



Breconshire Local & Family History Society (BLFHS)

Cymdeithas Hanes Lleol a Theuluoedd Brycheiniog

Newsletter 75 – April 2018

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

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.

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. Parish Record transcriptions to date are now available. The task of loading the Monumental Transcriptions has now begun so these will begin to appear throughout the summer.

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

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

Gravestone Photographic Resource

An International Directory of grave monuments. The Welsh section is still quite small but it is nevertheless a resource to keep an eye upon.

<http://www.gravestonephotos.com/>

Memorial Inscriptions

Friends of Llanspyddid: gravestone and tablet listing.

http://www.llanspyddid.org.uk/gravestone_listing.html

Gravestones in Wales

A collection of photographs of various gravestones and monuments in Wales posted by a gentleman who goes by the moniker of Cold War Warrior. There is no index but there is a map of sites covered and it does include gravestones from a variety of Breconshire graveyards including St David's Llywel, St Cattwg Llanspyddid and St David's Llanfaes. Not all the inscriptions are readable but the site is worth a look; you never know what you might

find. <https://www.flickr.com/groups/1708950@N24/pool/16498755@N07>

War Memorials Online

A website set up to record, preserve and remember our war memorials.

www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk

NEWSPAPERS AND JOURNALS

National Library of Wales. Contains over 100 titles which you can search and access for free online. Images can be seen of the resultant articles.

<http://newspapers.library.wales/>

ELIPHIND

Contains mainly Australian and US titles but if you are looking for ancestors who may have emigrated this site might be of use. There are over 2,000 current titles and the actual image of the report can be seen.

www.elephind.com

TROVE

Australian resources including newspapers, books, maps and other interesting documents. Again, if you are trying to trace ancestors who have emigrated this site might be of use.

www.trove.nla.gov.au

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>

SOCIAL HISTORY

Names of the Poor in Brecon 1796

<http://www.peoplescollection.wales/items/8449>

This is a scanned copy of the actual document and again is a very interesting read particularly if you had ancestors in Brecon at this time

TRANSPORT

Railway Work: Life and Death

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. 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. Details extracted include names, ages, roles, companies and details of the accident. The info is in spreadsheet format. <http://www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk/the-accidents/>

The Last passenger train from Newport to Brecon

A delightful little piece of colour film. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFXh9vTwU7A>

SHIPPING RECORDS

Crew Accounts and Agreements 1856-1914

The National Library of Wales have made available transcriptions of shipping records 1856-1914. At present these cover Crew accounts and Agreements (generally known as crew lists), 1856-1914, for vessels registered at the port of Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire, Wales, UK. They usually contain the full names of the crew, including apprentices, age

and place of birth, previous vessel, dates of joining and leaving, in what capacity employed, together with a list of voyages with dates and sometimes details of cargoes carried. The transcriptions in the form of Excel documents can be downloaded from the site at <https://www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=6670>

VOLUNTARY AND CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS

Royal Voluntary Service Archive

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/>

Red Cross First World War Volunteer records

Over 90,000 Red Cross First World War volunteer records can now be searched online at the address below. Searches can be made by surname and/or place. Type the address into your browser as usual. Searches can also be made for Red Cross hospitals in the period. www.redcross.org.uk/About-us/Who-we-are/History-and-origin/First-World-War

WILLS AND PROBATE

NLW Wills pre-1858

A searchable index of Wills held by the National Library of Wales. Images can be looked at online.

<https://www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=6838>

VAUGHAN wills proved in the Archdeaconry of Brecon 1575-1858. Indexes and Abstracts.

These are taken from the Latter Day Saints indexes of original and copied probate indexes and have been sorted into useable sections. Searching is possible by Date of Probate, Testator, Parish of residence and also includes an index of other names appearing in the wills.

To some extent this list has been superseded by the ability to search the National Library of Wales site for Wills and to see many of them online without charge (although sometimes it can be a visual challenge!). However, a brief search has shown that not all the VAUGHAN entries in Hugh's list are listed on the NLW site so perhaps by using both a fuller picture emerges.

If you have VAUGHAN ancestors this might prove a useful free tool.

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

WORLD WAR ONE

U3A Project. Brecon Remembers

A biography of all Brecon WWI war casualties. The book which was produced can be read on this web site

<http://www.breconremembers.co.uk/index.html>

WWI Welsh Book of Remembrance

Commemorates the names of the fallen of WWI. This book is usually held in the Crypt at the Temple of Peace in Cardiff but has been digitally copied by the National Library of Wales as part of the Wales for Peace project. www.peoplescollection.wales/discover/query/ww1%20book%20of%20remembrance



Pom's Visit to Church

Amongst the members of the congregation for Evensong at St. Mary's Church on Sunday was a small black Pomeranian dog. Twice it trotted up the aisle to the Chancel and yapped a great deal as it went to and fro, evidently disconcerted by its strange surroundings. In vain two church officers tried to catch it. The congregation breathed freely when a third, armed in his person (though not displaying it in uniform) with the terror of the law, joined in the pursuit; but the pom cared nothing for the law, rather showing a disposition 'to obstruct the police in the execution of their duty'. The situation was getting serious, the service was almost due to begin. And just then, fortunately, someone found a claimant for the noisy intruder. A small boy of about five quietly walked up the aisle, grabbed his pet without any ado, and bore it away to the outer darkness
 From the Brecon and Radnor Express January 1926 [sent in by Margaret Sommers]



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.

