



LLANCARFAN SOCIETY

Newsletter 24: October-November 1989

The Annual Dinner of the Society was held at Rhoose Community Hall on Saturday, 28th October, attended by almost 80 members. We owe a huge debt to Treasurer, Philip Watts, for organising the event and to Secretary, Barbara Milhuisen for a lot of background work. An excellent buffet meal was provided by the caterers, Mrs Jane Morgan and Mrs Jane Prichard. Gwynne Liscombe organised and ran the bar with a small amount of help from the Chairman. By the way, have you ever attended a social function at which the barmen managed to destroy three corkscrews? Thank you all for being patient!

Later in the evening Gwynne also made us a tidy little sum by auctioning various paintings and other goods. He also entertained us with an interesting social survey which identified the oldest and the youngest guest who had attended Llanccarfarn School. The oldest was Les Griffiths from 1913 and the youngest, Andrew Griffiths, 1950. Andrew is Les' nephew which again raises the question of the Griffiths' family and where they have all gone. It is also sad that there were no younger folk from the 1950's and 60's but perhaps talking about the past is something we do more of as we get older.

Dilys Liscombe organised a raffle which was won by Beryl Booth, Whitton Lodge and Ruth Watts arranged the table decorations, flowers by Mrs Betty Thomas. As usual the Committee did the necessary preparation during the afternoon of the most awful October day I can remember. Rhoose Airport Meteorological Station recorded a gust of 124 mph in the mid-afternoon, an all-time record for the area (Western Mail). The caterers had trouble getting to Rhoose having met an uprooted tree and the heavy rain gave us a persistent drip in the hall, fortunately self-curing by the evening, as the wind changed. It veered through almost the whole compass in 12 hours, being easterly in the morning and almost north-east late that night. All this was accompanied by more than an inch of rain. Thank you all for braving the weather.

This month, the Newsletter contains a major contribution from the "Loughers of Garnllwyd". The family, almost for certain has the longest traceable family history and certainly the most extensive one in the old Parish of Llanccarfarn. The article is unlike anything we have seen before in being the joint work of five different members of the family. The Editor has

interpolated some comments to bring it all together.

JRE

The Lougher Family of Garnllwyd

by Gwladys W. Lougher, L. Kenneth Lougher, Kathleen Howell, Leila Howell and Thomas H. Lougher with editorial information from the family tree compiled by Edwin C. Lougher

Editorial Introduction.(all editorial text is in italics).

The Lougher family has been associated with the Vale of Glamorgan for well over 500 years. This is fully documented in the detailed family tree compiled by the late Major Edwin C. Lougher (mentioned in Newsletter 10 editorial). This article is a unique contribution to a Newsletter drawing on notes and biographical work by five grandchildren of Robert Lougher of Garnllwyd. The editor has used Edwin Lougher's family tree to link together these various contributions.

The story commences with Richard Lougher of Sker in the fifteenth century. Richard first resided at Cwrt-y-Carnau on the banks of the River Llwcher on the former Glamorgan-Carmarthenshire border from where he moved to Sker, the rocky promontary which juts into the sea between Porthcawl and the ancient Borough of Kenfig. In notes appended to the family tree, Richard's ancestry is traced further back into the mists of ninth century Wales.

Richard's son, Watkin, moved into the Vale, to live at Tythegstone and his descendents remained there or at Newton Nottage for several generations. Another Richard, seven generations removed from the first, came closer to Llancarfan to live at St Hilary where he was buried in 1728/9. Richard's son and grandson lived in Bonvilston Parish and his great-grandson, born in 1786, was the first Robert Lougher of Garnllwyd. His son, another Robert who lived from 1837 to 1911, married Elizabeth Bowen and became the grandfather of the contributors of this article.

The Family by Gwladys Lougher

My father, Jenkin Lougher, was the second youngest of eleven children born to Elizabeth, wife of Robert Lougher of Garnllwyd. My grandfather married Elizabeth Bowen of Llangynwdd near Maesteg. At first they lived at Greendown where the first children were born and then moved back to Garnllwyd.

The family finally consisted of five sons and six daughters as follows:

Margaret m. John Lougher (a distant relative) and lived at Cross Green. Robert m. Winifred Howell of Coldbrook Fawr, St Andrews. Lived in Hawaii. Jane m. William Liscombe, Miller. Lived at Monastery Mill and Abernant. Catherine m. David McHatlee-Forbes and lived in Hawaii. Elizabeth m. Evan Rowlands and lived at Garnllwyd. Mary unmarried. Lived at Garnllwyd and Cross Green.

