

# **Companion to the Welsh Settlement in Patagonia**

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**Cymdeithas Cymru-Ariannin/Wales-Argentina Society**

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## Foreword

The aim of this *Companion* is to gather together information from different sources about the life and work of some of the pioneers of the Welsh Settlement in Patagonia. These emigrants left their mark on every aspect of life in the settlement and many of their descendants still maintain its founding principles.

The chief sources of the material are articles which appeared in *Y Drafod*, the Colony's newspaper that first appeared in 1891 and is still being published today. Important information about the emigrants is to be found in the many books written on the history of the Colony, and for personal information on the families I am greatly indebted to the books of Albina Jones de Zampini. In addition to the census returns for England and Wales, 1841-1911, which are a valuable source for tracing an individual's roots before emigrating, several websites contain family histories which have been contributed by descendants of the emigrants or other family members.

Many of the reports contained in the *Companion* are based upon research commissioned by CyMAL, the sector of the Welsh Government that advises and supports museums, archives and libraries, and I am grateful for CyMAL's permission to publish revised versions of those reports.

By publishing the *Companion* on the web it will be possible to add to the information and revise it. Comments regarding corrections or additions are welcome. It is intended to add further reports from time to time on individuals, organizations and subjects relating to the Settlement, and suggestions regarding such additions would be welcomed.

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## Sources

These reports based primarily on information in *Y Drafod* (the newspaper of the Welsh Settlement), material in the collections of the National Library of Wales, and the following sources:

### *Printed sources:*

R. Bryn Williams, *Y Wladfa* (Caerdydd: Gwasg Prifysgol Cymru, 1962).

Elvey MacDonald, *Yr Hirdaith* (Llandysul: Gwasg Gomer, 1999).

Edwin Cynrig Roberts, *Hanes Dechreuad y Wladfa Gymreig ym Mhatagonia* (Bethesda: J. F. Williams, 1893).

Albina Jones de Zampini, *Cien atuendos y un sombrero: moda y familia en Chubut desde 1859 a 1939* ([Gaiman, Chubut]: The Author, 1991).

Albina Jones de Zampini, *Reunión des familias en el Sur, llegadas al Chubut entre 1865 y 1922* ([Gaiman, Chubut]: The Author, 1995).

Cathrin Williams a May Williams de Hughes, *Er Serchog Gof: Casgliad o Arysgrifau o Fynwentydd y Wladfa* (Dinbych: Gwasg Gee, 1997).

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David Williams, *El Valle Prometido* (Gaiman, Chubut: Del Cedro, 2008).

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Clemente L. Dumrauf, *El ferrocarril Central del Chubut*, 'Chubut: Documentos de su historia, 2' (Puerto Madryn: Centro de Estudios Historicos y Sociales, 1993).

### *Non-print sources:*

Details of the Chubut census on the microfiche of Michelle Langfield and Peta Roberts, 'The Welsh Patagonian Genealogical Index 1865 to 1900':

<http://welshofpatagonia.com/>

Census of England and Wales, 1841–1911: [www.ukcensusonline.com](http://www.ukcensusonline.com)

The 'Ancestry' website for registry entries for births, marriages and deaths in England and Wales, 1837–2007: [www.ancestry.co.uk/](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/)

Jeremy Howat, 'British Settlers in Argentina and Uruguay – Studies in 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Emigration': [www.argbrit.org](http://www.argbrit.org)

International Genealogical Index: <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/igi>

Additional sources are noted at the end of some of the entries.

### **AP IWAN, Llwyd (1862–1909)**

Llwyd ap Iwan was born in Bala on 20 February 1862, the eldest son of the Rev. Michael D. Jones and his wife Anne (née Lloyd). He was educated at Tan Domen School and then at universities in Britain and Germany, gaining licences as an engineer and surveyor. He arrived in the Colony on 15 March 1886 aboard the *Mozart* to work as an engineer for the railway from Port Madryn to Trelew. R. Bryn Williams in his book *Y Wladfa*, states that in January 1886 Llwyd ap Iwan had met Azahel P. Bell, an English engineer who, after a chance meeting with Lewis Jones, one of the founders of the Welsh Settlement, and his daughter Eluned on a train while they were travelling in England, had undertaken to give his services as an engineer to the proposed railway and help establish a company for the purpose. R. Bryn Williams adds that Llwyd and Bell had subsequently entered into a verbal agreement in which Llwyd agreed to assist with the building of the railway in the Settlement for nine months during which time Bell would allow him a certain sum of money and pay his keep for that period. On 12 May 1886, Llwyd ap Iwan was sent to the Valdez peninsula and began to get a taste for adventure, and despite the fact that he and his companion John Howell Jones got lost and had to sleep under a bush, they reached their journey's end safely the following day.

After completing his stint with the railway, he received a request from Gaiman Council to re-measure the farms of the Chubut Valley and set out the lines for the roads. He also assisted with the irrigation scheme, especially with regard to the dams, and also designed irrigation canals in Rio Negro. He travelled widely across the vast expanses of the territory in search of new places to colonise. In 1887 Llwyd ap Iwan joined the expedition to the north-west of the Chubut valley that Azahel P. Bell, manager of the railway, had organised to explore the feasibility of extending the line to the Andes and to look for a pass through the mountains to Chile. In 1888 he joined another expedition, this time with Governor Fontana and John Daniel Evans, going west to find a suitable location for a new settlement in the Andes. There he surveyed the land in Cwm Hyfryd (Colonia 16 Octubre). He marked out fifty lots, and was allocated league no. 17 for his endeavours.

As a geographer, he drew the map of Chubut territory in 1888 showing in detail the many explanatory trips he and other Welsh settlers had made up till then and the native trails that were still unexplored. His sketch map of the Northern and

Southern Regions of Patagonia is preserved among the archives of the Royal Geographical Society in Britain. At the end of 1893 the Phoenix Patagonian Mining Company was formed with the intention of searching for mineral-rich or arable land in the Andes. The company consisted entirely of members of the Welsh Settlement, with Edward Owen, Maes Llaned as its Chairman and Edwin Owen as its Secretary. The company employed a surveyor (Llwyd ap Iwan), a miner (John Davies) and Thomas G. Davies, a man familiar with the pampas, to search for minerals and lands, to forward any information to the company and keep everything a secret. Llwyd was given a salary of \$360 a month and an extra \$150 to employ a servant. The men left for the Andes during February and undertook a journey of 1,900 miles in 12 months. A year later Llwyd ap Iwan led three Welshmen and Gregorio Retamal on another expedition to prospect the area between Cwm Hyfryd and Rio Senguerr and to try to open a route through the Andes to Aisen on the Pacific Ocean.

During his three campaigns in northern Santa Cruz (between 1893 and 1897), Llwyd ap Iwan was assisted by Tehuelche guides in exploring areas and trails that had not previously been surveyed. The Phoenix Company recommended its explorers to preserve the native place-names whenever possible; ap Iwan carefully noted them down, trying to reproduce the sounds he heard from the Tehuelche guides as accurately as possible, using Welsh, Spanish or English phonetics. His diaries are amongst the most important documents of the period for the territory. In these, he wrote a detailed history of his exploratory journeys, which he then sent to his father who published their contents in the *Celt*. Llwyd ap Iwan later wrote a series of articles based on the contents of the diaries, and they record the history and customs of the time and convey the atmosphere of the country and the nature of its people.

The Chubut Mercantile Company opened a branch of its business in Nant-y-pysgod (Arroya Pescado) in 1906 with Llwyd as its Manager. On the afternoon of 29 December 1909, Llwyd was shot dead in the store by Wilson and Evans, bandits from North America. Coincidentally, Llwyd had written a letter to his brother, Dr Mihangel ap Iwan, on 22 December 1909 complaining about the utter lack of security in the neighbourhood of Cwm Hyfryd (Colonia 16 Octubre) and the growing state of lawlessness in that part. He mentioned the bad state of his hands, which had been burnt while extinguishing a fire at his house a month earlier. At the time of writing he could not close his hands tightly enough to prevent a lasso slipping through them and he asked his brother whether they were likely to remain in that condition or if they

would eventually regain their old suppleness. The bandits stole goods including brand new saddles and bridles and hundreds of bullets. The 11 January edition of *Y Drafod* contains an appeal, signed by W. Evans, Recorder, to the effect that CMC Trelew was offering \$4000 towards the expenses of the pursuit of the murderers of Llwyd ap Iwan and offering another \$4000 to any group or individual who succeeded in catching them. The Government was pressed to restore order and as a result the *Policia Fronteriza* was formed.

Llwyd ap Iwan married one of Lewis Jones's daughters, Myfanwy Ruffudd, and they had six children: Mihangel Griffith, Alan, Mair, Llewelyn Huw, Mwyni a Tegid Llwyd.

'Llythyr y diweddar Llwyd ap Iwan', *Y Drafod*, 4 March 1910

Letter of appeal for contributions to the expenses incurred in the search for Llwyd's killers, *Y Drafod*, 11 January 1910

Ann Parry Owen, *Llofruddiaeth Llwyd ap Iwan: Adroddiad llygad-dyst* (Dinbych: Gwasg Gee, d.d.); ad-argraffwyd o *Trafodion Anrhydeddus Gymdeithas y Cymmrodorion*, 1989) *The Murder of Llwyd ap Iwan: An eye-witness account* (Denbigh: Gee Press n.d; reprinted from *Transactions of the Cymmrodorion Society*, 1989

### **BERWYN, Richard Jones (1837–1917)**

Richard Jones Berwyn was born on All Hallow's Eve 1837 in a house called Brynhyfryd near the Sun Inn some half way between Llangollen and Corwen. He was the eldest of eleven children born to David and Mary Jones. Their home at the time of the 1841 census was listed as 'Sun Cottage' in the civil parish of Mwstwr in Llanycil; David was a 34-year-old shoemaker, Mary was 28 and Richard 3 years old. By the time of the 1851 census the family were living at Nantswrn, Rhiwlas Uwchfoel – David Jones was 44 and a farmer of 60 acres who had been born in the parish of Corwen *c.* 1807 while Mary was 38 and had been born *c.* 1813 in the parish of Bryneglwys. Their children were Richard (13), David (9), Ann (6), Sarah (4) and Edward (2) – all five having been born in the parish of Corwen – and by the time of the 1861 census there were two further children, 9-year-old Mary and 4-year-old William, both of whom had been born in the parish of Llansilin. By 1871 they had moved to farm Pontymeibion. The family had a long connection with Pontymeibion and could trace their ancestors to Robert Morys Pontymeibion, the eldest brother of poet Huw Morys (1622–1709). Richard's brother David was still farming it in 1911.

When Richard was about five years old he began his education at a British school in Glyndyfrdwy, and was later a pupil at a school in Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog where he was made a pupil teacher at the age of 15. In his address at the time of the laying of the foundation stone of Gaiman Intermediate School on 20 December 1906, Berwyn said: 'More than sixty years have passed since I was a boy of eight or nine years of age among more than two hundred local children who marched along the streets of the town, and together with a great crowd of people, were eye-witnesses to Ebenezer Cooper Esq. laying the foundation stone of Llangollen's first British School.

In his teens Berwyn went to London and attended Borough Road College to train to be a teacher, and his name is found in the college register for 1852. He spent a year teaching at Pentrecilgwyn and another year at Garth Trefor School near Llangollen, before returning to London because of ill health. He worked in a shop for a time, and he may well be the Richard Jones, born in the parish of Corwen, who appears on the 1861 census returns:

4 Liverpool Street, St Botolphs Bishopsgate

Richard Jones Un[married] 23 Silk Warehouse Man born Wales Corwen  
Merioneth

He worked as an accountant in various offices and at night taught half a dozen people who were eager to learn Welsh. He was a regular contributor to the press on the subject of emigration to Patagonia – he was the author of the column ‘Gwladfa Gymreig’ in *Baner ac Amserau Cymru* and was a correspondent for the *Herald* and *Ddraig Goch*.

He also arranged music concerts in London, and the following is a translation of a report of one of these concerts from the *Cerddor Cymreig* of 1 December 1862:

‘London – *Berwyn’s Concert*. At the Albion Hall, on Friday, October 31, 1861, a great number of the Capital’s Welshmen and women assembled to enjoy the musical feast that had been prepared for us by Mr R. B. Jones (*Berwyn*). *Berwyn* was successful in obtaining the services of Llew Llwyfo and his young daughter, 11-year-old Miss Mary Ellen, Mr Thomas Jones, formerly of Cardiff, together with the Cambrian Quartett Union; and it was a good and enjoyable meeting.

It would appear that Richard Jones had added ‘*Berwyn*’ as a middle name after going to London, and in Patagonia he adopted it as his surname.

He was advised by his doctors to take a sea voyage for the sake of his health, and in 1863 he sailed to the United States. During the voyage he formed a friendship with the captain who gave him instruction on steering and navigation. It seems that he was not enamoured with New York and he did not like seeing Welsh emigrants being dispersed to various places in the United States. He joined the campaign for a Welsh Settlement and contributed articles to *Drych*. Thanks to his navigational training, he worked his passage back to Wales and joined Michael D. Jones’s enterprise. He worked as an accountant to pay his passage on the *Mimosa*.

He has been described as one of the ablest, most versatile of the Settlement’s leaders and was both genial and obliging. Among the many posts which he held in the new settlement were: Secretary of the General Council and Jury Court, registrar of births, marriages and deaths, coroner, keeper of the port, chief administrator of the post office, manager of the weather office, editor of *Y Brut* (Patagonia’s first newsletter) and miller. He was schoolmaster at Rawson for many years and was the author of *Gwerslyvr cyntav i ddysgu darllen Cymraeg at wasanaeth ysgolion y Wladva*, the first text book in Welsh to serve the educational needs of the children of the Welsh Settlement.

Berwyn was also the Settlement's first bookseller and he had a shop in Rawson that sold a good range of books. As an antiquarian and litterateur, he contributed articles to both Welsh and English journals and newspapers, and even to a newspaper in Buenos Aires under the nom-de-plume 'Monteblachi', an Italian translation of 'Berwyn'. His account of an expedition he made to Chile appeared in O. M. Edwards's journal *Cymru* in 1905. He also published a series of almanacs between 1884 and 1905, and made a collection of words in use in the Settlement, but his records and historical writings were all lost in the flood of 1899.

In 1880 Berwyn was sent to Buenos Aires on official business on behalf of the Settlement and returned at the beginning of 1881 with 104 deeds to the Settlement's homesteads, the first to be issued for that part of the Republic. Together with Lewis Jones he was imprisoned for ten days in December 1882 as a result of a disagreement between the settlers and the local state official. From 1865 until shortly before his death he acted as translator in the country's Administration Offices and the Jury Courts, and between people of different nationalities.

*Y Drafod* dated 8 November 1907 reported that Berwyn intended attending the 1908 Eisteddfod at Llangollen, and in recognition of his faithful service to the Settlement in various roles, a testimonial was set up for him. While in Wales he intended to give a series of lectures on the Welsh Settlement and a copy of his interview with a reporter from the *Eryr* was published in the 28 August 1908 issue of *Y Drafod*, and an account of an interview he gave to a reporter from the *South Wales Daily News* was published in *Y Drafod* of 9 October 1908.

The issue of *Y Drafod* dated 28 July 1965 contains a report of the tribute to Berwyn which was held on Journalists' Day, 7 June, when a portrait of 'Patriarch Berwyn' was unveiled by the Provincial Governor at the office of *Jornada*, the daily newspaper of Trelew. Representatives of various departments of the government and of newspapers, radio and television, were present, and the event was broadcast on radio and television. Mrs Fest Berwyn de Jones, one of Berwyn's daughters, and other descendants were present, but his daughter Mrs Gwenonwy Berwyn de Jones was on a visit to Wales at the time. The editor of *Jornada*, Dr Luis Feldman Josin, gave a short talk on R. J. Berwyn and the Governor placed a wreath as a sign of the government's respect and praise to the man who was being honoured.

On 25 December 1868 in Rawson Richard Jones Berwyn had married Elizabeth Pritchard, the widow of Thomas Pennant Evans ('Twm Dimol') and

mother of Arthur Llewelyn Dimol and Gwladys Dimol. Richard and Elizabeth had 13 children, named in alphabetical order beginning with the vowels – Alwen (1870), Einion (1872), Ithel (1873), Owain (1875), Urien (1877), Wyn (1879), Ynver (1881), Bronwen (1873), Ceinwen (1885), Dilys (1887), Fest (1879), Gwenonwy (1890) and Helen, who was born on 16 January 1893 and died in childhood. Richard Jones Berwyn died on Christmas morning 1917 at the age of 80. His brother, William Lloyd Jones, Glyn, and sister, Mary, the wife of Thomas Williams, Tal y llyn, Bro Hydref, also lived in the Welsh Colony.

‘Y Bonwr Berwyn’ by E. J. Williams [Edward Jones Williams] in the St David’s Day 1919 issue of *Geninen*, pp.52-3

‘Tysteb i Berwyn’, *Y Drafod*, 8 November 1907

Berwyn’s interview with a reporter from the *Eryr*, *Y Drafod*, 28 August 1908

Berwyn’s interview with a reporter from the *South Wales Daily News*, *Y Drafod*, 9 October 1908

‘Teyrnged i Berwyn’, *Y Drafod*, 28 July 1965

*Y Cerddor Cymreig*, 1 December 1862

Article on Richard Jones Berwyn in the series ‘Atgofion Marwolion Anfarwol y Wladfa’, *Y Drafod*, 16 and 23 November 1934

R. J. Berwyn’s letter, NLW MS. 12525B

Kenneth E. Skinner Papers, 1911-1979, National Library of Wales: ‘Recollections and Memories of R. J. Berwyn’; English translation [by Tegai Roberts] of a manuscript held in Gaiman Museum

### **BOWEN, David, Tres Casas (1844–1920)**

David Bowen is said to have been from the Trelech district of Carmarthen and was born in 1844. His parents's names are unknown, but his obituary in the *Drafod* of 3 December 1920 states that David had a brother John and several sisters. Sometime around 1864 he went to work in the coal mine in Pentre, Rhondda. David Bowen is described as one of the best workers at the mine and that his work partner was Thomas Bowen, the father of the poet Ben Bowen. Albina Jones de Zampini records that David Bowen married Mary Ann Williams in 1867 and a marriage entry of a David Bowen and a Mary Anne Williams was registered during the June quarter of 1867 in the Pontypridd registration district of Glamorgan. The certificate states that the marriage took place on 9 June 1867 at Libanus Chapel, Treherbert. David Bowen's address is given as Pentre, Ystradyfodwg; he was a 23 year old coalminer, and his father was David Bowen, a farm labourer. Mary Ann Williams was living in Treorchy, Ystradyfodwg, at the time of the marriage and her father was David Williams, a labourer. According to the report in *Y Drafod*, David and Mary had three children – David, Polly (Mary Jane) and Margaret Ann – but David's name does not appear in Albina Jones de Zampini's list of the family which begins with Thomas, born in 1870. On 7 September 1875 David, Mary Anne and their children emigrated to the Welsh Settlement on board the *Olbers* and landed near the estuary of the Chubut on 31 October 1875. For some reason there is no mention of Thomas, who was born *c.* 1870, in the newspaper report. In the Welsh Settlement the birth of Benjamin in 1880, Elizabeth in 1882, Hannah in 1883, and Sarah in 1885 added to the family.

The family moved soon afterwards from Rawson to Drofa Fresych where they lived for nearly three years. Early in 1878 the family moved to Gaiman where David Bowen built a house at the foot of the hills. At the beginning of winter 1879 they moved to a smallholding in Dyffryn Uchaf (Upper Valley), in a district later called Trebowen, where David Bowen remained for the rest of his life.

When the family settled in the Upper valley, there was no Independent (Congregational) chapel there, but as the population of the district increased, a chapel was built at Trofa Gwen Ellis, and David became a member and an official. Later, the congregation moved to a new chapel that was built on a smallholding owned by the Minister, the Rev. William Morris, and it was named Bethesda. David served as both a deacon and Secretary of Bethesda Chapel.

David was one of the small band of settlers who went up to the rocks to the north of the Upper valley in November 1881 in search for a location for the construction of a canal. His knowledge of the territory of the Upper valley was of great advantage to those who were looking to build their homes in that area. Despite suffering badly from shortage of breath, he played his part in every task directed at developing the Settlement.

According to David Bowen's obituary that was published in *Y Drafod* of 26 November 1920, David and Mary Anne's eldest son David and a daughter died of typhoid in 1883. Their son Thomas married Elizabeth Knowles; Margaret (Marged) Ann married Alun Meirion Williams; Mary Jane married Adrian Eusebio López; Hannah married William John Lloyd, and Sarah married José Isabel Quiroga. The *Drafod* of September 1948 records the death in Buenos Aires of Alun Meirion Williams, or Sami Alun as he was more popularly known. It also notes that his mother (Marged Ann) was the daughter of David Bowen, Dyffryn Uchaf.

David Bowen died on 16 November 1920 aged 76. The tribute by W. H. Hughes in *Y Drafod* of 26 November 1920 records that David Bowen did his best for the temporal, moral and religious development of the Settlement; he was a patriot, an especially obliging and willing neighbour, and a steadfast, quiet, affectionate and likeable character.

### **BRUNT, Benjamin (1837–1925)**

Benjamin Brunt was born on 6 February 1837 in Hughescot, Trefeglwys, Montgomeryshire, the son of Benjamin Brunt and his second wife Mary Corbett. On the 1851 census returns Benjamin senior was 63 years old and a farmer of 16 acres while Mary his wife was 45 years old and had been born in the parish of Llanllugan. Their children – Sarah (15), Benjamin (14) and Anne (12) – were all born in the parish of Trefeglwys.

On 12 June 1857 Benjamin married Elizabeth Jones, Brynchrugog, at Bethel Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, Ladywell Street, Newtown. They rented the small farm of Pant-y-badell where their first children, David (1858) and Elizabeth who was christened on 8 January 1860 but who died in infancy, were born. Seven years later Benjamin and his family moved to a larger farm, Maes-y-blawd, and by then the family now included Benjamin (1862), Ann (1863) and a second Elizabeth (1865). Richard was born in 1868, John in 1869 and Roger Edward in 1870, but Benjamin's wife Elizabeth died of scarlet fever on 11 September 1871 and was buried in the small graveyard at Berthlas near Pant-y-badell. During her illness Elizabeth had been looked after by Ann Jones, daughter of Richard and Mary Jones (née Bennett), Borfa newydd, and ten weeks after Elizabeth's death, Benjamin married Ann Jones, again at Bethel Chapel, Newtown.

Benjamin and Mary farmed Maes-y-blawd together until about 1875, and the family increased with the birth of Edward (?1873) and William, born in March 1874. By the time their son James was born in 1875, they had moved to Argoed, a substantial farm of 133 acres. Another son, Thomas, was born there in August 1877. Local tradition suggests that Benjamin was a very progressive farmer, using natural fertilisers long before they were commonly accepted. By now David, the eldest son, was old enough to help his father, but it was a difficult time for hill farmers in Wales with several wet summers.

After farming in the Trefeglwys area for over 20 years, and although he was successful and farmed one of the best farms in the area, Benjamin could not envisage ever being the owner of his own substantial farm. Therefore, at the age of 44, Benjamin Brunt decided emigrate to Patagonia, together with Ann and eight of his children. Of their children who chose to remain in Wales, second son Benjamin went to work in the coal mine at Cwm-parc in the Rhondda Valley when he was seventeen years old. He married a local girl, Hannah Williams, in 1894 and their children –

Benjamin J. (1895), Ann Elizabeth (1897), William R (1899) and David S. (1900) – were born in Cwm-parc. Soon afterwards the family moved to the Maesteg area where Benjamin died in 1924.

Three more children were born to Benjamin and Ann in Patagonia – Joseph (1882), Sarah (1884) and George (1887). In the Chubut Valley Benjamin was allocated a farm in an area which he described as a ‘howling wilderness’, but on the farm which he named Argoed, Benjamin grew wheat of exceptional quality which won prizes in world fairs. At the International Exhibition in Paris in 1889 he won first prize and a gold medal, but the medal never reached the Settlement because it was stolen in Customs. He sent samples of his barley and wheat to an exhibition in Chicago and again won first prize and a medal. Despite receiving an invitation to judge at another exhibition in the United States the following year, he turned it down. The success of his crops helped raise the standing and price of Patagonian wheat in world markets. His business sense seems to have been very acute, and he took a leading role in developing the local co-operative which became very important in the economic development of the Chubut settlement.

A local story tells how Alejandro Conesa, the Governor of Chubut between 1900 and 1903, gave Benjamin the first alfalfa seed from San Juan where the climate favoured alfalfa as a crop, to be planted as a trial in the Chubut valley, and requesting that Benjamin distributed the produce among the other farmers. When some offered him a large sum of money for a more generous share he refused, insisting on a fair allocation.

In old age, Benjamin Brunt wrote a long letter to the *Montgomeryshire Express*. In it he stated that he now lived within 15 miles of the railway and that his orchard was a source of great pride to him. He had maintained a lively interest in Trefeglwys and its people through correspondence over 40 years and through regular subscription to the paper. His lifelong support for Welsh culture and for the Calvinistic Methodist Church were still evident. Above all he rejoiced that even in Montgomeryshire his old friends and their children were able to buy and work their own farms.

