

A number of people from Carmarthenshire, or who had connections with the county, emigrated to the Welsh Colony in Patagonia, and here is a little information about some of them.

DAVID BOWEN, TRES CASAS

David Bowen is said to have been born in Trelech-a'r-Betws, Carmarthenshire in 1844 but as a young man he moved to Pentre in the Rhondda and married Mary Anne Williams. In 1875 David, Mary and their children sailed for Patagonia on the *Olbers* and landed near the estuary of the Chubut on 31 October 1875. The family moved soon afterwards from Rawson to Drofa Fresych where they stayed 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, an area later called Trebowen. When a chapel was built at Trofa Gwen Ellis, David became a member and an officer of the chapel. A new location was found for the chapel and it was named Bethesda. He served as both deacon and Secretary of Bethesda Chapel.

He was one of the small band who went up to rocks at the top of Dyffryn Uchaf to search for somewhere to build a canal. His knowledge of the lands of Dyffryn Uchaf was of great advantage to those who were looking to build their homes in that area.

David and Mary Anne's eldest son and a daughter died of Typhoid in 1883. Thomas married Elizabeth Knowles, Marged Ann married Alun Meirion Williams, Mary Jane married Adrian Eusebio López, Hannah married William John Lloyd and Sarah married José Isabel Quiroga.

David Bowen died on 16 Nov. 1920 aged 76. A tribute in *Y Drafod* dated 26 November 1920 records that he did his best for the temporal, moral and religious development of the Colony ... a patriot, especially obliging and willing, affectionate and likeable.

ADA DAVIES

Ada Davies, the wife of William Jones, 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, there is a house named Llain (Llain) in the parish and on the 1851 census there's a 4 year old called Ada listed there with her parents, Thomas Davies aged 30, born in the parish, his wife Hannah, 28, born in Llanllawddog, and the children Elinor, 8, Anne, 6, Ada, 4 and Mary, 1, all born in the parish of Llanfihangel ar Arth. The name of their home given on the 1861 census is Llain y bryn and the children (Mary aged 11 and younger children) are all said to have been born in Llanpumpsaint.

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 for 26 Brook Street, Fforchaman, Aberdare, there's a William Jones, 22 year old Smith, born in Llanllawddog, and his 24 year old wife Ada, born in Llanpumpsaint.

On the 1895 census of Chubut William Jones, Smith is aged 45 and Ada aged 46; they had been married for twenty years. Their children were Thomas, 15, Mary, 11, Ann, 9, Eleanor, 6 and Lottie, 3, all born in Argentina. Thomas married Jane Hughes, Ann married Gwilym Evans; Mary married Cyrus Evans; David died on 23

May 1923 aged 42; Ellen married Thomas Saunders and Lottie went to Wales, married there and then emigrated to Canada.

Ada Jones died on 10 October 1909 and William Jones on 5 June 1831 aged 85.

DAVID D. DAVIES, PANT Y BLODAU

Y Drafod records the death of David D. Davies of Pant y blodau on 16 February 1928. He is said to have emigrated to Patagonia from Llandeilo. In June 1929 his daughter who was married to John Isaac Jones, Bryn Gwyn, died and on 10 May 1934 the newspaper reports the death of David D. Davies's son, Meredydd Rhys, at 48 years of age.

JOHN DANIEL DAVIES

According to information given in *Nel Fach y Bwcs* and *Ffarwel Archentina*, the autobiography of Ellen Davies written by her daughter in law Marged Lloyd Jones, Ellen's father John Daniel Davies was born in the Rhos, Llangeler, area to John Daniel and Rachel Davies. He is said to have been a bookseller in the Rhondda before selling his possessions, except for his books and a few personal treasures, and emigrated to Patagonia from Liverpool with his wife Hannah and children John, William and Ellen (Nel). Their home in the Colony was called Llainlas. Hannah Davies died in childbirth on 30 January 1888 aged 36.

