



## THE LLANCARFAN SOCIETY

### Newsletter 117 January-February 2003

**Editorial** In Newsletter 115 we published transcripts of documents which historian, Jeff Alden, had found amongst a Cowbridge solicitor's archived papers. The documents were depositions made by the family of Thomas Davies of Llanbethery in 1879.

I didn't expect a response, but just days after publication I had a phone call from Len and Vina Williams of Fleet, Hampshire, who told me that Len was the Great g. grandson of Thomas David (Davies) named in the article, which had filled gaps in his family history! A little later, Bob Sanders of St Fagan's, who has helped us before, e-mailed me a file of family historical details, adding yet more to the story. In time we shall write a full article detailing the story, but for the moment this Newsletter contains a synopsis of Len Williams' descent and further information provided by Bob Sanders. What an exciting outcome!

With sadness, this Newsletter announces the death of Mary Griffiths, formerly of *Top End (Caradoc Cottage)*. We depart from tradition and rather than a short obituary have reproduced the address, which her grandson Jonathan read at the funeral. It is so redolent of the village past that I am sure newcomers to Llanccarfarn will read it with interest and older members will shed a tear for the sake of memory.

We have published occasional articles recalling the WW2 years but other than passing reference, I don't think anyone has mentioned evacuees from the cities coming to the area. Dilys Liscombe remedies this by writing about her meeting with two former evacuees last month at Mary Griffiths' funeral.

### Local news

**Job changes on the doorstep.** It seems no time since announcements from DARA, St Athan, guaranteed some jobs in the Vale, but times are uncertain. The threat of Government cuts still casts a cloud in this direction and in late December the civilian air-travel business was rocked by the announcement from BA that it would be terminating flying operations from Cardiff International. The situation is not quite so bad as it seems: displaced staff have been offered relocation within the company, and the Service operation at the airport is unaffected. However, MP John Smith was outspoken in saying that this was a mistake at a time when relationships with Europe should be growing, rather than cut-back.

**Point to Point - Evan Williams.** We read in the *GEM* and *The Post* that Evan of *Aberogwrn Farm*, is preparing to defend his title as Welsh Champion. We wish him another successful season. Action photographs of Evan can be found in a national publication: John Beasley's *Big Green Annual*.

## **Llantrithyd School 1881 -a note** from Jeff Alden, Cowbridge

Whilst working in Cardiff Library, Local studies section on the 3rd floor, I came across the following: MS 4.1221, WAH Fisher's scrapbooks, vol 70, p 396. This contains an excellent photo of the children of Llantrithyd school, *ca* 1880, with all the names. Is this of use to your family historian readers? Someone might want to dig it out for future use.

## **Obituary: Mrs Dorothy Price and Mrs Mary Griffiths** by Phil Watts

It is with great sadness that we report the deaths of Mrs Dorothy Price and Mrs Mary Griffiths. Both will be remembered as great stalwarts of the family life in Llancarfan post World War 2 until the end of the fifties.

Between them they had nine boys and it was always a credit to them to see how well they were turned out for church choir, school and parties. None of us had an abundance of food or clothing during that period of rationing. Though money and household aids were also in short supply, these two ladies did a good job for their families and still had time and the energy to join in community activities.

Mary lived for many years at *Top End (Caradoc Cottage)*, looking after her mother-in-law, Maggie Griffiths, until her family needed more accommodation and she moved to Rhoose. For those years she seemed central to Llancarfan village, life as you will find from reading Jonathan's funeral tribute to his grandmother, reproduced below.

Dorothy Price was from farming people, part of the well-known James family of *Whitton Rosser*, St Athan and *Sheepcourt Farm*, Bonvilston. So it was not a great shock when she married William (Bill) Price, an accomplished farm worker, and he provided her with six boys to bring up. Dorothy made a very good job of rearing all six of them as shown by the success they have all made of their lives. Dorothy was a very strong and loyal woman who worked extremely hard but still found time to join in community activities.

One night when Llancarfan was cut off by snow, Bill called at the Fox and Hounds on his way home. There was more beer than customers to drink it, so Glyn Llewellyn decided to give the beer away and Bill, who was always good at detecting a bargain, accepted. Later that evening, other locals joined in, but the proceedings were interrupted when Dorothy burst open the Fox front door asking "Is my William HERE?" I don't know what happened after that!