Benjamin Brunt died on Monday, 12 May 1925 at the age of 88 and was buried in Dolavon Cemetery. His wife Ann died in 1931.

Information supplied by Dr David Pugh, a descendant of Ann Jones’s sister Elizabeth

Benjamin Brunt's letter in the 17 May 1921 edition of the *Montgomeryshire Express*

Ronald Morris, 'Benjamin Brunt: A Montgomeryshire emigrant to Patagonia', *Cofnod*, Spring 2000, pp. 15-18

**DAVIES de JONES, Ada (c. 1846–1909)**

Ada Davies, the wife of William Jones ‘Y Gof’ (the smith), is said to be from Llwyn Gron, Pencader. Pencader was formerly in the parish of Llanfihangel-ar-arth but Llwyn Gron does not appear on the census returns for that parish, and although there is a dwelling named Llwyn Crwn, Ada is not listed among the household. However, a house named Llain (Llain) is to be found in the parish, and on the 1851 census a 4-year-old called Ada is listed there with her parents Thomas Davies aged 30, born in the parish, his wife Hannah 28, born in Llanllawddog, and their children Elinor 8, Anne 6, Ada 4 and Mary 1, all born in the parish of Llanfihangel-ar-arth. Their home is named as Llain y bryn on the 1861 census returns, and Mary aged 11 and the younger children are all said to have been born in Llanpumsaint.

The marriage of Ada Davies and William Jones took place in the Merthyr Tydfil registration district in the December quarter of 1870, and on the 1871 census returns for 26 Brook Street, Fforchaman, Aberdare, William is listed as a 22-year-old smith, born in Llanllawddog, and his wife Ada is 24 and was born in Llanpumsaint.

On the 1895 census of Chubut, William Jones was aged 45 and a smith, Ada was 46, they had been married for twenty-five years and had six children: Thomas William 15, David 13, Mary 11, Ann 9, Eleanor 6, and Lottie 3, all of whom were born in Argentina.

In 1909 Thomas married Jane Hughes, the daughter of William John Hughes from Llanuwchllyn who had arrived in Patagonia with his parents on board the *Mimosa* in 1865, and his wife Mary Ann Jones, who had emigrated from Pennsylvania to Chubut in 1874. Thomas and Jane lived in Drofa Fach in the Bryn Gwyn district and had fourteen children:

- (1) Neville married Catherine Roberts (but she died in 1938 aged 24)
- (2) Ada married first, Murray Younger Thomas, the son of John Younger Thomas and Margaret Jane Roberts and a grandson of John Murray Thomas and Harriet Underwood; her second husband was Elfed Griffiths, the son of William Gerlan Griffiths and Mary Jones
- (3) Milton was a bachelor
- (4) Amy married William David Evans
- (5) Albert died in infancy
- (6) Lloyd first married Irene Bezunartea and later Mabel Williams
- (7) Alwyn married Catherine Thomas

- (8) Aled married Norma Roberts
- (9) Melba's first husband was Euros Evans, her second Hefin Evans and third Emyr Williams
- (10) Dennis married Winnie Roberts
- (11) Delyth married Nicholas Kolev
- (12) William married Aurora Bezunartea
- (13) Emyr married Yolanda Quiroz
- (14) Lottie married Lewis Morgan James, a son of Iwan Madryn James and Hannah Elizabeth Morgan; Lewis (commonly called Elwyn) was a popular and successful boxer

From among the other children of William and Ada, Ann married Gwilym Evans; Mary married Cyrus Evans, a qualified surveyor and son of William and Mary Evans, Maes yr Haf; David was a bachelor and died on 23 May 1923 aged 42; Eleanor/Ellen married Thomas Saunders; Lottie went to Wales, married there and then emigrated to Canada.

Ada Jones died on 10 October 1909, and poem by the Reverend John Caerenig Evans appears on her gravestone in Gaiman cemetery. William Jones on 5 June 1931 aged 85.

### **DAVIES, Thomas (1834–1907)**

Thomas Davies ‘Aberystwyth’ as he was known in the Welsh Settlement, was a builder and shrewd businessman in his home town of Aberystwyth. He was born there on 27 December 1834, the son of Thomas and Ann Davies, and christened at Tabernacl Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, Aberystwyth, on 25 January 1835. His father Thomas Davies was a builder and mason who built many of Aberystwyth’s more substantial houses.

Thomas Davies (jnr) married Emma Dorothy Davies on 1 October 1866 and they had five children – Thomas Edmund (christened 8 March 1867), Ann Jane (christened 1 April 1868), William Charles (christened 15 May 1870), Emily Dorothy (born 1873, died in London in 1886), and Myfanwy Adelaide (born 1875). The eldest son had died by the time of the 1881 census in which Thomas Davies is listed as a 46-year-old ‘Builder and Contractor’, his wife Emma Dorothy was 45 and a ‘Lodging House keeper’, Ann Jane was 13, William Charles was 10, Emily Dorothy 8 and Myfanwy Adelaide 6. With the family at the house in Marine Terrace, Aberystwyth, was Thomas’s 33-year-old brother John C. Davies.

Lewis Davies, another of Thomas’s brothers, had emigrated to Patagonia on the *Mimosa*, with his wife Rachel and their infant son Thomas. Lewis Davies’s letter of November 1865 to his father and family was published in *Llythyrâu a ddaethant o’r Sefydlwyr yn y Wladva Gymreig, Gweriniaeth Arianin, Deheudir America*, and another of his letters, this time addressed to his brother Thomas, appeared in *Baner ac Amserau Cymru*, 19 February 1876, possibly in an attempt to persuade Thomas to emigrate to Patagonia. Thomas Davies and his eldest son, William Charles, travelled to Patagonia in 1883 and, in the Settlement, Thomas Davies came to prominence as the promoter of the railway. He quickly saw the need to have a better means of exporting the Settlement’s produce and importing goods, and suggested constructing a railway between the Chubut Valley and Port Madryn. In his book, *Railway in the Desert*, Kenneth Skinner mentions that in the early 1860s Lewis Jones had discussed the idea of a railway in Patagonia which would link the two great oceans together, and a diary entry by him in 1882 mentioned the need to construct a railway connecting New Bay with the settlement that became known as Trelew.

However, Thomas Davies deserves recognition as the leading public advocate of the construction of a railway during the many meetings held in the Upper Valley in late 1883 and early 1884, and he was responsible for calling a public meeting in

Gaiman at the end of 1884 in which support was give for the venture. He also took an active part in field surveying, giving practical and shrewd business advice to the ‘council of three’ – Lewis Jones, Edward Jones Williams and himself – and was a valuable colleague to his fellow advocates of a Chubut railway. Thomas Davies, together with Lewis Jones, was responsible for raising capital for the scheme and arranging the construction of the railway and, towards the end of 1884 or the beginning of 1885, he went to Britain to raise the necessary finance. At the beginning of 1886 his 14-year-old daughter Emily died in London and Lewis Jones sent Thomas Davies a letter of condolence, dated 27 January 1886, from the Shaftesbury Hotel, Liverpool.

Thomas returned to Patagonia, this time with his wife Emma Dorothy, children William Charles, Ann and Myfanwy Adelaide, and his brother John, in early 1886 on the *Mozart*. An account of the voyage of the *Mozart* by Edward Cox Jones appeared in the Anglesey community paper, *Yr Arwydd*, in March 1995. He writes that among the travellers was a small family from Aberystwyth comprising a husband and wife, two daughters and a son. It soon became evident that the father and one of the girls had been so enthralled by the wonders of Liverpool that they had missed the opportunity to board the ship, and the rest of the family were greatly concerned. When the ship was ready to weigh anchor, a small boat was seen being rowed towards the ship, and everyone on board stared at them. ‘Ah yes, they are Thomas and Vanwy’ said Mrs Davies; ‘I know them by their hats’. Before they had reached the side of the ship Mrs Davies shouted at the top of her voice, ‘Thomas did you bring a brandy bottle with you?’ ‘Don’t bother girl’ said poor old Thomas. ‘Well what shall we do if Willie bach will be sea sick’ was Mrs Davies’s plaintive cry.

Thomas Davies built his home in Gaiman which was also a guest house and ‘tŷ te’. He also built many stone houses. Emma Dorothy Davies died on 2 May 1895 aged 62 and Thomas Davies on 13 January 1907 aged 72.

William Charles Davies married his cousin Emma Ellen Davies, daughter of Lewis and Rachel Davies. Eight children were born to William Charles and Emma Ellen: Ernest Wilmot (unmarried), Edward (died in childhood), Hilda Eliza (married Felix Liendo), Norah Emma (married Antonio Navarro), William Harold (married Beryl Williams), Milton Arthur (married Nilda Lucas), Thomas Russell (married Guillermina Hilgenberg) ac Irene (unmarried).

Ann Jane (1868–1956) married Edwin Owen, and their children were Caledfryn Llwyd (unmarried), Dorothy (married Charles Wagner; emigrated to Canada), and Emily (married Fernando Gaffet).

Myfanwy Adelaide (1874-1949) married Phillip John Rees (29 April 1873–1924) and had Gweirydd (20 December 1902–22 August 1935; unmarried), Gwyneth (born 2 November 1904; in 1939 married David Charles Denholm, 5 November 1908–3 March 1968), Thomas Dewi (19 April 1906–July 1906), Tegwen (28 August 1908–1 February; unmarried), Miriel (20 August 1910–25 April 1925), Elfael (1 May 1915–18 March 1936), Hywel (born 1 May 1915; unmarried), Eldeg (13 November 1915–25 August 1932) and Myfanwy (born 22 February 1919; married Juan Eduardo O' Connor and had Eduardo Elfael, Ricardo Phillip a Sharon).

Christening register of Tabernacl chapel, Aberystwyth

Edward Cox Jones, 'I Batagonia', *Yr Arwydd*, 135 (March 1995)

Chapter on the Davies family in David Williams, *El Valle Prometido* (Gaiman, Chubut: Del Cedro, 2008)

Aberystwyth census returns 1841–81

### **ELLIS, Richard (b. 1838), and his wife Frances (1838–1888)**

Richard and Frances Ellis emigrated to Patagonia on the *Mimosa* in 1865, but they did not remain in the Welsh Settlement for very long. However, they were there during the first difficult years of the Settlement, and details of those early days are to be found in Richard Ellis's diary and other documents which are held at Gaiman Museum. These documents, which include information on the life of Richard Ellis and his family, and the lives of his three brothers, John, Thomas and David, in Argentina and Uruguay, were donated to the museum by Ricardo Parry, Rosario, who appears to have been a great grandson of Richard and Frances Ellis.

An inscription in the family Bible records that Richard Ellis was born in Llanfyllin on 19 January 1838, but the family were originally from Pontrobert in the parish of Meifod. His father David was born on 15 January 1796, the son of John and Sarah Ellis, and his mother Mary was born on 8 October 1798 and christened on 10 October, the daughter of John ac Ann Griffiths whose abode at the time is listed in the register of Meifod Church as 'Teirtref' which was a township in the parish of Meifod. Was Mary a sister of Sara Griffiths, Dolobran Isaf, who was one of the closest friends of the hymn writer Ann Griffiths?

The family are to be found on the 1841 census returns listed under Nantymeichiad, Meifod: David Ellis 40 'Agricultural Labourer', Mary Ellis, also 40, John (14), Thomas (12), David (6) and Richard 3). By the time of the 1851 census 55 year old David Ellis, his wife Mary, 52, and their 13 year old son Richard were the only members of the family living at Donkey [*sic*] in Meifod parish. The death of Mary Ellis on 25 March 1857 was recorded in the family Bible, and at the time of the 1861 census David Ellis was still at 'Dongey' and had married his second wife Margaret. He is probably the David Ellis, born in Llangynyw in 1796, who died in Llanfyllin during the September quarter of 1874 aged 78.

On 13 April 1865 Richard married Frances Cadwaladr, daughter of Thomas and Ann Cadwaladr of Llansanffraid-ym-Mechain, who was born on 30 April 1838. Richard was a farmer according to R. J. Berwyn. Their first daughter Mary Anne was born in the Settlement on 10 March 1866, but a little over a year later the family left the Chubut valley because of Frances's ill health and sailed for Patagonia on their way to Buenos Aires. A short while later they went to Banda Oriental (the former name of Uruguay) and on 24 February 1868 their second daughter, Frances Elined, was born and registered in Montevideo's English Church. The family moved to Santa Fe

in 1870 but Richard did not make contact with the Welsh emigrants there. In fact, he lost all contact with his compatriots except his brothers. By 1871 Richard was in Roldán about 18 kms from Rosario, and on 28 October of that year his son Richard Cadwaladr Ellis was born. The father also worked at the Ferrocarril Central Argentino stores. On 4 June 1874 Mary Anne, the daughter who was born in the Chubut Settlement, died aged 8, and two years later, on 10 June 1876, another daughter, Edith, was born in Villa Maria, Córdoba.

The Ellis family left Villa Maria for Wales on 26 May 1880 but Richard Ellis stayed only two months and twelve days in Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain before leaving alone on S.S. *Thales*. Frances and the children appear on the 1881 census returns for Llansantffraid:

Post Office 4, Llansantffraid

Frances Ellis Wife 42 Engine driver's wife abode Llansantffraid, birthplace Mont[gomeryshire], Llansantffraid

Frances E. Ellis daur 13 born Rosario, Santa Fe, South America

Richard C. Ellis son 9 born Rosario, Santa Fe, South America

Edith Ellis daur 4 born Rosario, Santa Fe, South America

Frances and her daughters returned to Villa Maria on 2 June 1883 in order to assist at the wedding of Mary Jane Ellis, the 19-year-old daughter of Richard's brother David Ellis and his wife Sarah Griffiths. The marriage of Mary Jane and 36-year-old Scotsman Thomas Auchterlonie took place on 10 September 1883. Frances Elined Ellis, Thomas Ellis, Annas Ellis a Jemima Ellis were among the witnesses. Mary Ellen, daughter of Thomas a Mary Auchterlonie, was christened on 18 August 1886 at St Bartolomé's Church, Rosario, and Mabel Alice, born January 1892 in El Socorro, province of Buenos Aires, was christened in the same church on 25 March 1892. Sarah Erica Auchterlonie was born in Fisherton, Rosario, on 27 February 1896 and christened on 28 August, again at St Bartolomé's Church, Rosario.

Richard Cadwaladr, the son of Richard and Frances Ellis, travelled back from Llansantffraid to Villa Maria, Córdoba, a short while after his mother and sisters, but returned to Britain in 1886 to complete his studies.

Frances Ellis died on 25 January 1888 and was buried in Villa Maria Cemetery. Richard Ellis's diary ends with an entry for 1916, but the date of his death is unknown.

Frances Elined Ellis married Englishman William Goodman Hardy, a railway station master, on 13 October 1887, and their daughter Frances Jessie was born on 12 November 1891 and christened on 29 January 1892 in St Bartolomé's Church, Rosario. Julia Maud Hardy was christened on 3 March 1894, and on 12 June 1897 Arthur Cornelius Hardy was born and christened on 23 March 1898.

Richard Cadwaladr Ellis married Emilia Enriqueta Kroffte and the first of their six children, Emilia Enriqueta, was born on 8 August 1899 in Gálvez province and christened at Rosario's Episcopal Methodist Church on 26 August 1900. After Emilia came Emilio, Maria Elena, Amelia Névida, Margarita Violeta (born 19 August 1901 in Gálvez, province of Santa Fe), and Hortensia Lili, born 20 May 1911 in Carcaraná, in the province of Buenos Aires.

On 11 July 1899 at Rosario's Episcopal Methodist Church Edith Ellis (Irene Edith on the marriage record according to Jeremy Howat's list), who had been born in Córdoba on 10 June 1876 and christened in the Anglican Church there on 20 July 1876, married William Parry, born on 14 December 1868 to William Parry and Catherine Jones. William and Edith Parry's son William Richard, was born on 28 May 1900 in Rosario and christened on 30 September 1900. Ricardo Parry who donated Richard Ellis's diary to Gaiman Museum, was possibly this 'William Richard', the son of William and Edith Parry.

William and Edith Parry's other children were Phoebe Edith (born 2 October 1902 and christened 28 May 1903), Henry Thomas (born 2 July 1906 and christened 20 December 1913), Percy Owen (also christened on 20 December 1913), and Doris Catharine who was born in Córdoba on 2 April 1915 and christened on 19 December 1915.

The chapter on 'Richard y Frances Ellis' in David Williams, *El Valle Prometido* (Gaiman, Chubut: Del Cedro, 2008).

Llansanffraid-ym-Mechain census returns 1881

Jeremy Howat's website, 'British Settlers in Argentina and Uruguay – Studies in 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Emigration': [www.argbrit.org](http://www.argbrit.org)

### **ELLIS, David (1835–1875)**

David Ellis, brother of Richard, Thomas a John, was born on 9 February 1835 and christened on 15 February 1835 at Capel Newydd Calvinistic Methodist Chapel in Llanfyllin. He is possibly the 16-year-old David Ellis, born in the parish of Meifod, who worked as a servant at Upper Hall, Trefedrid, Meifod, on the 1851 census returns. He had emigrated to Uruguay before his brothers set off for Patagonia on the *Mimosa* in 1865. In his book *El Valle Prometido*, David Williams speculates that David Ellis had settled in Uruguay by 1857 on the basis of a letter dated 10 February 1857 which Mary Ellis sent from ‘Dongay Cottage Farm’ near Llanfyllin to ‘My dear son’. She acknowledges the receipt of a letter from him and was pleased to learn that he had reached his home in good health.

Mary J. Ellis, daughter of David Ellis and his wife Sarah Griffiths, is said to have been born in Uruguay *c.* 1864, but no details of her birth or christening have been found. However, Jeremy Howat’s list of baptisms at the Scottish Church in Uruguay and Entre Rios, 1866-1883, includes the christening of Annas Ellis, son of David Ellis and Sarah Ann Griffiths. He was born on 4 March 1866 and christened on 10 July in Carmelo, Banda Oriental (the former name of Uruguay). Jemima Ellis was christened on 10 December 1867 and John, who was born on 7 May 1869, was christened on 22 June 1869. About 1872 David joined his brother Richard in the province of Santa Fe, where another daughter, Ellen, was born to David and Sarah. David Ellis died of typhus on 11 February 1875 in Rosario and was buried the following day. There is a death record of a 37-year-old married woman named Sara Ann de Ellis in Rosario on 9 September 1878 but there’s no certainty that she was the wife of David Ellis.

On 7 December 1891 Ellen Ellis married 25-year-old James Anderson at St Bartolomé’s Church, Rosario.

### **ELLIS, John (1827–1874)**

John Ellis, brother of Richard, Thomas and David Ellis, was born on either the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> day of February 1827 and is possibly the John Ellis who was christened at Adwy'r Clawdd Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, Bersham, on 3 March 1827. The Reverend Abraham Mathews states that John had a shop in Liverpool and that he emigrated to Patagonia in order to trade in furs and feathers. On the 1861 census returns John is found working as an assistant draper at 80 Lord Street, Liverpool. He wrote a letter from the Settlement to his father and stepmother on 9 November 1865, assuring them that they were all well and describing their new life. 'We have five horses, two cows, and are expecting more, and sheep before long; we are to be given 300 acres of land besides as much as we want of common land for the sheep to graze.' He adds that they had not yet seen a single Indian.

In 1866, during the dispute as to whether to leave the Chubut Valley or remain there, John Ellis was among the group who wished to stay in Chubut. In April 1866 some of the settlers sent a letter to Captain Charles MacKensie, Governor of the Falkland Islands, petitioning the British Government's assistance in leaving the valley. They claimed that they had been deceived by the Emigration Committee in Liverpool, that they were starving and their clothes were in rags, and consequently the *Triton*, a British warship was despatched to the Settlement. A statement signed by 21 heads of families, and with John Ellis's name on top, was sent to the officers of the *Triton* refuting the allegations made in the petition sent in April. The signatories assert that the wicked rumours circulated about them had been exaggerated, and that the petition sent to the Governor of the Falkland Islands had been penned by a few disgruntled people who forged five names in that letter and even included the names of children. They asserted that they had enough food to maintain their health, more than enough seeds for their needs had been sown, and they were looking forward to a good harvest in January 1867.

Of the three Ellis brothers who went to Patagonia, John remained longest in the Welsh Settlement, but he too left, embarking on the *Nueva Gerónima* as a passenger in February 1869, taking with him many wares made by the Natives, which he intended to sell in Buenos Aires. He died on 2 February 1874 at his home, Bod Ellis, Penrhyndeudraeth.

### **ELLIS, Thomas (1829–1900)**

Thomas Ellis, brother of Richard, David and John, was born on 20 February 1829 and is said to have lived in Liverpool before emigrating. He suffered from a rheumatic illness and, according to the letter which his brother John sent home in 1865, the Patagonian climate was beneficial for his health. John Ellis reports that Thomas was able to walk miles to shoot before breakfast, without feeling tired, and had no digestive problems, no headaches, no toothache or colds. It appears that Thomas was a pharmacist or druggist by profession, which is why he travelled in the company of Dr Green on the *Mimosa*, and along with Rhydderch Hughes and John Williams, Thomas was one of the Settlement's first 'doctors'. He was the first Secretary of Cyngor y Wladfa (the Settlement's Council) but lost his position on the Council to R. J. Berwyn in the elections of July 1867. Thomas Ellis's signature as the Settlement's Treasurer is to be seen under the stamp 'Y Wladychfa Gymreig' on the Settlement's one pound note.

Thomas Ellis undertook a number of expeditions to search for better terrain, and recorded accounts of these expeditions in a series of articles that were published in *Y Drafod* between February and April 1897. He stated that the intention of some of his companions on the first expedition was to fetch the horses, some belonging to the settlers that had been left by the surveyor Julián Diaz when he had begun measuring the Upper Valley. Others had their mind set on hunting. The river had flooded and they considered going onwards to explore the lands further up the valley, but they had food for only two or three days and therefore most of the party decided to abandon exploring and go off hunting. One of the company, James 'Iago' Jones who was a native of Carmarthenshire, was determined to carry on exploring if he had a companion, and Thomas Ellis agreed to go with him. Thomas reports seeing reddish rocks among the hills which reminded him of Vice-Admiral Robert Fitzroy RN's description of porphyry rocks in his *Narrative of the Surveying Voyages of His Majesty's Ships Adventure and Beagle between the years 1826 and 1836*. During the journey a spring was discovered at the foot of a hill near where Dolavon is located today and it was named Ffynnon Iago, and Thomas Ellis's name was given to a mountain – Mynydd Ellis. Thomas recalls that they passed several lakes of crystal water containing many fish, and seeing a thick layer of salt on the surface, they cut off pieces of it to show to the settlers.

When they arrived back at the Settlement at the beginning of 1866 there was much disquiet and talk of abolishing the settlement on the banks of the Chubut. Edwin Cynrig Roberts, Hugh Hughes Cadfan and R. J. Berwyn were successful in postponing any decision on the matter by proposing that a small company should go to search higher up the river for more fruitful land. It was not an auspicious time to arrange an expedition since everyone was on half rations until the results of the request for food made by William Davies (the Settlement's second President following the departure of Lewis Jones) to the Argentine Government were known. Eight of the settlers travelled westwards, the three brothers Lewis, Maurice and John Humphreys, Edward Price, John Morgan, Griffith Pryce, James Jones and Thomas Ellis, following the river in order to ensure a supply of water. Their first disappointment was in realising that the spring near Dolavon which Thomas Ellis and James 'Iago' Jones had found on their first expedition was not as crystal clear as they had thought.

Thomas states that the results of their search this time were very poor despite having travelled a hundred miles and learnt a great deal from the Natives who travelled with them for part of the journey about the good country further up the valley – grazing land, huge trees, and many animals. However, Thomas concedes when recalling the last part of the journey that they travelled among the rocks and ravines which the sea had once washed over, and if they had been able to see the opposite side, they would have gained a better impression. He adds, 'We were utterly convinced of this from noting both sides of the mountain where we stood and the grassy slopes of the nearby hills'.

On their return they discovered that discussion on relocating the settlement had begun to agitate the settlers once again – some wished to stay but the majority wished to leave. Thomas Ellis comments that he had no great enthusiasm for either side but that in the circumstances prevailing at the time he believed that it was not possible to realize the dream of creating a Welsh Settlement on the banks of the Chubut River, although, in his opinion, a few people could live there comfortably. The biggest problem was how to irrigate the valley. It was decided to send William Davies to Buenos Aires to place the situation of the settlers before the Argentine Government and Thomas Ellis felt that if Mr Davies was allowed to carry out his intentions, they would all be remain in Chubut. Thomas became embittered at the biased way, in his opinion, that William Davies and his aims were treated, and in face

of all the bickering he decided to loosen all ties with his compatriots. He left the Settlement with William Davies and settled in Santa Fe where he may have married a Sarah Ann Griffiths. Jeremy Howat's website records the marriage of a 47-year-old man named Thomas Ellis and a 36-year-old widow named Sarah Ann Griffiths, originally from Llangollen, on 22 July 1876 at Rosario's Episcopal Methodist Church, but there is no proof that this is the Thomas Ellis in question. Perhaps this lady is the 37-year-old Sara Ann de Ellis who was buried in Rosario on 9 September 1878. Some years later Thomas Ellis returned to the settlement in Chubut, but only for a short visit. He died at Villa Casilda on 12 December 1900.

