



# Breconshire Local & Family History Society (BLFHS)

## Cymdeithas Hanes Lleol a Theuluoedd Brycheiniog

### Newsletter 70 - October 2017

## Frances Hoggan MD 1843-1927

Mary "Eppynt" Phillips is often accorded as the first woman doctor in Wales. But this is to forget that some thirty years before she matriculated from Cardiff University another Breconshire woman had successfully completed her studies to achieve a degree in medicine and was practising in London.

Frances Elizabeth Morgan was born in Brecon on December 20<sup>th</sup> 1843 and baptised at St John the Evangelist on February 20<sup>th</sup> 1844. Her parents were Georgiana and Richard Morgan. Richard was the curate at St John's and the baptism entry shows that he baptised his own child. Georgiana Catherine Phillips was the daughter of a naval captain, John George Phillips of Cwmgwilli in Carmarthenshire. Richard Morgan was the son of Robert and Elizabeth Voyle Morgan who came from Pembrokeshire. Richard and Georgiana, who was a widow with a small child when she married Richard, married on January 26<sup>th</sup> 1843 at St John the Evangelist, Brecon. Richard was at this time Vicar of Aberavon and Baglan but his life was cut short by illness and he died on March 14<sup>th</sup> 1851 at the Parsonage House. Despite this short marriage the couple had five children, Frances being the eldest. She was followed by Robert, Emma Jane, Thomas Herbert and Catherine Sarah.

The census shows that Frances moved around during her growing up years. In the first census after her birth she can be found living with Thomas Morgan, a farmer, in Laugherne Carmarthenshire. He was most probably her uncle. By 1861 she is noted as a visitor to the same Thomas Morgan who has by this time moved to Cheshunt in Hertfordshire where his farm has grown substantially. During the period after Richard Morgan's death his widow moved to Cowbridge and it is likely that Frances began her education here. The Cambrian Index has an entry indicating that the sale of furniture of the Reverend Richard Morgan of the Parsonage House took place in July of 1851, some four months after his death. The new vicar was given the living of Aberavon just a few days before the sale. Despite this almost ignominious eviction the Census of 1861 shows her living at High Street, Cowbridge, with her son by her first marriage, Louis R G Vaughan and two children by Richard, Thomas and Catherine. She is described as a "landed proprietress" so appears to have her own income. It's presumed that Frances also lived here when not visiting relatives.

Sometime after 1861 Frances travelled to Paris and Dusseldorf to continue her education, before returning to England in 1867. She hoped to become a doctor but at the time no medical school in England or Wales

## This month on our website

### Just a reminder

Update: The new website is coming along and it is hoped that it will be available to members sometime in October.

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.

would admit women. She joined a small venture set up by Elizabeth Garrett, a woman who was already a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries, the only medical institution at that time to admit women. Along with Elizabeth Blackwell she had set up a small medical school for women and proceeded to not only provide a dispensary for women and children but also a small private school in which to teach women the necessary subjects to enable them to become medical practitioners. In 1867 Frances took the preliminary exam of the Society of Apothecaries and passed with Honours but the Society, which had already attempted to prevent Elizabeth Garrett from becoming a member, now sought to exclude women altogether. They resolved that all potential members must have studied at a recognised school of medicine which effectively excluded women



Frances Hoggan

who had studied privately. The actions and attitudes of the Society were not much different to the attitudes of all of the medical institutions in England and Wales at this time which all sought to exclude women. Some years later a U.S newspaper, the *Daily Gazette – Fort Wayne*, made comment upon this and was particularly scathing about the methods used to achieve this end. [*Daily Gazette. Fort Wayne. Indiana. March 7<sup>th</sup> 1885*]

With no chance of studying in Britain Frances left and in the same year, 1867, travelled to Zurich to enrol as a medical student at Zurich University. She completed the six year degree in only three years and graduated in 1870, three months before Elizabeth Garrett, who had gone to Paris to undertake her studies. Frances was one of only two woman to graduate in medicine in Europe at this time and her Doctorate Thesis on the progression of muscular dystrophy was considered of some importance not least because it challenged the views of her own tutor. Despite this difference of opinion her arguments were persuasive and she was duly awarded her Doctorate.