Dorothy will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

## **Granny Griffiths funeral address** given by grandson, Jonathan, 7 December 2002

Mary Griffiths (mam, gran, sister, aunty Mary, cousin, friend), or however she was known to you, was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1915 to Louie and Jack Elgey. She was one of five children, her siblings being Bessie, Jack, Minnie and Lynne. During her childhood she attended Romilly School in Barry. After leaving school she took her first job in the dairy in Park Crescent, Barry. After a few years there she went to work for Mr and Mrs T.W. Thomas in the Ironmongers also on Park Crescent.

In the 1930's the country boys from Llancarfan would travel to Barry for their nights out and the girls from Barry would travel to Llancarfan for dance nights in the church hall. Gran was one of those attending the dances and it was there that she met Robert (Bob) Griffiths. Town met country and the couple was married in 1939 at All Saints Church in Barry. Gran then moved to Llancarfan where they shared Granny Griffiths' house, *Caradoc Cottage*, or known locally as *Top End*.

Mary and Bob had three sons during the war years Godfrey, John and Andrew. Sadly Gran lost her husband and her sons lost their father, as in the last week of the war, Bob was tragically killed in an accident. Gran then had to bring up her-family as a widow with the help and support of Granny Griffiths and other family and friends. This strong willed approach and independence was a credit to this special lady. Gran never married again and I hope they as a couple, now they have an opportunity to meet again. I trust Grandad will thank her for the commendable way she brought up her family.

To support her family Gran started working at Llancarfan School as a dinner lady. This was a new service for schools at that time. Due to Gran's circumstances at the time she by the agreement of Mr Samuels, the headteacher, was able to take the job on the understanding that she could take her youngest son Andrew to work with her. Andrew maintains the extra lessons didn't help him much!

Gran lived in Llancarfan until 1961 when she moved to Rhoose. She has since that time maintained her links with the village and through things like the Llancarfan Society it is hoped her family history will be remembered. Coinciding with moving home she moved jobs to work at Weycock School. The long dark walk to work then took its toll and she was offered her old job back at T. W. Thomas. She continued to work there until she retired at 60.

Gran enjoyed many things in her life. Her religion was very important to her and she was an active member of her church attending twice on a Sunday and once during the week for almost all of her life. Gran was an avid card player, which probably started during whist nights at Llancarfan. It will be with fondness that we remember her ruthless card playing nature that emerged when she had the ace to win the hand or when she commented on the hand that others were holding. Gran enjoyed being a member of the WRVS Derby and Joan Club: she never thought of herself as old and it was while with the WRVS that she commented she was going to the club to help look after the old people; she was 68 at the time!

Gran enjoyed her holidays and travelled regularly with her friends. It was remarked that good weather always followed trips that Mary Griffiths attended. It wasn't unusual for such holidays to involve a fancy dress party and again she enjoyed that very much. On the subject of dressing up Gran also enjoyed buying clothes and had great pride in her appearance. She was also a very keen dancer and I recall viewing many a sequence dancing session at Rhoose community hall. I think she tended to take the lead.

Gran was also kept very busy with her many grandchildren and subsequent great grandchildren now totalling seven grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. She was a kind and loving grandmother to all of these and we are sure that she is now with her youngest granddaughter, Bridie. Gran will always be remembered as a hard-working, honest and genuine person. A loving mother, grand mother, great grandmother, aunt, sister, cousin or friend. We are all proud to have known and loved Gran. She has touched our lives and will remain in the hearts of her beloved family and friends forever.

## **Evacuees** by Dilys Liscombe

In mid-December I attended the funeral of Mary Griffiths, better known as Mary, *Top End*. It was well attended and, as well as being a sad occasion, it was also a get-together of 'old' Llancarfan residents in the Fox and Hounds - Mary would have been proud of it!

I spent some time talking to Peter and Ann Finch, a brother and sister who were evacuated, with their mother, to Llancarfan in the early part of the War.

I can remember a busload of evacuees, from the East End of London, arriving one evening, but they only stayed overnight. We (at *Penylan*) took in a Mrs Bland and Alice (a toddler). I remember my mother giving Mrs Bland all the shoes in the house to clean - they were all lined up on the bench outside the back door in *Penylan*.

But Mrs Finch, Peter and Ann stayed with Mary and became part of the village, and also became lasting friends of Mary - hence their attendance at the funeral.

