent Royal Navy, Crickhowell.

Father: Richard Henry Davies, Solicitor.

[To]

Mary Catherine Steward, 27, spinster, Caerlon.

Father; Wm Stewart, mining engineer.

28 Dec 1915

Witnesses; Margt Stewart [&] ...?...?...? [By] Licence.

Richard Whittington, 25, bach., warehouse man, 19 Clarence St., Brynmawr.

[Father?] Harold Ernest Whittington, Civil Servant.

[To]

Norma Elizth Tooze, 22, spin, State Registered Nurse, 14 Mill St., Caerleon.

[Father?] Harold Ernest Tooze, production clerk.

24 Aug 1963

Wit[nesses]: WR Harrison [&] EA Tooze. [By] Banns.

NEWPORT

Burials

Holy Trinity Christchurch

William Fothergill, Talgarth, Brecs. 22 Mar 1828, aged 54

Powys Archives

Powys Archives has moved to a new home at
Unit 29 Ddole Road Enterprise Park,
Llandrindod Wells.

The public search room will reopen on August 29th 2017. Booking will still be essential and appointments can be made by email

(archives@powys.gov.uk)

or

telephone (01597 826088)



BRECKNOCK HISTORY FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2017



The Great Houses & Estates of Brecknockshire

A range of events across the historic county of Breconshire organised by members of the Brecknock History Forum.

Brecknock History Festival

This takes place during September & October 2017 and this year's subject is "The Great Houses and Estates of Brecknockshire". Some events are free but others will incur a charge. For more information please contact Elaine Starling (01874 711484 or evstarling@lineone.net)

Some events are part of OPEN DOORS which celebrates the architecture and heritage of Wales.

For a full list of the events being organised for OPEN DOORS across the whole of Wales in September please see the Cadw website.

A range of events across the historic county of Breconshire organised by members of the Brecknock History Forum.

Events are being held at the following locations: Brecon Hay on Wye Llandew Llangynidr Llanhamlach Penpont Treholford.



August Meeting Review: The Drowning of Cwmtaf

A good number of members and visitors attended the August meeting to hear Gwyneth Evans' talk on "The Drowning of Cwmtaf - and the impact on the way of life of its inhabitants".

Gwyneth's passion for her subject (she was born and brought up close to the flooded valley) was evident as she explained the reasons for the need to build dams and reservoirs in the area and the subsequent requisitioning of many farms and homes. She produced maps and photographs which helped to bring to life the stories of the people who lived there and the buildings which were important to them - her tales of the little school had everyone laughing. She had an article about the chapel, which celebrated its centenary in 2014, published in the journal "Brycheiniog".

Gwyneth's article can also be purchased from her. Her contact e-mail address is: gwyneth.evans5@btinternet.com



Don't forget – I am always looking for interesting article subjects so let me know if you have anything you would like to share!!!!

I am looking for interesting subjects on which to base the monthly article. If you are passionate about a subject which you think would be interesting to our members please let me know by sending me an email at the usual address editorblfhs@outlook.com



Website

Our website address is www.blfhs.co.uk

Next Meeting

Date/Time: Tuesday Aug 1st 2017 2pm

Place: Brecon Public Library

Subject: Walter Wilkins, Banker, Entrepreneur and Politician: Part Two

Breconshire
Local & Family
History Society



Cymdeithas Hanes
Lleol a Theuluoedd
Brycheiniog

Brecon Public Library

Ship Street, Brecon

*Access is through the main library entrance in Ship Street;
or to use the lift, enter via the garage area in Bell Lane.*

Walter Wilkins

Part 2

**Ken Jones will continue the story of
Walter Wilkins, Banker, Entrepreneur
And Politician**

Tuesday 5th September 2017

2:00pm

All Welcome

(£1.00 entry fee for non-members)

Further details from Hilary Williams (01874) 624432
and on our website: <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/>