Returning to England Frances still found herself a second class citizen in terms of her medical degree because the Medical Act of 1865, which was still in force, stated that foreign degrees could not be registered. She went back to work with Elizabeth Garrett at her Dispensary for Women and Children in London and along with Elizabeth Garrett and Elizabeth Blackwell set up *The National Health Society* which sought to encourage a greater understanding of the need for sanitary standards. Their motto was “Prevention is better than Cure” Frances married George Hoggan, a Scottish doctor who had decided to study medicine after an earlier career in the British Navy and had graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 1872. Whilst at Edinburgh George had become very interested in experimental medicine and had travelled to Paris to study with Claude Bernard, a French physiologist who was the first person to suggest the usefulness of blind experiments. However, George was shocked at the animal experimentation he found and soon became an advocate of the anti-vivisection society. In 1875 alongside another colleague, Frances Power Cobbe, he helped to set up the Society for the Protection of Animals Liable to Vivisection and continued to campaign against experiments on animals until his death.

By 1878 the British Medical Association was still not admitting women but an Act of 1876 had enabled all medical examining boards to examine women. The King’s and Queen’s College of Physicians of Ireland was the first to put this into practice and so Frances obtained her Licentiate and was duly registered in February 1877. In 1880 she became the first woman member of the College, now renamed the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

Frances and George set up their medical practice, working from home but Frances continued to work with Elizabeth Garratt (now Elizabeth Garratt Anderson) at her New Hospital for Women which had relocated to

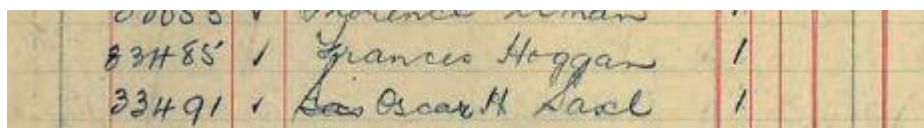
Marylebone Road in 1865. In 1881 they are recorded as living at 7 Trevor Terrace, Rutland Gate, Kensington along with a woman called Elsie Morgan aged 19, born in Brussels. It was long believed that whilst abroad Frances had had an illegitimate child and that this was that child. However, she had not been brought up by Frances but within the family as Frances' sister. An examination of the dates shows that this could not be possible despite her being described in the 1881 Census as George's sister in law. Little is known of Elsie's paternity and it is not known whether Elsie was ever aware that Frances was her mother. The name Elsie also appears to be a census transcription error as the child's name is believed to have been Elise. From Frances' point of view the truth of her birth could not have come out in the Victorian Society within which she lived and worked. It would have caused a great deal of difficulty and it is likely that Frances' ability to practise as a doctor would have been severely curtailed.

Frances and George continued working together whilst also agitating against vivisection and wrote many letters and articles on the issue. They were both very much against compulsory vaccination, a view which many anti-vivisectionists also supported. In the *Vaccination Enquirer of September 1883* they presented a long and carefully argued letter about their views.

Frances was also very concerned about the care of women, particularly those of different cultures and faiths who were not fortunate enough to have the facilities enjoyed in Britain. She wanted to improve medical care for women who could not consult male doctors because of their culture and specifically directed this interest toward the plight of the Indian women. She campaigned for medical schools to be opened to allow Indian women to train as doctors and her passion for her subject persuaded an American businessman, George Kittredge, to set up a fund for Indian women called the *Medical Women for India Fund, Bombay*. The campaign was intended to promote the employment of British medical women in India and the establishment of medical schools and hospitals for Indian women. Such a success was the campaign that even Queen Victoria supported it. However, it did conflict with Frances' intention that India should be training its own women doctors rather than importing them from Britain.

