



Breconshire Local & Family History Society (BLFHS)

Cymdeithas Hanes Lleol a Theuluoedd Brycheiniog

Newsletter 62 - February 2017

Licensing Lore

At the beginning of the twentieth century the temperance movement began to gather strength. As a consequence of this there was a strong belief that in many places that the number of population did not justify the number of public houses which existed to serve them. In Birmingham a "surrender scheme" was set up by the brewers who negotiated with the local magistrates the surrender of licences in exchange for some level of compensation for the licensee who lost his licence and the owner of the building. As a result of this scheme between 1904 and 1914 over 1,000 licences were surrendered in Birmingham and it was so successful that it was incorporated into the 1904 Licensing Act as a national scheme and carried forward into the Licensing (Consolidation) Act of 1910.

Nationally magistrates could now refuse to renew a publican's licence if they felt that it was not necessary to the public need. Compensation would then be determined by the county's Compensation Authority who would base their decision on, amongst other elements, the rateable value of the business. The compensation was divided between the licensee and the owner of the building although it seems that the licensee got the least amount of the total. The compensation was paid out of a fund made up of a levy upon other premises granted licences. If the Compensation Authority decided not to go forward with the Magistrate's report concerning specific public houses it would appear that this was because they did not think there were sufficient grounds to close them and so one assumes that they continued to be licenced. Despite the magistrates offering apparently logical and well sourced arguments for why a public house should be closed down overall it seems that there were many occasions when their arguments were illogical and irrational.

An interesting newspaper article on this issue has been sent to me by Hilary Williams. It gives a flavour of how the magistrates of Brecon went about this issue in 1914. As can be seen from the newspaper report the Compensation Authority threw out the magistrates' arguments about the New Buck Inn and the Three Horseshoes and newspaper reports show that the latter was still trading in 1917 [see *Brecon County Times*. 12 Apr 1917. P5.]

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.

Newsletter

Newsletter 62 (the one you are now reading)
www.blfhs.co.uk/members/newsletters.htm

Monthly Meetings

Monthly meeting report for February 2017.
Sound files and slide presentations from Helen Ball's talk "No One in particular & "1901 à la Carte"
www.blfhs.co.uk/members/meetings/170110.htm

Minutes of Committee Meeting held 19 January 2017

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

Members' News Pages

List of members' interests
[updated 13 February 2017]
www.blfhs.co.uk/members/news.htm

Public News Pages

Information relating to the planning for the forthcoming 2021 census inc. the trialling of census data collection.
[updated 9 February 2017]
www.blfhs.co.uk/news.htm

Noticeboard

Announcements and forthcoming events
[updated 9 February 2017]
www.blfhs.co.uk/noticeboard.htm

Don't forget! Check the News Pages every few days and the Noticeboard at least weekly.

TAVERNS & PUBLIC HOUSES.

Angel, William Jones, Struet *
 Bear, John Williams, Ship st
 Black Cock, William Bevan, Struet
 Black Lion, David Harris, Castle st
 Blue Boar, Abel Powell, Watton
 Boar's Head, David Prothero, Ship st
 Bull, William Parry, Wheat st
 Bull's Head, Mary Lloyd, Struet *
 Bush, David Davies, High st
 Cambrian Arms, Rees Jones, Watton
 Carpenters' Arms, Henry Jones, Wheat st
 Coach & Horses, Howel Rees, Llanfaes
 Cock & Horse, Thomas Gunter, Watton
 Cross Keys, Roger Williams, Llanfaes
 Crown, Howel Powel, Llanfaes
 Cwm Inn, William Parry, Kensington
 Drovers' Arms, Rees Price, Llanfaes
 Flag & Castle, Wm. Matthews, Llanfaes
 Fountain Ann Watkins, Ship st
 Fox & Hounds, William Martin, Watton
 Fusileer, William Jones, Watton
 Green Dragon, Charles Rosser, High st
 King William IV, William Davies, Watton
 King's Arms, Rachael Chambers, Watton
 King's Head, Thos. Morgan, Kensington
 Lamb, Watkin Parry, Watton
 Lion, Abel Powell, Struet *
 New Buck, Evan Thomas, Llanfaes
 New Greyhound, Wm. Jones, Llanfaes
 New Inn, Elizabeth Shepherd, Watton
 Old Buck, Edward Edwards, Llanfaes
 Old Greyhound, Thos. Williams, Llanfaes
 Old White Lion, David Prosser, Llanfaes
 Plough & Harrow, William Price, Watton
 Queen's Head, Thomas Jenkins, High st
 Red Cow, Lewellyn Morgan, Llanfaes
 Red Lion, David Williams, Llanfaes
 Rose & Crown, Evan Williams, Llanfaes
 Ship, Thomas Jones, Llanfaes
 Shoulder of Mutton, John Brace, High st
 Six Bells, Thomas Dorrell, Ship st
 Star, John Mainwaring, Struet
 Sun, Charles Hughes, Wheat st
 Woolpack, Daniel Davies, Ship st

*Pigot's Directory of 1835 : Public Houses
 in Brecon. Many of these still existed in
 1914.*

LICENCE CONGESTED BRECON

Two Houses Referred.
THE NEEDS OF THE DISTRICT.