William m. Lillian Murray (American) and lived at Maui Island near Hawaii. Thomas m Mary Howell of Coldbrook Fawr, St Andrews lived in Hawaii and Cuba. Damaris m. Arthur Howell of Coldbrook Fawr, St Andrews. Lived at Castleton. Jenkin m. Gwladys Hopkins, Pancross Farm. Lived in Hawaii, Cuba then Rhoose. Dyfrig - went to Hawaii and then Australia. Last heard from in 1913.

Robert, William and Jenkin were connected with the sugar-industry in Hawaii and later Jenkin and Tom were involved with the same industry in Cuba. I was born in Hawaii, the fourth child of five. My elder brothers were Edwin Charles, Llewellyn Kenneth and Robert William. My younger brother was Albert Douglas.

Jenkin Richard Lougher by L Kenneth Lougher

My father, Jenkin Richard Lougher, was born in 1879, the tenth child of Robert and Elizabeth Lougher of Garnllwyd. He left school at 14 and went to live with his sister Margaret and husband John in Canton, Cardiff. He entered the G.W.R. and after three years qualified as a fireman.

At the age of 17 he emigrated to Hawaii where, he told us, he arrived with one shilling in his pocket. Bill, his brother, managed to get him work as a labourer from which he progressed rapidly up the ladder.

Dad's work started as a stevedore loading sacks of sugar from the mill to the ships, then the next move was to into the mill on the production of sugar as a sugar boiler, which is a skilled job. The mill was in Puanene in the island of Maui where brother Bill was employed in the mill.

Early in 1907 he thought of marriage and wrote to Gwladys Blodwen Hopkins, of Pancross Farm, for her hand but the journey to Hawaii was a problem so it was decided that Gwladys' sister, Elizabeth, should go along. The stories of their trip are another matter. The wedding on November 27th 1907 took place at Wiamea Church in the district of Kamuela. The reception was held at the home of Mr and Mrs David McHatlee-Forbes (Dad's sister Cass and husband David). Following this, Dad took a better job as mill manager in Hanu, Maui. Edwin Charles, my elder brother, was born in Hawaii on 4.9.1908. After two years Dad and Mother returned to Honokaa, Hawaii where Dad returned to work on the growing of sugar cane.

I was born in Honokaa (31.12.1911) as was Robert William (28.1.1915). We then moved to Nuilu, district of Kohala, where Gwladys was born (24.12.1916) and Albert Douglas (30.12.1918).

Dad was now head Luna. We used to go to the Union Church in Kohala which was the only time we wore our shoes and stockings but which were off as soon as we were outside the Church.

Our next move was to Union Mill, still in the Kohala district where dad was Assistant Plantation Manager. At this time his brother Thomas was settled in Constantia, Cuba and

managed to settle my Dad as Plantation Manager.

To move a family of seven wasn't an easy task; firstly inter-island boat to Honolulu Oahu and then steamer to San Francisco and four days by train across the States to New Orleans. After an overnight stay we boarded a freighter to Havana.

We were supposed to progress to Uncle Tom's family. He was now Manager of Hershey sugar plantation. After a short stay my mother and children returned to stay with Grandpa Hopkins and Aunt May in Pantffynhonnau, Bonvilston. In August, 1922, we returned to my father in Cuba.

We lived in Constancia about a year and by this time my father was considered an authority on the production of sugar cane and had written articles in the New York Journal. The next move was to Florida Plantation and after boosting the sugar production the Company asked him to travel to Solidaridad Guantanimu, Cuba, but this was a short stay because there was beginning to be a bit of unrest in the island.

Education in the island was poor and with five children Dad decided that Britain was the best place for us all. We landed at Liverpool in February 1925 and, having bought thicker clothes in Cardiff, we travelled to Rhose to a new home bought from Grandpa Hopkins. Part was a burned out ruin and needed rebuilding but by Christmas 1926 we had moved in and Father was to return to Cuba to allow Uncle Tom and family to return as Uncle Tom was now ill. We all stayed, 3 adults and nine children - eight boys and Gwladys. After Uncle Tom was better he returned to Cuba and Dad came home to us and to try for work, which was difficult at the age of 45, but he managed to obtain work with Lever Brothers Ltd., as Secretary to the local branch of the Farmer's Union and as Milk Recorder to the Glamorgan Recording Society until the Second World War.

May I also state that Mother's work during World War I was knitting stockings for the Forces: 200 pairs. She had a life-long medal from the American Red Cross for her effort.

After World War II both parents decided to retire and enjoy the life left to them. Mother passed away on January 18th, 1954 and Dad nine years later on January 21st 1963 in that terrible snow and ice period.