John Ellis's letter which was published in *Llythyrau a ddaethant o'r Sefydlywyr yn y Wladva Gymreig, Gweriniaeth Arianin, Deheudir America* (Cwmni Ymfudol a Masnachol y Wladva Gymreig Cyfyngedig, 1866)

Series of articles by Thomas Ellis entitled, 'Nodion ar Sefydliad y Wladfa', published in *Y Drafod*, 19 February – 9 April 1897

Jeremy Howat's website: baptisms and marriages in the Episcopal Methodist Church [Rosario]  
[www.argbrit.org](http://www.argbrit.org)

Chapter on the Ellis family in David Williams,, *El Valle Prometido* (Gaiman, Chubut: Del Cedro, 2008)

### **EVANS, David, Maen Gwyn (1858–1928)**

David was born on 24 December 1858 to James and Hannah Evans, Melin Glanduar, Llanybydder. James had been born in the parish of Llanybydder *c.* 1809 and on the 1851 census returns for Glanduar Mill he was described as a Relieving Officer aged 42, his wife Hannah was 35 and had been born in Llanwenog, Cardiganshire. Their children were named as Jane 18; Rachel 16; Sarah 14, Hannah 12; Benjamin 10, Mary 8, Elisabeth, 6, William, 4, and Thomas 2. By the date of the following census in 1861 James gives his occupation as Miller and Farmer of 20 acres, Hannah was 44, daughter Hannah 22; Benjamin 21; William 14; Thomas 12; David 4; Catherine 9; and Eliza, 7. David's father James died in 1866.

David Evans married Mary Davies when he was about 21, and they emigrated to Patagonia aboard the *Vesta* in 1886 with their three children: Benjamin (born *c.* 1880), Sarah (born *c.* 1882) and Anne (who was born on 28 March 1885). They settled in Maen Gwyn, Treorki, where six more children were born: Rachel (1887), James (1889), Rosana (30 June 1891), Daniel R. (1893), Mair (1896) and Martha (1898).

David had been a farmer in Wales but he went to Patagonia to help construct the railway from Port Madryn to Trelew, and worked diligently on the pampas, leaving the Valley with a week's ration of food and his bedclothes on his back in unbearably hot weather. After working on the railway for some time he decided to return to farming and moved to Bryn Crwn but only for a short while, leaving there for Tres Casas and later to a smallholding at the bottom of Bryn Gwyn. He ventured to buy a smallholding of 100 hectares and after paying for it, bought another. He was said to be a good farmer and earned a reputation as a wheat grower. David and Mary supported the small local school in the Treorki area and were members of Bethlehem Chapel.

In 1902 daughter Sara married Caswallon Jones the son of Richard Jones, who had emigrated to Chubut from Mountain Ash with his parents John and Elizabeth (Betsan) Jones and siblings on board the *Mimosa* in 1865, and his wife Hannah Davies from Aberdare who was also a passenger on the *Mimosa*. Sarah and Caswallon had four children: Morfydd who married David Thomas, son of William Henry Thomas; Matilda who married Herber Evans, the son of the Rev. John Caerenig Evans and Hannah his wife; Mabel who married James Thomas; and Nefin Towyn

who married Ludmila Carrasco. Caswallon Jones died suddenly on 24 December 1941.

In 1907 Anne Evans married Morgan Howells, son of Hopkin Howells and Esther Griffiths who had emigrated to Patagonia from Aberdare in 1875, and lived in Bryn Crwn where Morgan worked as an assistant to John Murray Thomas and the Chubut Mercantile Company in addition to tending to his farm. They had six children: Trofana, Myrddin, Esther, Dewi Hopkin, Sarah Mair and Aerwena. Myrddin was the only one of their children to marry. Anne Howells died on 3 January 1929, and her husband Morgan Howells, who was born on 6 March 1880, died on 1 March 1947.

Rachel married Samuel Brooks in 1920 and had six children: Elsie (married Feliciano Wilder), George Festin (bachelor), Linis Festin (died young), Olivia Fest (married Rosser Howell Williams), Clarice Mary (married Julio Anibal Larrea) and Violet (married Ieuan Roberts).

James married Margaret Jones and their children were Alwen (married Felix Merino), David Arwel (married Flor Maria Mell), Eben (married Elba Bezunartea), Catherine Mary (married Ignacio Suárez), Silyn Ifano (bachelor), Cyril (married Victoria Williams), Rosanah (married Mardy Hughes), Winston (married Eva Mainecul) and Elba (married first Carlos Roberts and then Andrés de Pablo).

Rosana married Robert Thomas and their children were Gladys (who first married Teodoro Urbizu and later Enrique Pluis), Alen (married Plenydd Griffiths), Elfed (died aged 5), William (a bachelor), Gwynfor (a bachelor), Delia (died young), Almed (married Eirwyn Jones), and Derwyn (married Valmai Owen).

In 1943 Daniel married Rachel Jones who was born in 1919. Their children were Elder Gwynfe (married Dora Angelica Cohen), Egbert (married Violeta Arredondo), Elmer (married Hermelinda Hompanera), Eugrad David (married Eira Evans), Edsel John (married Lucia Garriguez), Sarah (died young), Egrin Deiniol (bachelor) Shirley Nivea (married Rodolfo Fernández).

Mair married James Petar Jones and their children were: Elwyn (married Mary Roberts), Petar (married Winnie Roberts), Mary Jane (married Selwyn Evans), Manon (married Domingo Restuccia), Emyr married Sara (Martinez) and Nefydd (married Margarita Maica).

Martha's first husband was Vincente Zonza and they had three children: Maria Elisa (who married José Barroso), Dora Lila (married Eugenio Krebs) and Rosalia

(married Denis Jones). With her second husband, Manuel Echevarria, Martha had Luis Eliseo (who married Juana Gázquez) and René (who married Julia García).

David Evans died on 11 April 1928 and his wife Mary on 7 October 1942. David Evans's obituary in *Y Drafod* records that he returned to Wales about 1911 to see his mother who lived in Nantgaredig, and also to visit his brothers and sisters who were scattered all across Wales. David's father, James, had died in 1866, before his son emigrated to Patagonia.

### **EVANS, Esau (1848–1921)**

Esau Evans was born on 13 July 1848, one of ten children born to Esau Evans and Rachel Lloyd, Hooks, Llansteffan which was, until 1863, part of the parish of Llan-y-bri. His father was a blacksmith from the parish of Llanboidy and his mother hailed from Llanglydwen. On the 1841 census returns the family consists of Esay [*sic*] Evans, blacksmith, 30, Rachel Evans 30, Elinor, 10, Ann 5, Jonah 5, George 3 and Margaret 2. Sons William (1844), David (1846) and Esay [*sic*], (1848), had been born by the date of the next census.

The 1861 census finds 12-year-old Esau as a farm servant at Moche, Llansteffan, but by the time of the 1871 census, he was a 22-year-old collier living with his brother David and family in Hirwaun, Glamorgan. He was a member and also the organist of Nebo Chapel in Hirwaun, and it was during his stay in Hirwaun that he met his future wife Joan Rees whom he married in the March quarter of 1874 in the Neath Registration District.

In 1875 Esau and Joan emigrated to Patagonia and after a few years they moved to Curumalam, Sauce Corto, Buenos Aires and then to the Andes where Esau is said to have prospected for gold. Esau David, the son of Esau and Joan Evans, was christened on 6 July 1885, and Christmas, another son who was born on 25 December 1887, was christened on 14 August 1887, both in Sauce Corto.

Esau Evans experienced a religious calling and returned to Wales to train for the Ministry. Having been ordained at Heol Gerrig Chapel, Merthyr Tydfil, he returned to Patagonia in 1893. He was leader of community and choral singing in Gaiman for many years, a deacon and Secretary of Bethel Chapel, minister in Trevelin and Esquel, and a missionary for the Bible Society. The Bible Society in Buenos Aires sent Esau Evans a consignment of bibles in Spanish for him to distribute among those who had some knowledge of the language. He promptly set out across the pampas and reached the area where Sarmiento was later established, and later went north, to Telsin, where he is said to have spent some weeks going from one *toldo* to the other, conversing with the Natives, sometimes in Spanish and at other times in their own language. His health suffered from so much effort and Esau was forced to go to the British Hospital in Buenos Aires. Upon his return to the Andes he informed the members of his two churches there that he no longer felt able to serve them as he would have wished, and he was, therefore, returning to Gaiman. The 16 October 1914 issue of *Y Drafod* published an ‘Address on the departure of the Rev.

Esau Evans from Cwm Hyfryd' which had been signed by officers of his two churches on 19 September 1914.

Among the National Library of Wales's collections there is a poem to the Reverend Esau Evans, written by his cousin, the Reverend John Lloyd James ('Clwydwenfro'):

At "Epynt Byr" y gyrraf - y llythyr  
Nid llwythog ystyriaf;  
Yn gysur i un geisiaf  
O dderbyn hwn erbyn haf

The following epitaph is found on Esau Evans's gravestone in Gaiman cemetery:

Er Serchog Goffadwriaeth  
am y  
Parch Esau Evans  
Ganed yn Llanybri, Sir Gaerfyrddin  
De Cymru, Gorffennaf 13 1848  
Daeth i'r Wladfa yn y flwyddyn 1875  
Bu yn Weinidog ffyddlon ar Eglwys y Cwm ac Esquel  
Bu farw Ionawr 1af 1921  
Yn 72 mlwydd oed

[ *In Loving Memory*  
*of the*  
*Rev. Esau Evans*  
*Born in Llanybri, Carmarthenshire*  
*South Wales, July 13 1848*  
*He came to the Colony in 1875*  
*He was a faithful Minister in the churches of the Cwm Hyfryd and Esquel*  
*He died January 1<sup>st</sup> 1921*  
*Aged 72 ]*

Wele fedd gŵr anwyl fu - yn gennad  
Llawn, Honest dros Iesu:  
O'i orchwyl aeth i ddyrchu  
Salm y gwaed yn Salem gu

*[Here lies a dear man who was a true and honest ambassador for Jesus. He abandoned his labours to exalt Christ's blood in beloved Salem]*

The 23 December 1926 issue of *Y Drafod* announced the death of Llewelyn Rees, Dolavon, son of Esau Evans, and his obituary was published in the issue of 16 September 1927. He had married Mary Ann Hutchings who was born in 1883, the daughter of Mary and Anthony Hutchings, 'formerly of Ystalyfera'. *Y Drafod* dated 8 September 1935 reported the marriage of Joan Evans, daughter of Llewelyn Rees and Mary Ann Evans, to Gilbert Ritchie, the son of Fred and Amana Ritchie who was raised at the home of Thomas H. Lewis and his wife, and adopted by them when his parents died. The bride was a granddaughter of the Rev. Esau and Joan Evans and the bridegroom a grandson of the Rev. John Caerenig and Hannah Evans. Mary Ann, the wife of Llewelyn Rees Evans died in December 1838 aged 56. Other children born to Llewelyn Rees and Mary Ann were Elias who married Gwalia Davies; Mary who married Tudur Lewis; Ann who married Eurig Richards; Martha who married John Williams 'Cia Mercante' on 4 December 1943, and Elfed Llwyd who married Elcira Oroquieta.

### **EVANS, John Caerenig (1837–1913)**

John Caerenig Evans was born in Llanddewisol, in the parish of Llanfihangel Aberbythych, Carmarthenshire on 20 April 1837, the son of Phillip Evans, a native of the parish of Llanfihangel Aberbythych, and Margaret Rees from the Cwmaman district of Llandybïe. Phillip Evans and Margaret Rees were married in Llandybïe Parish church on 21 December 1822 and their first child, Williams, was baptized in the same church on 30 January 1823.

The volume of *Hanes Eglwysi Annibynnol Cymru* (The History of the Welsh Independents) which relates to the Independent (Congregational) cause in Carmarthenshire names Phillip Evans as one of the founders of Milo Chapel in Llanfihangel Aberbythych. The chapel was built in 1830, but fellowship meetings had been held at Phillip Evans's home in Bwlchgroes before then. He was described as 'an admirable person' and 'very acceptable as a preacher.'

Phillip's name appears on the 1839 tithe map of Llanfihangel Aberbythych as the tenant of Llanddewisol, but he was killed in a mining accident on 14 May 1840 aged 44 and was buried in the graveyard of Llandybïe Parish Church on 16 May 1840. The family were living at the time in Dan-y-graig in the parish of Betws, and on the 1841 census Margaret Evans (40) and her children Rees (15), Thomas (14), David (5) and John (3) are listed under Tanygraig; daughter Elizabeth is said to have been with her maternal grandfather at Nantyafr, Cwmaman at the time of the census. Shortly afterwards Margaret and her children moved to Grenig Fawr, Glanamau.

John received his early education at a local school held by a woman from Cornwall and later at Richard Williams's school in Cwmaman. Richard Williams was an old soldier who had fought at the battle of Waterloo; he was born in 1790, the son of William Rees Evans, and in his book *Old Characters of Bettws* David Trumor Thomas states that it was while he was in the army that Richard changed his surname from Evans to Williams, using his father's Christian name, William, as his new surname.

Following his time at Richard Williams's school, John Caerenig Evans attended a school in Swansea. Despite the fact that his father was killed in the mines, John Caerenig also worked as a miner from the age of nine until he was twenty six. In 1863 he was accepted as a student at Carmarthen Presbyterian College and four years later, on 28 August 1867, he was ordained as minister of Moriah Independent (Congregational) Chapel, Cwmaman, Aberdare.

He was a successful and popular minister in Cwmaman but in 1874 he gave in to the desire to go to Patagonia with his wife Hannah Harries, whom he had married in November 1868, and three small children – Gildas (1870), Egryn (1872) and Amana Margretta (1873). They left Liverpool for Buenos Aires on the *Hipparchus* on 20 April 1874. Five more children were born in Patagonia – Edith Mary (1876), Tudur (1877), Morfydd (1885), Grenig (1890) and Trofana (1893). A sign of his popularity is the fact that a number of his congregation followed him to Patagonia in 1875.

Another member of the family who emigrated with John Caerenig Evans was his sister, Elizabeth Evans, who was born on 2 October 1831 and had had to go into domestic service when quite young. She had very nearly emigrated to the United States with her brother David, but instead set off for Patagonia with John Caerenig and his family. Elizabeth married Thomas S. Williams in 1899 and went to live in Cwm Hyfryd, but following the death of her husband in 1907 she returned to the Chubut Valley. She died on 23 September 1931, nine days short of her one hundredth birthday; her mother had lived to reach the age of 94 and her mother's brother John Rees had died aged 96.

The Rev. John Caerenig Evans gave valued service to the Settlement in the difficult pioneering years, and he and David D. Roberts were the first to go to live in the Gaiman area. A Sunday school was started in his home in November 1874 and after he had been preaching in various houses in the area for a year, Bethel Congregational Chapel, Gaiman, was established in August 1876 with J. C. Evans as its first minister. His experience as a collier proved useful in the early years of the settlement, especially in relation to constructing the canals. He was amongst those who, after years of depending on the river to rise, thought of constructing a canal and the first sections, under J. C. Evans' leadership, were cut without proper tools and without adequate food for the men or their horses.

An obituary published in *Y Drafod* mentions a number of amusing anecdotes relating to John Caerenig Evans. One of these recalls his prudence and cunning when the Settlement was in danger of being attacked by armed Chileans. One of the settlers, Daniel R. Evans, had recently been in Port Madryn on board a visiting British warship and had been given some redundant British soldier uniforms. On his return from Madryn, and with an armed group about to attack the village, Daniel R. Evans and D. B. Williams, on John Caerenig's advice, put on soldiers' uniforms and were placed in

prominent positions in order to create the impression that British soldiers were there to deal with the attackers! The ruse was successful and the settlers were spared on that occasion.

John Caerenig Evans worked hard during the week and preached on Sundays for nothing or almost nothing. In the election of 30 July 1886 he was elected a Justice of the Peace. He kept open house where anyone in need could enter, and his obituary in the *Drafod* of 12 December 1913 recalls that he thought the best of people and was sincere, broadminded, with very deep convictions and common sense. Rarely was any public meeting held in the Settlement – religious, political, literary or commercial – without him being present. He donated a strip of land on which a hospital, named the J. C. Evans Hospital in his honour, was built. After preaching continuously for over fifty years he died in December 1913 aged 77. His wife Hannah had died on 4 August 1911.

Gildas married Ann Howells and had five children – Archimedes (a bachelor), Herber who married Matilde Jones, Edith who married Paul Lambert in 1938, Rhys who married Eirlys Jones, and Alun who died young.

Egryn's first wife was Gwen Williams with whom he had two sons, Towy and Mefin, who both died young. With his second wife, Elizabeth Jane Williams, he had a daughter Nest who married John Craig, and a son Darwel who married Marta Rodrigo.

Amana Margaret married Frederick Ritchie and had nine children – Henry (who died young), John (who married Amalia Smith), Lena (who married Federico Boyd), Magdalena (who married Edward Scott Thomas, the youngest son of John Murray Thomas and Harriett Underwood), Margaret (her first husband was Julio Diaz and her second Francisco Iglesias), May (who married Pedro Colasante), Lili (who was unmarried), Gilbert (who married Joan Evans, the granddaughter of the Rev. Esau Evans and Joan Evans) and Wellington (who married Maria Salones).

Edith Mary married David Evan Jones ('The Coop') and also had nine children – Evan E. (who married Tera Jones), Winifred (who died young), Hannah (who was unmarried), John Sydney (who married Lydia Humphreys, the daughter of Richard M. Humphreys who was born in Santa Fe and his first wife Jane Jones), Elizabeth (who married John Williams), Ethel (who married Thelmo Victor Picone), Eleanor (who married Bruno Musielack), Elfed George (who married Delina Harris) and Rachel (who married Edward Williams).

Tudur married Margaret Ann Williams and had three sons – Caerfryn (who married Grazia Italia Mazza), Ifano (a bachelor) and Eirwyn (who died aged 20).

Morfydd married Robert Warnock but they were childless, while Grenig and Trofana were unmarried.

‘Marwolaeth y Parch. J. C. Evans’, *Y Drafod*, 5 December 1913

Poem, ‘Caerenig’ by William H. Hughes (‘Glan Caeron’), *Y Drafod*, 5 December 1913

‘Cwyn Coll am yr Hybarch J. C. Evans, Gaiman’ by D. R. J., *Y Drafod*, 12 December 1913

‘Y Diweddar Barch. J. C. Evans, Gaiman, yn ei fedd’ by W. Evans, *Y Drafod*, 12 December 1913

Information supplied by a member of the family

### **EVANS, John Daniel (1862–1943)**

John Daniel Evans was born in Mountain Ash in 1862 but his father, Daniel, was from Ty'n-y-waun farm, Pont-henri, Carmarthenshire, and his mother Mary from Aberdare. John Daniel went to Patagonia with his family in 1865 and became one of the best horsemen, a courageous farmer and such a skilful leader that he became known as 'El Baqueano' or 'Leader'.

He made many journeys across the pampas, but the most famous is the one that he undertook with three companions, setting off at the end of 1883, during which they were attacked by Indians in Kel-Kein and John's companions – Richard B. Davies, John Hughes and John Parry – were killed in March 1884. John Daniel Evans had a miraculous escape thanks to the horse named Malacara that he was riding. There had been much talk of gold and other minerals on the banks of the Chubut and John Daniel Evans had been chosen as leader for this exploratory journey at the end of 1883 because of his familiarity with the pampas and the customs of the Indians. In June 1885, following a public meeting in Gaiman in which John Daniel Evans and John Murray Thomas were present, a request was sent to the first Governor of Chubut, Luis Jorge Fontana, asking him to authorize an expedition to the foot of the Andes with a view to establishing a new settlement there. This was the most famous expedition in the early history of Patagonia. John Daniel Evans was appointed leader, and it was during that journey that the Welsh settlers caught their first glimpse of Cwm Hyfryd (Colonia 16 Octubre).

By 1886 John Daniel Evans was not only a renowned leader but also a landowner. He left the Chubut Valley for Buenos Aires in April 1886 after having been invited to go there to improve his Spanish and to further his education. In October 1886 John Daniel Evans married Elizabeth Richards (1863–1897), daughter of Dafydd Jones and his wife who had come to Patagonia from North America with Captain Rogers in 1874. At the time, John Daniel Evans was working as a sort of *gaucho* or drover for Azahel P. Bell and his company near Port Madryn. In 1888 he was appointed leader for a second journey with Fontana, and on his return to the Valley at the end of March it was time to prepare for the historic journey across the pampas with wagons and the families who were going to settle in Cwm Hyfryd.

In October 1891 John D. Evans and his family moved to Cwm Hyfryd and, after settling there, he decided that there was need for a mill because many of the farmers were getting such good harvests. He began work as a miller on a small and

limited scale, but when Lewis Jones paid John Daniel Evans to guide him around the valley in search of good land on behalf of the railway company (*Ferrocarril Central Argentino*), he used the money to buy another mill from his sister Elizabeth, the widow of Zacharias Jones. This mill gave the farmers of Cwm Hyfryd a better opportunity to mill their own wheat. The mill was the centre of the village that developed around John Daniel Evans's land and in due course it was named Trevelin, after the mill. John Daniel Evans introduced several different types of mill to the neighbourhood and finally the mill that stands in Trevelin today was built and registered as 'Molino Andes Juan D. Evans y Cía Sociedad en Comandita'. John Daniel Evans also kept a flock of sheep on his land.

His wife Elizabeth died in 1897 leaving John Daniel Evans, according to his autobiography, with six children to care for, but only five children are named: Dyfrig, Buddug, Mary, Aneurin and Benoni. In 1900 he married Annie Hughes de Williams who was born in 1873 in Llanfechell, Anglesey, a widow with two children, and a further five children were born of this marriage: Cordelia, Ceinwen, Edith, Emrys and Milton.

John Daniel Evans constantly sought to draw people's attention to the massacre at Kel-Kein and felt that the simple memorial that had been erected on the grave of the three Welshmen was insufficient. In November 1898 he wrote a letter to the *Drafod* to launch a fund to build a monument in the 'Valley of the Martyrs' to his companions who were killed there, and one was finally erected in October 1916.

He was a fervent supporter of matters relating to education and religion and did his best to maintain peaceful relations with the Native peoples. In his tribute to John Daniel Evans which was published in *Y Drafod* dated 28 January 1945, Tomas Freeman wrote that John Daniel Evans played his part honourably in starting a religious cause and a chapel in Trevelin and in maintaining the cause and helping it increase. He worked assiduously to get a day school in Cwm Hyfryd and the first school was held at his house. He was also responsible for building several prestigious houses and would seem to have been the first person to own a car in Cwm Hyfryd. In March 1923 he visited Wales, England and France and returned to Chubut in August. While in Llanelli he tried, unsuccessfully, to find anyone who remembered the wife of Richard B. Davies, one of his companions killed in Kel-Kein. In May 1928 he left on his second trip to Wales and also visited continental Europe and the Middle East. In 1934, aged 72, he travelled to Chile to try to discuss with representative of the

Chilean Government in Santiago the possibility of improving the road through the Andes from Cwm Hyfryd to Chile. He died at his home in Trevelin on 6 March 1943 aged 81 and many tributes to him appeared in Welsh and Spanish papers in Argentina.

Tomas Freeman's testimonial to John Daniel Evans, *Y Drafod*, 28 January 1945

Paul W. Birt (ed.), *Bywyd a Gwaith John Daniel Evans El Baqueano* (Llanrwst: Gwasg Carreg Gwalch, 2004)

### **EVANS, Thomas Dalar (1847–1926)**

Thomas Dalar Evans was born on St Thomas's Day (21 December) 1847 in the parish of Llanfechan (i.e. Llanafan Fechan) near Builth Wells, Breconshire. Although his father Morgan Evans was a cobbler by trade, Thomas says of him that he preferred his books and teaching children. In fact, on the 1861 census returns Morgan Evans is described a 'Schoolmaster', living in Lower Glanrhyd, Llanfechan, with Jane his wife and children John (10), Daniel (7), Sarah (6), Morgan (3) and William (11 months old). Sometime between 1861 a 1871 Morgan Evans was ordained a minister with the Independents (Congregationalists) and served in Merthyr Cynog, Breconshire, Penarth, Montgomeryshire and Bwlch-y-ffridd in the same county.

