



Breconshire Local & Family History Society (BLFHS)

Cymdeithas Hanes Lleol a Theuluoedd Brycheiniog

Newsletter 74 – March 2018

A round up of websites referred to in our newsletters – Part One

There are lots of free resources out there on the Internet. Copy and paste the web addresses into your browser. Here is a reminder of the websites we have noted over the past couple of years.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS including PARISH REGISTERS

General Register Office Historic Indexes

Historical indexes to births and deaths covering the following periods. Births (July 1837-December 1915) and Deaths (July 1837-December 1957). This Index also includes the following details for all years back to 1837. Births: the mother's maiden name. Deaths: the age at death.

The index is available free of charge for customers, but you must have a registered GRO online certificate ordering account. This can be set up via the GRO online ordering site.

For more information go to the General Record Office site at www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/login.asp

Parish Registers

Registers of Glasbury, Breconshire 1660-1836

<https://archive.org/stream/registersofglasb52glas/>

Monmouthshire Parish Records

If you have family links with Monmouthshire then the website <http://mongenes.org.uk/Home.html> may be very useful. Once you are accepted into membership you will have access to a searchable database of Parish Records.

Hugh Wallis's Genealogical websites

This website has been around for some time and has proved useful for those seeking to search particular churches for specific families on the Latter Day Saints Family Search site. It has not been updated since 2002 due to Hugh's death and the link between this site and the LDS site no longer works. However, it is still possible to take the batch numbers for particular churches and use them to do a direct search on the LDS Family Search site.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~hughwallis/>

Family Search: a guide to the British batches.

This site supersedes the Hugh Wallis site and appears to be updated reasonably regularly. If you want to search particular churches then searching using these batch numbers is much easier than a general search on the LDS Family Search site.

<http://www.archersoftware.co.uk/igi/index.htm>

New Website now accessible

Update: The new website is now online although is still being fine-tuned. Whilst this is happening we are running the old website alongside. Transcriptions etc are gradually being loaded onto the new website.

To access the Members area of the new website you can use your present login details but on April 1st the new website will have a new login name and password. The login button can be found on the top right hand side of the main page above the logo and title.

CHURCH AND CHAPEL

Clergy of the Church of England Database (CCed)

The Clergy of the Church of England Database 1540-1835 (CCed makes available and searchable the principal records of clerical careers from over 50 archives in England and Wales with the aim of providing coverage of as many clerical lives as possible from the Reformation to the mid-nineteenth century. <http://theclergydatabase.org.uk/>

The Surman Index

Charles Surman's biographical card index of Congregational ministers. The Surman Index Online makes the contents available electronically via the internet. The index includes the names of about 32,000 ministers, and, where known, their dates, details of their education, ministries or other employment, together with the sources used. It covers the period from the mid-seventeenth century to 1972, and though it focuses on England and Wales, it includes Congregational ministers serving abroad provided they trained or served as ministers in Britain. Although intended as an index of Congregational ministers, it also gives details of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Presbyterians.

surman.english.qmul.ac.uk/

LAW AND ORDER

Breconshire Quarter Sessions Records: Depositions and Summary Convictions 1895-1913

Although this is just an index of documents held by Powys Archives it does include some relevant detail in that the Depositions and Summary Convictions lists people by name and place.

These are depositions and summary convictions made at petty or special sessions. The sessions are listed in alphabetical order, with the convictions in date order

http://pstatic.powys.gov.uk/fileadmin/Docs/archives/records_catalogue/B_QS_bi.pdf

National Library of Wales. Crime and Punishment Database. https://www.llgc.org.uk/sesiwn_fawr/index_s.htm

Transportation to Australia

First Fleet information. University of Wollongong. <http://firstfleet.uow.edu.au/index.html>

Female Convicts Research Centre. <https://www.femaleconvicts.org.au/>

Convicts Indents Database. University of New South Wales. <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/convicts>

Early Convicts Database. Univ. of New South Wales. https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/search_form?id=65

Convicts transported in Third Fleet. <http://members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/convicts/3rdfleet.html>

Crimes committed by convicts. <https://convictrecords.com.au/crimes>

Ancestry – convict Transportation registers – other fleets and ships 1791 -1868. (paid database)

Cascades Factory. <https://www.femaleconvicts.org.au/index.php/convict-institutions/female-factories>

Fremantle Prison Convicts Database. <http://fremantleprison.com.au/history-heritage/history/convict-database/>

Convicts to Australia <http://members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/convicts/>

Convicts to Tasmania <https://www.linc.tas.gov.au/archive-heritage/Pages/default.aspx>

Van Diemen's Land Founders and Survivors Convict Biographies 1812-1853

https://www.digitalpanopticon.org/VDL_Founders_and_Survivors_Convict_Biographies_1812-1853

Swansea's Criminal Past

Ancestry have just released the Gaol records for Swansea and the surrounding area. This collection covers the years between 1877 and 1922 and is part of a wider launch of over 6m Glamorgan records from the collection help by the West Glamorgan Archive Service. The collection includes photographs of criminals – men, women and children who were arrested and held at Swansea police station. The records hold details of all crimes from the petty to the serious.