At some stage they also stayed with Mrs Sherrah in *The Parsonage* and at *Middlecross* with Mr and Mrs Davies. I have asked Peter and Ann to write to the Society giving their experiences.

Later that week I met Carol Dunn who remembers "Ronnie" and his grandmother staying at *The Vines*, Llanbethery, with Elsie and Millward Harris - he apparently returned later to visit them when the Harris's lived in Cowbridge.

Does anyone else have memories of evacuees in Llanarfarn or have contact with them?

## Jubilee Pictorial Book

The Book Committee and publishers are to be congratulated on meeting the deadline which they set themselves in Newsletter 116. The book of photos and memorabilia was circulated together with the last Newsletter and has been met with praise and comment.

We are grateful to Ralph Morgan for pointing out on page 15 that the shafts in the photograph belong to cart pointing in one direction and a wagon facing the opposite way, and are not attached to the same wagon. This is one of our ploys, to find out if the book is being

read! Is there such a thing as a cart or wagon with shafts at both ends? Does anyone know? It would save turning round in narrow places. Or would it?

Beryl Harry, aged 93, St Nicholas has requested a copy of the *Pictorial Book*: she wishes there was more in there about Moulton. Beryl it is recalled was a teacher at the Moulton Sunday School. Perhaps we will hear from her about those days.

## Correspondence and notes

**Hand Milking.** This was discussed in Newsletter 116 and figures of 4 to 8 cows an hour were quoted by Tony Thomas and Phil Watts. The best hand-milkers Ralph Morgan recalls were Glyn Morgan, Walterston, (his brother known as 'Ginger' Morgan) and Bill Everson who milked at Walterston. They could manage 8 to 10, if there were no cuts on the teats!

**Activities in Small Communities.** I recently read in the *Daily Telegraph* that Pub Landlady Sue Clements, *Barley Mow*, Shide, in the Isle of Wight was asked to remove her Petanque Piste from her garden by the planning authority because it was a nuisance - a neighbour said.. Environmental Health Officers responded to the letter of complaint by giving her 3 months to cooperate. Could this happen in Llanarfarn? Petanque is played here, and the Landlady's name is Sue! PW

## Obituary: Doris Mary Thomas

by Phil Watts

Mary was born in Llanarfarn on March 1<sup>st</sup> 1920, just missed having a birthday every four years on the 29<sup>th</sup> of February. As a little girl she lived at *New Mill* and *Llanvithyn Mill* also spent a lot of time with Auntie May and Uncle Tudor at the *Woodlands*. She attended Llanarfarn school and later Rhoose school when it opened in 1933. She walked to school from *Llanvithyn Mill* with friends - Griffiths, *Tyn-y-coed*, Moffats, *Whitewell*, Thomas, *Greendown*, Lougher,

*Llanvithyn* and the Durham girls of *The Bakehouse*. This involved a happy childhood walking to school and searching the river for fish on the way home.

There were concerts in the village hall organised by Grandma Jane Liscombe, which brought together other groups of children to rehearse at the *Mill*. She took Philip to school for his first day, she sat at the desk while he sat with eyes closed not daring to open them for half a day.

After leaving school Mary studied dairy farming at Pencoed and Usk Colleges which led to work in Essex and Shropshire. On the out break of war in 1939 she joined the A.T.S. serving on gun sites at Aldermarston, Bristol and Devonport where she married Petty Officer Ron Thomas, of Portsmouth. After the war she lived in Portsmouth supporting Ron in his career in the Navy and the Police. After retirement they continued to make their home in Portsmouth.

Anne their daughter was born in Llancarfan, spent her early days at *Abernant* which led the family to consider that *Abernant*, Llancarfan was their real home. And it followed that Mary requested to be brought home for burial in Llancarfan near her parents and grand parents. Mary had a happy life, well cared for by husband Ron, daughter Anne, and son in law Nigel. Her kind caring disposition created an atmosphere of love and affection.

Until the onset of Parkinson's Disease she was very active and full of life particularly with her grand children Timothy and Stephanie. Mary will be missed by her family and friends, also her brave fight against Parkinson's which she light-heartedly called 'Parky'. She no longer has to bear these hardships, she has come home to rest, to be at peace and thanks to all who have co-operated to bring dignity to her wishes.

