



Breconshire Local & Family History Society (BLFHS) Cymdeithas Hanes Lleol a Theuluoedd Brycheiniog Newsletter 54 – May 2016

Breaking down those brick walls: MI's as a source of genealogical information

Whilst transcribing for the group it is not uncommon to come across burial records which, when cross referenced with church memorials or headstones, provide gems of genealogical information. Most memorials offer just basic family information about the deceased but sometimes a memorial offers much more than this and can be the key which unlocks the genealogical secrets of a family. This can be particularly useful where other resources are limited. John Lloyd was one such person and the MI in Llanwrtyd Church provides a fascinating précis of his life. We not only learn about his immediate family, that he was the eldest son of Rees

SACRED TO THE MEMORY
OF
JOHN LLOYD
ELDEST SON OF REES LLOYD
OF DINAS
AND CAPTAIN OF THE HONBLE EAST INDIA COMPANY'S SHIP MANSHIP
WHO LEFT THIS HIS NATIVE PARISH AT THE AGE OF SIXTEEN WITHOUT
FRIENDS OR INTEREST
BUT BY GOOD CONDUCT AND PERSEVERENCE
ACQUIRED BOTH:
AND AFTER 32 YEARS OF ACTIVE NAVAL SERVICE
AND 12 VOYAGES TO INDIA
IN THE COURSE OF WHICH
HE TWICE SUFFERED SHIPWRECK
AND
A CRUEL IMPRISONMENT
IN THE HANDS
OF TIPPOO SULTAN
OF
MYSORE:
RETURNED TO DISPLAY THE SAME ACTIVE
AND ENTERPRIZING SPIRIT
IN PROMOTING THE WELFARE
AND CULTIVATING THE RESOURCES OF HIS NATIVE COUNTRY
HE DIED FEBY 1818
AGED 70

Lloyd of Dinas but also where he went and what he did.
This information opens up his life and provides the

This month on our website

As well as the regular maintenance tasks to keep our website running smoothly, John has added several new items since the last Newsletter.

Parish Pages

An extensive photographic slide-show for Llandeilo'r fân parish. [added 24 Apr 2016]
An extensive slide show for Llanfihangel Cwmdru. [added 25 Apr 2016]

www.blfhs.co.uk/members/parishes/index.htm

Monthly Meeting

A report, the slide presentation and sound recording for David Raikes' talk on *Treberfydd House and the Raikes Family*. [added 9 May 2016]

Newsletter

Newsletter 54 (the one you are now reading)

www.blfhs.co.uk/members/newsletters.htm

Noticeboard

Updated 19 May 2016 with details of AGM and committee elections

www.blfhs.co.uk/noticeboard.htm#events

Public News Pages

Updated 19th May 2016

www.blfhs.co.uk/news.htm

Members' News Pages

Updated 19th May 2016

www.blfhs.co.uk/members/news.htm

Members' Interests: updated 26 Apr 2016:

www.blfhs.co.uk/members/members-interests.htm

Committee Meeting Minutes: minutes of meeting held on 10 March. [added 13 May 2016]

www.blfhs.co.uk/members/minutes.htm

2016 Meetings Programme: updated 13 May 2016: programme now complete up to end of the year. www.blfhs.co.uk/meetings.htm

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

researcher with many new avenues of exploration, all of which combine to build a picture of the man himself as well as providing signposts to other parts of his family tree. The Society recently welcomed Ken Jones who gave a talk on this very man. The recording can be found on our website at www.blfhs.co.uk/members/meetings/160202

Sacred to the memory

of

David Price, Esq., M.R.A.S., F.R.L.S.,

Who departed this life on the 16th December, 1835, aged 73 years.

He was a magistrate and deputy lieutenant of the county of Brecon,

Major in the service of the Hon. East India Company, and

Judge advocate general of the Bombay army

He was an elegant and accomplished Oriental scholar,

To which various publications bear ample testimony...

This imperfect memorial is recorded

By his sorrowing Widow.

Jane Charlotte Price, widow of above, died 1841, aged 59.

Another example of a memorial providing family clues is that to David Price, the Orientalist. His tablet in the Havard Chapel of the Priory at Brecon gives us a snapshot of his life and character

I have shortened his memorial as it is somewhat long but the salient facts tell us quite a lot about the man and his life. In his autobiography he recalls his early life in Merthyr Cynog where his father was the local Curate. His mother was Margaret Havard, the daughter of Thomas Havard of

Llan-y-wern and through a link with the Jones' of Cribarth he is distantly related by marriage to Captain John Lloyd mentioned above.