Records can be searched by name, birth year and birthplace.

Wales Court and Miscellaneous Records, 1542-1911

These are unindexed images of the Court Records and Marriage Bonds from the National Library of Wales collection. Although not indexed they are divided up into manageable chunks both by subject and place. If you are prepared to browse through the images you may find information useful to your research which is not yet available on the National Library Wales site. For example the post 1837 marriage bonds are not indexed or available for browsing on the NLW site but can be browsed on FamilySearch through the above link. Some of the Marriage Bonds cover dates as late as the 1860's. Not all sections cover Breconshire but there are images for some Consistory Court Papers and Gaol Files as well as the said Marriage Bonds. <http://linkis.com/familysearch.org/pFqGo>

MAPS AND GEOGRAPHY

OS 25 inch County Series England and Wales, 1841-1952

<http://maps.nls.uk/os/25inch-england-and-wales/index.html>

As of the moment no area of Wales has been added but it is hoped this will happen soon.

National Library of Wales digital maps: browse the various categories of digital maps and find some wonderful Town and estate maps for example. TIP: the maps cannot be downloaded, but if you copy the map title into a separate Google browsing page, and then press images, you can often find that map in a saveable format. <https://www.llgc.org.uk/en/discover/digital-gallery/maps/>

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/>

People's Collection Wales

Search and view wonderful photographs and images of objects to do with Wales, which have been contributed by museums and other collections from all over Wales.

<https://www.peoplescollection.wales/locate>

Background information on Breconshire

Poole, Edwin. History & Biography of Brecknockshire.

[PDF available for download from the British Library website]

<http://www.bl.uk/> [search by title or author]

I found this a riveting read particularly with regard to the Monumental Inscriptions he includes from many places in Breconshire

Breconshire Local and Family History Society: Maps of Breconshire

A reminder that on our own website there are links to many Breconshire maps including John Speed's 1610 map of Breconshire and of Brecon town. Meredith Jones' map of Brecon 1744. County maps of 1804, 1816 and Ordnance Survey map of 1830

<http://www.blfhs.co.uk/members/mem-maps.htm>

A gazetteer of markets and fairs in England and Wales to 1516.

A fascinating study of the many markets and fairs which existed in medieval England and Wales.

<http://www.history.ac.uk/cmh/gaz/gazweb1.html>

"Blaenau Tywi: Names in the Landscape"

A bilingual pdf of over 300 pages. It contains a great deal of historical material and tithe map images. There is overlap between north Breconshire and Cardiganshire but despite this there is much of interest.

<http://cilycwm.com/historygroup/downloads/book.pdf>

Crossing the border: cymru 1900wales

The crowdsourcing website developed by the National Library of Wales, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, University of Wales and the People's Collection Wales which sees online volunteers transcribing the names of places and features from historic Ordnance Survey maps. It is intended to expand its scope to include all place names and features from the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey County Series maps to the whole of Great Britain. Users will then be able to view the landscape of Great Britain with much more clarity. The website will be tri-lingual in Welsh, English and Gaelic.

Cynefin Project – Tithe Maps

New website for the Wales Tithe Maps: "The Cynefin Collection" allows you to overlay various historical maps over a chosen area of Wales.

The project" <http://cynefin.archiveswales.org.uk/> is officially completed, and all the contributed data can be seen on the National Library of Wales' new website <https://places.library.wales/home> .

The Brynmawr Wales Genealogy Project

This website was set up by Jeffrey Thomas and is a collection of online resources for those interested in the history of Brynmawr. Brynmawr lies on the northern border of the South Wales valleys but was at one time part of Breconshire.