**Acknowledgement - DORIS MARY THOMAS.** Through the Llancarfan Society Newsletter the family of Doris Mary Thomas (nee Watts), husband Ron, daughter Anne (Liz), son in law Nigel, grandchildren Timothy and Stephanie, brother Phil and sister in law Ruth would like to thank everyone for their kind messages and letters of condolence at the time of Mary's death on December 29<sup>th</sup>. Thanks also to those who helped to bring to fruition Mary's wishes to be buried in Llancarfan with sister Kathleen, parents and grandparents. In her own words she wanted to be brought back home to rest. Thanks to Rev. Malcolm Davies (service), Molly Vincent (organ), John and Christine James (funeral directors) for their support on the day of the burial. John and Sue Millard, *Fox and Hounds* put on refreshments for those who wanted to stay and chat after the burial. Best of all we have to thank Him above, for giving us two lovely days weather sandwiched between two nasty spells. The weather in Portsmouth for the service in St. Judes Church, Southsea and the burial service in Llancarfan consisted of two days of sunshine. He above must think highly of Mary.

## **Unveiling of the War Memorial by General Tyler of Llantrithyd**

a note from Jeff Alden, Cowbridge

Newsletter 116 posed the question "Who was General Tyler?" The question is answered by the *Glamorgan Gazette*, 23 February 1923: -

"Funeral of late General Tyler. Impressive scenes at St Nicholas's (*sic*). The beautiful Vale of Glamorgan - fit setting for anything that is solemn and impressive - was, on Thursday, in mourning for one of its leading inhabitants - a gentleman who had chosen to close a career of glory in a quiet rural retreat.

Major-General Trevor Bruce Tyler, CB, CSI, of Llantrithyd had lived to see his 82nd birthday before the final call came, and until comparatively recent time had retained a keen interest in public affairs and, in particular, in the Territorial movement, which had been his great passion for many years. From the inception of the Territorial movement in 1908, Major-General Tyler occupied the chairmanship of The Glamorgan TA until 1919, when his health compelled his retirement from active participation in that body.

At The funeral His Majesty the King was represented by Colonel W Gordon, VC, DSO, (late Gordon Highlanders). A strong body of members of the Glamorgan Constabulary, who volunteered for this duty, paraded at St Nicholas Police Station, and headed the procession to the Church, with Supt Morris (Barry) and Inspectors Griffiths (Canton), John Davies (Penarth) and Bennett (Whitchurch) in the van, followed by a team and gun carriage supplied by the 82nd Brigade RFA bearing the remains of the general. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack, which was surmounted by Major-General Tyler's plumed helmet, sword and decorations. The mourners were....”

Additional notes: - T. B. Tyler was son of a former Rector of Llantrithyd, Rev. R. T. Tyler, and an old boy of Cowbridge School. He was one of the benefactors who are commemorated in a stained glass window now in Cowbridge Church, and was a descendant of Admiral Sir Charles Tyler of *Cottrell*). Major-General Tyler lived in *Llantrithyd House*, to which had been removed from *Plas Llantrithyd* (then in ruins) many of the ornamental embossed and carved chimney pieces. Much of the oak panelling went to *Ty Draw* farmhouse.

### ***Gwâl-y-Filiart* corrected** by John Etherington

The answer to problems often lies on the doorstep. So it proved to be with the note on St Lythan's Neolithic burial-chamber in Newsletter 115. In this case the answer, so far as it goes, was on our own overflowing bookshelves.

The Welsh publisher, Gwasg Carreg Gwalch has an erudite little book entitled *A Guide to Welsh Place Names* in its Welsh Heritage series (A. Lias, 1994). A section on animals in place names includes the following: -

"There are other types of name whose literal meanings present no difficulty but whose precise implications are nevertheless obscure. For instance, at least half a dozen widely separated prehistoric sites in Wales (burial chambers, standing stones) are associated specifically with greyhound bitch, *miliast*, although it is not easy to see why. Examples include *Gwâl-y-Filiast* (Dyfed; Glam; Gwent) and *Twlc-y-Filiast* (Gwynedd), *gwâl* and *twlc* both signifying kennel. In addition, the male of the breed (*milgi*) is referred to in *Ffynnon Maenmilgi* (Gwynedd), 'Spring (of) stone (of) greyhound', so that one is tempted to suspect some arcane reason for these namings that eludes us today."