A memorial tablet to Margaret can be found in the Chancel of Llan-y-wern Church. Although short it provides further genealogical clues; her maiden name, that her father was a freeholder of the Parish, her husband's name and profession and that on her death she left five "orphan" children. Each one of these facts will assist in researching the family, developing the family tree and perhaps helping to break down a few walls.

Margaret,

relict of David Price, Clerk formerly Vicar of Llanbadarn Fawr,
daughter of Thomas Havard, an honest and respectable freeholder of this Parish..."

More about David Price's early life can be found in his autobiography, "Memoirs of the early life and service of a Field Officer on the retired list of the Indian Army". Published anonymously in 1839 it provides a detailed account of his life in the Indian Army. It can be read on the internet by cutting and pasting the following web address into your browser.

https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=jIUEAAAQAAJ&pg=PP7&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false

Whilst it might seem that it is only memorials to the wealthy and illustrious which display such a wealth of genealogical information there are plenty of gravestones and other memorials to ordinary people which also offer us genealogical clues. Some inform of children who were born and died between the censuses, others tell us the names of spouses or other family members and occasionally we learn of occupations and how the deceased went about their daily life.

In Libanus Chapel Churchyard there is an MI to the five children of Stephen & Mary Evans. The gravestone inscription reveals that of the five children listed four were born and died between the censuses. This information immediately gives the researcher

In loving memory
of
5 Children of
Stephen & Mary EVANS,
(Pontestyll)
Annie,
died 7 Dec. 1891 aged 14 months,
David
died 28 June 1892, aged 11 weeks,
David Brychan
died 21 June 1893, aged 14 days,
William Cyril,
died 2 Sept. 1894, aged 16 days,
David Stephen,
died 23 March 1901, aged 5 years.

facts about the family they may not yet have been aware of or even been looking for.

Information of this nature, whilst it still needs to be verified through the relevant registers offers an immediacy which can push forward a search more quickly than anticipated and open unknown doors.

In Troedryhiwdalar another gravestone provides information about a familial link. The wife of Thomas Pugh is noted as the youngest daughter of the Revd. David Williams and these family links are informed further by the inscription on another stone in the same cemetery. A substantial MI, this not only contains information about successive generations of the family of the Revd David Williams but also tells us more about the Reverend himself.

In loving memory of
 Thomas PUGH
 Tyrhosser
 in this Parish,
 Born June 9th 1821,
 Died May 17th 1891.
 "Absent from the body"
 "Present with the Lord"
 Also of Anne
 relict of the above
 Thomas PUGH
 and also the youngest daughter
 of the late Revd David WILLIAMS
 of Troedrhiwdalar
 She died at Llwynucus. February 4th 1906 aged 80
 "Thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace."

Where generations of a family have been buried in the same place gravestones can help to fill in gaps and break down brick walls. Using them alongside other resources such as birth, marriage, death registers and the censuses we can often fill in gaps we might otherwise struggle with. They also may give us a better understanding of the family by placing them more fully within the social history of the period.

I found it very useful to investigate MI's in churchyards local to where my family came from. I often came across gravestones which on first sight seemed not to be connected to me but which after further research surprisingly provided links between family members I had not been aware of before. Take a wander through a graveyard and see what you find, you might be surprised.



To
 the memory of
 Elizabeth
 wife of the
 Revd. David WILLIAMS.
 of Troedrhiwdalar
 who died
 at Tanyrallt
 Jan. 4th. 1857
 aged 82 years.

...
 In loving memory
 of Elizabeth,
 daughter of John and
 Sarah WILLIAMS,
 Tanyrallt
 and granddaughter
 of the said
 Rev'd David WILLIAMS.
 Born July 9th, 1870
 Died Sept 25th 1885

...
 In Loving memory
 of the
 Revd. David WILLIAMS
 Born January 27th 1779,
 Died August 20th 1874,
 ordained Pastor of the United
 Churches of Llanwrtyd
 and Troedrhiwdalar, Aug. 18th
 1803.

Through his exertions
 8 places of worship were built
 and rebuilt. He was possessed of
 a hardy well knit frame. Highly
 mercurial temperament and
 affectionate disposition; as a
 speaker he was distinguished for
 a rich melodious voice and resistless
 flow of impassioned eloquence.
 And as a Minister for Apostolical
 zeal and labours purity of life
 and undivided devotedness to the
 objects of his sacred vocation.