Both are buried in Penmark Church. This ends the life of my father and family, of which are left at present, myself Kenneth, and Gwladys.

Early Memories of Llancarfan by Kathleen and Leila Howell

As children of the youngest daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Lougher, namely Damaris, we are a minute part of this large family and Llancarfan history.

Our father, Arthur Howell, and mother met, about 1903 at one of the famous Vale picnics at Font-y-gary. He had just returned from the South African War with the Glamorgan Yeomanry and was the oldest son of Morgan Howell of Coldbrook Fawr, St Andrews, Dinas Powys. He also served throughout the First World War in the Cardiff City Battalion

of the Welsh Regiment as an ??? Officer and was wounded twice on the Somme.

Later, two of his sisters married two of mother's brothers: Robert Lougher married Winifred Howell and Thomas married Mary. A younger brother, Jenkin Lougher married Gwladys Hopkins of Pancross Farm as stated by Gwladys Lougher in Newsletter 15.

As children we often visited Llancarfan and stayed at Garnllwyd, The Mill or Cross Green. In those days our only means of transport was pony and trap and we travelled all the way from Castleton, Monmouthshire to Llancarfan, a distance of 16-18 miles with faithful Polly and the governess car - straight thorough Cardiff on beautifully quiet roads - probably lots of dirt but no fumes!

On these visits we were taken to visit mother's Uncle William Lougher of Llanveithin (Dr Evan Thomas' grandfather) and another Uncle, Evan Lougher, of Treguff. We still enjoy visiting William and Thelma (Lougher) at Treguff.

We used to ride on the bread-roads with Aunt Jane, Tudor and Doris (Liscombe) - all horse drawn. We fished in the stream beside the Bakehouse and mother used to take us to visit an old lady in a cottage at the bottom of Pancross Hill called Kitty Griffiths.

Our parents were married at Llancarfan Church in 1905, and we all attended a service there for their Golden Wedding in 1955 when Doris (Watts) organised an impromptu party in the Church Hall - much appreciated.

The Loughers Who Remain - Biographical Extracts by Thomas H. Lougher

Of Robert Lougher's eleven children and their families a few remain as part of Llancarfan today and others live close-by in South Wales.

Jane Lougher (1866-1938) married William Liscombe whose forbears had come from Somerset. Their children were Tudor, Doris and Ifor the last of whom died in infancy. Jane and William lived at Monastery Mill where they ran a small-holding and bakery business, at one time with a shop in Cowbridge. In the 1930's they moved to Abernant where they continued farming with Doris and her husband William Watts. By this time Tudor had taken-over the baking business. (Life at Abernant was described by Phil Watts, Doris and Bill's son, in Newsletters 10 & 11 and, without this descendent of the Lougher family there would be no Llancarfan Society. Tudor's son, Gwynne Liscombe, is a member of our Committee, has written for us, is a marvellous barbecue cook and barman!).

Elizabeth (1868-1925) married Evan Rowlands. When Robert Lougher retired from farming they took-over; this would be in the first decade of the century. Evan remained in Garnllwyd with their six children until about 1935 when they moved to Flaxland. (Thus ended more than a century of the Lougher family history in Garnllwyd).

Damaris (1878-1966) married Arthur Howell in 1905. She was in S. Africa at the same time as Arthur was there in the armed forces, but unknown to each other. Arthur became

a registrar in Penarth and Chief Registrar in Cardiff and resided in Castleton, Monmouthshire. (It was from Castleton that Kathleen and Leila Howell would be driven to Llancarfan for their visits, recounted above).

Jenkin Richard Lougher (1879-1963) was father to Edwin Charles, Llewellyn Kenneth, Robert William, Gwladys Winifred and Albert Douglas. Kenneth and Gwladys are writing his biography. (Contributions from Kenneth and Gwladys form part of this article and Major Edwin Lougher's family tree has made it possible for your editor to understand the ramifications of this enormous family).

The Llanvythin branch of the family was founded by William (born 1842), son of the first Robert of Garnllwyd. Dr Evan Thomas told us in Newsletter 8 that his mother was David Walter Lougher's sister, two of William's children. Walter continued to farm Llanvythin until the 1930's. William was the Uncle William of Kathleen & Leila Howells article, above. David Lougher, directly descended in this line remains in Llancarfan living at Penonn.

The Lougher family of Treguff, again referred to by Kathleen and Leila Howells, diverged even earlier. Richard, brother of the first Robert of Garnllwyd had a son William, born in 1797, who founded the Treguff line, which continues to the present day.