In about 1889, John Daniel Davies married Sarah Hannah in Wales and took her to Patagonia, but she died in 1891. Ellen recalls that her father was homesick for Twlch-clawdd his home and the Llangeler area, and he returned to Wales with his daughter Ellen, son Dyfrig, daughter in law Anna and grandson John Daniel (Johnnie). In the September quarter of 1901 he married Sarah Evans, and on the 1911 census of Maes y berllan, Felindre, there is a John D. Davies, Bookseller aged 70, his wife Sarah, 48, to whom he had been married for 9 years, and son Samuel, 8. John D. Davies and Sarah had been married nine years.

Ellen married Thomas Jones in 1903 and had two children, Hannah Emily and William John. Her brother John Daniel left Patagonia for Canada with his wife Sarah and three young children in 1902 and died there in 1939. Another brother, William Davied, also left Patagonia, this time for Africa and died there in 1903, and the other brother, Dyfrig, also died in Africa, in 1950.

Ellen died in 1965 in her 95th year.

DAVID EVANS, MAEN GWYN

David Evans, his wife Mary Davies and their children Benjamin, Sara and Anne, emigrated on the *Vesta* in 1886. David was born on 24 December 1858 to James and Hannah Evans, Melin Glanduar, Llanybydder, and married Mary Davies when he was about 21. They settled in Maen Gwyn, Treorcky, where six more of their children were born: Rachel, 1887; James, 1889; Rosana, 30 June 1891; Daniel R, 1893; Mair, 1896; and Martha, 1898. Sara married Caswallon Jones in 1902; Anne married Morgan Howells; Rachel married Samuel Brooks; James married Margaret Jones; Rosana married Robert Thomas; Daniel married Rachel Jones; Mair married James Peter Jones and Martha married first Vincente Zonza and second Manuel Ecchevaria.

David had been a farmer in Wales but he went to Patagonia to build the railway from Porth Madryn to Trelew, and worked diligently on the pampas to that end, 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 a while he decided to try his hand at 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 earned a reputation as a wheat grower. 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 name as a grower of wheat.

His obituary in *Y Drafod* records that he returned to Wales in about 1911 to see his mother who now lived in Nantgaredig, and also to visit his brothers and sisters who lived all across Wales. His father had died before David emigrated.

David Evans died 11 April 1928 and his wife Mary on 7 October 1942.

THE REVEREND ESAU EVANS

Esau Evans was born on 13 July 1818, one of 10 children of Esau Evans, and Rachel Lloyd, Hooks, Llanstephan which was, until 1863, part of the parish of Llanybri. His father was a blacksmith from the parish of Llanboidy and his mother hailed from Llanglydwen. On the 1861 census Esau is found as a farm servant at Moche but by the time of the 1871 census, he was a twenty two year old collier was living with his brother David and family in Hirwaun, Glamorgan. He was a member of Nebo Chapel in Hirwaun and its organist and that is where he met his wife Joan Rees.

In 1875 Esau and his family emigrated to Patagonia and after a few years went to Sauce Corto, Buenos Aires and to the Andes, looking for gold. Esau David, the son of Esau and Joan Evans, was baptized on 6 July 1885 and Christmas, another son who was born on 25 December 1887, was baptized on 14 August 1897, both in Sauce Corto. He returned to Wales to train for the Ministry and was ordained at Heol Gerrig, Merthyr Tydfil, before returning to Patagonia. He was leader of community and choral singing in Gaiman for many years, as well as being a deacon and Chapel secretary.

THE REVEREND JOHN CAERENIG EVANS

John Caerenig Evans was born in Llanddewisol, in the parish of Llanfihangel Aberbythych, Carmarthenshire on 20 April 1837. His father Phillip died in a mining accident and was buried in Llandybïe on 16 May 1840, aged 44. The family were living at Tir Dan-y-graig in the parish of Betws at the time of the 1841 census: - Mary Evans (40), and the children Thomas (14), David (5) and John (3), but the family later moved to Grennig Fawr, Glanamau. Despite his father being killed in the mine, John worked as a miner from the age of nine until he was twenty six. In 1863 he was accepted as a student at Carmarthen College and after four years of study was ordained on 28 August 1867 as Minister of Moriah Chapel, Cwmaman, Aberdare. He was a successful and popular minister in Cwmaman but in 1874 he gave in to the urge to go to Patagonia with his wife Hannah Harries and three small children (five more were born in Patagonia). A sign of his popularity is the fact that many of his congregation followed him to Patagonia in 1875. He gave valued service to the colony in the trying, 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 came in handy in the early years of the settlement, especially in relation to building the canals. He worked hard during the week and preached on Sundays for nothing or almost nothing. In the election of 30 July 1886 J. C. Evans was elected a Justice of the Peace. He donated a strip of land on which a hospital, named the J. C. Evans Hospital in his honour, was built. Having ministered for over fifty years he died in December 1913 aged 77. His wife Hannah had predeceased him on 4 August 1911.