Despite spending most of her life outside Wales Frances never forgot her roots and was heavily involved in promoting education for children in Wales. She was a governor member of Aberdare Hall, University College of Wales Cardiff and was also asked to give evidence on the issue of children's education to the Aberdare Committee of Intermediate and Higher Education in Wales. Her recommendations were published in *Education for Girls in Wales in 1882* [London Women's Printing Society], and put forward her view that educating more women would bring them economic independence and help to improve the educational and cultural standards of the nation. She wrote many papers on issues surrounding the child including *The Position of the Mother in the Family* [Manchester, 1884] and *Physical Education for Girls* [Froebel Society paper 9.12.1879]

By 1884 George's health began to fail and he was diagnosed with a cerebral tumour. In 1885 the couple moved abroad to, firstly Villa Haute-vue, St Antoine, Monaco, and then in 1890 to Villa Griselle, Beaulieu, Alpes Maritime. George died in Nice in May 1891 and was cremated at Pe're Lachaise Cemetery in Paris. His ashes were brought back to England and buried at St John's Crematorium in Woking. Frances returned to England but didn't resume her general practice work preferring to spend her time campaigning for the many issues she had long been interested in. In 1911 Outward Passenger Lists show her travelling to New York on



Entry in passenger list of SS St Louis to New York 1911

the SS St Louis. She was very interested in the plight of black women in America and spoke frequently there and in England on issues of race and slavery. She spoke at the First Universal Race Congress in London in 1911 and it is reputed that despite her age she joined an expedition to inspect native villages in South Africa. There is certainly an Outward Passage entry for her to South Africa on the Galeka to Cape Town in 1909 along with what seems to be a contingent of doctors. For the next ten years or so Frances continued campaigning and travelling. The Medical Register shows her in 1905 living at 15 Bisham Gardens, Highgate and at 38 Flanders Mansions, Bedford Park in 1911 although at Census time she is recorded as lodging at 23 Kildare Terrace, Paddington. At some point she moved to the South Coast and died on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 1927 in Brighton. She was cremated and her ashes interred with her husbands at Woking. An obituary to her appeared in the *British Medical Journal* of 19.2.1927.

1890 Medical Register Entry for Frances  
Hoggan listing the many articles she had written

HOGGAN, GEORGE, Villa Griselli, Beaulieu, Alpes Maritimes, France—M.B. Edin. and C.M. 1872; (*Univ. and R.C.S. Edin. and Paris*); Mem. Brit. Med. Assoc.; late Demonstrator of Anat. Surg. Hall, and Lect. on Anat. at Minto House, Edin. Author of "A New Section Cutter for the Microscope," *Journ. Quek. Micros. Club*, 1876; (jointly with Mrs. Hoggan, M.D.) "Étude sur le Rôle des Lymphatiques de la Peau dans l'Infection Cancéreuse," *Archiv. de Physiol.* 1880; "Change-ments subis par le Système Nerveux dans la Lèpre," *Ibid.* 1882; "Étude sur les Lymphatiques de la Peau," *Journ. de l'Anat.* 1879; "Étude sur les Terminaisons Nerveuses dans la Peau," *Ibid.* 1883; "Development and Retrogression of the Fat-cell," *Journ. Roy. Micros. Soc.* 1879; "Development and Retrogression of Blood Vessels," *Ibid.* 1880; "On the Lymphatics of the Perichondrium," *Journ. Anat.* 1880; "The Lymphatics of the Mammalian Urinary Bladder," *Ibid.* 1881; "The Lymphatics of Vascular Walls," *Ibid.* 1882; "The Lymphatics of the Periosteum," *Ibid.* 1883; "New Forms of Nerve Terminations in Mammalian Skin," *Ibid.* 1884; "Multiple Lymphatic Nævi of the Skin," *Ibid.* 1884. Contrib. "The Erectile Action of the Blood Pressure in Respiration, &c.," *Edin. Med. Journ.* 1872.

