



Newsletter 38 – November 2014

The Christmas Issue



Nadolig Llawen I Bawb
Happy Christmas to all

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.

November Meeting Review: “*Geographical techniques for family and local historians*” by Roy Davies. The audience enjoyed Roy’s interesting illustrated talk about the use of maps. He explained that maps were commissioned for all sorts of purposes and that it was important to realise this when using an historic map. Information found in maps must be used with caution, but they could illustrate forgotten land usage and long lost man-made features as well as geographical information.

Prior to the main talk, John Ball gave the first in what will be regular updates on developments on the Society’s website. Next, Helen Ball (formerly Whyte) gave the latest in her series of short illustrated talks on Family History Sources, this time taking advantage of the library’s Wi-Fi service to connect directly to the World Wide Web.

Welsh newspapers can be read online at:

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

This month on our Website

Since our last Newsletter (published 24 October 2014) we have added/updated the following:

- **Parish Pages:** added *Gwenddwr* and *Hay* (twenty-one parishes now available):
<http://www.blfhs.co.uk/members/parishes/index.htm>
- **Minutes:** added minutes the management committee meetings held on 9 October:
<http://www.blfhs.co.uk/members/minutes.htm>
- **Monthly Meeting Report:** added report and slide show of the November meeting:
<http://www.blfhs.co.uk/members/meetings/index.htm>
- **Newsletters:** added Newsletter 38 Christmas Special (December 2014):
<http://www.blfhs.co.uk/members/newsletters.htm>
- **Noticeboard:** updated 24 November <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/noticeboard.htm>
- **Public News Pages:** updated 1 December <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/news.htm>
- **Members’ News Pages:** updated 1 December <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/members/news.htm>

Check the News Pages every few days and the Noticeboard at least weekly.

Help needed! Once again, only two new Parish Pages have been added to our website since the last newsletter because John Ball, who is developing the pages, desperately needs more information and photographs. The next parishes on his list are: Llanafanfechan (Llanfechan), Llanbedr Ystrad Yw, and Llanddew.

If you can contribute any such material, email John at john@jlb2011.co.uk

Please report any problems with the website to our webmaster, John Ball, at john@jlb2011.co.uk

A good read

- Dan Jones: "The *Plantagenets: the Kings who made England*", published by Harper Press, May 2012.

On Thursday 27th November at 9pm, UK Channel 5 broadcast the first episode of "*Britain's Bloodiest Dynasty*", based on the above book. Catch up with missed episodes at <http://www.channel5.com/demand5>

Stocking Fillers

- D. Huw Owen (Editor), Rheinalt Llwyd (Editor): "Searching for Family and Community History in Wales". Published by Gwasg Carreg Gwalch. 2014.
To read a synopsis of the book go to http://www.gwales.com/goto/biblio/en/9781845274665/?session_timeout=1

First World War: Newspaper Snippets month by month

The snippet below was sent to me by members Mr and Mrs S Roderick, for which I am most grateful.

3.12.1914. Brecon County Schools. A successful Prize Day . . . The Headmaster's Report . . . a year ago the number of boys in the school was 64 and this term there were 74 (loud applause) that was the highest number the school had reached for 8 years and represented an increase of 25% since he was appointed . . . he had already learned of about 60 Brecon County School boys who were at present under arms (cheers) and their number seemed to be growing every day. He was glad to say so far their casualties had not been numerous but the school mourned the loss of one of her sons, Sergt. Basil Griffiths, of the Royal Field Artillery, who had been killed in action in France. In the Senior Service they were not so well represented as in the Army. Yet they were proud to know that David Griffiths, who was with them as a boy in the school until July, was serving as a Junior Officer on the 'Bacchante', the day after war was declared in August (applause) . . .