ELIZA EVANS DE WILLIAMS

Eliza Evans, the sister of the Rev. John Caerenig Evans, was born on 2 October 1831. She went into service when quite young and almost emigrated to the United States with her brother David but emigrated to Patagonia instead with brother John Caerenig Evans in 1874 instead. She married Thomas S. Williams in 1899 and moved to Cwm Hyfryd, and upon her husband's death in 1907 she returned to live in the valley. She died nine days short of her 100th birthday on 23 September 1931; her mother had lived to 94 and her mother's brother John Rees to 96.

JOHN DANIEL EVANS

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 skilful leader. 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 an exploratory journey at the end of 1883 because of his familiarity with the Pampas and the customs of the Indians. During this expedition they were attacked by Indians in Kel Kein and John's companions were killed. John Daniel Evans had a miraculous escape, thanks to the horse named Malacara that he was riding.

In 1885 a request was sent to the first Governor of Chubut asking him to organise a journey to the areas at the foot of the Andes with a view to creating a new settlement there. John Daniel Evans was chosen as *baqueano* or 'guide', and it was during that journey that the Colonists caught their first glimpse of Cwm Hyfryd (Colonia 16 Octubre). In October 1886 John Daniel Evans married Elizabeth Richards (1863-1897) and in October 1891 he and his family moved to Cwm Hyfryd. He realised the need for a mill in the area because many of the farmers were getting such good harvests. He began work as a miller on a small and limited scale, but with the money he earned for guiding Lewis Jones around the valley when he was searching for good land on behalf of the railway company, he bought another mill from his sister Elizabeth, widow of Zacharias Jones. The mill was the centre of the town that developed around John Daniel Evans's land and eventually the town was named Trevelin, after the mill. Finally the mill that stands in Trevelin today was built and the Molino Andes Juan D. Evans y Cía was formed. He also had a flock of sheep on his land. His wife Elizabeth died in 1897, leaving him with six children to care for, and in 1900 he married Annie Hughes de Williams from Llanfachrell, Anglesey, a widow with two children, and a further five children were born of this marriage. He was

ferverly supportive of education and religion and did his best to maintain peaceful relations with the native Indians.

In his tribute to John Daniel Evans in *Y Drafod*, Tomas Freeman wrote that John Daniel Evans worked assiduously to get a day school in Trevelin and the first school in Cwm Hyfryd 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. He is also credited with arranging a telephone link between Trevelin and Esquel and beyond.. In March 1923 he visited Wales and France; 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.

WILLIAM EVANS, MAES YR HAF

William Evans was born on 10 August 1851 in Pont Garreg, Trelech-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 left the farm and moved to Pentre, Rhondda, to work in the coalmine. On 27 September 1874 he married Elizabeth Davies, daughter of Daniel and Mary Davies, Felin Newydd, Cynwyl Gaeo, and the following year emigrated to Patagonia.

William built a large brick house on his farm, Maes yr Haf, Bryn Gwyn and between 1876 and 1807 eleven children were born to William and Elizabeth: Cyrus (23 February 1876); Mary (7 February 1878); Thomas (15 June 1880); Gwilym (21 June 1882); John (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). His obituary in *Y Drafod* reports 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 was written from Maes yr haf, Bryn Gwyn, January 16 1895

'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. In 1907, another son, John Camwy, enrolled as a student at a preparatory college in Carmarthen and from there attended Bala Bangor College. He was ordained a Minister with the Independents in June 1915. From 1915 to 1931 he was Minister of Pendref Chapel and a County Councillor; from 1931 to 1947 he was at Lloyd Street Chapel, Llanelli, and from 1948 to 1954 at Blaengarw, Glamorgan. He married Emily Cump 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. 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

Two of the other sons 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. Gwilym, another son, later 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 JP at one point. 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 5 July 1919 and Mary, the wife of David T. Williams, Bryn Gwyn, died 16 April 1929.