<http://thomasgenweb.com/brynmawr.html>

MILITARY

The Cromwell Association

The Cromwell Association Online Directory of Parliamentarian Army Officers. Published by British History Online, the database contains the names of over 4,000 officers who served in the armies of Parliament during the first English civil war (1642-6), and in some cases subsequently. This alphabetical directory covers all regions of England and Wales and, while not claiming to be comprehensive, brings together in one place the largest listing of parliamentarian officers in service prior to the creation of the New Model Army in 1645. www.british-history.ac.uk/no-series/cromwell-army-officers

Royal Navy – First World War – Lives at Sea

Not specifically a Breconshire resource but if you had Breconshire ancestors who went to sea during WWI this website might provide useful information. Produced by the Royal Museums Greenwich it includes both Officers and Ratings. www.royalnavyrecordsww1.rmg.co.uk

Part Two follows in our next issue



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits
Apr-17	636	1,326	2,492	6,236
May-17	642	1,381	4,297	10,254
Jun-17	630	1,150	2,445	5,909
Jul-17	854	1,541	3,307	7,670
Aug-17	868	1,480	3,917	9,659
Sep-17	948	1,589	2,526	6,558
Oct-17	914	1,768	5,011	10,670
Nov-17	741	1,725	2,828	6,483
Dec-17	612	1,586	3,043	7,905
Jan-18	694	1,746	2,671	7,413
Feb-18	611	1,536	4,196	9,937
Mar-18	264	630	6,605	14,108
Total	8414	17458	43338	102802
Stats to 14th March 2018				

Website statistics for year ended 14 March 2018



Rees Price Pritchard and Samuel Francis Pritchard: an update.



The story began with original Newsletter articles (No. 50 and 51 Jan and Feb 2016) by Gwyneth Morris. She called her articles *Rice Price Pritchard 1781-1863 A Biography*. Somehow they were seen in NZ by Allen Pritchard and his daughter Claire Callaghan, who got in touch via Hilary Williams and John Ball in 2017. Claire's biography of Samuel Francis Pritchard, Rice's son, "One Man-Two Lives" was serialised in BLFHS Newsletters Nos 65 - 68 May - Aug 2017. Gwyneth descends from Elizabeth May Pritchard b 1830, the eldest daughter of Rice and his second wife Mary (nee Pugh). She was the elder sister of Samuel Francis Pritchard.

Allen Pritchard proudly wearing his hat with the welsh dragon emblem

One man One Life told the story of Samuel Francis Pritchard, Rice's son, who left his home in Llanhamlach in 1871 sailing on the SS Great Britain to Australia and thence travelling to New Zealand where his descendants still live. Having made contact through our Society Gwyneth built up a warm friendship with Claire, the great great granddaughter of Rees Pritchard and the great granddaughter of Samuel, her parents and her 9 brothers and sisters. Recently she was told that Allen, Samuel's grandson and Claire's father, had passed away on February 5th at the grand age of 91yrs. One of his Allen's wishes was to have the Welsh flag raised above his home in Upper Hutt on the day of his passing and this wish was carried out by his family. Allen was buried



The Welsh flag proudly flying on the day of Allen's funeral

in Akatarawa Cemetery in New Zealand and Martin, Claire's brother has given his permission for us to include this small piece about his father's passing.

One of the great benefits of belonging to a family history society is not only the access to information that it provides about our ancestors but also the relationships which are formed between more recent generations of our families, bringing together people from all over the country and abroad who have a familial link with us. These relationships can help us learn more about how our ancestors lived and how their families fared coming into the modern world whilst also giving us the joy of new relationships. Gifts which are immeasurable.

We would like to send our condolences to Claire, Martin and all their families and to thank them for sharing with us the story of Rice and his son Samuel Francis Pritchard.



The Query Slot

Last month we asked a question about land ownership.

“How can I find out about land ownership in my family including land ownership and status, wills and successive inheritance re family farms , records of land ownership (apart from the Tithe Maps), and how to trace the owners of uninhabited or derelict land?”

We have set out a few suggestions on the next page.

The National Archives contains over 30 guides to researching information about Lands and Maps including information about land requisitioned by the military during WW2 and of who owned land in England and Wales, or for details of changes in the ownership of land, particularly from the 13th century up until c1930. Also at the National Archives are MAF records. MAF 32 gives individual farm records during the Second World War and provides owner and occupier. However there are all sorts of MAF records and the National Archives site is well worth exploring. The records of the National Farm Survey also contain references to the requisitioning of land for military purposes. For more information about these records, see the research guide, [National farm surveys of England and Wales, 1940-1943](#).