The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Borough of Brecon were held on Monday, the justices being Ald. E. A. Wright (presiding), Messrs. J. C. B. Morris and W. J. Nott.

The police objected, on the grounds of redundancy, to the renewal of the Three Horse Shoes, Llanfaes (tenant, Mr G. S. Dunstan; lessee, Hereford and Tredegar Brewery Co. and owner, Miss Jones, Bridge street, Llanfaes); New Buck, Llanfaes (tenant, Mr Jas. Hutchinson; owner, Mr David Powell); and the Prince of Wales, Watton (tenant, Mrs Ellen Webster and owners, Messrs. Arnold Perrott and Co.).

Mr Jones Powell, who appeared for the police, stated that in the Borough there were 40 fully licensed houses, three of which did not take out excise licences; one off-licence, and three grocers and wine licences. The population was 5778, and if they included the three houses which were not licensed by excise, gave an average of 144 persons to each house. The general average through-out the county was 172 for every house; Brecon was the fourth most congested area in the county. Crickhowell was the most congested area - 48 houses, one for every 113; Hay, one for every 131; Brynmawr, one for every 141; and Brecon, one for every 144. The least congested was Ystradgynlais, one for every 395 persons.

Supt. Steven Jones, Brecon, stated that Brecon was a congested area. The New Buck was an old house, but he had nothing to complain as to the conduct of the house. It was a "tied" house, and owned by Mr David Powell. He did not think there was a large trade done. There was no stabling accommodation, and no place for traps. The other houses in Llanfaes had stabling accommodation. Comparing the Tradesman's Arms, another tied house, with the New Buck, the former was a more modern

house. There were eight licenced houses in Llanfaes, which he considered too many, and the New Buck and the Three Horse Shoes should be referred for compensation rather than the others.

P.S. Williams said the nearest public house to the New Buck in one direction was the Three Horse Shoes, a distance of 58 yards, the Tradesman's Arms, 70 yards, and Drovers Arms, 500 yards; and in the direction of the town the nearest

was the Coach and Horses, about 70 yards; Flag and Castle, 87 yards; Cross Keys, 133 yards; and the Bridgend Inn, 333 yards. With regard to construction of the house, it was an old house, and less adapted to modern requirements.

"Three Horse Shoes".

Superintendent Jones stated that the general evidence he had given in the case of the New Buck applied to this house. The Three Horse Shoes was tied to Hereford and Tredegar Brewery Co., as well as the house opposite, the Tradesman's Arms, but the latter was more adapted to the requirements, and better for police supervision. There was stabling

accommodation in the Three Horse Shoes. It was not used much by farmers coming into Brecon, as there was no place for carriages, and the horses had to be taken through the house. It was an inconvenient house for supervision.

P.S. Williams also gave evidence.

“Prince of Wales”.

Supt. Jones deposed that his general remarks applied to the Prince of Wales. The house was tied to Messrs. Arnold Perrott and Co. Up to the King's Arms there were seven other public houses in the Watton. This house was the least wanted. There was no stabling accommodation, and it was one of the smallest of the licensed houses in the Watton. He did not think a big trade was done. With the exception of the King William, the King's Arms, and the Prince of Wales, all the other houses had stabling accommodation.

Cross-examined by Mr Lewis Jones (solicitor), he said that the "Lamb" and "Fox and Hounds" had been done away with some years ago.

Answering Mr W. J. Nott, witness said the "Prince of Wales" was the nearest house to the Sports ground, the goods' yard, and the Barracks.

P.S. Williams corroborated, and said he did not think that the house was required. The King William, which was a house about the same size, was better situated. He had nothing to complain about the structure.

Witness was proceeding to state that the house was not suitable for police supervision, when Mr Lewis Jones objected, saying there was nothing in regard to that in the notice of objection. Some years ago they made alterations at the back which satisfied the magistrates in this respect.

An Amusing Interlude.

Mr Lewis Jones: Is it not a fact that this is the only house connected by name with Royalty in the town? (Laughter.) - Witness: I expect they would disclaim any connection. (More laughter.)