3.12.1914. Devynock. Recruiting Conference. A conference of Ministers of the various denominations of this Petty Sessional Division, together with representatives of all leading authorities and bodies was held in the Magistrates Room on Thursday last. The meeting which had been convened by circular issued by the Clerk to the Magistrates (Mr. Cambridge Phillips) was for the purpose of considering what steps could be taken to give effect to the earnest appeal made to the country by Lord Kitchener to provide men for the New Army, which, he says, he must have if the present war is to be brought to a successful issue and our Empire saved from irretrievable disaster . . . it was unanimously resolved that an earnest effort should be made in the district to achieve the object of Lord Kitchener's appeal. Mr. Owen Price was appointed Chairman of the Committee and Mr. Samuel Davies, Registrar, as its Secretary and the following representatives were appointed as canvassers in their respective parishes to go round and explain the present position and to obtain the names of young men who will be ready and willing to enlist in the service of their King and Country:-

Maescar: Rev. D. Davies (Vicar), Rev. David Rhys (C.M.), Dr. W.R. Jones, Dr. J. Powell Jeffreys, Mr. Evan Davies (Post Office), Mr. Samuel Davies. Senny: Mr. Jenkin Williams, Rev. R. Williams.

Cray: Rev. Ogwen Davies (Vicar), Mr. Owen Price, J.P., Mr. R. McTurk, J.P., Mr. David Price, Mr. Lewis, Cwmpadest, Glyn: Mr. and Mrs. Miller, Forest Lodge. Penpont: Miss Adelaide Williams, Penpont, Mr. Levi Jones, C.C. Selydach: Rev. Owen Evans (Baptist Minister), Mr. Walter Evans.

The WW1 Red Cross Auxiliary Hospital at Penoyre, Brecon

From: "Penoyre" by Elsie Pritchard

"During the First World War, Penoyre became a Military Hospital. Mrs McClintock just retained a few rooms for her own use when she came down from London, but she was always freely mixing with the wounded during these visits to see where she could help or cheer.

The Matron was Miss Hyatt Williams, of the Struet, Brecon, who was very well liked by both staff and patients, and the Medical Officer was that much loved Brecon Doctor, Dr Valentine Rees.

Lady Glanus, Lady Lloyd (who was the Quartermaster), Mrs Mayberry and Mrs McClennan were all prominent in the administration of the hospital, and a lot of good work was done by

the Hon. Dulcie Bailey (later the Hon. Mrs. Alastair Cooper), and the Misses Blanche and Judith Butler of Glasbury.

Miss Mary Lloyd, who was Mrs McClintock's dairy maid, made fresh butter and home-made bread and cakes for the hospital. Miss Lloyd made the bread and big fruit cakes in the old fashioned way in the brick oven. This oven was heated with large faggots of wood until white hot. The wood, of course, was collected by a couple of men from around the estate. When the oven was really hot the ashes of the wood were raked out and then the bread and cakes put in. Lots of fresh vegetables and fruit enjoyed by the patients at Penoyre came from the gardens of the house – gardens which were under the supervision of a head gardener. Mr George Weeks was a head gardener at Penoyre for many years and he was one of the church wardens at Battle Church.

Some of the butter made by Miss Mary Lloyd went up to 2, Ormond Gate, Mrs McClintock's London home, but there was no charge made by Mrs McClintock for any of the dairy products, garden produce, bread, etc., that went into the hospital.

A large proportion of the nursing staff at Penoyre hospital consisted of different detachments of Breconshire Red Cross. Crickhowell Detachment would serve for a month, Glasbury Detachment another month, Brecon Detachment another month, and so on. As far as can be ascertained, only one patient died while Penoyre was a hospital and this soldier was buried in Battle Churchyard.

The soldiers did a lot of handicraft, including raffia work, black cats made from felt cut out of men's bowler hats, as well as pretty bead work, necklaces, etc.

Among the patients at Penoyre hospital during the First World War were several local men. One was Mr Tom Close, who later became "Mine Host" of "The Boar's Head" at the bottom of Ship Street, Brecon, a business he successfully supervised for over 20 years. Mr Jim Watkins of Rhydybernard Terrace, was also a patient at Penoyre. Mr Watkins was known as "Jim the Wood" because as a boy he lived in a house in Vennyfach Wood. Another local man was the late Mr Ernest Howells, well known in Brecon as a skilled plasterer and excellent tradesman. He was met at Brecon station by ambulance driver Nancy Jones of Tredurn, Glamorgan Street. Mr Howells recalls that the Hospital possessed a donkey and basket trap. This single seat conveyance was used by patients who had difficulty in walking, to drive themselves into Brecon and back again. Mr Howells was a patient in Patti Ward, so called because it was endowed by the famous singer, Adelina Patti of Craig-y-nos Castle, and named after her. Mr Howells also said that if his memory serves him correctly, Madam Patti gave a billiard table from Craig-y-nos for use by the wounded soldiers. This was a very popular gift which was in almost constant use.