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 instrumental in building the Secondary School in Gaiman.

ELIZABETH FOOTMAN

Albina Jones de Zampini states that Elizabeth Footman was from Hafod Wen, Carmarthen, and was born in 1863. She may have been the daughter of Charles and Anna Footman. She married Eleazar Garnant Morris who is said to have been born in Cilfynydd, Glamorgan, in 1858, but the only Eleazar Morris born in that year found on the 1861 census was living at Penypound Cottage Llangiwig. This family appears at 4 Graig Road, Cefnpennar on the 1871 census: William Morris aged 57 Coachman, Anne his wife 55, son David, 22, Coal miner, William, 21, Coal miner, Hannah, 18, General servant, Llewelyn, 16, Coal miner, Eleazar, 13, Grocer (apprentice) and George, 11, Scholar. The children are said to have been born in Betws, Carmarthen.

Eleazar and Elizabeth emigrated to Coronel Suarez rather than to Patagonia. Their daughter Edith married Evan Rees, Pantglas, on 2 July 1921 and died 12 April 1935 aged 37, leaving a husband and four young children. Eleazar and Elizabeth's son Arthur married Meirionwen Pughe the daughter of Gwilym Pugh on 16 October 1935. Alice Morris married Thomas Daniel Evans; Dirgo Eduardo married Ethel Mair Shae; Edith married Evan Rees; Elizabeth married Joel Maradei, Blodwen married John Owen; Winifred married Edward R. Evans; Myrddin married Dina Visconte; Tudor married Ivy []; Eleazar married Rowena Morris; George Phillip married Amelia Andersh and Leonard married Carmen Cobo. Arthur Corwen married Meirionwen Pugh the daughter of Gwilym J. Pugh, Gaiman, on 16 October 1935; William Charles was a bachelor.

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

ANN HOPKINS

Ann Hopkin, daughter of William Hopkins and Margaret Davies was born at Llwynhendy c. 1864. The 1871 census records Margaret a 41 year old widow and Dressmaker, her son Joseph, 21, and daughter Ann, 17, also a Dressmaker. In 1889, aged 25, Ann left for Patagonia with her mother Margaret. They received a warm send

off from the members of Soar Baptist Chapel, Llwynhendy, who presented them with a Bible. A year after Ann Hopkins's arrival in Chubut, she married Walter Roberts who was born in Rhewl, near Denbigh in 1866 to Thomas Roberts, a Shoemaker, and his wife Elizabeth Williams.

Although she had been a Dressmaker in Wales, Margaret Hopkins became a farmer in Drofa Dulog and the 1895 census of Chubut shows that Walter owned land in or around Gaiman and that he, too, worked as a farmer. By 1897 he and Ann had three children – Joseph Hopkin (c. 1892), William Watkin (c. 1896) and Deborah Lizzy (c. 1897). Margaret Hopkins married William Rees in Patagonia but later returned to the Llwynhendy-Bynea area to live with her son Joseph and his family. She died in 1922 aged 82.

Ann and her family also returned to Britain, arriving on 7 June 1898 on board the *Nile* and settled in Bootle in 1899, Walter working as a bricklayer. Their fourth child Thomas Emlyn Roberts was born in Liverpool in 1899 and died there in 1902. The family eventually moved back to Carmarthenshire, to Bynea. In 1912 Walter moved again, this time to Australia, and Ann and three of their children joined him eight months later.

The history of the the family can be seen in Michele Langfield and Peta Roberts, *Welsh Patagonians. The Australian Connection*.