Thomas's mother, Jane Samuel, was one of the Samuels of Tŷ Mawr, a farm in the neighbourhood of Troedrhiwdalar. His family are found at Newhall, Llanfechan on the 1851 census: Morgan Evans, a 24-year-old shoemaker born in the parish of Llan-gors, Jane his wife aged 29 who was born in Llanynys, 3-year-old Thomas and ten-month-old John, both born in Llanfechan. By the time of the 1861 census, Thomas was living with his mother's family – grandmother Jane Samuel and his uncles – at Tŷ Mawr. Jane Samuel was a 70-year-old widow, a farmer of 180 acres who was born in Llanfareth, Radnorshire. With her at Tŷ Mawr, according to the 1861 census, were her son Thomas (37) who had been born in the parish of Llanynys and was blind; another son John (32) born in Llanfechan, John's wife Jane (24) who was from Llanafan Fawr and their month old son Thomas; and grandson Thomas Evans (13), born in Llanfechan.

In his short autobiography, 'Banau vy mywyd' (Highlights of my life) which appeared in *Y Drafod* of 4 June 1926, Thomas Dalar Evans says that his uncle John Samuel was the conductor of their chapel choir for many years and his uncle Thomas, who was blind from birth, also acted as conductor and precentor of the choir. The Samuels were, therefore, a musical family, and Thomas inherited that gift. They were also a respectable and religious family and Thomas writes that he had nurtured a respect towards religion and religious persons since childhood.

After working in the neighbourhood of Troedrhiwdalar for a few years, Thomas Dalar Evans spent seven years in Taf Fechan, near Dowlais. In 1875, at the age of 28, he emigrated to Patagonia, and obtained a post as a schoolmaster in the Glyn Du area. He had a class of some 40 children in a small room with an earthen floor and backless benches. He held an *ysgol gân* (singing class) for a quarter of an

hour every day after school, and started a choir in the area. He was conductor of Côt Undebol Dyffryn Uchaf (the Upper Valley United Choir) for many years, with great success, and the precentor in Glan Alaw Chapel and Bethel Chapel, Cwm Hyfryd (Colonia 16 Octubre). The article, 'Y diweddar Thomas Dalar Evans' which appeared in the 6 August 1926 issue of *Y Drafod*, has the following description of the Cwm Hyfryd chapel in the early days of the settlement in the Andes: ... a log building, measuring 9 yards long by 6 yards wide, a roof of coarse reeds, two small windows on either side, planks for floor, a space of six feet between it and the eaves, and the pews arranged opposite each other, but no congregation ever appreciated their chapel more.

He composed many pieces of music, most of them congregational tunes. A number of his compositions appeared in the journal *Cymru'r Plant*. He was successful on many occasions in the Settlement's eisteddfodau with his compositions and analysis of musical pieces, and he conducted the Settlement's singing festivals. Thomas Dalar Evans inaugurated in 1902 the musical festivals which he led in the log chapel in Cwm Hyfryd. He was successful as a conductor because of his unpretentious and unaffected style.

In 1877 he married Esther, the youngest daughter of Rhys and Elizabeth Williams of Cefn Gwyn in the Moriah district of Trelew, who was born in Brazil, and they had ten children: Irvonwy (1878), Buallt (1880), Brychan (1882), Morgan (1885), Mary Ann (?1887, died young), Elizabeth Jane (Siân, 1889), Ioan Penry (1891), Briallen (1893), Madryn (1896), Eurgain (1898) ac Almed (1901). In June 1894 Thomas and his family moved to the Andes where he received 2,500 hectares of land free of charge from the Government. He knew great sadness. One day when he was schoolmaster at Glyn Du he went out with his gun to shoot pheasants and while loading the gun it fired and blew to shreds his middle finger and two joints of his index finger. On 25 May 1888 his son Buallt drowned in the Chubut River, aged 8, while returning home from Maesteg school with his brother Brychan. His wife Esther went to visit her family and friends in the Chubut Valley in December 1903 and died of diphtheria. His son Madryn disappeared on 6 June 1904 and his body was found near the house the following day, hidden in scrub in the way a puma does with a lamb it has killed. He was eight years old. In September 1914 Thomas Dalar Evans's house burnt to the ground and when the replacement house was left without a roof while the family harvested the wheat, heavy rain came and the house fell down almost to its foundations. In 1917 his daughter Eurgain died and Briallen, the wife of John S. Pugh,

Gaiman, in August 1920 aged 27, leaving a husband and two children. Daughter Almed died in June 1922 aged 21 and on 28 July 1925 his daughter Jane (Siân), the wife of Thomas Nicholls, Bryn Gwyn, died aged 37, leaving a husband and five children. Irvonwy had married Edward Brunt, and by 12 March 1924, the date which Thomas Dalar Evans appended to his autobiography in *Y Drafod*, she was the only one of his daughters still alive. Ioan Penry was married to Margaret Jane Williams and Brychan had married Mary Thomas.

Thomas Dalar Evans died on 30 May 1926.

Thomas Dalar Evans: 'Banau fy Mywyd', *Y Drafod*, 4 June 1926

'Y diweddard Thomas Dalar Evans', *Y Drafod*, 26 August 1926

### **EVANS, Tudur (1877–1959)**

Tudur Evans was born in Gaiman on 12 December 1877, the son of the Rev. John Caerenig Evans and Hannah Harries, his wife. His childhood and youth were spent with his parents on the farm near Gaiman. In his book *Los Poetas del Eisteddfod* Osian Hughes states that Tudur was amongst those who went to settle in the Sarmiento Valley but that on hearing news of the religious revival in the Chubut Valley he returned there and experienced a religious conversion. On the other hand, Noel Gibbard in his book *On the Wings of the Dove* suggests that Tudur Evans was in the Chubut Valley at the time but that he went to Sarmiento to help promote the revival there. This is corroborated by Mrs Owen Jones in her recollections of the time of the revival in Sarmiento which were published in Robert Owen Jones's, *Yr Efengyl yn y Wladfa*.

Tudur Evans threw himself into church activities and in 1906 enrolled as a student at the Presbyterian College in Carmarthen in preparation for entering the ministry. On completing the course in Carmarthen he was urged by the Rev. Howell Elvet Lewis ('Elfed'; 1860–1953) to further his studies at the East London Missionary Training Institute, also known as Harley College, in London.

The following is a translation of a report on Tudur Evans's ordination meeting. It was originally published in *Y Tyst*, and appeared in the 16 December 1910 issue of *Y Drafod*:

#### 'Heol Awst Caerfyrddin'

On Thursday morning, 22 September, Mr Tudor Evans from Harley College, London, was ordained to the ministry in the Welsh Settlement, South America. Mr Evans is the son of the Rev. J. C. Evans, Gaiman, Patagonia, and like his father loves the Settlement with all his heart, and is passionately eager to present himself in Christ's name to preach the Gospel there to his compatriots and to other nations. The Rev. W. Casnodyn Rhys, Swansea [who had been a minister with the Baptist cause in the Settlement for some years] gave a short address, outlining the nature of the labours of a minister in Patagonia. Perhaps the most striking part of the meeting's procedures was the two short addresses given by two of the Patagonian settlers – Messrs Richard Jones and Thomas Jones. Both are respected deacons in the Settlement and both were among the first group who went to Patagonia in 1865.

This is a reference to Thomas Jones, Glan Camwy, and Richard Jones, Glyn Du. The 'Correspondent' continued: 'On Saturday, 1 October, the Rev. Tudur Evans and a strong contingent of old and new emigrants left Liverpool for Patagonia'. The list of passengers leaving British ports, found on the findmypast.co.uk website records that 'T. Evans' left the port of Liverpool bound for Argentina on the *Veronese* owned by the Lamport & Holt company on 5 October 1910.

Returning to Patagonia, Tudur Evans settled in the Chubut Valley and was minister of the chapels in the Valley until 1920 when he received an invitation from the chapels in the Andes to be their minister. He remained there, ministering in Trevelin and Esquel from 1921 to 1933, when he and his family returned to the Chubut, and was minister of the chapels there until his health broke. He died on 1 September 1959 aged 81.

Although his poetic work is not extensive, Tudur Evans won the Chair in the Eisteddfod held at Trevelin in 1928. This chair was donated to the Trevelin Museum.

In 1912 he had married Margaret Ann Williams, whom he had met while a student in Carmarthen, and they had three children. His youngest son, Eirwyn, died aged 20 and son Ifano Evans died a bachelor in Gaiman. Tudur's grandchildren, the children of his eldest son, Caerfryn Evans, lived in Buenos Aires, according to Osian Hughes in his book, *Los Poetas del Eisteddfod*.

### **EVANS, William, Maes yr Haf (1851–June 1931)**

William Evans was born on 10 August 1851 in Pontgarreg, Tre-lech a'r Betws, the son of Thomas and Mary Evans. His mother died when William was about ten years old and at the age of twenty he is said to have left the farm and moved to Pentre in the Rhondda valley, to work in the coal mine, and a 19-year-old boarder called William Evans, who was born in Carmarthenshire, is listed among the residents of Pentre in the 1871 census. While there he became a member of Siloh Independent (Congregational) Chapel. On 27 September 1874 he married Elizabeth Davies who was born on 27 September 1854, the daughter of Daniel and Mary Davies, Felin Newydd, Cynwyl Gaeo, and the following year they emigrated to Patagonia.

William built a large brick house on his farm, Maes yr Haf, Bryn Gwyn and eleven children were born to the couple: Cyrus (23 February 1876), Mary (7 February 1878), Thomas (15 June 1880), Gwilym (21 June 1882), John [Camwy] (10 February 1884), Gwen (12 August 1887), Daniel Roderick (27 March 1890), Myrddin (15 January 1892), Madryn (13 July 1894), Dyfed (10 January 1897) and Elizabeth Ann (11 January 1897).

Williams's obituary in *Y Drafod* states that the family visited Wales in 1893 and stayed there for almost two years. The National Library of Wales has a number of letters written by members of the family, one of which, signed 'C. Evans' and written in May 1894, described part of the journey back to Patagonia on the *Potosi*. Another letter dated 16 January 1905 was written from Maes yr Haf to an unknown 'Miss Davies':

Dear Miss Davies. I just send you a Lion's nail to you to make a broach [*sic*] also Mary is sending one to your sister Hannah. We can't send you skins now we don't know of nobody coming back there for a long time but we will send them with the first chance we get.

In 1898, the three eldest children, Cyrus, Tomas and Mary, were sent to Wales to receive part of their education. Cyrus and Tomas were at the Academy in Pontypridd in the Autumn Term of 1898, and it is believed that Cyrus attended New College, 33 Quay Street, Carmarthen, the following year. Meanwhile, Mary was training to become a nurse. Another son, John Camwy, was a student at the Old College School, Carmarthen, from 1907 and from there attended Bala Bangor College. He was

ordained a minister with the Independents (Congregationalists) in June 1915. From 1915 to 1931 he was minister of Pendref Chapel Caernarfon and a County Councillor; from 1931 to 1947 minister of Lloyd Street Chapel, Llanelli; and from 1948 to 1954 he ministered at Nebo Chapel, Blaengarw, Glamorgan. He married Emily Crump in 1915 and they paid a visit to Patagonia that same year. On 25 September 1918 he received a letter from the Office of the Chief Constable of Caernarfon informing him that he was no longer considered an 'alien' but a British subject. After retiring, he returned to north Wales and spent the rest of his life at his home, 'Snowdonia', in Dinas Dinlle. He died in 1963 and was buried in the graveyard at Cana Chapel, Llanddaniel-fab, Anglesey.

Two other sons of William ac Elizabeth Evans worked for the Co-operative in Gaiman. Cyrus was a licensed surveyor and married Maria the daughter of William Jones of Carmarthen farm near Gaiman. A little later, another son, Gwilym, married Maria's sister Ann. Tomas married Mary Ellen Morgan and they settled in Comodoro Rivadavia where Tomas was supervisor of the branch of Chubut Mercantile Company there for many years, and a Justice of the Peace for a time. Gwen's first husband was Hugh Parry and her second Stephen Williams. Daniel Roderick married Sarah Jones; Madryn married Alice Jane Pierce; Dyfed married Maud Lloyd Jones and Elizabeth married Lemuel Roberts. Myrddin died on 5 July 1919, Mary, the wife of David T. Williams, Bryn Gwyn, died on 16 April 1929 aged 52 and Daniel Roderick in June 1938 aged 48.

William Evans was highly regarded in the Welsh community and played a prominent part in the development and improvement of the Chubut Valley, especially with regard to irrigation. He was for many years the Secretary of the Co-operative, was behind the building of the area's first chapel and was a Sunday school teacher and Examiner. He was a supporter of the Education Movement and was instrumental in building the Intermediate School in Gaiman.

William Evans, Maes yr Haf, died in June 1931 and Elizabeth Evans in June 1941 aged 86.

### **FOOTMAN de MORRIS, Elizabeth (1863–1915)**

Albina Jones de Zampini states that Elizabeth Footman was from Hafod Wen, Carmarthen, and was born in 1863. On the 1871 census returns for the parish of St Peter's Carmarthen, an 8-year-old Eliza is listed in Cottage Road, Carmarthen, with father Charles Footman aged 44, a farmer of 9 acres born in Hereford, mother Hannah, 45, born in Abernant, Carmarthenshire, sister Jane 5 and Alice 2, both born in the parish of St Peter's, together with two of Hannah's children by her first marriage – Sarah Phillips aged 22, a dairy maid and George Phillips aged 14, also born in the parish of St Peter's. In the previous census of St Peter's, in 1861, Hannah is a 34-year-old widow and farmer of 9 acres, with children Sarah 15, John 12, Mary 11, William 7, and George, 5.

Elizabeth Footman first met Eleazar Garnant Morris while on holiday in Llansteffan, and they married in the June quarter of 1885, in the Carmarthen registration district. Eleazar is said to have been born in Cilfynydd, Glamorgan, in 1858, but the only Eleazar Morris listed on the 1861 census who was born c. 1858 was living at Penypound Cottage Llangiwg. This family appears at 4 Graig Road, Cefnpennar, Glamorgan, on the 1871 census: William Morris aged 57, a coalminer born in Llandybïe; Anne his wife (55), born Llanfihangel, Carmarthenshire; David (22), coalminer; William (21), coalminer; Hannah (18), general servant; Llewelyn (16), coalminer; Eleazar (13), grocer (apprentice); and George (11), scholar. The children are said to have been born in Betws, Carmarthen. The birth registration of a child named Eleazar Morris was registered in the December quarter of 1857 in the Neath registration district.

After Eleazar and Elizabeth Morris married, they settled down to married life in Mountain Ash where a daughter, Alice, was born. In 1886 when the Rev. Abraham Matthews was in Wales lecturing on Patagonia, Eleazar and two of his brothers, William and George, decided to emigrate to Patagonia. It was decided that the brothers would go there first in order to prepare homes for their families, but while they were waiting for a boat to take them from Buenos Aires to Chubut, they met some other Welsh emigrants who were going to Curumalam to set up a Welsh settlement there because they claimed that there would be neither success nor sufficient water in the settlement on the Chubut. The Morris brothers, therefore, set

their sight on going to Curumalam, Coronel Suárez and Eleazar and Elizabeth emigrated to Coronel Suárez rather than to Patagonia.

Conditions later changed in Curumalam and some of the Welsh settlers left for the Welsh Settlement in Chubut. William and George Morris were among those who returned to Wales, but Eleazar and Elizabeth decided to stay with the remainder of the Welsh settlers in Curumalam, despite all the hardships and difficulties. They became owners of three farms, animals and equipment. They had thirteen children, including the first daughter who was born in Wales, and eight boys and four girls were born in Argentina.

Elizabeth's obituary that was published in *Y Drafod* of June 1915, states that she and her husband had sacrificed a great deal to educate their children. Four of them received higher education in Wales, two in Bahia Blanca, another two in Chubut and the remainder in Curumalam. Six of the children were members of their local church and six of the sons played in the church band. The family are found on the 1895 census returns for Coronel Suárez:

Alieza (i.e. Eleazar) Morris Male married aged 40 born in England  
Eliza[beth] Morris Female married aged 37 born in England  
Alicia Morris Female 8 born in England  
Guillermo (William) Morris Male 7 born in Argentina Buenos Aires  
Eliza Morris Female 6 born in Argentina Buenos Aires  
Luis [?] Morris Male 5 born in Argentina Buenos Aires  
Eduardo Morris Male 3 born in Argentina Buenos Aires  
Jorge (George) Morris Male 2 born in Argentina Buenos Aires  
Winifreda Morris Female 1 born in Argentina Buenos Aires

Alice Morris married Thomas Daniel Evans, the son of Daniel Rhys Evans and Mary Jones, and it was he who wrote the obituary for his mother-in-law in *Y Drafod*. William Charles Morris was a bachelor. Elizabeth married Joel Maradei at the church in Coronel Suárez on 29 July 1922. George Phillip Morris, born 25 March 1892 in Coronel Suárez, married Amelia Antonia Andersh, born 26 March 1904 in Coronel Suárez. Their children were Jorge Eleazar (20 October 1923–20 October 1999), Daisy Nora (20 June 1926–16 December 1975) and Roberto Carlos (27 July 1934–13 February 2003). Diego Eduardo, born 28 June 1893, married Ethel Muir Shae. Diego

died in Coronel Suárez on 28 September 1987. Winifred, born c. 1894, married Edward R. Evans. In Bethel Chapel, Gaiman, on 30 April 1920, Edith, who was born on 26 April 1897 in Coronel Suárez, married Evan Rees, Pantglas, born in Gaiman on 8 October 1889. Edith died in childbirth in Gaiman on 12 April 1935 leaving a husband and four young children. Evan Rees died in Trelew on 28 December 1973. Also in Bethel Chapel, Gaiman, on 16 October 1935, Arthur Curwen married Meirionwen Pughe, born on 9 July 1913 in Gaiman, the daughter of Gwilym J. Pughe. They had two sons, Arturo Raymundo, born in Coronel Suárez on 2 July 1936, who is the father of Valerie Morris, and Reynaldo who is the father of Evelyn Morris. Arthur Curwen died on 16 October 1990 and Meirionwen on 27 August 2000 in Coronel Suárez. Blodwen married John Owen. Myrddin married Dina Visconte. Tudor married Ivy [ ]. Eleazar married Rowena Morris. Leonard married Carmen Cobo.

The National Library of Wales holds five letters and two postcards (dated 1914 and 1924-28, with some undated) addressed to Miss Rachel Walters and her brother Tom Walters of Brynaman, Carmarthenshire, from their uncle Eleazar Morris of Coronel Suárez and his son Tudor ('Tui') who spent two years, 1925-7, studying at Supurgeon's College, London.

Eleazar Morris died on 30 September 1930 aged 72 and Elizabeth on 17 June 1915, both in Coronel Suárez.

Information supplied by Evelyn Morris, daughter of Reynaldo Morris ([mariano@generalpico.com.ar](mailto:mariano@generalpico.com.ar))  
Information posted on Ancestry Message Board on 9 October 1910 under the heading 'Griffith John Pugh' [*sic*] descendants, by Valeria Morris, the daughter of Raymundo Morris  
NLW MS 21482D

### **FREEMAN, William J. (1851–1914)**

William J Freeman is said to have been born in Glamorgan on 24 June 1851 and his father's name is known to have been Joseph Freeman. There exists a marriage registration entry for a Joseph Freeman and Elizabeth Davies in Aberdare on 1 February 1851. On the 1851 census returns, taken on 30 March 1851, three months before William's birth, Joseph Freeman, 28 years of age, who was born in Manorbier, Pembrokeshire, and Elizabeth his wife, 24 years old and born in Breconshire, appear living in Abercwmboi, Glamorgan. A 30-year-old year old Joseph Freeman is listed as a passenger on the *Astria* sailing for New York in 1852 but there is no record of when Elizabeth and William went to North America.

On 13 August in Bellevue, Allegheny Co., Pennsylvania, William J. Freeman married Mary Ann Thomas, who had been born in Pennsylvania on 8 November 1854. William a Mary Ann Freeman and their three daughters – Sarah Ann, Lizzie and Lottie (twins) – sailed to the Welsh Settlement on the *Lucerne*, leaving New York on 13 August 1875 and reaching Chubut on 26 December. William's father tried to entice William to return to the United States because *Y Drych* of 11 April 1878 published a letter from Joseph Freeman dated Bellevue, Pennsylvania 27 March 1878, in which he expressed his thanks for the contributions he had received towards paying the costs of a return passage for his son and David Jones and their families from 'that bleak and desolate wasteland'. Nevertheless, William stayed in Patagonia and became one of the most prominent and wealthy men in the Andes.

William Freeman was responsible for planning the town of Trevelin and apportioning the plots. He kept a diary, in English, of the journey he made to the Andes in 1888 (although 1886 is written on the front page of his notebook) in the company of John Daniel Evans, John Murray Thomas and 37 other men. John Daniel Evans also records the journey in the chapter 'Y Daith i Gwm Hyfryd gyda'r Wagenni, 1888' (the journey to Cwm Hyfryd with the wagons, 1888) in his autobiography. In his description of life on the journey, William Freeman mentions how the travellers would settle any disputes that arose, how they held Sunday school, hunted for food, mended wagons and built temporary bridges, and he emphasized the importance of knowing where the springs and water pools for the animals were located. He describes his feelings on reaching the Andes, mentioning the currant bushes and wild strawberries, and how he made strawberry jam and tarts using he marrow from guanaco bones instead of lard, and he even bottled the strawberries.

In 1891 Freeman returned to the Andes with his wife and ten children. With five other families and a number of single men they left the Chubut Valley on 27 August with four wagons, an ox cart, a hundred cattle, horses and mares, pack horses (the unmarried men brought these), also pigs and chickens (the latter being carried in boxes hanging outside the wagons and being set free when the travellers camped), and with enough food for a year.

The second half of the diary contains Mary Anne Freeman's account of the journey and begins with an entry for 31 August. She describes the harsh life of the women: preparing food, looking after the children, baking bread and taking advantage of any stopping places to do the laundry. On 29 September he notes that the plans for that day had gone awry; instead of travelling she found herself in a place later named Y Clafdy following the birth of a daughter weighing ten pounds, and she adds that a cow had brought a calf that same day. The baby was named Mary Peithgan. The other women and children had to remain there for a few days in the care of an old man while the other men went ahead with the herds.

R. Bryn Williams relates an amusing tale about an event which caused much fear among the women; a horseman was seen approaching their camp, his black beard covering most of his face, his hair hanging loosely over his shoulders, his clothing ragged and of a wild appearance. To their great relief they realised that it was Percy Wharton on his way down from the Andes. He was invited to see the baby but he was afraid that he would frighten her with his unkempt appearance and he innocently asked whether the baby had opened her eyes yet. He thought that babies were, like cats, unable to open their eyes for some days after birth.

During the journey the ox cart overturned and the axle broke. It was successfully repaired but when the axle of one of the wagons broke, its load was hidden in a cave in Dyffryn yr Allorau (Los Altares) because they could not repair it. When William Freeman returned to fetch the load some months later, no animal, not even a skunk, had touched the food. Cwm Hyfryd was reached on 21 November 1891 after a journey of almost three months.

By the year 1908, William J and Mary Anne Freeman had returned to the Chubut Valley, leaving their older sons in the Andes.

Eleven children were born in the Settlement to William a Mary Ann: Margaret (who married Gwilym Jones); Joseph (who married Margaret James and had 16 children); Thomas (who married Rosana Awstin); John (who married Elizabeth Ann

Edwards in 1913); George, who died aged 20, Mary Peithgan, who died aged 16, and Edward Garfield, who died aged 14, all three dying in 1908 of some infectious disease; William (who married Margaret Thomas on 7 August 1914); Constance (who married John Owen); and twins who died at birth.

In 1910 Mary Anne Freeman drowned in the river Chubut and was buried in Moriah Chapel cemetery with her three children who had died in 1908. William later erected a monument to their memory with epitaphs etched on each of the four sides. William J. Freeman died in Rawson on 2 November 1914.

Marriage of William J. Freeman and Mary Ann Thomas, 1870, on IGI Pennsylvania

Joseph Freeman's letter, *Y Drych*, 11 April 1878

Diary of William J. Freeman, 1886-91. NLW Facs 578

### **GREEN, Frederick (1913–2002)**

Frederick (Fred or Freddie) Green was born on 19 July 1913, the son of John Charles Green and Gwenonwy Berwyn, the twelfth child of Richard Jones Berwyn and Elizabeth Pritchard.

His father, John Charles Green, was born on 14 April 1875, the son of Frederick Green and Harriet Ann Porter who married in St Oswald's Church, Chester, on 1 January 1861. On the 1861 census returns Frederick Green claimed that he was born in Threapwood, Flintshire, but that part of Threapwood where Frederick lived came under Cheshire. Frederick's father Thomas was a master tailor and had been born in Threapwood c. 1807 and his wife Mary had been born in London. The 1851 census lists their children as Elizabeth (15), Frederick (14), Mary (11) and Jane (6), and records of their christening are listed on the 'familysearch' website: Elizabeth on 18 July 1835, Frederick on 10 July 1836, Mary on 6 December 1840 and Jane on 11 August 1844.

It appears that Harriet's mother hailed from Flintshire. On the 1851 census returns for the Wool Pack, Shoemaker's Row, Chester, 11-year-old Harriet Ann Porter appears with her widowed mother Ann, an innkeeper, 50 years old and born in Hanmer, Flintshire, and Harriet's 9-year-old sister Mary Porter. Ann Porter married a Robert Smith in 1852 but by the time of the 1861 he had died and Ann was a widow for the second time, still living at the Wool Pack, with her 24-year-old son Thomas Porter, a brewer.