Mushrooms, Berries and Nuts

This has been a marvellous year for free food from the hedgerows and fields. The blackberries took a while to fill-out as the soil was very dry in late summer, but once the rain came the crop was enormous. The same rain brought so many mushrooms that we thought we would have to stop collecting as the freezer was overloaded. Elderberries, hazlenuts, hips and haws have all been prolific as well. If you believe the old country lore about hard winters we can expect something out of the ordinary.

Some of the mushrooms came from around our other home in Pembrokeshire and, there, something new was learned. I had always assumed that mushrooms only grew on old grassland and that modern agriculture would get rid of them, as it has so many wild flowers. Not so; our largest collection came from a field which carried a huge barley crop two years ago and has been rotated through cereals every few years for the last twenty, before which it was an undrained marsh.

In these days of diet consciousness it is useful to know that raw mushrooms contain only four Calories per ounce. With a non-stick pan you can cook them using hardly any butter and a splash of water. On a thin slice of unbuttered toast they make a delicious non-fattening breakfast which is all the better if you have just come in from collecting. Don't overcook them: field mushrooms collapse much more easily than cultivated ones. You can crumble a few of the over-ripe dark-gilled ones and cook them first to make a sauce in which the younger ones are not much more than stir-fried. It seems a pity with wild mushrooms, but you can also use bit of garlic when making the sauce, though perhaps not for breakfast!

JRE

P.S. We once asked if there were any Llancarfan recipes circulating amongst

the cooks of the village - perhaps this will prompt some of you to send them in?

Hedges. In the last Newsletter we talked about the age of hedges in the Parish. As we passed each other in the village a day or two ago, Tony Thomas told me that he certainly knows some hedges where the "rule" of one shrub invading, per century, does not hold. One of these was the roadside hedge between Pancross and the village where there was no hedge at all when he was a boy, and others on the farm, which he knows to have been planted only with quickthorn (hawthorn). Not really a rule but a generalization: you, have to look at large numbers of hedges for the system to work on average numbers. The counting in Llanvythin was of several hundred 30 yard stretches of hedge.

In his book, mentioned last time, Oliver Rackham says there are hedges in North America which are only a century or two old, definitely not planted, but containing large numbers of different shrubs. This is because they developed naturally from seed, under fences, where ploughing or grazing did not damage the young shrubs. I think the hedge on Pancross Hill is like this - it is almost a narrow wood in parts, anyway, and resulted from abandonment of land. Birds and squirrels then brought acorns, hazlenuts, haws and sloes while the wind twirled in the seed of ash, field maple and sycamore.

Where hedges are planted with quickthorn and are close to other hedges or woodland, they are invaded by underground suckers of blackthorn, English elm and dogwood. There is an example of this in a very new replanted section of hedge between Pancross and Llancadle. If the young hedge is overgrown by weeds when it is young, or not properly pleached and clipped once the shrubs are big enough, it again behaves like a young woodland and other shrubs seed in: it is only well managed hedges which take a long time to be invaded by other plants.

Christmas Tree:

Graham Brain is generously organising this, and the carols for its opening ceremony, as he has done before. The Society has given the balance of the donations which remained from the children's sports last Summer, together with a bit of additional cash, totalling £50.00, to assist with the tree and its lights.

As last year there will be carols around the tree for the "switch-on" at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 18th December. The lights will be switched-on by two children, one from the lower and one from the upper school, chosen by a competition. Do come - it was a lovely evening last year - something rather special for the children which many of them will always remember.

Martha, wife of William Lougher; died April 1851 : In the last Newsletter we heard about the discovery of a gravestone in the garden of Brook Cottage next door to the former Wesleyan Chapel (now Whitechapel). The names could not be traced through the Lougher family tree mentioned in the article above. A bit of genealogical research for which we

thank Peter Etherington, the editor's brother, has revealed that Martha's husband William was a shoemaker living in the village. This was recorded by the 1851 census when Martha was 27, the year of her death. No address is given as only the outlying farms and bigger houses were named in old documents. William's brother, Daniel, also lived with them, apprenticed to the business.

One Anne Lougher, shoemakers widow, was also recorded as living in the village but we have no way as yet of knowing whether this was William's mother.

Fingerpost: The enquiry in the last Newsletter has established that this was the old name for the junction at Aberogwn. The farmhouse must date from late last century as its style is roughly contemporary with other houses such as Glan-yr-Afon, Penylan and Ty-to-Maen. The house presumably replaced an older one and must have been re-named at that time as the early 6 inch Ordnance Survey map gives it as Groes Heol (Crossroad). Dilys Liscombe adds that the next junction closer to Llancarfan is called Llanbethery Cross and the turning to Middlecross, on the way into Llanbethery, is Pwll-y-Grat (Pool of the gate) - there are various pools and water-courses along this bit of the road which may account for the name?