RHYS JAMES

Rhys James was a native of Cil-y-cwm but lived in Troedyrhiw, Merthyr Tudful, for many years. He travelled on the *Vesta* yn 1886 to work on building the railway from Porth Madryn to Trelew but returned to Wales on its completion. In 1908 he brought his family to Patagonia but left in 1914 to settle in the Rhondda. His son Richard James remained in Patagonia and married Mary S. Oliver, the daughter of William Oliver Trelew in July 1914, and worked for the Chubut Mercantile Company. He was the first owner of Plas y Coed, Gaiman.

THE MALIPHANT FAMILY

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 of Cydweli living at Water Street; William was a 26 year old Stone mason, Ann his wife was 27 and Mary Ann was a year old, and Ann's parents William Thomas, unemployed Mariner, 67, and Ann Thomas 63. 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 Patagonia in 1886). They lived in Cydweli until David decided to return to Patagonia 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 married (1) Isabel Peralta and (2) Adelina Narducci; Alba who died aged six weeks; Olga who died aged 20; Gloria died at Barth; her twin Valeira married Orlando Oscar Puw; Arianina married Thomas Einion Roberts and Albina married Virgilio Francisco Zampini.

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

William Maliphant died 1 October 1920, Lizzie Rebecca on 7 Ebrill 1961.

JOHN (JUAN) LEWIS MORGAN

John (Juan) Lewis Morgan was born in Alejandro, Argentina, on 23 October 1892, the son of David Morgan who was born in Llandyfaelog, Carmarthenshire, on 21 February 1849 to James Morgan and his wife Lydia Richards. James Morgan's brother, John Morgan, Pwllglas, Llanfihangel Geneu'r Glyn, Ceredigion, had emigrated to Patagonia on the *Mimosa* before moving to the Rosario area in the province of Santa Fe.

Juan Lewis Morgan attended Llandovery College between September 1907 and March 1908, lodging with the family at Llandyfaelog Post Office, it is said. Then on to Carmarthen Grammar School for Boys and later, possibly, at Trinity College Carmarthen. His aunt Margaret had married William Jones and still lives in the Llandyfaelog area, and one of their sons, Williams, was sent to his uncle in Alejandra to regain his health.

Juan later became an engineer with the Thomas and Clement Foundry in Llanelli. He played rugby for the Oriental Stars Club, Llanelli, and played 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 May 1913 and returned to Alejandra where he farmed before moving in 1932 to Chaco in the north of Argentina where he became an officer with the police force. He died in Campo Largo, Chaco, Argentina, on 7 July 1947.

DAVID MORGAN

David Morgan, the father of John (Juan) Morgan had emigrated with his brother Richard to the province of Santa Fe on board the steamship *Oneida* in August 1870, and later relocated once more, this time to Alejandro. On 5 September 1878 he married Susana Alejandra MacLean, who had been born in California, and they had the following children - Susana Lidia, Maria Margarita, Ana Francisca, Santiago Alejandro, Guillermo David Ricardo, Evan, Graciana Isabel Modesta, Juan Luis, Elvira Evelina, José Arturo Juan, Dora Adelina Sofia and Claudio Alberta. David Morgan died on 8 May 1933 aged 84.

RICHARD MORGAN

Richard Morgan, the son of James Morgan and Lydia Richards, was born in Llandyfaelog yn 1851, and emigrated with his brother David in 1870. He settled on lot 16 in the Alejandro area and set about growing cereal crops. He sent letters to Wales urging his family in Wales to emigrate to Argentina, stating that food was cheaper and there was plenty of bread, coffee, milk, eggs, etc. When he decided to move to the same area as his brother, he sold his smallholding, which he had been given by John Morgan, and together with John Thomas Pugh bought a farm in the Alejandro area. He went to Wales on a visit in 1877 and brought back with him his eldest brother John who had suffered a serious illness but who seemed to have

regained his health. Sadly John died three years later and was buried in Alejandro Cemetery. After that, Richard became something of a vagrant without a permanent home and with no desire to return to Wales. He died on 15 November 1911 in the village of Romang.