Having done away with the Crown" some years ago we ought to have the "Prince of Wales." (Laughter.)

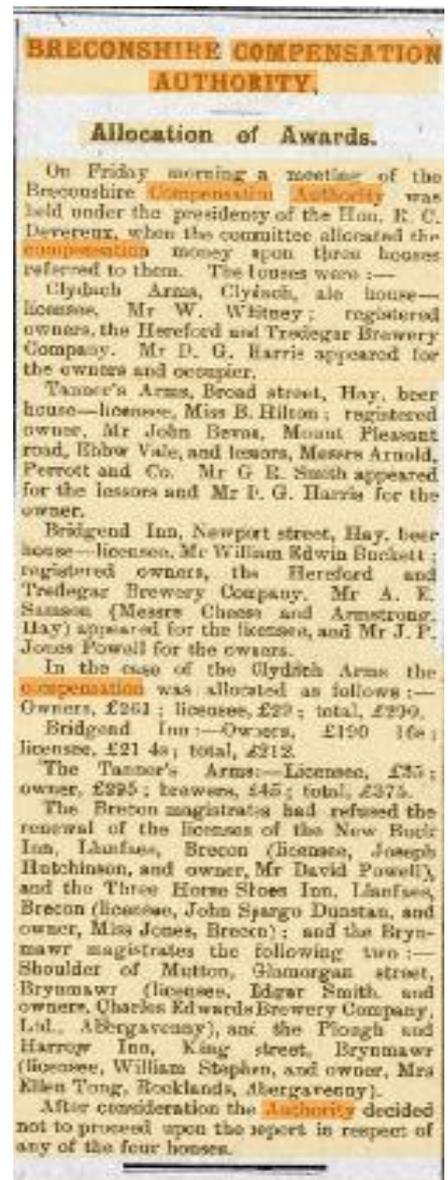
Mr Jones Powell: We have got the King's Arms." (Renewed laughter.)

Mr Lewis Jones: The "arms" without the "King" is no good.

Mr Jones Powell: We have got the "King's Head."

Mrs Webster, licensee, said she had been in the house for five years, and got a fair living. She kept no books. Cross-examined, she said she did a fair trade with the Barracks and "all-round." She kept lodgers.

Mr Lewis Jones said there was really no substantial objection. There were many houses in the Watton, and why interfere with people who did a fair and honest living. The house was near the railway works, a large building yard, the Barracks, and there was a large working class population in the Watton, and why should they all go to one house. There were frequently more rows when people were obliged to go to one house.



Brecon County Times 4.Jun. 1914

The Bench decided to refer for compensation the New Buck and the Three Horse Shoes, but in the case of the Prince of Wales, the licence would be renewed.

Brecon & Radnor Express. 5 Mar. 1914. P.8

Type the following into your browser to see the actual newspaper entry.

<http://newspapers.library.wales/view/4093164/4093172/106/>



Free Genealogy Course

I am now five weeks through this free course with one week to go. I am disappointed to find it rather heavy going as it feels very rushed and many of the examples used seem to be USA based or North of the Border. Granted the examples are intended to illustrate particular issues to consider when undertaking a family history/genealogical search but I have found it difficult to engage with resources that are not relevant to my own family history. So far we haven't even touched on Wales or its peculiar issues but have spent much of a lesson on the area of DNA (interesting but surely something for the more experienced genealogist?) The weeks have been broken into different resource areas such as Primary and Secondary with some exercises to work through but once these have been covered it's off again to the next segment without any real discussion of what has been achieved. If I was a beginner I think I would find it all rather confusing and for this reason would not recommend it as a helpful introduction to genealogy.

Free Online Resources

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

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



BRECONSHIRE STRAYS

MONMOUTHSHIRE

LANFOIST

Banns

David Thomas otp & Anne Lewis, Llanigon, Brecs., 12/19/26 Dec 1826

John Williams, Llanelly & Mary Morgan otp. 29 Apr., 6/13 May 1827

David Jones otp & Mary Lewis, Llanigon, Brecs. 1/8/15 Jun 1828

Danl Reynolds, Llanelly, Brecs. & Leah Watkins otp? 6/13/20 Apr 1834

Henry Davies, Llanelly, Brecs. & Rebecca Watkins otp. 21/28 Sep & 5 Oct 1834 (married Nov 14?)

Thos Price, Llanigon, Brecs. & Elizth Mann otp. 14/21/28 Aug (1836?)

Geo Lanford otp & Mary Davies, Crickhowell. 14/21/28 Mar 1841.