March Meeting Review: Treberfydd House and the Raikes Family

By David Raikes

In the absence of Hilary Williams, Vice Chair John Ball welcomed a large audience of Society members and friends and introduced the speaker, Mr David Raikes, whose family has occupied Treberfydd House since the present building was erected in the mid-19th century. David began by giving a resumé of the history of the Raikes family, including mention of perhaps its most famous member, Robert Raikes of Gloucester (1736-1811), an English philanthropist and Anglican layman and pioneer of the Sunday School movement. David then spoke on the history of the house and its occupants up to the present day. He gave us a fascinating insight into the running of this Victorian Gothic building and its extensive gardens, as well as telling us about the various characters who have lived there over the past 170 years. David illustrated his talk with a slide presentation.

During his talk David Raikes referred to research conducted by his late father (Duncan Raikes) into the history of the Raikes family. The research findings were published in 1980 in a book entitled *Pedigree of Raikes* published by Phillimore (London), ISBN 0-900592-73-7.

Treberfydd House has its own website at www.treberfydd.com/ and in 2016 is open to visitors between 2nd and 15th July. The walled garden and plant nursery are open daily throughout the year (see www.walledgardentreberfydd.com/ for details).

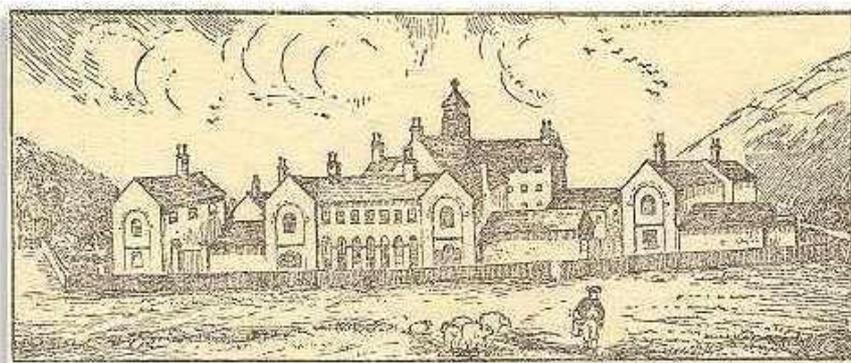
As part of the National Garden Scheme the house and garden, including a guided tour of the house, are also open on Sunday 3 July (1 - 5.30pm). Admission £3.50, children free. House tours every half hour (additional £2), last tour 4pm. Home-made teas. The link for further information is <http://www.ngs.org.uk/gardens/find-a-garden/garden.aspx?id=12012>



Y DOLYDD – Llanfyllin Workhouse

The only workhouse of its kind in Wales has opened to the public after it received Lottery money to create a history centre.

The workhouse at Llanfyllin, known locally as Y Dolydd, was opened in 1839 and took inmates from a vast catchment



Llanfyllin Workhouse c1907. Powys County Archives

area covering twenty four parishes. The National Archives has digitised some of the correspondence records between the workhouse and the central authorities and these can be found at the National Archives in catalogue section MH12 where they can be searched by place, person and subject. To find those records specific to Llanfyllin cut and past the following into your browser.

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r?q=poor%20law%20llanfyllin&col=200&hb=tna>

A list of all the documents which have been digitised will be listed and can be scrolled through and read on screen using the image viewer provided. If you are searching for a specific inmate adding their name to the search box will enable you to see if they have been mentioned in any of the correspondence.

More information about the workhouse can be found at <http://www.llanfyllinworkhouse.com/>



Help Needed!

The next parishes to be tackled are Llandyfaelog fach and Llanelly.

If you can contribute any photographs or textual material relating to these parishes, or if you wish to report any problems with the website, email our webmaster John Ball at john@jlb2011.co.uk



Free Online Resources

There are lots of free resources out there on the Internet. Here is something I came across recently. Copy and paste the web address into your browser.

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/wwi%20book%20of%20remembrance

Monmouthshire Parish Records

If you have family links with Monmouthshire then the website <http://mongenes.org.uk/Home.html> may be very useful. Raymond Rogers is a new member and transcribes for this free subscription website. Once you are accepted into membership you will have access to a searchable database of Parish Records. Many members will have ancestors who moved from Breconshire down to Monmouthshire for work so this website could be very helpful in tracking down relatives who made this move.



Next Meeting

Date/Time: Tuesday 7th June 2016. 2pm

Place: Brecon Library. (Entry to the Library is through the main entrance door, although the lift from the garage area is available if you cannot manage the stairs to the upper floor of the library.)

Subject: **Annual General Meeting**

Members will elect the Management Committee for 2016-17. The AGM will be followed by short talks by members on subjects relating to their family history or of local interest.

Website

Our website address is www.blfhs.co.uk

If you have any comments on this Newsletter or would like to contribute an article or short piece please contact me. Sue Ashton. editorblfhs@outlook.com