At the time of the 1861 census, Frederick Green was a 24-year-old tailor employing a man and two boys, and Harriet his wife was 21. The christening records of their children are: Thomas Porter Green, 9 February 1862 in Farndon, Chester; Frederick Phillip Green on 10 April 1864 in St Oswald's Church, Chester; Annie Green on 22 April 1866 in St John's Church, Chester; Harriet M. Green on 30 August 1868 in St Oswald's Church, Chester; Helena Susan Green on 5 March 1871 in St Oswald's Church, Chester; and John Charles Green on 9 May 1875 in St Oswald's Church, Chester. On the 1871 census Thomas Porter Green aged 9, and Frederick Phillip Green aged 7, were listed at a school in the St Pancras area of London where their uncle, Thomas M. Green, was headmaster.

John Charles Green's father Frederick Green had died by the date of the 1881 census having reportedly drowned in the river Dee, and his death was registered in the June quarter of 1876 in the Chester registration district; he was 40 years of age. His

widow Harriet Ann Green married John Holt on 6 August 1877 in Brymbo, Denbighshire and the family are found living in Dongray Hall, Bangor Is-coed on the 1881 census:

John Holt Head Married 50 Farmer of 118 acres employing 2 men born in Lancashire, Bury

Harriett [*sic*] A. Holt Wife Married 41 born in Cheshire, Chester

Thomas G. Holt Son 15 Farmer's son born in Gravesend, Kent

Rosina J. Holt Daur 13 Farmer's daur born in Gravesend, Kent

Harriett [*sic*] M. Green Step Daur 12 born in Cheshire, Chester

Helena Susan Green Step Daur 10 Scholar born in Cheshire, Chester

Mary Amelia Holt Daur 9 Scholar born in Gravesend, Kent

John M. Holt Son 8 Scholar born in Gravesend, Kent

John Charles Green Stepson 6 Scholar born in Cheshire, Chester

Gertrude Holt Daur 5 born in Gravesend, Kent

Louisa H. Holt Daur 1 born in Flintshire, Bangor [Is-coed]

Also listed with the family was 44-year-old widower Thomas Porter, boarder and retired innkeeper who was born in Chester – most probably Harriet's brother.

In his book, *Pethau Patagonia*, Fred Green mentions a family legend that it was John Charles Green's stepbrother who had intended to go to Patagonia but he disappeared a fortnight before the ship was due to sail. Harriet, the mother, was anxious because of the costs that had been incurred in obtaining a ticket and making all the arrangements, so John Charles Green decided to go instead of his stepbrother. Fred believed that his father emigrated to Patagonia about 1887, when John would have been about 13 years of age. Certainly, John Charles Green does not appear on the 1891 census returns of 8 Cromwell Road, London, with his mother and stepfather father, sister Annie Green, a 25-year-old schoolmistress, and two stepsisters – Louise (11) a Lizzie Holt (9). John Holt died in the June quarter of 1910 in the West Ham registration district of London aged 80, and by the date of the 1911 census Harriet Ann Holt (widow), Louisa Hankey Holt (dressmaker) and Lizzie Holt (aged 29) were living at 54 Tudor Road, Upton Park, London. Harriet Ann Holt died in March 1925 in the West Ham registration district aged 85.

Fred Green also recalls in *Pethau Patagonia* that a member of the family was already living in Patagonia before his father emigrated there; she was an English

woman, Elizabeth Jones (née Green), the wife of the Rev. David Lloyd Jones.

Elizabeth Green married David Lloyd Jones in the Great Broughton area of Chester during the September quarter of 1858. Upon arriving in Patagonia John Charles Green went to work on their farm, and the 1895 census returns for Chubut list David Lloyd Jones, 62-years-old and a Justice of the Peace; Elizabeth Lloyd Jones his wife aged 60, born in England, been married for 37 years and given birth to 6 children; Gertrude Holt, a single girl and maid, born in England – she must be John Charles's stepsister; May Tyndale, 6, born in Chubut; Luther Lloyd Jones, born in England, a 27-year-old farmer; and 'Carlos Green' (i.e. John Charles Green), single and a farmer aged 20.

In the 1871 census returns for 11 Record Street, Rhuthin, Elizabeth (or Lizzie) Lloyd Jones claims to have been born in Threapwood, Cheshire, and appears on the 1861 census aged 15 with her parents 44-year-old Thomas Green, 'Master Taylor', his wife Mary 46, brother Frederick, 14, and sisters Mary 11, and Jane 6. Elizabeth Lloyd Jones was therefore a sister to John Charles Green's father, Frederick Green. Thomas Green had married Mary Massey in St Peter's Church, Chester, on 13 October 1834; in *Cien atuendos y un sombrero: moda y familia en Chubut desde 1859 a 1939*, Albina Jones de Zampini refers to Elizabeth as 'Lizzie Massey Green'.

Within a few years of settling in Patagonia John Charles Green obtained a plot of land called *Estancia la Primavera* – Spring Valley Farm – near Rhyd yr Indiaid (Paso de Indios; Indians' Ford). In 1899 he built a small house there and bought wagons to carry wool and skins to market, and he later also bought another farm in Drofa Dulog in the Chubut Valley. In 1912 he married Gwenonwy Berwyn and their son Frederick was born the following year. When Fred was six months old John left his wife and child in the care of William Lloyd Jones, Glyn, Cwm Hyfryd, the brother of Gwenonwy's father Richard Jones Berwyn, and went down to the Chubut Valley. Typhus was rife in the Valley at the time and John Charles Green was struck down with the illness, and despite receiving the best care possible he died on 18 February 1916; his son Fred mentions in *Pethau Patagonia* that he was seven months old the day his father died.

Welsh was the language at home – his father John Charles Green had learnt Welsh and attended Seion Chapel in Bryn Gwyn – and like his grandfather Berwyn, Fred Green insisted on speaking pure Welsh and had a deep understanding and knowledge of his Welsh inheritance. His mother Gwenonwy enjoyed writing and kept diaries as well as the farm's log books. These contain details of life in the Chubut

province, chiefly life on the farm and in the community. Her contributions in La Primavera's logs are written in Spanish, with additional notes by the farm manager and by William Christmas (Nadolig) Jones, Gwenonwy's second husband.

Fred Green married Vera Griffiths in Cwm Hyfryd on 8 September 1950 and they had four children, John Charles (Charlie), Elizabeth Mary, Vera Alwen and Erik Iolo. To ensure that his children could write Welsh as well as speak it, he sent Charlie and Mary to school in Tregaron, Ceredigion, for two years and later Erik Iolo went to Llysfasi Agricultural College in Clwyd and Alwen to Aberystwyth where she studied at the College of Further Education for a year. Mary was a student at Coleg Harlech and at University College Swansea, where she graduated in Welsh and Spanish.

Fred Green was a keen follower of eisteddfodau and used to travel every year from the Andes to Gaiman and Trelew to attend both the Youth Eisteddfod and the Settlement's main Eisteddfod. He had a wide knowledge of the history and customs of the settlers and in his book, *Pethau Patagonia*, published in 1984, he includes not only information about himself and his family and the people he knew, but also descriptions of the landscape and wildlife of the area. He was well versed in the history of Wales but his knowledge of the Settlement was wider still. He would relate stories about the 'old settlers' and could explain the significance of names such as Nant y Pysgod (Arroya Pescado), Dyffryn yr Allorau (Los Altares), Box Gin, etc. In *Pethau Patagonia* Fred states that John Daniel Evans had been raised among many of the native children and as a result learned their way of looking at life and their ways of riding, hunting and tracking animals. He included the story he learned from Maggie Freeman de Jones from Trevelin about the journey made by her family from the Chubut Valley up to the Andes in 1891.

Fred Green was knowledgeable about hunting techniques and dressed as a kind of sophisticated gaucho. For many years he lived on his *estancia*, La Primavera, between Trelew and Esquel in the Paso de los Indios area, before moving to farm Pennant outside Trevelin. He was one of the few settlers who spoke English and he travelled widely in Wales and on the continent of Europe. He took an interest in political events world-wide and in business and was an avid reader. Like his mother, Gwenonwy, he kept a diary and was also a keen radio ham, as are some of his children. He installed electricity in his farmhouse, Pennant, by constructing a water turbine that is still in use today. The excess electricity is sold to the national grid system. Frederick Green died in Trevelin in January 2002 aged 88.

Cathrin Williams, 'Cofio Fred Green', BBC Cymru/Tramor/Yr Ariannin website

Census returns of Cheshire, London and Flintshire on Ancestry: [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

Chubut census 1895: Colonia Dieciséis de Octubre (Población rural) on theInternational Genealogical

Index: <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/igi>

Chapter on Fred Green in Geraldine Lublin's PhD thesis: 'Memoirs and identity in Welsh Patagonia: construction of Welsh Patagonian identity as reflected in memoirs written by Welsh descendants in the province of Chubut towards the end of the twentieth century'; School of Welsh, Cardiff University, 2008

### **HUGHES, Hugh ('Cadfan Gwynedd'; 1824–98))**

Hugh Hughes (Hugh Hughes Cadfan or Cadfan Gwynedd) was born on 20 August 1824 in Trefdraeth, Anglesey, the eldest of the twelve children of Lewis and Jane Hughes, but the family moved to Rhostryfan in Caernarfonshire in 1831. Hugh was apprenticed as a carpenter and built his own workshop in Caernarfon in 1850. The 1851 census lists a 26 year old joiner named Hugh Hughes, born in Trefdraeth, Anglesey, and living in Patenship House, Llanbeblig, with an uncle, David Williams, who was born in Llangefni.

Hugh was a member of a literary society in Caernarfon town and when he learned the contents of a letter sent to the Rev. Michael D. Jones by William ap Rees, Secretary of Camptonville, California, Emigration Committee, suggesting Patagonia as a Welsh settlement, he transmitted his enthusiasm to the fellow members of the society. It was decided to invite the Rev. Michael D. Jones to address a public meeting to be held at the Guildhall, Caernarfon in December 1856 on the subject. The meeting was a resounding success and the Caernarfon and District branch of the Welsh Emigration Society was formed that evening. Evan Jones, joint editor with Lewis Jones of *Pwyssh Cymraeg* in Holyhead, claimed that it was Cadfan who infected Lewis Jones with the emigration bug.

In 1857 Hugh Hughes moved to Liverpool where he served as Secretary of the Emigration Committee unceasingly and without payment for a number of years, submitting press notices and corresponding with everyone who took an interest in the movement. He played a key role in promoting that committee's discussions with the Argentine Republican Government and in the decisive decision to send the first group of emigrants. He wrote his book, *Llawlyfr y Wladfa Gymreig*, including an outline plan for emigrating and a description of the country, in 1862, before emigrating to Chubut.

On the 1861 census returns Hugh Hughes appears as a 36-year-old 'House Joiner' living at 28 Dinorben Street, West Derby, Liverpool with his wife Elizabeth 41, his step daughter Jane Williams, 18, and his two sons, David 7, and month old Llewellyn [*sic*]. In 1865 Hugh Hughes emigrated on the *Mimosa* with Elizabeth, Jane, David and Llewellyn. He was in the first boat that reached shore on 28 July 1865, reputedly leaping out and becoming the first of *Mimosa*'s passengers to set foot on Patagonian soil. He became a member of the Settlement's Council, a Justice of the peace and in 1870-71 was elected President of the Settlement, in which post he

showed particular ability and aptitude as a statesman. After the road from New Bay to Rawson had been improved, Hugh Hughes built a small cart, partly from the wood of the willow trees that grew along the riverbank. The cart is preserved in the Salesian Museum at Rawson.

Cadfan was in his element with Welsh traditions; a poet, he also wrote and composed many prize-winning essays for the Settlement's eisteddfodau and, like Lewis Jones, he had his own individual orthography. He promoted education, contributed extensively to cultural and literary activities and gave his voice and example to everything worthwhile. He appeared on the eisteddfod stage on every occasion, in literary and temperance meetings, etc., and in the Sunday school of Capel Berwyn, the Calvinistic Methodist chapel on Caer Antur hill. However, he became disillusioned with the early problems of the Settlement and withdrew partly from the Settlement's political scene.

He died on 7 March 1888 aged 64. The Governor of the Chubut National Territory, Dr Eugenio Tello, ordered that the day of Hugh Hughes' funeral should be a day of mourning throughout the territory, and the police were to march in uniform behind his remains. This is the only occasion on which the Chubut Government has honoured one of the 'old settlers' in this way, which is a sign of the great esteem in which he was held and a justifiable recognition of his key role as the great inspiration behind the emigration movement and as the last President of the Settlement.

'Hugh Hughes, Cadfan Gwynedd' in the series 'Atgofion Gwladfaol. Marwolion Anfarwol y Wladfa', *Y Drafod*, 22 March 1935

### **HUMPHREYS, Lewis (1838–1910)**

Lewis Humphreys was one of twins born to Robert and Mary Humphreys, Cae'n-y-coed, Ganllwyd (near Dolgellau) in the parish of Llanfachreth on 27 March 1838. On the 1841 census he is found living with an aunt and uncle, Lewis and Elinor Morris, at Cae'n-y-coed, Ganllwyd, but his name is given as Lewis Robert, following the old Welsh patronymic style of adopting the father's forename as a surname. His parents, Robert and Mary and the rest of his family are living nearby. On the 1851 census 13-year-old Lewis's surname is given as Humphrey and he is living at Bwlchrhoswen Isaf in Llanfachreth with the same aunt and uncle.

Lewis Humphreys is said to have been apprenticed as a shopkeeper but he did not care for the work. When he was about 21 years of age the religious revival of 1859 broke out; Lewis Humphreys began to speak in public and was persuaded to enter college. He was educated at Bala Congregational College under the Rev. Michael D. Jones and was ordained a minister in 1865. That same year he emigrated to Patagonia with his twin Maurice on the *Mimosa*.

Lewis Humphreys was the first schoolmaster in the Colony until 1867 when he returned to Wales for health reasons – he suffered from a throat problem which affected his voice and prevented him from preaching. Once his health had improved, he resumed preaching and was minister at Cwm-twrch, Myddfai and Abercannaid between 1869 and 1886 when he returned to the Settlement.

After returning to Wales, he sent a report to the Secretary of the Emigration and Mercantile Company of the Welsh Settlement complaining about the lies that had been published regarding the Settlement in the British press. The report was published in the 6 December [1867] issue of the *Liverpool Weekly Mercury*. Lewis Humphreys praises the healthy climate there and attributes the sickness of some of the settlers during the first weeks after landing to weariness resulting from carrying and organizing heavy goods, and letting their wet clothes dry on their backs. He maintains that there were no examples of indigestion, headache, toothache, colds or consumption anywhere, and several persons had slept under the stars in the middle of winter without suffering any harm. However, he admits that most of the settlers had suffered from scurvy, and some from boils, because of their dependency on salted meat during the voyage. They had found several types of wild plants such as wild celery and turnip, and a kind of potato. He describes the prosperity of the Colony on his departure – the produce from the fields that had been planted, plenty of hunting,

people keeping cattle, horses and chickens, and shoals of fish in the river and in the bay. He also reports the visit paid by the warship *Triton* in response to a letter sent by some of the settlers to the Governor of the Falkland Islands requesting their transfer from the Settlement, and the decision of the majority to remain on the banks of the Chubut. Before leaving, the crew of the *Triton* helped the settlers to repair the Settlement's small boat, and left a barrel of lemon juice as a gift.

The list of passengers on the *Vesta* which left Liverpool on 19 Mehefin 1886 contains the names of 45-year-old L. Humphries [*sic*] and 40-year-old Ann Humphries [*sic*], and although Lewis's age does not agree with his having been born in 1838, it is quite possible that the couple named are the Rev. Lewis Humphreys and his wife Ann. The marriage entry of a Lewis Humphreys to an Ann Edwards or Ann Llewellyn is to be found in the Neath registration district during the April to June quarter of 1886

Lewis Humphreys remained in Port Madryn for some time after landing from the *Vesta* because the railway company employed him to hold services on Sundays for workmen on the railway. He later moved to the Chubut valley and settled on a smallholding which he named 'Pen y dyffryn', and in 1903 he went as minister to Cwm Hyfryd. During his time in the Andes Lewis Humphreys penned an article, dated 10 June 1904, entitled 'Ysgol yn yr Andes' (A school in the Andes) which relates mainly to the Sunday school there and the need to make the area a field for missionary work. He states that he spent nearly four months ministering to the two chapels in the Andes, the 'mother church' in Cwm Hyfryd and the 'daughter' in Esquel and that the reason for establishing a church in Esquel was that it was too far for the Welsh people living there to regularly attend service in Cwm Hyfryd. He also mentions that there was a school in the Andes with R. O. Jones as schoolmaster.

Lewis Humphreys has been described as a very honest man with strong convictions who had dedicated himself to his work as a minister despite much infirmity. He died at his home, Penydyffryn, Tir Halen, on 22 January 1910. His widow Ann, who was originally from Briton Ferry, Glamorgan, died on 29 June 1929 aged 85.

*Y Dysgedydd*, MDCCCCX, new series no. 89, May 1910

'The Welsh Settlement in Patagonia', *Liverpool Weekly Mercury*, 6 Rhagfyr [1867]; reprinted in 'Papers Past' in *Nelson Examiner and New Zealand Chronicle* for 1867, and digitised for its website

An article on Lewis Humphreys by Thomas Morgan (Clydfan) in the series 'Hanes Gweinidogion y Wladfa' published in the *Drafod*, 29 May 1939.

### **HUNT, Edmund Freeman (1858–1938)**

Edmund Freeman Hunt is said to have been born in Llanerchgron, Pwll glas, near Rhuthin on 27 March 1858. His father, Edmund, was the son of Freeman Hunt and Elizabeth (née Lewis), Y Plas, Tre'r-llan, and was born in 1827 in the parish of Halkyn, Flintshire; he died at Tŷ Isa'r Cefn, Clocaenog Isa, in 1860 at the age of 33. Edmund Freeman's mother Ann (Edwards) was from the parish of Efenechdyd; on the 1861 census returns Anne was a 39-year-old widow living at Tŷ Isa'r Cefn, Clocaenog Isa, with 5-year-old Margaret Elizabeth and 3-year-old Edmund. On the 1871 census Anne Hunt, a 49-year-old widow, daughter Margaret E[lizabeth] aged 15 and 13-year-old Edmund, were at Llanerchgron Ucha, the home of Edward Edwards, Anne's father, a 94-year-old widower and farmer of fifty acres who was born in Rowen, Denbighshire.

On 17 December 1879, at the age of 21, Edmund Freeman Hunt married Jane Morris at St Michael's Church, Toxteth Park, Liverpool. They are to be found at 14 Clwyd Street, Ruthin, on the 1881 census – Edmund F. Hunt, 'Publican' aged 23, Jane aged 24 and born in the parish of Llanfwrog, and their year-old son John E. In 1891 John E. (11) and 9-year-old sister Jane A., were living at 12 Market Street, Ruthin, with their maternal grandparents John Morris, 63, a mason and builder, Anne his wife aged 62 and their son William D. Morris, 19, who was also a mason. Edmund Freeman Hunt's great granddaughters state that when Edmund and Jane left for Patagonia they placed their children in the care of Jane's parents because they were so young but that Jane suffered dreadful pangs of homesickness and returned to Wales. No information on Jane has been found after the 1881 census returns, not even a death record.

Edmund Freeman Hunt arrived in the Chubut Valley around 1886 and formed a friendship with the Cacique (tribal chief) Juan Nahuelquir Chiquichano. One of the latter's sons, Gregorio, spent some years at E. F. Hunt's home and attended Tŷ Gwyn School (Escola Casa Blanca) near Rawson, considered the best in the area, where Edmund taught for some 30 years. Edmund Freeman Hunt was an enlightened man; he held responsible office in the Chubut Mercantile Company and the United Irrigation Company (Unida de Irrigación), in addition to being Councillor and President of Rawson in 1890 and 1900, a regular contributor to *Y Drafod* and its editor at one time. As an antiquarian he took a lively interest in the Festival of the *Camarucos* (an assembly of the Mapuchos) and its rituals, and made a study of the

native peoples. In addition, he wrote a series of monographs intended for a book on voyages to Patagonia and an account of a seal-hunting expedition which he took around the coast of Patagonia shoreline. In recognition of his work in the field of education, and to perpetuate his memory, Rawson Council decided in 1975 to name one of the suburbs of the town after him. He died on 11 August 1938 aged 80.

It has not been possible to trace when Edmund Freeman Hunt married Ellen Ann Jones in Chubut, but they had three sons – Freeman (c. 1888), Edward Moses (c. 1889) a Henry Dyson (c. 1891). Henry died in August 1913 aged just 23 and was buried in the cemetery of Moriah Chapel, and on 26 July 1915 Ellen Ann Hunt died aged 48. She was buried in a grave alongside that of her son in Moriah Chapel's cemetery. Another of their sons, Freeman, enlisted as a volunteer with the army raised in Australia to support Britain in the First World War and was sent to fight in Egypt, where he was reportedly badly injured in August 1915. The issue of *Y Drafnod* dated 27 August published a letter which Freeman Hunt sent to his parents from the battlefield. He married Ethel Robinson in the registration district of St George, Hanover Square, London, in 1916, and returned to Australia when two daughters and two sons were born; the eldest son was named Edmund Freeman and the other Edward Moses. Edmund, the eldest son of Freeman and Ethel, joined the Australian Air Force during the Second World War and was killed on 30 June 1942 aged 20. He was buried in the cemetery of SS Peter & Paul, Shelford, Nottinghamshire. His brother, Edward Moses Hunt, born in 1924, married Valmae Ruth Walters in 1949.

Freeman Hunt, eldest son of Edmund Freeman Hunt and Ellen Ann Jones died in Sydney, Australia, on 28 June 1968 aged 80.

Edward Moses Hunt, the second son of Edmund Freeman Hunt and Ellen Ann Jones was employed by the Chubut Mercantile Company in Esquel. In 1924 he married Sarah Ann Harris, daughter of John Harris and his wife of Gelli Farm, Tair Helygen (Tres Sauces), and their daughter was born in 1927.

Descendants of the marriage of Edmund Freeman Hunt and Jane Morris, his first wife, recall how Edmund would return to Britain from time to time to visit the children born to him and Jane and, as proof of this, his name is to be found on the passenger lists of the *Almanzora* in 1922, 1926 and 1928 homeward bound for Argentina.

John Edmund (1880–23 January 1958), the eldest son of Edmund Freeman Hunt and Jane Morris, was the manager of a grocer's shop in Bangor; he married

Hannah Valentine (1887–16 January 1966) in 1910 and had three children – Idris V. Hunt (1911–16 December 1986), Mair Eluned (1912–1940) and Meuric Edward (1916–). Idris was Head of Grassland Husbandry Department at the West of Scotland Agricultural College.

Jane Ann Hunt, the daughter of Edmund Freeman Hunt and Jane Morris married David Ellis Roberts in 1906 and had four children: Muriel Hunt (1907–2001), Robert E. (born 1912), David G. (born 1916) and Aneurin Hunt (1920–1986).

Obituary of Edmund Freeman Hunt in *Y Drafod*, August 1938

Further information supplied by Natalia McKenzie and other members of the family

NLW MS 9655D: Letters, 1928-33, from Edmund Freeman Hunt, London, to Dr Mihangel ap Iwan

### **JONES, Lewis (1837–1904)**

Lewis Jones, pioneer, printer and man of letters, was born on 30 January 1837 in Pool Lane, Caernarfon, the eldest son of Stephen Jones and Margaret née Morgan. On the 1851 census returns for 96 Pool Lane in the parish of Llanbeblig, his mother Margaret appears as a 39-year old-widow and ‘Skinner’. Lewis was a 14-year-old ‘Printer’, his brother John was 8 years old and a scholar and the youngest brother Stephen was 4 years old.

Lewis Jones moved to Holyhead and is listed on the 1861 census returns as a ‘Publisher Printer Employer of 1 man and 1 boy’ aged 23. At Holyhead he co-edited the *Pwnsh Cymreig* with Evan Jones. He left there to work in Liverpool where he became one of the leaders of Michael D. Jones’s emigration movement. He was sent with Captain Love Jones-Parry of Madryn to explore Patagonia in 1862; he explored the area near the mouth of the Chubut river to which he gave its Welsh name, Camwy. He held discussions with Guillermo Rawson, Minister of the Interior and, based on his reports, the Chubut Valley was earmarked for the establishment of the Welsh Settlement.