Correction: Last month's Newsletter commented on the eccentric spellings of local names which appear in the early Electoral Registers but the editor did not do so well himself. Newsletter 23 had more typing errors and slips than anything we have seen before! The worst was the reference to the book on hedges which was completely garbled. If anyone wants to look it up it should have been Pollard, E., Hooper, M. & Moore, N. (1974) Hedges. Collins New Naturalist.

An Appeal - The Future of the Newsletter: Those of you who heard him speak at the Annual Dinner will know that the Editor, John Etherington, is soon moving to West Wales after 21 long and happy years in Llancarfan. John intends to continue editing the Newsletter, unless anyone else wants to take over. However, all the little snippets of information which are picked up by meeting people in the village or at the Fox and Hounds will necessarily come to an end or at least slow down. This is a pity as they give the Newsletters some "current affairs" interest. What we need is someone who lives in Llancarfan and knows what is going-on from day to day, to put just a few notes together each month to be posted or 'phoned to John. Any volunteers? No need to do any special writing - just bare bones information like a holiday postcard. Please see John if you would like to help.

Thanks. John Etherington also spoke at the Annual Dinner about all of those folk who have helped during the last year and this is worth repeating for the membership as a whole. Philip Watts, our founder and Treasurer has been a tower of strength organising all

the social events together with Secretary, Barbara Milhaisen who has beavered away quietly behind the scenes keeping everything going. Whenever anything needs doing Ruth Watts, Dilys and Gwynne Liscombe are always there and Andrew Griffiths has provided us with lighting systems and electrical skills. John Etherington has managed almost one Newsletter per month, much more easily now that Mavis Coles has taken-on the onerous business of copying them all. Derek and Pam Higgs provide a stick-on address label service and keep our membership list up to date while a third of our postal bill for Newsletter deliveries is saved by Sheena Etherington who is postlady for all the local ones. So many others have helped, for example with the sports, that we can only say thank you everyone.

A note from Megan Hamber: On reading the account from the Ernie Badcock diaries and Joyce Andrew's comment, I have some further information regarding the five year old boy who was killed in an air raid. The family were my neighbours in Romilly Park. George Victor Gibbs was a dentist with a surgery in Porthkerry Road. On the night of the raid Kathleen Gibbs, the mother, was holding Melville in her arms when he was killed and she was badly injured. She made a remarkable recovery but it was so sad to lose their only child. There is a window in All Saints Church, Barry in memory of Melville.

This seems a bit irrelevant to Llancarfan news but, since Joyce Andrews added a note about the name, I thought you might find it interesting.

A note from Dr Evan Thomas: Evan has written the following in response to Mrs Gardner's (nee Bealing) note in the last Newsletter: "I remember the Bealings in school and also the old Taff Vale Railway with Llanbethery Halt - that's how I got to Llanvethin as a boy before 'the Maddocks', who had a fish and chip shop in Cowbridge, started a bus service between Cowbridge and Cardiff with a stop in Bonvilston.

Mrs Gardner has an error or misprint in her letter - she was going to see Dr Meller, not Dr Miller - he was a Glaswegian who bought my practice at Stafford House in 1937 - old Meller was a character with a long beard who wore a top hat and long frock coat. Kind regards to you all."

Editorial Note: Albert Maddox (sic) of Eastgate Street, Cowbridge, opened the bus service in 1921 under the name of Cowbridge Motors. After some competitive disputes it was taken over by South Wales Commercial Motors in 1926. SWCM had commenced a Cardiff to Cowbridge service, with a stop in Llancarfan, in 1924. This is recorded in Chapman's book on The Cowbridge Railway which we have quoted before.

A note from Phil Watts: Doreen Everett (formerly Gibbon, Old Parsonage) brought a photograph to the recent society Dinner which caused a certain amount of interest. The photograph was of the Llancarfan Ladies Cricket Team that challenged the men of the village in or around the summer of 1947.

After successive defeats the Ladies Tea Committee were heard to say that the Llancarfan cricket team was so bad that even a team of ladies could beat them. So the challenge was taken-up. A team was selected and posted on the Blacksmith's door, alongside the team of men from Llancarfan, and would be captained by the mysterious "Bridgett". Does anyone know who this fair damsel was?

Recognisable on the photograph are Dilys Liscombe (then Lewis), Valerie Brown (Barry), Dorothy Bryer (then Jenkins), Alice Rees, Joan Harrhy, Lilian May, Dot Rees (Captain Len Rees' wife), Eva Morgan and Mrs Edith Bryer, landlady, Fox and Hounds.