Mr Howells' wife, Gladys (formerly Miss Gladys Hope of London) also has pleasant recollections of Penoyre. At the latter end of the First World War, Mrs Howells (who was then Miss Hope) was a member of the Women's Forestry Corps, and she was sent to join a detachment of other girls forestry workers who were billeted at Aberyscir Parish Hall. One summer afternoon towards the end of the war, the wounded "Tommies" at Penoyre invited the girls to tea at the Hospital and entertained them with sports and musical items. Before the girls returned that evening to their depot at Aberyscir, the soldiers presented each of them with a raffia summer hat which the lads had made themselves. The girls found the shady hats very useful when working out in the open on hot summer days.

On the cessation of hostilities, Penoyre reverted to a private residence and once again the gardeners tended the grounds, and maids flitted to and fro about their duties under the eagle eye of butler or housekeeper."

Who was the only patient to die at Penoyre?

Percival Cramp was born in Harrowden, Northants in 1883. The 1911 Census shows that he had been married to Jennett for one year and that both worked in the shoe industry, he as a shoe riveter and she as a shoe fitter. They had no children at this point, although by the time of his death, they had four children

On 31st August 1914, he volunteered to join the 1st Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment at Wellingborough, Northants, as a Private (7024).

We know nothing of his war experience except what is written, below, in his funeral report, after his death at Penoyre Hospital in 1916. His was the only death at Penoyre.

MILITARY FUNERAL – A wounded soldier at the Penoyre Hospital, named Cramp, died there on Friday morning, at the age of 33 years, Deceased had

seen much active service and had been wounded three times. The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon at Battle Churchyard, and was attended by the South Wales Borderers Depot Band, under the conductorship of Bandmaster C. Fenner. A firing party from the Barracks, in charge of Sergt-Major Chivers, also attended. En-route from the hospital to the churchyard the band played funeral marches. The Rev. H J Church Jones (vicar) and the Rev R Keble Williams officiated in the church and at the graveside. The firing party fired the usual three volleys over the grave and the "Last Post" was sounded. Deceased's wife, father and sister, were present. He leaves a widow and four children. The Matron of the Hospital, Miss Williams, the Commandant, Mrs Conway Lloyd, and members of the staff attended the funeral, as well as a number of the patients.

[From: *Brecon County Times, Neath Gazette and General Advertiser* 30 Nov 1916 Page 8]

Battle Churchyard Monumental Inscriptions:

There are two separate monuments:

- A headstone of Portland Stone: "7024. Private P. Cramp. Dorsetshire Regiment. 24th November 1916. Aged 32."
- Headstone: "In memory of Private P. Cramp. 1st Battn. Dorset Regt. Who died at Pennoyre Hospital 24 November 1916."

[Inscriptions courtesy of Gareth Jones: "A Guide to the MIs of St. Cynog's Church, Battle, Powys."]

Useful Websites

In Breconshire, there were Red Cross Auxiliary hospitals at

- Builth Wells
- Llyswen Auxiliary Hospital
- Penoyre, Brecon

Read about the VAD Hospitals at

<http://www.redcross.org.uk/about-us/who-we-are/museum-and-archives/resources-for-researchers/volunteers-and-personnel-records>

The record cards of some staff members who served at the Breconshire Hospitals can be found at the newly launched *Red Cross Archives* website. This is an ongoing project and surnames are being added as the site is developed.

<http://www.redcross.org.uk/About-us/Who-we-are/History-and-origin/First-World-War>

NEXT MEETING

NB: there will be no meeting in December.

Date and time: Wednesday, 7th January 2015 at 2:00 pm

Venue: Brecon Library

Subject: "*Breconshire Churches and Chapels (Part 2)*"

John Ball will show and talk about another selection of his colour photographs of some of the most photogenic of the county's places of worship.

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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