Lewis Jones was the first President of the Settlement until a disagreement led to his going to Buenos Aires for two years. During his stay at Buenos Aires he worked as a printer for the *Buenos Aires Standard*. He returned to the Welsh Settlement in 1867 and from then on played a prominent part in its administration. He fought for the rights of the settlers against the overpowering attitudes of the officials appointed by the central government, and gave a lifetime of devoted service to the Settlement that he had fought so hard to establish. He promoted education, culture and literature and for a short time was *comisario* in Patagonia for the Argentine Government – the only Welshman ever to hold that post. He was a most influential link between the Welsh and the authorities in Buenos Aires and was jointly responsible with Edward Jones Williams and Thomas Davies for the building of the railway between Port Madryn and the Chubut Valley. In the early 1860s Lewis Jones had discussed the idea of a railway in Patagonia that would link the two great oceans, and in an entry in his diary for 1882 he showed the need for a railway connecting New Bay with the site of the new settlement which later became known as Trelew. He upheld the rights of the Welsh settlers in the face of the petty attitude of impatient and ignorant officials who acted as the local government. Lewis Jones, together with R. J.

Berwyn, was imprisoned for ten days in December 1882 following a dispute between the settlers and a local government officer.

He brought a press from Buenos Aires and started two newspapers, *Ein Breiniad* in 1878, and *Y Drafod* in 1891. Together with Zacharias Jones he bought the Settlement's second mill, run by steam, which Zacharias's widow later sold to her brother John Daniel Evans who took it to Cwm Hyfryd. During Lewis Jones' visit to Wales in 1885 he lectured to the Honourable Society of the Cymmrodion and this lecture was later published. His book *Hanes y Wladva Gymreig: Tiriogaeth Chubut, yn y Weriniaeth Arianin, De Amerig* was published in 1898. In 1896 he went to Cwm Hyfryd (Colonia 16 Octubre) on behalf of the railway company, Ferrocarril Central del Chubut, to look for suitable land, and he employed John Daniel Evans to take him around the area as far as Lake Fontana. Lewis Jones was a brave leader of the Settlement for thirty five years, but was broken-hearted at the devastation caused by the floods of 1899. He died on 24 November 1904 aged 68. His chief boast was that he was a Welshman and a settler. The town of Trelew (Lewis's town) was named in his honour.

Lewis Jones married Ellen Griffith, second child of Owen and Mary Griffith, Druid House, Holyhead, on 29 August 1859 in St Cybi's Church, Holyhead. Their first child, a daughter, was still-born; their son, Llewelyn Griffith, died at nine months and was buried in Liverpool. Daughter Myfanwy Ruffudd was born in Caernarfon on 1 April 1866 and Eluned Morgan on 20 March 1870 on board the *Myfanwy* during a voyage to Patagonia. Eluned Morgan acted as compositor and editor of *Y Drafod* while her father was in Buenos Aires and was a renowned author. She contributed essays to competitions in the Settlement's eisteddfodau and to O. M. Edwards's magazine *Cymru*, and published four books – *Dringo'r Andes*, *Gwymon y Môr*, *Ar Dir a Môr* and *Plant yr Haul*.

Article on 'Lewis Jones' in the series 'Atgofion Gwladfaol. Marwolion Anfarwol y Wladfa', *Y Drafod*, 2 October 1934

LIGC 12198-9A, Lewis Jones's journals

*Lewis Jones a'r Wladfa Gymreig*, Dafydd Tudur (Penrhyn-coch: The Wales-Argentina Society and Gwynedd Council, 2005)

### **JONES, Robert (1840–1912)**

Robert Jones was born in Coedtalon, Treuddyn in 1840. A Robert Jones of the correct age is found on the 1851 census returns for Treuddyn: John Jones 47, Lucy Jones 51, Ellis 22, John 21, Robert 11 and one-year-old 'P', but there's no certainty that this is the subject's family. It is said that when he was young, Robert went to stay with George Jones, Y Ffrith, where he was grounded in the Methodist faith and accepted into communion with the Calvinistic Methodists when he was about 15 years old. He began preaching in early 1864 and became a most popular preacher. He moved to take care of a chapel in Wigan, then to Pontybodkin, and from there to Gellifor, Rhualt and Treuddyn. Census returns of 1881 for the Maen Efa township in the civil parish of Tremeirchion (listed as Dynmeirchion on the census) lists Robert Jones, 40, a farmer of 16 acres, his wife Hannah, 36 and born in Llangadwaladr, Joseph, 6, who had been born in Coed-llai, Robert J. 4, and 2-year-old Elizabeth A., both born in Llangynhafal, and nine-month-old Hannah J. who was born in Tremeirchion. The family emigrated to Patagonia in 1890.

The arrival of the Rev. Robert Jones proved most advantageous to Seion, the Calvinistic Methodist chapel in Bryn Gwyn. In addition to sermons on Sundays, a *seiat* began to be held on Wednesdays, missionary prayer meetings on the first Monday on the month, lessons for children in preparation for their becoming members of the chapel, the Band of Hope and the Temperance Society. At this time the Literary Society became popular, various concerts, competitive meetings, debating societies and lectures on different topics were held and the Sunday school flourished.

In his obituary to the Rev. Robert Jones which was published in the 7 February 1913 issue of *Y Drafod*, W. E. Williams referred not only to Robert Jones's ability as a preacher but also to his gifts as a lecturer and conservationist, and to his wealth of amusing and edifying stories, most of them about the old preachers of Wales. It was a great loss to the chapel at Seion, Bryn Gwyn, when the Rev. Robert Jones went to Buenos Aires for an operation and died there in early December 1912, having given twenty-two years of faithful service at Bryn Gwyn. His wife died at the home of their son Joseph on 7 December 1928 aged 85.

On New Year's Day, 1920, a handsome and expensive memorial, a gift from the church and congregation, was unveiled to the memory of the late Rev. Robert Jones, the minister who had been 'a beacon and adornment to the neighbourhood for almost a quarter of a century' and whose influence was said to continue in the

religious life of the area and the rest of the Settlement. A large congregation gathered around the monument on the lawn in front of Seion Chapel, Bryn Gwyn to see E. Genovese's monument, made of dark granite from the province of Buenos Aires, unveiled by the Rev. Robert John Jones, son of the Rev. Robert Jones, who was himself beginning his ministry at the chapel that very day.

*Blwyddiadur y Methodistiaid Calfnaid 1914*

'Myfyrdodau am y diweddar Barchedig R. Jones, Bryn Gwyn', *Y Drafod*, 3 January 1913

'Er cof am y diweddar Barch. R. Jones', *Y Drafod*, 7 February 1913

The Rev. George Jones, Sychdyn, 'Y diweddar Barch. Robert Jones', *Y Drafod*, 14 March 1913

Article on the unveiling of the monument to the Rev. Robert Jones, *Y Drafod*, 9 January 1920

Articles and a photograph of the Rev. Robert Jones's Ordination Certificate, *CAMWY*, issue 11:

*Centenario de la Capilla Seion de Bryn Gwyn (El Regional, Rawson, August 1988)*

Census returns of Treuddyn 1851 and Man Efa, Dynmeirchion [*sic*] 1881

### **MALIPHANT, William (1854–1920)**

William Maliphant was born on 17 April 1854, the son of John William Maliphant (pre 1815–4 April 1878) and his wife Ann Evans (16 October 1814–18 November 1858). William Maliphant married Ann Thomas in 1879 and their daughter Mary Ann was born on 3 September that year, but died on 17 January 1882. The family are to be found on the 1881 census living at Water Street, Cydweli; William was a 26-year-old stone mason, Ann his wife was 27 and Mary Ann was a year old; Ann's parents William Thomas, unemployed Mariner 67, and Ann Thomas 63, were also at that address.

Another daughter, Lizzie Rebecca Maliphant, was born on 20 September 1881. William Maliphant's wife Ann died on 28 August 1897. In 1908 Lizzie Rebecca Maliphant married David Iâl Jones (the son of John Eryrus Jones and Anne Harrison who had emigrated to Chubut in 1886). They lived in Cydweli until David decided to return to Chubut in 1912, taking his wife, their three children and his father-in-law William Maliphant.

Lizzie Rebecca and David Iâl Jones had nine children in all: Ynyr (a batchelor), Valmai (who married Harold Jones), Hefin (who married first Isabel Peralta and then Adelina Narducci), Alba (who died aged six weeks), Olga (who died aged 20), Gloria (who died at birth), her twin Valeira (who married Orlando Oscar Puw), Arianina (who married Thomas Einion Roberts) and Albina (who married Virgilio Francisco Zampini, the son of Dr Hèctor Virgilio Zampini and Eurwen Davies).

Albina Jones de Zampini has done inestimable service to everyone interested in the family history of the Welsh who went to Patagonia through her books *Reunión de familias en el Sur* (two volumes) and *Cien Atuendos y un Sombrero*, while her sister Valmai Jones, published her recollections of life in Patagonia in *Atgofion am y Wladfa*.

William Maliphant died on 1 October 1920, Lizzie Rebecca Jones on 7 Ebrill 1961, and David Iâl Jones on 16 October 1962.

### **MATTHEWS, Abraham (1832–99)**

Abraham Matthews was born in Llanidloes in November 1832, the son of John Matthews and Ann Jones, and his baptism is recorded in the parish church of Llanidloes on 15 May 1833. Abraham says that when he was eight days old he was placed in the care of foster parents, Edward and Ann Lewis, farmers who lived at Bryn-du near Llanidloes but who moved to a smallholding called Blaencwmlline in the parish of Cemaes shortly afterwards. He was raised a Methodist by his foster parents and while he was under the care of the manager of Cwmlline factory where he was apprenticed for three years. When he was seventeen years of age he says that he ‘turned to religion’ and became a member with the Congregationalists at Llanwnnog. At the age of 22 he returned to Cemaes in order to further his education at the British School there, and was encouraged by the minister of Samah Chapel to begin preaching and to enter the ministry. On 24 September 1856 he enrolled in the Independent (Congregationalist) College at Bala, where the Rev. Michael D. Jones was principal. It was during the three years that he spent at Bala that he came under the influence of the principal’s ideals of a Welsh Settlement.

After three years at the college he received a calling to become minister of two Independent (Congregationalist) chapels – Horeb, Llwydcoed, Aberdare, and Elim, Cwmdare – and was later also minister of Adulam, Merthyr Tydfil. On 22 Mai 1863 he married Gwenllian Thomas, daughter of William and Mary Thomas, at Ynysgau Chapel, Merthyr Tydfil, and their first child, Mary Annie, was born on 17 December 1864. Five months later Abraham Matthews, Gwenllian, baby Mary Annie, their maid Mary Anne John and Gwenllian’s brother John Thomas, together with many of Abraham’s congregation from the Glamorgan upland valleys, sailed for Patagonia.

For the first ten years of the Settlement, following the departure of the Revs Lewis Humphreys and Robert Meirion Williams, Abraham Matthews was the only minister there, and in addition to preaching on Sundays, he worked like everyone else during the week. When the winter was at its harshest, on 3 July 1866, Abraham Matthews held a service at the home of Maurice Humphreys for those families who lived farthest from the settlement at Caer Antur, or Trerawson as it was re-named. In a letter dated 2 March 1866 which was published in the 23 June issue of *Y Gwladgarwr*, Abraham Matthews states that the settlers ‘had had to survive for seven months now on nothing whatsoever but dry bread, tea and coffee, peas and rice &c., no potatoes, no meat apart from what we catch by hunting, no cheese, no butter’.

At one time he was the leader of a group who wanted to move to Santa Fe to the north of the Chubut Valley; adverse murmurings about life in the Settlement began to be heard within a short time after arriving in Patagonia, and accusations of deceit were made against those who had promised a paradise in Patagonia – Lewis Jones, Hugh Hughes Cadfan, and Edwin Cynrig Roberts. Richard Jones Berwyn, Edwin Cynrig Roberts and others advocated staying until the year was out to see how matters developed but Abraham Matthews voiced the opinion that the Valley was not the place for a Settlement and that the conditions were not worthy of the settlers. However one evening, when representatives of both sides were together in Patagones, R. J. Berwyn came across Abraham Matthews wandering the streets in a troubled state of mind. Matthews explained to Berwyn that he had seen Michael D. Jones in a dream the previous night and that Jones had seemed anxious about his *Wladfa*. Although he did not believe in dreams as a rule, Abraham Matthews said that he was prepared to put his personal feelings aside for the good of the settlers and to hold talks with Lewis Jones.

Henceforth he worked tirelessly for the Settlement and became one of the outstanding leaders during the early years. He became Chairman of the first group which chose an administrative committee, Cyngor y Wladfa, and was a member of that Council, playing an important role in the activities which gave an orderly, civilised appearance to the Settlement.

During 1873-4 he visited Wales and America and succeeded in enticing a fresh group of Welsh people to the Settlement. On his last visit to Wales between 1891 and 1894, he was minister of a chapel in Canton, Cardiff, and wrote his book on the early history of the Settlement, *Hanes y Wladfa Gymreig yn Patagonia*. He edited the Welsh language newspaper of Patagonia, *Y Drafod*, between 1896 and 1899. He was nicknamed ‘Yr Esgob’ (the Bishop) and named his house Parc yr Esgob (Bishop’s field). He and Gwenllian had five children – Mary Annie (1864–1934) was born in Wales, and Rawsona (28 September 1869–2 April 1887), William John (born 28 December 1871), Henry Ward (born 17 June 1875) and Gwen (born 1877) born in Patagonia.

Mary Annie married twice; her first husband was Arthur Woodley and they had seven children: Mary, Eloisa, Enriqueta, Alejandro, Jorge and Rosa. Following Arthur’s death in 1899, Mary Annie married José Trinidad Sanchez and had a further

four children, a daughter and three sons. The eldest son and the daughter died in infancy leaving just two sons, José Dario and Armando.

William John married Martha Price, daughter of Edward Price and Ruth (née Williams, Bryn Gwyn), and had six children – Rosa, Gwen, Ethel, Abraham, Malen and Aida.

Gwen married Henry Evan Jones, and they had eight children – Rachel, Gwen Ellen, Rawson, Elizabeth Maud, Daisy Gwen, Matthew Henry (historian and author of a series of books on the history of Trelew), Evan Llwyd and Ivano Ward.

Rawson and Henry Ward did not marry.

Abraham Matthews died on 1 April 1899, and was buried in the cemetery of Moriah Chapel, Trelew. In 1949 a memorial tablet to him was unveiled at Moriah chapel. Gwenllian Matthews died in 1922.

David Leslie Davies, *Matthews, Morgannwg a'r Mimosa* (Penrhyn-coch: Wales-Argentina Society, 2007)

Article on Abraham Matthews in the series 'Atgofion Gwladfaol. Marwolion Anfarwol y Wladfa', *Y Drafod*, 11 and 18 January 1935

### **MORGAN, John (1834–1914)**

John Morgan was the eldest son of David Morgan and Anne née James of Pwllglas in the parish of Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn (Llandre), Ceredigion. He was born on 6 June 1834 and christened at the Calvinistic Methodist chapel at Pen-y-garn on 19 June 1834. He was among those who emigrated to Patagonia on the *Mimosa*, and in a letter home to his parents from New Bay, Patagonia, dated 17 November 1865, he wrote that he was alive and well and that a ship in the bay had brought 42 cows with 35 calves, 2 bulls, 6 oxen, a few sheep and about 150 pounds of provisions. He was getting along successfully, the soil was excellent and the country remarkably healthy. He asked were there any others from the neighbourhood who fancied 'coming over', adding that he could give them instructions for the journey and what to bring with them. His letter was published in *Llythyrâu a ddaethant o'r Sefydlywyr yn y Wladva Gymreig, Gweriniaeth Arianin, Deheudir America (Cwmni Ymfudol a Masnachol y Wladva Gymreig Cyfyngedig, 1866)*, with a footnote where he is described as a single man about 30 years of age. He was raised a farmer, and was young, sober, hardworking and truthful, and a member of the Calvinistic Methodist Chapel at Pen-y-garn. 'He understands agriculture and has a thorough knowledge of the land – as good as any non-scientific man in Wales...'

After arriving in the Chubut Valley John Morgan was one of eight men who left on 8 August with two packhorses to drive nearly a thousand sheep from Patagonia at the request of Lewis Jones. While they were crossing the pampas they suffered all sorts of hardships and the crossing was so bad that on one occasion John Morgan felt so exhausted that he lay on the ground and said that he wanted to die. In the Colony he was put in charge of a store and fishing in New Bay to provide food for the colonists. They sold the fish for tuppence ha'penny (i.e. two and a half old pence) a pound.

With his knowledge of farming, John Morgan could have been a great asset to the fledgling Settlement, but he chose to leave with William Davies and others in 1867 and settled in Santa Fe. He wrote a letter to his parents on 24 February 1867 from the Settlement's small boat that was anchored opposite Buenos Aires. 'I have said good-bye to Patagonia and condemn it in word and conduct (as I saw it) as an unsuitable place for the Welsh ... I don't wish to deny that there isn't some good land in the Chubut valley, but I would rather have one estancia in one of the provinces of

this country than all of it'. The main reasons for the barrenness, in his opinion, were salt in the earth, drought and frost.

Upon moving to Santa Fe he persuaded the Governor of the need to survey and measure the land and for his work was given one of the farms (Lot 1), and acquired more land as some of the settlers left the district. He eventually gave up farming and became a famous rancher in the area. He married a Welsh woman, Winifred Jones, widow of Hugh Hughes who had arrived in the California district of Santa Fe on the steamship *Paraná* on 24 January 1869 at the age of 19. Hugh Hughes died a young man leaving Winifred with two children – Lumley, who was born on 22 September 1869, and Eliza who is thought to have died in infancy. Hugh had travelled to Europe to seek agricultural machinery for his land in Párajó Blanco, but during the homeward journey to Argentina he was taken seriously ill and died, and was buried at sea. John and Winifred Morgan had 5 children: Annie (born 29 August 1876), David (born 4 July 1877), Sophia (born 18 January 1879), Lydia (born 1 December 1883) and Juan. Sophia, David and Annie, together with Lumley Hughes, the son of Hugh Hughes and Winifred, were all christened on 11 March 1880 in Alejandra.

One day John Morgan heard that some Welsh people had arrived at Santa Fe; they had left Southampton on the steamship *Oneida* on 8 August 1870 and had spent some time in Buenos Aires. On going to meet the new immigrants he found that they were his first cousins, David and Richard Morgan, the sons of James Morgan (brother of John's father, David), formerly of Llandre and later of Llandyfaelog, Carmarthenshire, and his wife Lydia Richards.

John Morgan died in Buenos Aires on 13 February 1914. Of his children with Winifred, his son Juan married Dora A. Morgan, daughter of his uncle David Morgan, and had three children – Douglas, Melba and Jackie. David, Lydia and Sophia were unmarried. In 2009 Douglas's daughter sent a letter from Santa Fe to the Rev. W. J. Edwards, Bow Street near Aberystwyth, requesting information on John Morgan's life before he emigrated to South America.

*Llythyrâu a ddaethant o'r Sefydhwyr yn y Wladva Gymreig, Gweriniaeth Arianin, Deheudir America (Cwmni Ymfudol a Masnachol y Wladva Gymreig Cyfyngedig, 1866)*

Baptism records of Capel y Garn, Pen-y-garn, Bow Street, near Aberystwyth

### **MORGAN, David (1849-1933)**

David Morgan, first cousin of John Morgan, Pwllglas, was born on 21 February 1849 in Llandyfaelog, Carmarthenshire, the son of James Morgan and Lydia Richards. He emigrated to Santa Fe on the steamship *Oneida* on 8 August 1870 with his brother Richard. When he reached the Welsh settlement in Santa Fe he took some time before deciding to move to the Alejandra district where he soon began farming and breeding cattle, but he also found time to undertake work for the community in Alejandra, filling the post of Justice of the Peace and head of the *Registro Civil*. In addition he was Secretary of the Committee of the Evangelical Methodist Church.

On 5 September 1878 David Morgan married Susan Alexander MacLean who was born in California in the United States of America and they had 13 children. One of these children was John (Juan) Lewis Morgan who was born in Alejandra on 23 October 1892. He was a pupil at Llandovery College between September 1907 and March 1908, and then attended Carmarthen Grammar School and also, possibly, Trinity College Carmarthen. Later he worked as an engineer at the Thomas and Clement Foundry in Llanelli. He played rugby for the *Oriental Stars*, Llanelli, and for Wales against South Africa in 1912 and against England in 1913. He sailed from London to Argentina on the steamer *Highland Loch* of the Nelson Steam Company on 8 Mai 1913, returning to Alejandra where he and farmed before becoming an officer with the police in Chaco in the north of Argentina in 1932. He died at Campo Largo, Chaco, on 7 July 1947.

David Morgan died on 8 May 1933 aged 84.

Guido Abel Tourn Pavillon, *Los Galeses de Santa Fe* (Alejandra, Provincia de Santa Fe, 2011).

**MORGAN, Richard (1850–1911)**

He was born in Llandyfaelog in 1850, the younger brother of David Morgan. He emigrated to Santa Fe on the steamship *Oneida* on 8 August 1870 with his brother David and settled on Lot 16. In a letter he wrote to his family in Wales urging them to emigrate to Argentina, he reported that food was cheaper and that he had plenty of bread, coffee, milk, eggs, &c. Eventually he sold his farm and bought another with John Thomas Pugh in Alejandra. He travelled to Wales in 1877 and brought his eldest brother John, who suffered from a serious illness, with him in the hope that he would be cured, but John died three years later and was buried in the cemetery at Alejandra. Richard's life took a sad turn; he became a vagrant with no permanent home in his adopted land and with no wish to return to Wales, and died in the village of Romang on 15 November 1911.

Guido Abel Tourn Pavillon, *Los Galeses de Santa Fe* (Alejandra, Provincia de Santa Fe, 2011).

### **PHILLIPS, Thomas Benbow (1829–1915)**

It is a commonly held belief that Thomas Benbow Phillips was born in Tregaron, but among his papers in the National Library of Wales there is a rough incomplete pedigree chart of some family members. His father's parents were Samuel Phillips (1757–1822) and Sarah Davies, both from Tregaron, Samuel being the son of Samuel Phillips, born in 1721, and his wife Elen. Samuel's father William 1690 was the first name listed on the pedigree chart on his father's side. Thomas's mother, Susannah Benbow, was from Meifod, Montgomeryshire, the daughter of Edward Benbow (1750-1837) – (the son of Richard Benbo [*sic*] (c. 1694–1779) and his second wife Elin Jones) – and Mary Thomas (1757–1843).

Under his own name on the pedigree chart Thomas Benbow Phillips had written 'B London 1829' and another document among his papers is a letter from his son Thomas requesting the name of the parish in London where his father had been born since Henry, Thomas's son, wished to be registered as a British subject but needed to show proof that his grandfather was a British born subject. In fact, Thomas Benbow Phillips's christening entry dated 12 September 1830 was found in the parish register of St Saviour Church, Southwark, although the register mistakenly records his birth as 14 February 1828 instead of 1829. His parents, Thomas Phillips and Susannah Benbow had married on 22 May 1815 in the church of St Botolph Without, Bishopsgate. In a memorial tribute to Thomas Benbow Phillips in *Y Drafod* he is said to have been raised in the Manchester area and spent his youth in Lancashire. He was certainly in Manchester in 1848 when he made the acquaintance of traders who had links with Brazil and were eager to send emigrants there to pick cotton for their mills. Meetings were held, especially in the valleys of south Wales, to support the emigration movement, though there was also fierce opposition.

T. B. Phillips went out to search for land for the settlement; he called at Rio de Janeiro on the way and heard that a settlement could be established in Rio Grande do Sul since the Brazilian government was arranging an immigration board. This 'law' was passed in September 1850, just as Phillips was arriving there. He made arrangements to buy land between two rivers about 18 miles from Pelotas, with the intention of selling the land to the settlers for 5 shillings an acre, the money to be paid back at the end of six years. Two months after arriving he had registered the settlement under the name Nova Cambria. He then registered the 'Cambro-Brazilian Amalgamated Trades' Emigration Society' with one hundred thousand shares at £3

each. For every thousand shares sold, two hundred immigrants would be sent out from Britain without charge. They could be certain of having houses built for them, plenty of food for a year, work tools, fifty acres of land each, five of them cultivated, and they would be required to repay the amount at their own pace during their first years there. Phillips built a house for himself, measured the land in smallholdings of fifty acres for 120 families and even began building houses for them. A party sailed from Liverpool on board the *Naiad* at the end of May 1851 and landed in Brazil in July, the captain, crew and travellers all Welsh. Another party of 25 adults and 11 children arrived on the *Irene* in August the same year, among them Phillips' parents, and another group on the *Madonna* before the end of 1851. Most of the emigrants were from Nantyglo and Brynmawr.

Unfortunately, the settlement failed around the end of 1854, and Thomas Benbow Phillips offers three reasons for the failure. First, because the area was forested and his people were 'unfamiliar' [with that work]; second, because slavery made the work of white people disreputable; and third, because the discovery of coal in Pelotas offered work for the miners in the settlement.

In 1855 Phillips went to keep a store in Pelotas and on 15 August 1855 he married Maria Januaria Florinal. In 1863 Thomas Benbow Phillips heard about the movement to found a settlement in Chubut and corresponded with its leaders. Two of his letters were published in the 1863 issue of the *Ddraig Goch*, a publication specifically established to promote emigration to Chubut. In the letter dated 5 September he urged promoters of the emigration movement to begin the Settlement directly 'while the desire for it is high' because there was nothing more damaging than delay. He was prepared to assist the movement in any way possible and to risk his meagre means; with the letter he enclosed 16 dollars towards the Treasury of the Welsh Settlement. He advised the purchase of a ship which would be of great advantage to the Settlement, and the profits which would come from trading would benefit the settlers instead of being swallowed up by foreigners.