There you are then. The editor was right to be puzzled by the name. We sowed further confusion in Newsletter 115 by incorrectly transcribing the name as *Gwâl-y-Filiart*, hence the editor's failure to find the name in the dictionary, and ramblings about *ffwlbart*, (polecat) and other matters!

A word of Welsh explanation - *filiast* is the soft mutation of *miliast* - the same word appearing in a different grammatical construct.

### **Ministry of Road Transport Testing**

by Phil Watts

Every October I have to make a major decision on whether I am able to keep my 1989 Nissan Sonny on the road for another 12 months. In fact a vehicle testing station will tell me what to do, and how to comply with their regulations. I was surprised to find that this was started by the Road Traffic Act 1956, and at that time applied to vehicles over 10 years of age. Now it is 3 years.

I am reminded of this, by finding my test certificate dated 1961 for a Morris 8 1937. Making an age of 24 years. This was my first car, for which I paid £14.

Ruth and I learnt to drive in it. Kept it for 12 months and sold it for £14, replaced two tyres and two half shafts. Happy motoring! My father at that time had not driven a car for 30 years but his licence was in order so it was legal for me to drive as a provisional driver.

That car had a running board and advised you when you attempted to drive in too high a gear. Shudder- shudder- change down. 1961 was a good year for Ruth and me, we had a motor car and a new bungalow at *Abernant*. Prime Minister Macmillan said 'we had never had it so good!! He also said that there was a 'wind of change'. Was it for the better or worse? Then came the 'Beatles'. Followed by the 'mini skirt'. Decimalisation, Mrs Thatcher, and now Tony Blair. What happened to the days of Lloyd George? When our pension was safe - if you had one.

## **Memories of MOT** by John Etherington

I can't refrain from a little editorial ramble. I bought my first car in 1959 and remember the "ten year test" vividly. Coincidentally my car also dated from 1937, but it was a Ford Model Y with a side-valve engine and 3-speed gear box. It had no synchromesh between 1st and 2nd - double de-clutching and all that crash!

Being over ambitious, as always, I converted this car by removing the steel "box" body and replacing it with a fibreglass sports body - an enterprise which was really a bit beyond my 22 year old skills, mainly derived from school metalworking classes.

However it had to be ten-year-tested before I could tax it and we found a little garage at the foot of Primrose Hill (NW3 - near Regent's Park) of which the owner was reputed to be interested in unusual cars. He was, and we got our certificate, together with some useful advice on a faulty radiator.

From that day on, Primrose Hill has been etched in my grateful memory, so 25 years later, when I discovered Iolo Morganwg it really seemed a strange coincidence of place that Iolo, of Penonn, had organised that first meeting of the Bards at Primrose Hill in 1792.

## **Whitton Crossroads: Iron Age and Roman Farmstead. Part I** by John Etherington

- The Iron Age and Roman Farm at Whitton Crossroads, South Glamorgan (ST 081713) is a little to the south-east of the cross-roads, at the highest point of the limestone plateau.

The farmstead was discovered during 1956-7<sup>1</sup> and trial excavations were conducted by the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments. It was more fully excavated between 1965 and 1970 by the Department of Archaeology of the (then) University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, Cardiff.

The most prominent and probably first-constructed feature is an almost square enclosure, 60 m x 56 m inside a bank and ditch. A few shards of Iron Age pottery amongst Roman finds suggests that there may have been a pre-conquest enclosure on the site. The ditch was originally v-shape and a maximum of two metres deep, with a bank three to five metres wide, and formerly about two metres high. The enclosure is 0.33 ha (0.8 acre) in area. The bank has been eroded by age and ploughing, now being less than 0.2-0.3 m high, and the ditch infilled with eroded material. Deep ploughing at the time of excavation was further damaging the foundations of some buildings.

The entrance was on the east side throughout the 300 years of the farm's life. It comprised a gap in the bank and causeway across the ditch. There were stone kerbs on bank ends with various timber gates and towers at different times. A trackway with rubble footings and variously, limestone flag paving, mortar and tufa<sup>2</sup> surfacing, or cobbles, entered the farmyard.

When excavation started, there was little to suggest that much information would emerge or that dateable pottery would establish a detailed evolutionary sequence of buildings spanning some three centuries.