HOGGAN, FRANCES ELIZABETH, Villa Griselli, Beaulieu, Alpes Maritimes, France—M.D. Zürich, 1870; M.K.Q.C.P. Irel. 1880, L. and L.M. 1877; (*Univ. Zürich, Prague and Vienna*); Mem. Congrès Méd. Internat.; late Phys. New Hosp. for Wom. Author of "Ueber Progressive Muskel-Atrophie" (Grad. Thesis); "Medical Women for India," *Contemp. Rev.* 1882; "On the Physical Education of Girls," 1880; "On Sanitary Conveniences for Women," 1880; "The Position of the Mother in the Family," 1884; "Sopra un Caso di Difteroide," *Atti della Soc. dei Med. Italiani*, 1878; (jointly with G. Hoggan, M.B.) "Zur Pathologie und Therapie der Dysmenorrhœa Membranacea," *Archiv für Gynäcol.* 1876; "Étude sur les Lymphatiques des Muscles Striés," *Journ. de l'Anat.* 1879; "Sur la Dégénération et Régénération du Cylindre-axe," *Ibid.* 1882; "Des Lymphatiques du Périchondre," *Comptes Rendus de l'Acad. des Sci.* 1879; "Des Effets produits sur les Glandes Sudoripares par le Carcinome et par la Lèpre," *Comptes Rendus du Congrès Méd. Internat.* 1879; "Zur Pathologischen Histologie der Schmerzhaften Subcutanen Geschwulst," *Virchow's Archiv*, 1881; "The Lymphatics of the Pancreas," *Journ. Anat. and Physiol.* 1881; "The Comparative Anatomy of the Lymphatics of the Uterus," *Ibid.*; and other Papers in *Journ. Roy. Micros. Soc., Med. Exam., Tagbl. der Naturf. Versamm., &c.*

1890 Medical Register Entry for George Hoggan  
listing his many articles.

In 2016 The Learned Society of Wales established the Frances Hoggan Medal. This was to be awarded annually in the areas of science, medicine, engineering, technology or mathematics, to recognise the contribution made by an outstanding woman connected with Wales. In 1970 a Font ewer was dedicated to her memory at Brecon Cathedral and presented by the Brecknock Society.

**The Frances Hoggan  
Medal**

*Celebrating outstanding  
research by women in STEM*



Frances Hoggan was a gifted doctor and social reformer and a pioneer in medical practice. As the first woman doctor to be registered in Wales she laid the foundations for all those women who came after her.



## A success story!

Sometimes we are approached and asked if we can help find “missing” ancestors. Usually this is because the person asking has come up against a brick wall and doesn’t know where to go next. We had such a request recently from Vicky Snow. Her family lived in Brecon but despite having some information she had had little luck in finding her relatives. The message went out to members of our group and many responded to the challenge. After some work we worked her family back and I am glad to report that Vicky managed to make contact with her family. Here is her email thanking us for all our efforts. If anyone has relatives in West Sussex Vicky is offering to research at the local records office in reciprocation for all our effort.

*I am writing to extend my most heartfelt thanks to the BLFHS! Thanks to the wonderful help I have received from you all, I've been able to find my Nan's paternal and maternal branches of the family, and most importantly, use that information to connect with a great aunt/aunt in my mums case, who it turns out is still alive! We've connected with this side of the family now, and are planning a trip there soon! My mum is over the moon, because, as I've found out, it's been 20 years since she last spoke to them!*

*In thanks for the outstanding work you have all helped me with, I offer the following. If anyone needs anything looking up at either the Portsmouth Records office, or the Chichester records office (which covers West Sussex) both are quite close and easy to get to for me, and I would be more than willing to go and see what I can unearth for you!*

*Once again, many many thanks for everything,*

*Vicky Snow*

It's very heartening when a story like this has a happy ending – the genealogical family is a very giving one and I am sure our members will be pleased to hear that we were able to help.



## Free Online Resources

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

### Welsh Journals Online

Welsh Journals provides access to journals relating to Wales published between 1735-2007. Titles range from academic and scientific publications to literary and popular magazines.

<https://journals.library.wales/>

### The Cambrian – a magazine for Welsh-Americans 1880-1919

*The Cambrian* was one of the most popular magazines read by Welsh-Americans. The website presents all 19,000 images of its pages, made available to audiences worldwide. *The Cambrian* is a valuable resource for anyone with an interest in Welsh-American history and literature.

<http://ohiocambrian.llgc.org.uk/index.html?lng=en>

## BRECONSHIRE STRAYS

## MONMOUTHSHIRE

Llangwm Uchaf  
St Jerome

## Baptisms

Sarah Ann d/o James & Sarah PRICE, Maes-y-Beddau,  
Llanfihangel Nant-y-Bran, Brecon.