The National Archives website also lists documents in IR58 which is a valuation survey of land 1910-1915. It includes maps and field books. The field books give useful information such as ownership and the occupier. The National Archives guide will help you find records created in the course of the Valuation Office survey carried out between 1910 and 1915. If you are researching the value, use or ownership of a property which existed around 1910 this guide will tell you how to find the relevant information. There are however, **no** records of the Valuation Office available to see online. The two main types of Valuation Office survey record are plans (maps) and field books. Generally, you need to consult a plan first to help you find the relevant field book. The field book provides information about a property. You may need to consult more than one plan to identify the correct field book. Both maps and field books are at the National Archives, Kew although some may be held locally at a local record office.

There is also something called *Return of Owners of Land 1873* which can be found on Ancestry or The Genealogist but copies are likely to be found in local record offices. It is not online for free.

The question of land ownership is such a large and complex one that there is no single answer. The National Archives guides are useful for outlining different scenarios and where in the catalogue the records are. If any of the National Archive documents have been digitised the Guide will indicate this



BRECONSHIRE STRAYS - MONMOUTHSHIRE

Penrhos (Penrose)

Marriages

Evan Evans, Llanelly, Brecon. Bachelor & Ann Evans, X Otp, widow. 1 Jul 1802

Witnesses: Wm Nicholas, Jas? Jones. By Licence

John Daniel, Llanelly, Mon. & Anne Alcock. Otp.

Witnesses: Ester Alcock, Henry? Butts? By Banns (married on Wednesday) 6? Aug 1788

Llanover

Marriages

John Richards, full age, batch. Malster, Christ's College. County of Brecon.

Father – John Richards, freeholder.

& Mary Morgan, full ager, spin. Llanover. Father – Thos Morgan, freeholder.

Married by Licence 28 Feb 1849

Unwanted Certificates

So often we end up with certificates which prove not to be our ancestor. Rather than let them go to waste we are instituting a section each month listing them for the benefit of any member who might be able to use them. If anyone has any they would like to donate please let me know.

**The Golden Lion Inn, Lion Street [now Bethel Square]**

Brecon's premier inn during the 18th century, it gave its name to Lion Street. The Inn occupied a wide frontage with stabling for 60 horses at the rear. In 1755, it was the venue for the first meeting of the Brecknock Agricultural Society, the oldest Agricultural Society in Britain. The inn yard was the show area and auction mart, and the Society gave awards for stock improvement, particularly of stallions.

In 1756 Thomas Longfellow, the owner, was principal agent in launching the first commercial coach service from London, via Gloucester, into Mid-Wales.

The inaugural meeting of the Brecknock and Abergavenny Canal Company was held here in 1793. An important social venue, The Golden Lion housed civic functions, balls and theatrical performances. Eventually it was eclipsed by the new Castle Hotel, and by 1834 it was serving as a barracks for the 11th Regiment.

In 1843 the Golden Lion site was purchased by the Calvinistic Methodists, at first for education, and then building Bethel Chapel in 1852.

Later, the Lion Street frontage was rented to the Post Office and various commercial activities. In 1994 the entire property opened as the Bethel Square shopping precinct

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. This month is about The Golden Lion Inn



Brecknock Society and Museum Friends

The Muse, Glamorgan Street, Brecon

Sat May 12 11.30 am to 4.30 pm

The Beaufort Estate in Breconshire: a Glimpse. In association with Llangynidr Local History Society and the Institute for the Study of Welsh Estates (Bangor University).

The study-day starts in Llangynidr Village Hall with coffee at 11.30 am. Fee for the day: £5.00 for members of the BS&MF, Llangynidr Local History Society and the ISWE, £8.00 for others (this fee includes coffee and tea).

To book a place, contact John Gibbs (gibbs@keme.co.uk or 01874 730747)

There is free parking in the Llangynidr Village Car Park (GR SO 155194) which is just across the road from the Village Hall. Buses from Brecon and Abergavenny stop at the village hall



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



February Meeting Review: Janet Robinson “Research & Presentation: A Family Story”

Unfortunately the inclement weather forced the cancellation of this talk and the meeting.



Website

Our website address is www.blfhs.co.uk

Facebook

The society now has a Facebook page. Check it out at www.facebook.com/breconblfhs

Facebook also has many other groups where you can find info on the history of a place. One such new community site is “Memories of old Brecon” – it is a closed group which you ask to join. When you are accepted you can see the wonderful photographs about Brecon and its people with all the interesting memories from members. To find this group type *Memories of old Brecon* into the search box at the top of the Facebook page.

Next Meeting

Date/Time: Tuesday April 10th 2018 2pm

Place: Brecon Public Library

Subject: Memories of the poet Henry Vaughan
Elizabeth Siberry will talk about this famous 17th century Breconian, who was a metaphysical poet, author, translator and physician. He is buried in Llansantffraid-juxta-Usk.