In total, seven or eight timber roundhouses were built and rebuilt during the century following AD 30. These were conical structures, probably thatched or shingled, on low stone walls and of 9.5 to 14+ m diameter. There is not much evidence of post-holes for roof support, the base wall bearing the weight. This is the reverse of usual practice at the time.

Between AD 115 and 135 some square timber buildings were erected, and rectangular stone buildings first appeared around AD 135. The later stone buildings post-date all of the timber roundhouses. They were

built mainly of limestone but incorporate some tufa in the early walls<sup>2</sup>. A few roofing slabs of Pennant sandstone (probably from area north of Cardiff) and a few roof-tiles were found, but thatch or shingled was probably more common (though leaving no remains).

The site was never deserted or razed to the ground. Rebuilding took place by replacement of ageing or obsolete structures in a continuous process leading from an Iron Age village of roundhouses to a final, fairly sophisticated group of rectangular stone buildings roughly occupying the four corners of the enclosure.

At some time in the late second or early third century a "central heating system" (an underfloor hypocaust chamber) was constructed but never fired. The hypocaust chamber in the western range of buildings was filled with refuse and that in the eastern range used for storage.<sup>3</sup> At the same time a "verandah" was built.

By the end of the third century the bank was of little consequence and the ditch silted but they were probably marked by a hedge or fence and no structure apart from a grain drying kiln was outside them.

Occupation ended around AD 340, probably by a gradual decline rather than any dramatic event. Two and a half centuries later, Cadoc would almost certainly have seen the ruins of the Roman stone structures which might well have still been occupied in a low-key way, perhaps used as animal housing? Early medieval settlements left very few archaeological clues so little evidence of post-Roman occupation would remain.

Some finds deserve special mention, for example evidence of cereal growing appeared in querns and a large millstone though there were no actual remains of grain. However, transport was expensive in Roman times so the milling equipment is circumstantial evidence for on-site cereal agriculture.

The East Range of buildings included a stone tank and T-shaped drying kiln suggesting, perhaps, malting and brewing? A second (grain?) drying kiln was found outside the enclosure on the south side of the entrance. Both kilns have already been mentioned in Newsletter 108 in relation to grain drying and malting.

Livestock and dairy farming were undertaken as analysis of animal bones showed that many animals were older than beef cattle would have been. Cattle made up 35% of all bone. Other stock comprised sheep + goat (40%) and pig (16%). The presence of deer (red and roe) bones at just 3% suggests that some of the animal's preferred habitat of open woodland, was available within a reasonable distance, as it still is today.

Eighteen coins were found during excavation, another three in 1977, plus one previous discovery. Mostly mid-2<sup>nd</sup> century except for some early silver. The last was from 337-41. Most of the pottery was coarse earthenware and the imported Samian ware was relatively scarce, mostly from central Gaul. A clay brick and a broken half, stamped BOV was speculatively associated with a place name, perhaps Cowbridge (Bovium)?



Thirty-three more or less complete enamel bronze brooches, some harness ornaments rings and bracelets made the bulk of ornamental metal work. A few glass beads posed an enigma as they were very old when the Whitton farmstead was established, dating from the 1st to 3rd century BC, some originating from mainland Europe. A Roman *Antiques Roadshow*?!

Functional items included iron nails, chisels and other tools but a particularly interesting find was a steelyard of four main divisions each subdivided into 12ths, presumably *uncia* and *siliqua* (ounces and grains). Evidence of iron smelting took the form of slag and analysis showed no reason why the ore should not have come from the immediate source of the Taffs Well/Llanharry deposits.

Little can be said about the interior of the stone buildings but a small amount of wall plaster was found, invariably painted in white, red, olive green and dark green in various combinations. Despite the attempt to move upmarket with a hypocaust system, the dwellings here had no mosaic floors, which were a feature of wealthier sites.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> The site was located by organised field-walking during which several farmsteads were found in the Barry area of the Vale. Previously, the villas at Ely and Llantwit Major were the only known Roman farms. This suggests that the Vale was intensively agricultural at the time and that many more sites remain to be discovered.

<sup>2</sup> Tufa - see Newsletter 106?

<sup>3</sup> The legend of St Cadoc, and the mouse which saved his life by leading him to a grain store (Newsletter 69), has been interpreted as referring to such use of abandoned hypocausts as storage chambers at *Y Gaer* near Brecon.