In his second letter from Pelotas dated 16 September 1863, Thomas Benbow Phillips requested news about the movement; he was anxious to know when the first group of emigrants would be leaving so that he could arrange to arrive in the Settlement at the same time as the emigrants.

Phillips himself went to see the Settlement on the Chubut for himself aboard the *Rush* in 1872 and following the death of his wife emigrated there with most of his family.

William Meloch Hughes describes Phillips as a genial gentleman, one who was easy to work with, a staunch patriot, a particularly able diplomat and astute in his dealings with people. He was a tradesman, historian and literary man, an amusing raconteur with a store of memories. Meloch adds that T. B. Phillips was a complex character, with different layers to his personality – his religious upbringing was overlaid with experience of having lived in Manchester, his Welsh patriotism and on top of that a thick layer of Brazilian civilisation.

Thomas Benbow Phillips was the second Inspector of the Chubut Mercantile Company and had intended to start a trading company to develop the Settlement's trading and obtain a ship to travel to and from Buenos Aires. This Company would have been in competition with the Chubut Mercantile Company but could have proved an asset to the settlers when the CMC later collapsed. Controversy arose as a result of the voyage made by Llwyd ap Iwan and Thomas Benbow Phillips to Britain in 1899 following a dispute over military drilling on Sundays and the abominable conduct of the Government's minor officials towards the colonists. Phillips was ostracized by some of the settlers.

Thomas Benbow Phillips was one of the Colony's main benefactors; he faced up to the authorities but also gained their admiration and respect. His home was named Cilsant. In the 1895 census of the Colony we find Thomas (66) and family: Randal (24), Susannah (30), Winifred (28), Olivia (26), Brenhilda (22), Edward (17), Felicia (17).

In 1903 Thomas Benbow Phillips visited Britain and on 16 October 1904, when he was 75 years old, he married 19 year old Florence Elizabeth Elbourne ['Poppy']. They had two children, Gilbert (1906–1981) a Marjorie (1909–2000) but Poppy later returned to England with the children.

In 1908 Randall Benbow Phillips (1871–9 August 1950) married Myra Rose Elbourne (1872-1957), the sister of his stepmother Florence Elizabeth Elbourne, and they had two children, Sylvia N. born in 1909, and Flora born in 1912. Sylvia died in November 1927 aged 18 at the family home, Havelock farm, Tir Halen.

Susannah Phillips married Ellis Jones, Bryn Gwyn, and died in October 1942 aged 76. Her sister Winifred married Llywelyn Jenkins, the son of Aaron and

Margaret Jenkins. Brenhilda married Richard Williams, Esquel, and they lived in Esquel and Nant-y-pysgod.

Thomas Benbow Phillips left a collection of personal letters and others pertaining to his public life, together with diaries, written in English, detailing the history of his farm, his family and society in the Settlement. Among those of his papers that are held at the National Library of Wales there is a draft of a will which he drew up before some of his daughters were married in which he leaves his effects to his second wife and the children of his first wife.

Thomas Benbow Phillips died in the Settlement on 30 January 1915 at the age of 86.

Register of St Saviour's Church, Southwark, London, 1830

Register of the church of St Botolph Without, Bishopsgate, London, 1815

NLW MS 18175B, Notes made by R. Bryn Williams from T. B. Phillips's papers in Esquel.

NLW Facs 397-9, Diaries and letters of Thomas Benbow Phillips a Diary of Randal Phillips

Marriage record of Thomas Benbow Phillips a Florence Elizabeth Elbourne in the Index to Births,

Marriages and Burials in England and Wales, 1837–2007

'Atgofion am T. B. Phillips', *Y Drafod*, 26 February 1915

Information on Florence Elizabeth Elbourne on a family website

*Y Ddraig Goch*, 1863

### **PRITCHARD, Thomas Gwilym ('Glan Tywi'; 1846–1924)**

Thomas Gwilym Pritchard ('Glan Tywi') was born on 23 Tachwedd 1846 in a farmhouse called Dugoedydd on the banks of the Tywi, in the parish of Llanfair-ar-y-bryn, Carmarthenshire, one of seven children of David ac Annie Pritchard. At the time of the 1851 census the family are listed under 'Dugoedydd Cottage ucha': David Pritchard was 30 and had been born in Cil-y-cwm, while Annie (26) and the children Anne (6), Thomas (4) and John (2) had been born in the parish of Llanfair-ar-y-bryn. Sons David (c. 1851), Daniel (c. 1853) and James (c. 1856) came later.

Sometime around 1862 the family emigrated to the United States, and are found on the 1870 census returns for Pittsburg, Allegheny Co., Pennsylvania, but the ages of some members of the family are incorrect. David Pritchard gives his age as 55 and he was employed as a coker in the steel works; daughter Annie was 24 and she was 'Keeping house'; 22-year-old Thomas was a labourer, John at 21 was described as a 'Puller out in steel works', while Daniel, 16, and James, 14, worked as Moulders. Daughter Eliza, 4, had been born in Pennsylvania. Listed with the family was 17-year-old David Williams; could this be Thomas Gwilym Pritchard's cousin, David Beynon Williams, who later emigrated to the Welsh Settlement in Chubut with T. G. Pritchard? There is no mention of Annie, David Pritchard's wife. Daughter Annie died on 7 May 1901 aged 55 and was buried in Grand View cemetery, Allegheny, two days later.

Thomas returned to Wales with his cousin David Beynon Williams towards the end of 1875. After visiting various parts of Wales they went to Liverpool to join Edwin C. Roberts's group who were sailing for Patagonia. They left Liverpool on the *Vandyke* on 25 November 1875, arriving at Buenos Aires on Christmas day, and sailed to Chubut the same day of the steamship *Santa Rosa*.

Thomas Gwilym Pritchard has been described as a talented man with a strong will and true to his convictions, self taught, a great reader and of a level-headed and thoughtful mind. A born teacher, he served as schoolmaster of Rawson day school, before being appointed by Education Committee as a teacher at Glyn Du [School on a salary of £30 a year, with board and lodge, in June 1877](#). Some years later he went to keep school in Trevelin in the Andes. In the period between teaching at Glyn Du and Bro Hyfryd schools he was employed for some time as an accountant for John Murray Thomas in Pen-y-bont Warehouse, Rawson. Upon his return to the Chubut valley he was appointed the first accountant of Chubut Mercantile Company and served the

company periodically for many years. He also served as Deputy Inspector in the absence of the Chief Inspector and it is acknowledged that as an accountant he was among the best.

As a cultured man of letters, he wrote fluently and naturally in a beautiful style and as a poet he was master of the craft of composing verse in both the strict and free metres while also composing humorous or satirical poems with ease. He won the Chair in the first Eisteddfod in the Treorki area and followed it with the chief prizes for the cywydd, prydest and englynion at Eisteddfodau in Rawson, y Fron Deg and Gaiman He died at the home of his cousin, David Beynon Williams, on 12 September 1924 aged 78.

1851 and 1861 census returns for Llanfair-ar-y-bryn

Census returns for Pittsburg, Allegheny Co., Pennsylvania, 1870, and death registration of Annie Pritchard in 1901 ('International Genealogical Index': <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/igi>)

### **ROBERTS, Edwin Cynrig (1838–93)**

Edwin (Edwyn) Cynrig Roberts was born at Y Bryn, a farm in Cilcain, Flintshire, on 28 February 1838 to John and Mary Kendrick, but a year later his father died. His mother re-married David Roberts and in May 1847 the family emigrated to north America and settled near Oshkosh. In honour of his stepfather Edwin adopted the surname Roberts and later changed Kendrick to its original Welsh form, Cynrig. Both forms of the spelling of his name, Edwin and Edwyn, are used.

In Wisconsin he was raised by his mother on stories of Wales and its heroes. He was inspired by the tale of Madog and his thirteen ships sailing to discover America, which to Edwin showed the adventurous and pioneering nature of the Welsh. Edwin refers in his book, *Hanes Dechreuad y Wladfa Gymreig yn Mhatagonia*, which was published in 1893, to the story about Madog, son of Owain Gwynedd, discovering America c.1170, three centuries before Columbus, and settling there with other Welsh people. Historians no longer believe that there is any truth to the story, but it was very influential at one time and it made a big impression on Edwin.

Despite attempts made by Welsh emigrants to establish a Welsh-speaking homeland in their new country, with the passing of time the Welsh language weakened and fell into disuse. Edwin Cynrig Roberts saw this happening among his peers in Oshkosh and decided that there was a need to ‘unite the Welsh in one strong nation under the Red Dragon. On land that would be theirs without interference – especially from English speakers – where they could stand shoulder to shoulder with every other nation’ (Elvey MacDonald, *Yr Hirdaith*).

In his teens, Edwin lectured to emigration societies the length and breadth of North America, urging his fellow countrymen to emigrate together to a new homeland. In November 1860 he left Oshkosh to go alone to Patagonia, but when he called at the offices of the *Drych* newspaper in New York he heard that Michael D. Jones was talking of uniting all the emigration societies in one movement to campaign for the establishing a Welsh homeland in Patagonia. Edwin changed his plans and sailed for Liverpool where he became an active member of the Emigration Committee, lecturing in Liverpool and throughout Wales. Lewis Jones claims that Edwin ‘had set Glamorgan alight’ before making his way through Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire to Ceredigion, addressing a crowd in Cardigan town on the way.

At the end of the evening he asked who was prepared to join the first party and Richard Jones, Glyn Du, says that an old woman called out

Rwy'n awr yn bedwar ugain oed,  
Ac ni welais long erioed.  
Ond os y caniatâ fy Nuw  
Af finnai i Batagonia i fyw

*[I am now eighty years old  
And I've never seen a ship  
But if my God will allow  
I will go to Patagonia to live]*

Following the National Committee's disappointment on finding that they could not afford to buy a ship to transport the emigrants to Patagonia, Edwin accepted an invitation from Robert James to join him in working at Ince Hall Colliery, Wigan. While there he trained with the *Lancashire Rifle Volunteers* and wrote articles and letters to the press on topics relating to a Welsh settlement. It was there that he became a member of the Established Church.

As a result of the visit made to Argentina by Lewis Jones and Thomas Love Jones-Parry and their negotiations with the Argentine Government, Edwin was invited to travel with Lewis Jones and his wife to Buenos Aires and then on to Chubut in March 1865. Following Ellen Jones's horse riding accident, Lewis Jones and Ellen returned to Buenos Aires, leaving Edwin, three servants and Jerry, the son of an Irish father and a woman from Calcutta. Edwin passed the time in planning a Welsh army he intended establishing after the arrival of the first emigrants. One day, while Edwin and the three servants were digging a well and Edwin had jumped into the well to fill buckets of soil for the servants to pull up by means of a rope, the servants fled to the storehouse to look for wine, leaving Edwin in the well. He was there for two nights and was freed either because Jerry returned from his search for water or because the servants had seen the approach of the *Juno* with Lewis Jones on board.

From the early days of the Welsh Settlement in Patagonia there had been much talk about the possibility of hunting seals for their skins and oil. During his period as a fisherman in 1865 with John Morgan and others, Edwin Cynrig Roberts

had noticed that there was a seemingly endless supply of seals lying on the sands of the bay. One day when he was on board the *Denby*, Edwin saw that the beaches were full of seals and drew Captain Nagle's attention to this. Nagle was an Irishman who had been raised in Liverpool and navigated the large six ton boat which accompanied the *Mimosa*, carrying the luggage &c., and he gave valuable service to the Welsh settlers by trading on their behalf with the Natives in Patagones.

Edwin and the Captain went ashore and killed two seals, and obtained enough oil to meet their needs. On the *Denby*'s return journey, Edwin describes how another three seals were shot and skinned, but the cauldron on board was not big enough for boiling them and they had to be left on deck, their oil spilling into the sea. Edwin had already mentioned to his wife that he would like to learn how to sail ships and if capital could be obtained from Wales to buy a purpose-built ship, he would be able to hunt the seals every summer between December and February as did the American ships. He wrote to the Rev. Michael D. Jones on 20 January 1868 to try to persuade him that the scheme merited the attention of the Immigration Committee, and drew up estimates for the investment in a sealing ship but nothing came of it as there were other demands on the Immigration Committee.

Edwin also went to search for gold; in 1890 he journeyed with William Richards and five other men on an expedition into the mountains. They reached the rocks at Kagual near Teca where they discovered soil which contained a substantial amount of gold. The nearby mountain was given the name Mynydd Edwin and the spot where they discovered the gold was named 'Cwts'.

Edwin married Ann Jones, the daughter of John Jones from Mountain Ash on 19 April 1866, and they had seven children - Myfanwy (12 November/1867–4 December 1870), Ceridwen (born 4 July 1869), Eryllt (born 3 July 1871, Cynric (born 18 July 1873), Gwladys (born 12 May 1875), Nest (born 1877) and Derfel (born 1872). Edwin Cynrig Roberts died suddenly on 17 September 1893 in Bethesda, Caernarfon, after suffering a heart attack while the family were on a visit to Wales, and was buried in the graveyard of Llandygái Church. On 17 September 1993 a memorial was unveiled in Moriah Chapel to mark the centenary of his death. One of the streets of Trelew bears his name as does the gold-bearing mountain near Teca, and a section of the road between the Chubut Valley and Cwm Hyfryd.

Matthew Henry Jones described Edwin Cynrig Roberts as 'one of the giants of the Welsh Colony in Patagonia, pioneer of the "New Wales" and the boldest and

courageous of the pioneers'. He served the Settlement according to its needs – preparing the way for the *Mimosa*'s contingent, establishing a fighting force to defend the Settlement, training hunters and establishing Patagonia's first fishing company, and promoting the cause of the Established Church there. He was the first of the 'Old Settlers' to write the history of the Settlement, which appeared in the columns of *Gwalia* under the title 'Gwladfa Gymreig'. He intended to publish a series of eighteen small volumes outlining the background and facts about the campaign. The first volume, *Hanes Dechreuad y Wladfa Gymreig*, which outlined the movement before 1862, appeared in 1893, but he died before completing the series.

*Y Ddraig Goch*, 1862-3

Elvey MacDonald, *Yr Hirdaith* (Llandysul: Gwasg Gomer, 1999)

### **ROGERS, William J. (1827–1909)**

William J. Rogers was born in Pen-bre on 28 April 1827. He appears to have been the son of John and Mary Rogers, and the report of the death of his grandson Raymond Rogers in the *Drafod* of October 1951 mentions that his grandfather, Captain Rogers, was the son of Sion Rogers of Bryn, Llanelli. The 1841 census returns for Bryngwin bach [*sic*] Llanelli lists a John Rogger, 40-year-old farmer, his wife Mary (40) and children John (15), Mary (15), William (10), Thomas (10), Sally (10), David (5), Elizabeth (5), Benjamin (5), Joseph (3) and Samuel (18 months), but ages on this census are rounded to the nearest 5.

In 1849 William married Martha Williams who was born in Llanelli on 2 January 1827, probably the Martha daughter of David and Elinor Williams, Heol Fawr, who was christened at Llanelli Parish Church on 17 January 1827. By the time of the 1851 census, William and Martha were living at Bryn, Llangennech, and in 1861 Martha, ‘Sailor’s wife’ was at no. 2 Maes y canner with children John (9), Eleanor (4), Mary (2), and David Williams, Martha’s father, a widower of 72 and ostler, and Mary’s brother John Williams, aged 20, who worked as a furnace man in the tin works. William Rogers was not at home on census night because he was working on merchant ships.

William joined the Royal Navy and during the Crimean War, while serving on the *Britannia*, he rose to the rank of chief artilleryman. Because of a shortage of soldiers, several companies of were sent ashore and William and sailors from the *Britannia* among them. They were put to man the *Lancaster gun* on fortifications above Balaclava. The Russians took advantage of foggy conditions to attack the allies, and on 5 November 1854 the bloody battle of Inkerman was fought. A week later everywhere was under a blanket of frost, and the squad manning the *Lancaster* heard a Russian officer ordering his soldiers to attack. A large gun was aimed in the direction of the voice and a shot was fired although they could not see the enemy. It took ten minutes for the artillerymen to reload the large cannon, and when they had almost completed the task they saw the enemy charging forward through the fog. All the artillerymen except William fled the scene; ‘...he seized hold of the canon, climbed on to it and fired’. The next moment there were dozens of dead and injured on the slope below him. Gunner Rogers was recognised as having won the battle that morning.

While William was in the trenches, his ship returned to Britain without him and it was reported that he had died on the battlefield. His wife was informed of the fact, and when he eventually returned home he was welcomed by his wife and relatives with a mixture of amazement, bewilderment and joy. He was granted a month's leave but he soon went back to the navy, serving on the *Gletton* and later on the *Victory*. The Crimean war ended while he was serving on the latter and he received his severance payment in June 1856. He was honoured with four medals – the Sebastopol clasp, the Inkerman clasp, the 'Victoria Crimea' medal and Turkey's Crimea medal – for the part he had played in the battles of the Alma, Sebastopol and Inkerman.

William Rogers went to work on merchant ships, rising to the position of captain, but in 1862 while in New York he was persuaded by his brother to emigrate to Pennsylvania. He returned to Wales and took his family to North America. In the 1870 US Census returns the family were living in Luzerne in the Lackawanna district of Pennsylvania: The census recorded William as a 42-year-old miner, Martha also 42, John a 19-year-old labourer, Ellen (Eleanor in 1861) was 14, Mary, 11, and David 9, all born in Wales, while Elizabeth, 6, and Sarah, 4, had been born in Pennsylvania. Two further children, Thomas and Joseph, were born in Hyde Park, Lackawanna (Joseph was born on 4 April 1871).

William Rogers and family were therefore living in Pennsylvania at the time of Abraham Matthews's lecture tour of the United States in 1874, as a result of which a number of Welsh people living in the United States were persuaded to emigrate to Patagonia and the *Electric Spark* was bought to carry the emigrants. William Rogers was appointed Captain, the ship supplied with food and drink for the voyage, furniture and agricultural implements together with 33 emigrants, many of them affluent people and part-owners of the ship. At midnight on 26 March 1874 the ship ran aground at the bar in Tutoya on the coast of Brazil, but everyone was saved and it is said that forty boxes of goods were carried ashore. However, they had to sell all their possessions to pay for their passage to Rio de Janeiro, but they finally reached Buenos Aires where Dr Rawson arranged their care.

At the Emigrants' Hostel in the capital they were joined by the Rev. Abraham Matthews and emigrants on the *Hipparchus*, before being transported to the Settlement in the *Irene*. The Settlement's accounts book contains the report of a public meeting of the electors that was held on 17 October 1874, which was followed

by a feast and a welcoming meeting for the newcomers. Abraham Matthews was congratulated on his return and there was a warm welcome for William Rogers. They expressed their admiration of him and he was thanked for being a champion of the Settlement in the United States and for his devotion to the contingent of the *Electric Spark* after the ship was lost. As a small token of these sentiments the Council wished to present him with a small gift from the colony's Treasury, and Rogers and his family were invited to join the colony in the near future. William Rogers was pleased with what he saw and sailed back to the United States where a ship, the *Lucerne*, was obtained and Rogers, his family and 46 other emigrants sailed for the Settlement and arrived there safely.

He took some time before settling down as a farmer; he sailed the *Lucerne* from the Chubut to Buenos Aires loaded with produce from the Settlement, and returned with goods needed by the settlers, until the owners decided to sell it. He sailed the *Amelia*, *Rodolfo*, *Alice*, *Ida Jones* and other boats and went as far as the River Negro in the *Juan Dillon*. In 1885 he was appointed captain of the *Jesse*, a coastal defence ship. He also went hunting seals on the northern shores and the islands to the south in small sailing boats of 10 to 20 tons. On one occasion the boat was driven onto rocks on the shore of the Valdes peninsula and Rogers and his companion had to swim ashore and then climb a cliff. Suffering from lack of water to quench their thirst, they went to lie under a bush where they were found by a gaucho who, fortunately for them, gave them water. On another occasion the mast of their boat broke and everything went into the sea; in the darkness a hurricane swept them to Bahia Blanca.

At the age of 60 William Rogers gave in to the pleadings of his family and friends to give up sailing. He lived at Rawson for many years before moving to the Bryn Gwyn area. He was a faithful member of Bryn Gwyn Chapel and a supporter of everything Patagonian. In 1908, at the age of 80, he returned to his place of birth and received a royal welcome from family and friends in his home county. On the 1895 census of Chubut William J. Rogers is recorded as 68 years of age, Martha is also 68, David is 33, Joseph 24 and Sarah 28. A year later, on 12 August 1896, David Rogers died. Joseph died in 1924 aged 53.

John, the eldest son of William and Martha, remained in the United States and married Sarah Phillips on 14 January 1874. Mary married Edward Owen and had six children – Susana, Martha, Bertha, Blodwen, William a Winifred. In December 1885

Elizabeth married William Enoch Davies and had seven children – Mary Eleanor, Gwennlian, Elias, William, Enoch a David (these two died in infancy) and Martha. Elizabeth died on 5 April 1898. Sarah married John D. Rogers, and Joseph married Mary Williams, daughter of Edward a Mary Williams, in 1897, and had four children – Haydeé, John Sturdy, Mildred and Alwina.

William J. Rogers died on 1 January 1909 aged 82 and was buried in Gaiman cemetery, and a ship carved on his headstone. His wife, Martha, died on 13 February 1911 aged 83. His grandchildren were named after two of the battles in which he had taken part – Alma and Sebastopol.

Article on William J. Rogers in the series ‘Atgofion Gwladfaol. Marwolion Anfarwol y Wladfa’, *Y Drafod*, 12, 19 a 26 April 1935

Gutyn Ebrill’s poem ‘Cadben William Rogers, Bryn Crwn ar ei ben blwydd yn 81, 28 Ebrill 1908’, published in *Y Drafod*, 1 May 1908

### **RHYS, William Casnodyn (1851–1943)**

William Casnodyn Rhys was born on 10 September 1851 in Tai-bach near Aberafan, the son of David Rhys (1825–1909) son of William Rees and Catherine Leyshon, and David's second wife Mary Morgan (1830–1897). David and Mary were married in Margam Church on 26 October 1850; the family state that his first wife had died of cholera. The census returns of 1861 show David, Mary, William, David (born 1853) and John (born 1858) living at 2 Mill Yard Row.

William trained for the ministry at the Baptist college in Pontpool, and began his ministry at Pennar, the Baptist chapel at Pembroke Dock, in 1876. In the same year, on 13 April, he married Margaretta Fanny Stephens at Astwood Bank Baptist chapel, Feckenham in the Alcester district of Warwickshire and Worcester. The following details appear on their marriage certificate:

William Rhys aged 25 Bachelor Baptist Minister abode Gwyther Street,  
Pembroke Dock, Father David Rhys Copper Smelter

Margaretta Fanny Stephens aged 27 Spinster Governess abode Fir Tree House,  
Astwood Bank, Worcester, Father Francis Stephens, Malster

Their first child, Myfanwy, appears to have been born in 1877 in Pembroke Dock, and the Rev. William Casnodyn Rhys, Margaretta Fanny and Myfanwy set off for Patagonia *c.* 1879. William was minister of Vron Deg chapel, in fact, he was the chapel's only minister, and gave valuable service to the Settlement in general until 1893. He was Secretary and Treasurer of Gaiman Council and won the Chair when the eisteddfod was held in Gaiman in 1881. The Welsh Library of Bangor University holds a copy of an advertisement for a lecture, 'Yr Elven Gymreig yn y Genedl Brydeinig' (The Welsh Element in the British Nation), which he presented in Rawson schoolhouse on 7 June 1879. The entrance fee was five dollars and proceeds were to go to putting an iron roof on the schoolhouse.

Seven more children were born in the Settlement to William Casnodyn Rhys and his wife: David Ivor (1876–1967), Goronwy (1881–1892), Geraint (born 1883), Margaretta Mair (born 10 September 1885, she married Daniel Ostle in Swansea registration district in 1921 and died in Oxford in 1990 aged 105), Llywarch (born 16 December 1887, he married Caroline Marriner on 15 August 1923 in Bywell St Peters, Stocksfield, Northumberland, and died on 5 May 1976 in Stockton-on-Tees),

Eurgain (born 1889) and Leyshon Iwan (born on 16 February 1892, he married Lilian M. Quick in Crediton, Devon, registration district in 1917 and died in November 1956). The family returned to Britain in the summer of 1893, and before leaving, a farewell party was held for them in the chapel at the end of May. On their return from Patagonia, William Casnodyn Rhys served as minister of Stroud Green chapel in London from 1896 until 1900. His daughter Myfanwy died *c.* 1895 and his wife Margaretta died in London on 29 January 1896 of puerperal fever following the birth of their ninth child, Olwen Elizabeth (1895–1969).