Born 26.6.1914 Baptised 4.6.1935

Michael Ross s/o Nigel JAMES & Mary Jane  
CHAPPELLE, The New Bungalow, Pwllglyw, Nr  
Brecon, Powys. Builder. Born 25.8.1983, Baptised

6.11.1983

Peter David s/o Nigel JAMES & Mary Jane  
CHAPPELLE, The New Bungalow, Pwllglyw Nr Brecon,  
Powys. Builder. Born 25.8.1983. Baptised  
6.11.1983

### 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. Here is the September article about Breconshire Water Mills

### Water Mills in Breconshire

The earliest references to mills were in the 15<sup>th</sup> century in the form of leases. The first refers to Llanmays (Llanfaes, Brecon) in 1410, 1431, and 1453.

There were many 16<sup>th</sup> century mills, for example

"Talabont" in 1528 and "Melyn Powell" in Llanfrynach in 1558.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the number of mills increased rapidly, and by 1900 there were 109 mills in Breconshire, but by 1926 this had dropped to 22 working mills.

In 1905 Nott & Co. agricultural engineers & wheelwrights in Brecon advertised waterwheels 10ft diameter by 2ft 6ins wide for £25, and a 12ft waterwheel for £ 33. 10s. Other firms making waterwheels were Thomas Williams, Brecon; Hodges & Wright, Brecon and Urwick Davies, Llyswen.

The introduction of large steam-powered mills in the ports by large firms such as Rank and Spillers made the small country mills uncompetitive and caused their demise. Turbines were installed in some mills to make them more competitive, and the turbine and milling machinery still remain in Trericket Mill, near Erwood. During World War I and World War II many mills were stripped for scrap metal and left in ruins.



Castle Mill

The last two mills in Breconshire closed about 1950. They were Felinfach Mill & Talybont Mill.

Talgarth Mill has recently been rebuilt, and is again producing flour.



## Cheaper PDF GRO Birth and Death Certificates are back!

The General Register Office for England and Wales is extending its pilot project to deliver cheaper copies of digitised birth and death certificates as non-certified PDFs.

The extended pilot covers PDF copies of those historical digitised civil registration records held by GRO (i.e. birth entries from 1837 - 1916 and death entries from 1837 - 1957). A GRO index reference is required to be provided with the application. You can find the GRO index references by logging on to the GRO online ordering service and accessing the GRO online indexes. A PDF will cost £6.00 each. However unlike the previous pilot project where PDFs were emailed directly to the customer, during this pilot project you will be sent an email notification to inform you that your PDF image is ready to view and download. You will need to log on to your ordering account and you will find a link to your PDF in your order history. At this point you can view your image by clicking onto the "View PDF" button.

PDFs will remain available to view for a period of 3 months from the point of ordering, after which it will be removed. You will not receive a reminder prior to deletion.

The PDF image is an extract from the historical record of the event. It will contain the same information that is present in a certificate apart from the official crest and signature of issuing authority. The image may contain some imperfections as the records date from 1837. A PDF will have no "evidential" value, and therefore a paper certified copy [certificate] is required for official purposes, e.g. if applying for a passport, driving licence, or where required to give notice of marriage.

Further information about ordering cheaper PDF copies of certificates can be found on the GRO certificate order FAQs pages



## October Meeting Review: Drovers' Roads.

There was a good attendance of both members and visitors for October's presentation by Rob Stephens. He held the audience enthralled with his story of his family's involvement in droving in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. He brought along a fascinating collection of family diaries which detailed, among other things, the weather, what stock had been bought or sold and the prices paid. He also brought a selection from his collection of weird and wonderful tools and implements, some of which were unbelievably effective for such simply manufactured items. The audience was asked to guess the purpose of some items, the answers causing great hilarity, e.g. a chastity belt for a ram! The afternoon was greatly enjoyed by all present.



**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](mailto:editorblfhs@outlook.com)

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## Website

Our website address is [www.blfhs.co.uk](http://www.blfhs.co.uk)

## Next Meeting

Date/Time: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 2pm

Place: Brecon Public Library

Subject: "Show and Tell"