**Acknowledgement.** This account is based upon the very detailed description given by Jarret, M. G. & Wrathmell S. (1981). *Whitton: An Iron Age and Roman farmstead in S. Glamorgan*.

## The family of Thomas Davies (baptised 1784 - died 1865) by John Etherington

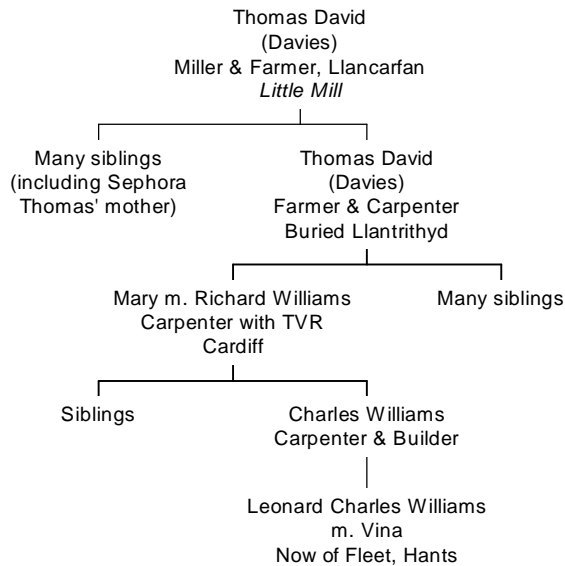
In Newsletter 115 we published transcripts of documents which historian, Jeff Alden, had found amongst a Cowbridge solicitor's archived papers. The documents were depositions made by the family of Thomas Davies of Llanbethery in 1879. Statements made by two of the daughters of Thomas Davies were probably related to inheritance, and verification of relationships.

One of the statements was made by Sephora Kemp (née Thomas) and mentioned *Little Mill*, Llancarfan, as the home of Sephora's grandfather, Thomas Davies. To avoid confusion we need to know that Thomas was also known as David (see adjacent text box).

At the end of the transcripts, the Editor asked, without much hope, "Do we have anyone in the society with links to the families mentioned?" Just shows you shouldn't be pessimistic! A couple of days after publication I had a phone call from Len and Vina Williams of Fleet, Hampshire, who told me that Len was the Great, great grandson of Thomas David (Davies) of *Little Mill*! Len and Vina are researching their family history and had come across the article in Newsletter 115 by fortuity of a friend in Llancarfan passing it on as possibly of interest.

Not only did the transcripts fill some gaps for Len and Vina, they also caught the eye of Bob Sanders of St Fagan's who has written for the Newsletter before. Bob e-mailed me to say that Sephora Thomas was born in 1840 at Llancarfan, the daughter of Richard Thomas, butcher from Peterston-super-Ely, and Ann David (b.1810 Llancarfan), eldest daughter of Thomas & Gwenllian David. Thomas, was the miller at *Little Mill*.

In due course we shall write some more about this family to, which Bob Sanders is probably also related but for the moment let me say a big thank you to all who have made this tiny fragment of forgotten history come to life.



### David or Davies?

- “No personne or personnes that use the Welshe speche or langage shall have or enjoy any maner office or fees ...” (The Language Clause 1536)

Len Williams' Great g. grandfather was known by the surnames of both David and Davies. This is not an uncommon problem in tracing family names, particularly in Wales.

The biblical 'David' was probably first used as a Christian name in Medieval times when names in Wales were patronymics, so for example David's son John would be known as John ap David and would recall his descent by a long 'recitation of title' to his naming. Had David's father been named Matthew, John would formally represent himself as John ap David ap Matthew.

At some time after the Act of Union (1536), partly as a result of the language-clause, Welsh naming began to give way to the English style of surname. A Biblical name such as David would be so recorded, but Welsh names were often anglicised or replaced. David ap Matthew might choose to have himself recorded for legal purposes with the surname David but equally John ap David might be recorded as Davidson, very easily transliterated to Davies.

Two generations of the same family might come to be known by variant surnames and one can speculate that, down the generations, the David family was not quite sure - David or Davies? At a time when literacy was a little less prevalent than now it might have depended on the recorder of a particular document. There are certainly many such cases.

The useful *Welsh Family History: a Guide to Research*, edited by John Rowlands *et al* (AFHSW, 1993) shows an interesting tabulation of the gradual drift from David to Davies in N. Cardiganshire names between 1695 and 1812.