William Casnodyn Rhys married his second wife, Jessie Myvanwy Castell Evans, daughter of Professor John Castell Evans, in Edmonton, Essex, in 1898 and a further five children were born of that marriage: Nellie Jessie Eurvron (born 1 October 1899 in London, she married Edmund Ware in 1952 in the Swansea registration district, and died in 1997), John Roland (born 21 August 1902 in Swansea; drowned in 1915), Bronwen (born 25 March 1904 and died in June 1997), Taldir (died at birth in 1905) and Dochan (born 17 March 1906, he married Edna May Butler in 1933 in the Swansea registration district and died in 1985).

William C. Rhys was minister of York Place chapel, Swansea, from 1900 until 1928. He died in Swansea in 1941.

However, the family did not sever completely their connection with the Welsh Settlement. David Ivor Rhys married Edith Elizabeth Hall (1885–1951) in Edmonton, Middlesex, registration district in the June quarter of 1906 and returned to the Settlement. They had 9 children:

- (1) Edith Bronwen Rhys, born on 21 November 1906 in St Albans, Hertfordshire. She married Guillermo Reinaldo Ernst in Uruguay, and their daughter Olívía Astra was born on 26 January 1943 in the province of Entre Ríos, and a son on 30 August 1946, also born in the province of Entre Ríos. Edith Bronwen died on 3 February 1992 in Washington D.C., United States of America.
- (2) Gladys Ada Rhys, born on 31 May 1908 in St Albans, Hertfordshire. She married George Replogle and died in Trelew on 20 September 1997.
- (3) Megan Airvron Rhys was born in Trelew on 16 March 1910 and died there in 1990.
- (4) John Morgan Rhys was born on 11 May 1912 in Trelew; he married Maria Gomez, and died in Córdoba on 31 May 1997.

(5) Leslie Casnodyn Rhys married Marta Carratero and their children were Milton, Rogelio, Lorena and Tomás. Tomás Rhys was a doctor of Neurology in Córdoba, where he died on 16 June 2014 aged 70.

(6) David Hall Rhys was born in Gaiman on 2 October 1915. He enjoyed a long and illustrious career in education and research, and was a professor of Mathematics and Geography at Paraná University, Entre Rios. He married Adela Chajj and had – Nidia Ester (born in 1940 in Buenos Aires, she married Edwin Vyhmeister), Myrtha Elva (born in 1943 in Paraná, Entre Rios, she married Alejo Pizarro) and Carlos Ivor (born in Entre Rios in 1947). Dr David Hall Rhys died in Loma Linda, California on 5 September 2014.

(7) Ivor Garfield Rhys who died in 1939 aged 11.

(8) Edgar Camwy Rhys who married [ ] Citera

(9) Lesta Olwen who was born in August 1926 at Cilawen, Treorki.

NLW MS 19357E, Report on the chapels of, including a number of photographs, which was prepared for the centenary celebrations in 1965

NLW MS 20549E, 'Erthyglau, nodiadau a phapurau W. Casnodyn Rhys parthed Patagonia'

Information supplied on the web by Nidia Rhys Vyhmeister, a descendant of William Casnodyn Rhys  
Obituary of Dr David Hall Rhys on the website of Universidad Adventista del Plata

### **THOMAS, Evan (1917–52)**

Evan Thomas was born in Gaiman on 25 August 1917. He received only elementary education but would visit the local cemetery where his grandfather was caretaker and pass the time by reading the inscriptions on gravestones. Seeing this, his grandfather told him about the pioneers who were buried there, and this may have influenced the young Evan because he later took a keen interest in the history of the Valley and its people.

In his youth he went to live with the poet Morgan Phillip Jones and his family in order to assist with agricultural tasks and it was there, amidst a family who were renowned for their musical and cultural tastes and their comprehensive library, that Evan's love of literature was nourished and his social conscience awakened. He began to mix with the most prominent people of the area, among them D. R. Daniel ('Deiniol'), and became an apprentice printer in the *Drafod* office. Later, Evan Thomas was given responsibility for the Spanish section of the paper by the editor, William Williams 'Prysor'. When Prysor died in 1945, Evan Thomas became the editor of *Y Drafod* and, in addition to being responsible for the newspaper's Spanish section, he launched another newspaper named *El Regional*. The first issue of *El Regional* appeared on 25 May 1945 with Evan Thomas named as its Director and Founder.

A year later, on 11 October 1946, an advertisement for the new paper appeared, describing it as a 'Paper for the Settlement written in the national language'. With the profits from the new publication Evan Thomas overcame the monetary shortfall of *Y Drafod*. He also published a magazine called *Yr Eisteddfodwr* and in the first issue Evan Thomas declared that this magazine, which he intended publishing as a quarterly magazine of 12 pages, was a 'tribute in honour of past and present frequenters of the Eisteddfod'. In difficult times he made every effort to keep the Eisteddfod and the *Drafod* from disappearing completely. In the 1940s he worked diligently to update the Eisteddfod's programmes and fire enthusiasm amongst participants.

He worked assiduously to establish and strengthen the ties between Wales and Chubut which had been lost since the First World War and corresponded with many influential people in Wales. In 1951 he travelled to Wales where he was accepted into the Gorsedd of Bards. He possessed a wide knowledge of Spanish and Welsh literature and won the Chair for a poem in *vers libre* on the subject 'Yr Aberth' (The

Sacrifice) in the Gaiman Eisteddfod of 1944, and again in Trelew in 1947 for a poem, also in *vers libre*, entitled ‘Tywysog Tangnefedd’ (The Prince of Peace’). He died suddenly in April 1952, aged just 34, having achieved a vast amount of work in such a short lifetime. He was very popular in the Valley and his contribution is greatly appreciated. He and Mairos Ilma Hughes had three children, Delano, Edmundo and Donald.

‘Cwyn am fy nghyfaill hoff Evan Thomas’ by Deiniol (Daniel Rhys Deiniol), *Y Drafod*, 15 October 1953

‘Coffau Evan Thomas’, *Y Drafod*, 21 April 1955

Verses in memory of Evan Thomas: ‘7 mlynedd ers marw ein cyn-olygydd’, *Y Drafod*, 9 May 1959

### **THOMAS, David Coslett (1836–1923)**

David or Dafydd Coslett Thomas, Eleanor his wife and their six children emigrated to Patagonia on the *Thames* in 1875. According to a pedigree of the family that was presented to the National Library of Wales by a descendant of the family, David Coslett Thomas was born in Pontcrynfe in the parish of Llanddeusant, Carmarthenshire, on 7 August 1836, the son of John Thomas, a weaver, and Mary Coslett. He married Eleanor Thomas, the daughter of Jacob Thomas and Eleanor Morgan who had been born on Christmas Day 1813 in the parish of Llandysiliogo, Carmarthenshire. David worked as a miner in the Rhondda before emigrating; the family lived in several places – Ogmores Vale, Rhymney, Tredegar, Penrhiwfer and Tonypany – before building their own house near the Miskin pub in Trealaw.

In his autobiography, their son John Thomas relates how the Rev. D. S. Davies came to give a talk on Patagonia at Ebenezer Chapel, Tonypany, and was invited to supper by David. David and Eleanor were already favourable to Patagonia and that night decided to emigrate there if they could, and if Eleanor's sister Mary and her husband Evan Oliver, would emigrate with them. John Coslett Thomas adds: 'Father and Uncle Oliver gave up their jobs and sold the houses and furniture. On the advice of Mother and aunt they bought milking jugs, sickles, a scythe, a plough, harrow, harness for a team of horses, a hand mill to grind corn, a few carpentry and building tools, etc., and a stock of clothes for us'.

In Patagonia Dafydd and Eleanor Coslett Thomas had a farm in Tair Helygen near Rawson. Later they lived in Trelew where they kept a little boarding house. Their daughter Mary Ann and her husband, Hugh Samuel Pugh, had 13 children and kept the first *casa de te* in Gaiman and then the first hotel. There is a story that when President Roca visited the Territory in 1899 he was taken to this hotel to have lunch. He had many guests and 10 plum puddings were eaten for dessert. Among those who stayed were Lord Cavendish and two men and a woman who later turned out to be members of Butch Cassidy's gang. When they left they gave a tamed pony as a gift.

Of Dafydd and Eleanor Coslett Thomas's other children, William went to the Andes and was of great assistance in developing the area. He married Elizabeth Elin Jones on 20 June 1891 and they made their home in Cwm Hyfryd. John married Caroline M. Jones and was a schoolmaster and farmer and even panned for gold before taking his family to Canada. In Bangor, Saskatchewan, he farmed and opened several stores. He moved to Los Angeles in 1920 and died there in 1936; his body was

taken back for burial in Bangor, Saskatchewan on 5 November 1936. Evan married Edith Williams and lived in Trelew, while Catherine died *c.* 1918 in Rawson. Sarah married Gwilym Williams and lived in the Moriah district and later in Sarmiento. Elizabeth married George Williams and left to live in Australia; Joseph married Sarah Ann Jones and also went to Australia.

Dafydd Coslett Thomas died on 17 September 1923 aged 87 and Eleanor his wife on 6 February 1918. Mary and Evan Oliver left Patagonia for Australia in 1915 but returned in 1919, although some of their family remained in Australia.

### **THOMAS, John Murray (1848–1924)**

John Murray Thomas was born in Merthyr Tydfil in 1848. His father, William, hailed from Talylychau and his mother Mary from the parish of Llanfair-ar-y-bryn. On the 1861 census, John is listed as a 13-year-old clerk in a grocer's shop in Merthyr Tydfil, but between 1861 and 1865, when he emigrated to Patagonia with his sister Gwennlian, her husband the Rev. Abraham Matthews and their baby daughter Mary Annie, John went to work in the Bridgend area. That is why Abraham Matthews records John as coming from Bridgend in his list of the *Mimosa*'s passengers.

John Thomas has been criticised for leaving the Welsh Settlement for Buenos Aires in November 1865 in order to train as an accountant. It is now accepted that the training he received while working from the Murray and Younger companies proved to be a great asset to the Settlement. On 8 March 1873 at Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church, Buenos Aires, the 24-year-old John Murray Thomas married 20-year-old Harriet Scott Underwood, the daughter of John Daniel Underwood, a prominent businessman, and she returned to Patagonia with her husband in 1874. John had by now adopted the middle name of Murray as a token of respect to his former employer. John and Harriet had eleven children: Mary Emilia (1874), Harriett Anne (1875), Lucy Emma (1876), John Younger (3 November 1876), Gwennlian Ellen (16 July 1878), William Thomas (1880), Emilia Elizabeth (9 June 1881), Francis Younger (1885), Marion Margaret (1886), Alfred (1888) and Edward Scott (1890).

John Murray Thomas opened a store in Rawson and his boat, the *Gwennlian*, became an important link between the Settlement and the capital, Buenos Aires, at a difficult time, and although he was accused of charging high prices for his goods, the credit he extended to the settlers proved a means of keeping them alive. Around the same time he began to play a prominent part in the expeditions to discover new areas for the Welsh to settle, at the same time searching for gold and other minerals. In addition to leading many of the early expeditions, he was also responsible for arranging the first great expedition to the Andes with Fontana when the Welsh settlers saw Cwm Hyfryd for the first time; he also paid half the cost of the expedition. This expedition was among the most important because it gave the Welsh a new fertile area in which to settle, and eventually was one of the main reasons why Argentina succeeded in maintaining its hold on those rich lands in the Andes during the boundary dispute with Chile in 1902.

Under the heading ‘Neuadd Gymreig Rawson’ in the *Drafod* of 17 January 1891, John Murray Thomas is recorded as having presented a kiln of bricks and a strip of land in the middle of the town for building a public hall. The town’s Public Reading Room Committee hoped that the hall would be ready for the Eisteddfod which would be held in August of that year.

John Murray Thomas was also a pioneer photographer, and his photographs give us a clear picture of a key period in the history of the Colony. He lived in Castell Iwan in the Rawson area, and after the death of his wife he went to live with his daughter Harriett, the wife of Michael G. Mulhall. He died on 23 November 1924 aged 77.

NLW Facs 184

Jeremy Howat’s website: marriages at the St Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Buenos Aires.

‘Neuadd Gymreig Rawson’, *Y Drafod*, 17 January 1891

### **WILLIAMS, David Beynon (1852–1935)**

David Beynon Williams was a native of Cilycwm, born in 1852. He is said to have emigrated to Pennsylvania in his teens but later returned to Wales with his cousin Thomas Gwilym Pritchard who had emigrated to Pennsylvania with his family *c.* 1862. After visiting various parts of Wales they went to Liverpool to join Edwin C. Roberts's group who were sailing for Patagonia on the *Vandyke*. Leaving Liverpool on 25 November 1875, they arrived at Buenos Aires on Christmas morning and sailed for Chubut on the *Santa Rosa* the same day.

David B. Williams spent his first years on the Settlement on the southern bank of the river at a place called 'Bachelor William Thomas's patch' where the single people of the area received a warm welcome, convivial company and a roof to shelter from the elements. In 1879 he married Gwen Jones, born in Ystradgynlais on 20 May 1857, the eldest daughter of Thomas Morgan Jones (1828–1904) and Mary Powell (1838–1904), and returned to live in Gaiman. David was a smith by trade and he joined Robert Edward, a carpenter, to open a smithy. David and Gwen had a small hotel in Gaiman and a farm called Pant y celyn in the Angustura area. David was an avid reader with a special interest in the United States. Gwen was a skilful seamstress and a faithful member of her chapel.

David and Gwen had eleven children: William (born 1880 but he died soon after); William Alexander (born 1881, married Ann Jones); Thomas Beynon (born 1882, a bachelor); Rachel Mary (born 1884, married Cromwell Griffiths); Emely (born 1885 but died in infancy); Emely Adeline (born 1886, married Llewelyn Griffiths); John Llewelyn (born 1889, married Esther Jones); Elizabeth Ann (born 1891, unmarried); Margaret (born 1893, married Daniel Williams); Morgan (born 1895, died aged 1); Sabatheg (1897, died aged 1).

David Beynon Williams died on 22 July 1835 aged 83 and Gwen just over a month later on 6 August, aged 78.

### **WILLIAMS, Edward Jones (1857–1932)**

Edward Jones Williams was born in Durham on 19 July, the son of William Williams, formerly of Treuddyn, Flintshire, and his wife Mary Jones (known locally as Mair Dan y Cae). William was 21 years old and Mary two years older when they married in Manchester in 1856; shortly afterwards they moved to Durham. In Durham their six children were born three of whom four survived – Edward, Ann, Mary Harriet and Jane Elen.

Early in 1862, William Williams decided to join a group of men from Manchester, most of them Welsh, who intended going to California in search of gold. William left Mary and the children at Bankhall near Rhewl, close to where many of her family were living. There they attended Cysur, the Congregational Chapel where Dr Pan Jones was minister, and it was at the Sunday school there and at the National School in Mostyn that Edward learned to read and write. At the age of sixteen, Edward took charge of a Sunday school class under E. Pan Jones.

William Williams was away for eleven years, and upon his return began to search for a suitable school for his son. He chose the small Grammar School in Holywell where William Coles was the master. Edward received a very good education there in English, Mathematics and Natural Sciences, and had the opportunity to benefit from other subjects in the school curriculum, for example, Scripture, English Grammar, History, Geography and the Classics.

His father could not afford a university education for Edward, but he was astute enough to appreciate the importance of engineering qualifications. Therefore, on 24 May 1875, two days before his eighteenth birthday, Edward was apprenticed to Joseph J. Williams, the leading mining engineer in the area, for three years at a cost of thirty pounds to receive training as a mining engineer and surveyor. After his first year as an apprentice, Edward wrote a long essay entitled, ‘The Mineral Resources of Denbighshire and Flintshire’, which was published in the Journal of the Geological Society in London, and during his third year of apprenticeship won a medal and £20 in the 1878 National Eisteddfod which was held in Birkenhead, for a handbook on Geology in Welsh.

Despite his qualifications, Edward failed to gain a suitable post and his thoughts turned to the campaign to attract more Welsh immigrants to Patagonia at the same time as his father’s restless nature was moving in a similar direction. At the end of 1880, therefore, William Williams and his family set out for Patagonia. While his

father and the rest of the family continued their journey down to Patagonia, Edward remained in Buenos Aires to arrange an introduction to the equivalent engineering institutes in Argentina in order to obtain recognition of his professional qualifications, to master the intricacies of Spanish terminology and make valuable contacts in Government circles and business and commercial circles.

After arriving in Chubut in 1881, Edward Jones Williams brought to his work in the Colony all the experience he had gained both as an apprentice and as a lampman in the old Mostyn Quay works. He set about constructing irrigation canals and surveying the land, and in 1884 he went in search of a practicable, and not too costly, track for the new railway. He took precise measurements and produced plans and sketches of his work, and the meticulousness of his survey can be seen in his notebooks.

In 1890 Edward Jones Williams returned to Wales to marry his cousin Mary Elizabeth Price on 9 December 1890 in Cysur Congregational Chapel, Mostyn. They had six children – Marian Neved (born 11 October 1891), Dilys Mostyn (born 12 November 1892), Eurfron Sian (born 8 November 1895), Iorwerth Mostyn (born 2 September 1902) and William Penri (born 26 March 1905).

In his tribute to Edward Jones Williams, the Rev. R. J. Jones, Prestatyn, who was raised in the Welsh Settlement, stated that E. J. Williams belonged to the generation of settlers who had shaped the life of the Settlement in both commerce and religion. Together with one or two others he had started the Agricultural Exhibition that led to the development and improvement in agriculture and gardening. He was a staunch supporter of eisteddfodau and the literary meetings; he worked tirelessly with others to nurture in the young a love of Welsh literature and to foster the language. He travelled widely in the country and was a member of the United Committee of the Methodists and Independents (Congregationalists), chairman of the Chubut Mercantile Company and was a Sunday school teacher in Trelew Chapel. T. Ogwen Griffiths called Williams an enlightened and warm-hearted Welshman, a nationalist with no semblance of prejudice towards other nationalities.

The family left the Chubut Valley in July 1907 to return to Wales, but in April 1908 Edward returned to the Chubut to carry out the extension of the railway to Gaiman. He took Iorwerth and William Penri with him for one last year in Chubut. Kenneth Skinner states that, 'For his younger son he planned to initiate him in the skills of horse riding and when back in the colony he duly bought him an expensive

horse and saddle.’ The Minutes of Gaiman Council note that Edward Jones Williams continued to work on plans to extend the railway, and draw up a plan to build a water mill, and he was the representative of the Chubut Mercantile Company in 1914. After returning to Wales the family lived at Grange Mount, Rhyl, before moving to Pendyffryn in March 1914, where Edward Jones Williams died on 3 July 1932. His wife, Mary Elizabeth Williams died on 30 July 1951 at the home of her daughter Neved in Old Conway.

NLW MS19724E, Press cuttings from *The Rhyl Journal*, 9, 16 a 23 July 1932 containing tributes to E. J. Williams

### **WILLIAMS, Josiah (1831–1923)**

Josiah Williams emigrated from Treherbert in the Rhondda but he was a native of Carmarthenshire. He was born in 1831, the son of Benjamin Williams and his wife Esther who were living at Blaenrhyd, Abernant in the parish of Cynwyl Elfed at the time of the 1841 census. Benjamin had died by the time of the 1851 census and his widow Esther returned to her parish of birth, Tre-lech a'r Betws, with her youngest children Mary, 13, Esther 8 and Benjamin 5.

In 1855, Josiah married Ann Williams, who was born in Abergwili, and they were living at 47 Penheolferthyr, Merthyr Tydfil, in 1861 with their 4-year-old daughter Jane. By the time of the 1871 census Josiah and Ann had moved    with their children Jane (born 1857) Benjamin (born 1862) and Esther (born 18 May 1867)    to Penyreglyn, Treherbert in the Rhondda Valley. Before leaving there, the minister and members of Carmel Chapel, Treherbert, where he was Sunday school teacher, gave Josiah a Bible with a dedication dated 5 September 1875.

Josiah and his family settled in the Glyn Du area, between Rawson and Trelew, where he farmed for seven years. He kept horned cattle and sold butter and cheese. Josiah was the first to build a house of fired bricks on the land that had been measured out to form Trelew. Together with Rhyddderch Hughes, Richard Jones 'Glyn Du', Thomas Jones 'Glan Camwy', John Howell Jones and others he promoted the building of Moriah Chapel where he became a member and one of the first deacons. He was described as a good teacher but a better counsellor, upright, principled and honest, and an avid reader. After moving to Trelew in 1882 he became a deacon in Tabernacle Chapel, a Sunday school teacher and a member of the choir.

Josiah's wife Ann died on 25 December 1908 aged 77; they had been married for 53 years and had celebrated their golden wedding in 1905. In the 12 December 1915 issue of *Y Drafod*, Josiah was reported to be, at 84 years of age, the oldest person in the Settlement.

Jane the daughter of Josiah and Ann married Peter Jones and were the parents of James (1885-1957) who married Mair Evans (1896-1957); Annie (who married William A. Williams); Margaret (who married Robert Jones); Claudia (who married José Woodley); Esther (who married John Williams); Samuel (a bachelor); Mary (who married Gweirydd Hopkins); Benjamin (who married Lily Hughes); and Hannah (who married Robert Owen).

Benjamin, the son of Josiah ac Ann, married Enid Hughes and their children were Sephora (who married Jarett Pugh); Dyfed (a bachelor); Josiah (who married Eirlys Pugh); Gruffydd (a bachelor); and Milkah who died as the result of an accident when he was twelve years of age. Enid died on 4 November 1938 and Benjamin on 21 March 1939.

Esther, the second daughter of Josiah and Ann, married John Samuel Hughes, son of Elizabeth (Betsi) Hughes (Boncyn) on 5 July 1893, and they had 7 children: Ann (who married Emlyn Williams); Jane (who married Lewis Davies); Debora (who married Fransisco Dobson); Lydia (who married Donald MacDonald); Mair (who married Eilyn Diwig Price); Josiah (who married Mabel Davies); ac Elizabeth, who died shortly after she was born.

Josiah Williams died in Trelew on Sunday, 4 October 1923, aged 92.

### **WILLIAMS, William ('Prysor' 1889–1945)**

William Williams ('Prysor') was born in Trawsfynydd in 1889, the son of William and Ellen Williams of 6 Tynypistyll. The family are found at that address in 1901: William Williams 36 years old and a 'Slate Quarry rocker', Ellen his wife (35), Evan R. (15) and a slate quarrier [*sic*], Willie (12), Winifred (10), Owen (7), Ellis (5), John H. (3) and Maggie (1). After leaving primary school William worked for neighbouring farmers and at Tŷ Du farm at Parc near Bala. On the 1911 census, William Williams is listed as a 22-year-old 'Agricultural Labourer' at Tŷ Du. He was a passenger on the *Orita* that left Liverpool for Port Madryn on 2 November, and four years later married Ann Vaughan, the eldest daughter of Morris Vaughan and his wife, and took up farming once more.

He became a prominent figure in literary, religious and social circles. He began writing poetry in his spare time and won the Crown at the Trelew Eisteddfod in 1918 for his *pryddest* (long poem) 'Gorchfygwr' (The Conqueror). He won the main bardic prize at the 1920 and 1921 Eisteddfodau for his *pryddestau* 'Sibrydion y Nos' (Whisperings of the Night) and 'Y Paith' (The Pampas). His poetry became the means of modernising and raising the level of bardic output in the Settlement. He displayed a freshness and imagination, especially in his long poems. The power of his muse can be seen in his *pryddest* 'Y Paith' where the enchantment and mystery of the pampas's tranquility is described so beautifully and skillfully. He wrote on all types of subjects including religious ones. His merit was recognised by his fellow poets when he was unanimously chosen Deputy Archdruid of the Settlement's Gorsedd of Bards. He became editor of *Y Drafod*, a post he filled diligently and with honour until early March 1945.

His main interest as a journalist was in the Settlement. He loved music and was conductor of Gaiman children's choir. Regrettably his wish to die in the silence of Patagonia, as expressed in one of his most tender poems, was not to be. He died in Buenos Aires on 22 June 1945 aged 56 and his remains were buried in the British Cemetery of Chacarita, far from Chubut and his native Trawsfynydd.

Prysor had two brothers living in Chubut, Evan Robert Williams, born in 1886 and who lived in Gaiman, and Owen Williams who was born in 1894 and lived in Trevelin. Gwyn Vaughan Williams, the only child of William 'Prysor' Williams and Ann, died childless.

*Y Drafod* 6 July 1945, 'Marw Bardd Cymraeg' ('Death of a Welsh Poet'), from the *Buenos Aires Herald*

*Y Drafod* 5 September 1945 'Er Cof am y Cyfaill Prysor' by Evan Thomas; 'Atgof am Prysor' by Elfed Price and 'Llinellau Coffa' gan Evan Thomas ('In Memory of Prysor the Friend' by Evan Thomas; 'Recollection of Prysor', by Elfed Price and 'Lines in Memory' by Evan Thomas).

*Y Drafod* 21 September 1945: 'Am y gân a gollwyd' by Irma Hughes de Jones and other poems by 'Deiniol', Morris ap Hughes and 'Cyfaill'. (A poem 'For the song that was lost' by Irma Hughes de Jones, and others by Deiniol, Morris ap Hughes and 'Friend').