What will happen to your family history research when you die?

Rather than leave all the information, digital or otherwise, to be discarded by those who may not appreciate its worth you can choose to leave it to a Society or local Archive. The Society of Genealogists often takes in research either given to it in the person's lifetime or left to it in a Will. If you want to leave your research in this way you can add a codicil to your Will expressing your wish that your research is saved for posterity. If the information is of particular local interest then your local archives may be the best place. But, if they are not

interested, the Society of Genealogists may accept it as they often do with research that has been rejected by other bodies because it is considered as of minority interest.

Here is the codicil the SoG provides. You could amend the wording if you prefer to leave your research to a local body or some other specific person or place. The SoG's policy can be found here:

<http://www.sog.org.uk/learn/share-your-knowledge/>

Codicil to a will for the purpose of bequests to the Society of Genealogists

I give to the Society of Genealogists of 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA (a charity incorporated with limited liability) absolutely and free of all taxes and duties payable by reason of my death

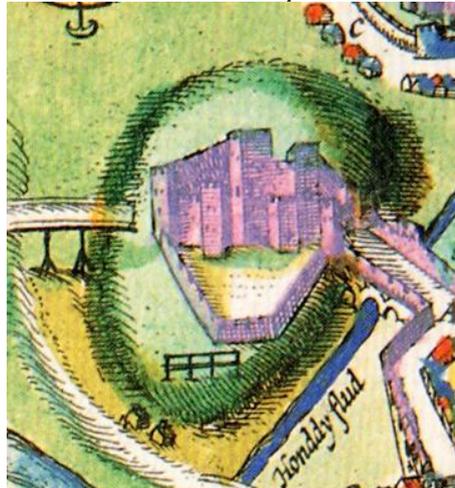
[You could change this to the name of the repository you prefer]

all those of my genealogical and family history books, papers and other like records, including any that may be in electronic or digital form, together with all my property and intellectual rights therein and the right for the said Society (either itself or in association with any other body or person) to record or reproduce the material in any form whatsoever including forms not yet invented whether for archival or commercial purposes and with full power to transfer all or any thereof to other libraries or repositories or to otherwise dispose of any which are in the unfettered opinion of the said Society already represented in its collections, adequately recorded elsewhere or otherwise unsuitable for retention by the said Society or for study by its members

c) the copyright in all my genealogical writings

The Role of Brecon in the story of Richard III [part I] - John Morton, Bishop of Ely

The ruined tower which stands on the castle mount in Brecon is called Ely Tower and the area below it is known as Ely Place. Tradition has it that it was named after John Morton, Bishop of Ely, in Cambridgeshire, an early supporter of Richard III. Richard III placed Morton in the custody of Henry Stafford, 2nd Duke of Buckingham, for opposing his rise to the throne on the disappearance and probable death of the Princes in the Tower. Stafford took him to his Lordship of Brecon where he was



imprisoned in Brecon Castle in 1483.

Eventually, Stafford, one of King Richard's main supporters, realised that he was on the wrong side and at Brecon Castle plotted the downfall of the king with Bishop Morton. Both became supporters of the Duke of Richmond (Henry Tudor), who was in exile in France.

Bishop Morton fled abroad and joined Henry Tudor who was soon to defeat Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth and to become the first Tudor monarch, Henry VII. Henry VII employed the bishop as one of his most efficient tax collectors.

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: The Role of Brecon



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

If anyone would like to write something I would be very pleased to receive it – I do find sometimes that the month comes around very quickly so an offering from a member would give me a bit of respite!

April Meeting Review: memories of the poet Henry Vaughan

Dr. Elizabeth Siberry gave the Society a most interesting and informative talk on the 17th century Breconian who was a metaphysical poet, author and physician. She commenced by giving a brief outline of his life and went on to detail his connections with the area. After a period of some 200 years when his name was almost forgotten, interest in Vaughan was revived. Dr Siberry told the meeting of how his grave at Llansantffraed, so badly neglected for so many years, came to be restored.

The Brecknock Society has held a service at the church every April since 1929 and a wreath is laid on his grave.

Dr Siberry explained that Vaughan's granddaughter Denise (Denys) is said to have been buried in Brecon Cathedral in 1790 but she has found no record, and would love to know if anyone in the Society can help with any information.



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 May 1st 2018 2pm

Place: OUTING – Hay on Wye

Subject: "The Armstrong Murder Walk". – Peter Ford will lead this. A maximum of 20 can take part on a first come first served basis. The tour will meet at Hay Butter Market at 2.30pm.