Wm Romsey otp & Margt Williams otp. Entry marked "Parish of Crickhowell" – Refused to marry them [It doesn't say who was from Crickhowell]. 23 Feb & 2/9 Mar 1845

John Evans otp & Mary Price, Llanelly. 15.22/29 Jun 1845

LLANELEN (MONS)

Marriages

Walter Rosser, Llanelly, batch & Rachel Thomas X otp, spin. 15 Apr 1813. Witnesses:- Thos Thomas; Benj. Rosser X. Banns

Thos Saunders, Llanelly, batch. & Hanah Jones, otp. Widow. 24 Apr 1819. Witnesses:- Wm Walters; Joseph March. Banns. With consent of parents

Jas Powell otp, batch. & Ann Taylor, Llanelly, spin. 14 May 1829. Witnesses. Wm Watkins, Hester Lewis. Banns

January Meeting Review: No One in Particular. February 7th 2017

On this cold and rainy February afternoon about twenty Society members and friends occupied the meeting room at Brecon Library to enjoy the second BLFHS meeting of 2017. At 2pm prompt, BLFHS Chair Robert Eckley welcomed the audience, made a few announcements, and then introduced the main speaker for the day, genealogist **Helen Ball**. Helen explained that her talk would be in two parts and that Hilary Williams would contribute to the second part of the talk. Helen entitled the first part of her talk *No One in Particular*, an illustration of how to break down seemingly intractable problems in family history research. She followed this with *1901 à la Carte* showing how the 1901 census could be used to help paint a picture of Brecon town in the final year of the Victorian era.



Website Statistics

John Ball has extracted statistics revealing how many people accessed our website and whilst there, what information they were most interested in. These will help us to plan what kinds of information we add in the future.

BLFHS Website Stats month by month

| Month | Unique visitors | Number of visits | Pages | Hits |
|----------|-----------------|------------------|-------|-------|
| Aug 2016 | 544 | 907 | 1,835 | 5,342 |
| Sep 2016 | 465 | 1,045 | 1,896 | 5,537 |
| Oct 2016 | 470 | 1,115 | 2,482 | 7,156 |
| Nov 2016 | 506 | 1,048 | 2,220 | 6,030 |
| Dec 2016 | 441 | 1,207 | 2,174 | 5,721 |
| Jan 2017 | 552 | 1,306 | 2,466 | 7,714 |

Stats extracted 14 February 2017

Top Ten Downloads (Jan 2017)

| Downloaded file | Hits |
|--|------|
| Mynydd Illtyd Mountain Centre panels (2) (PDF) | 72 |
| Newsletter 10 (PDF) | 47 |
| Membership Renewal Form (PDF) | 43 |
| Newsletter 6 I (PDF) | 43 |
| Newsletter 6 (PDF) | 39 |
| Newsletter 17 (PDF) | 34 |
| Mynydd Illtyd Mountain Centre panels (1) (PDF) | 33 |
| Newsletter 14 (PDF) | 33 |
| Newsletter 19 (PDF) | 32 |
| Newsletter 2 (PDF) | 32 |



Who do you think you are? Live. NEC Birmingham 6-8th April 201

Find your family with help from genealogy experts at the world's biggest family history show. The Society of Genealogists will run its extensive programme of talks by leading genealogists over the course of the three day show. There will be a choice to attend over 80 different talks, covering a vast array of subjects. The Society's 'Ask the Experts' area will provide an opportunity to get some one-to-one guidance on your family history research. This is a perfect chance to pose specific questions to an expert who can provide invaluable advice. Many family history societies will be represented as well as other companies offering access to a wide variety of genealogical resources.

Go to www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.com/ for more information.

Website

Our website address is www.blfhs.co.uk

Next Meeting

Date/Time: Tuesday March 7th 2017 2pm

Place: Brecon Library

Subject: Talyllyn Railway Village

Roger Reese, Chairman of Llyn Syfaddan History Group, will give a talk on this interesting aspect of Breconshire railway history.

Breconshire
Local & Family
History Society



Cymdeithas Hanes
Lleol a Theuluoedd
Brycheiniog

Brecon Public Library

Ship Street, Brecon

*Access is through the main library entrance in Ship Street;
or to use the lift, enter via the garage area in Bell Lane.*

Talyllyn Railway Village

Roger Reese, Chairman of Llyn Syfaddan History Group, will give a talk on this interesting aspect of Breconshire railway history.

Tuesday, 7th March 2017

2:00pm

All Welcome

(£1.00 entry fee for non-members)

Further details from Hilary Williams (01874) 624432
and on our website: <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/>

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