THOMAS EDWARD MORGAN

Thomas Edward Morgan was born in Carmarthenshire in 1850. In his obituary in *Y Drafod* he is said to have emigrated to Patagonia from Liverpool in 1875 but Albina Jones de Zampini in her book *Cien Atuendos y un Sombrero* says that he emigrated from Carmarthen in 1874. He married Elizabeth Williams, the daughter of John and Elizabeth Williams, Glandwrlwyd, on 6 May 1908 and they went on to have eleven children - Elizabeth who married Evan John Roberts; Emiah (Martin Binner); John Myrddin (Elizabeth Jones) Emily (David Owen); Gwen (Ebenezer Awstin); Dinah (Albert Coslett Thomas); Gladys (Alfred Thomas); Thomas (Mair Vaughan); Aeron (Maud Griffith); Mabel (Aristides Goliz) and Luther.

Thomas Edward Morgan died on 4 August 1913 aged 63; his wife was in Australia at the time. Elizabeth Morgan died on 20 Mai 1949.

THOMAS GWILYM PRITCHARD

Thomas Gwilym Pritchard ('Glan Tywi') was born on 23 November 1846 in a farmhouse called Dugoedydd on the banks of the Tywi, parish of Llanfair ar y bryn, Carmarthenshire, one of seven children of David ac Annie Pritchard. The family emigrated to the United States c. 1862, but in late 1875 Thomas returned to Wales with his cousin D. B. Williams. 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. He was a self taught man, a great reader and of a level-headed and thoughtful judgement, with a strong will and true to his convictions. A born teacher, he served as schoolmaster of Rawson day school, then at Glyn Du and some years later in Bro Hydref. In the period between being at Glyn Du and Bro Hydref schools he was for years an accountant for John Murray Thomas in Pen-y-bont Warehouse, Rawson. When he returned from Bro Hydref he was appointed the first accountant of Chubut Mercantile Company and served the company periodically for many years; he 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 Treorcki area and followed it with the chief prizes for the cywydd, pryddest and englynion at Eisteddfodau in Rawson, y Fron Deg and Gaiman He died at the home of his cousin, D. B. Williams, on 12 September 1924 aged 78. T. G. Pritchard will be long remembered as a Teacher, Accountant, Poet and Adjudicator.

THOMAS REES

Thomas Rees was born in Pembrey in 1856, the son of Jonathan and Esther Rees. On the 1861 census the family were living at Pant y rhiw, Pembre: John, a 34 year old

Copperman born in Cynwyl Elfed, his wife Esther, 36, born in Cilrhedyn, Pembrokeshire, daughter Eliza aged 11, born in Clydau, Pembrokeshire, and sons John, 6, Thomas, 4, and one year old David, all born in Pembre.

The family moved to Aberdare and on the 1871 census they were living at 38 Fforchaman Road: Jonathan was 44, Hannah his daughter 19, John 16 and a coal miner, Thomas 14 and also a coal miner, David 12 and Benjamin yn 7, both at school, and 4 year old Margaret, who had been born in Cwmaman, Aberdare. Esther does not appear to have been at the home on census night although Jonathan states that he is married. However, Esther had died before Jonathan took the family to Patagonia in 1875. On 31 January 1881 Thomas Rees aged 24 married Mary Howells, 19, the daughter of Morgan and Rebecca Howells. They went to live in their own home on the north side of the river in Dyffryn Uchaf where daughter Esther was born at the end of 1882, Ann in 1883, Isaac 1894, Rebecca 1896, Elizabeth Ann, 1897, Rachel 1899, Meredydd, 1890, John M., 1892 and Daniel, 1895.

In 1902 Thomas Rees, Mary and the family emigrated to Canada and another son was born there, but Morgan died in the great battle of the Somme. *Y Drafod* of 1927 published a letter from Thomas W Morris, Box 4, Bangor, Saskatchewan, dated Thursday 30 June, with an obituary for Thomas Rees in which he states that Thomas Rees lived an industrious life in several circles as a successful, hardworking and methodical farmer. He sacrificed a great deal to the cause of religion throughout his life, whether in preaching, as a deacon and as a Sunday School teacher for many years. He was a musician, a literary figure and a poet.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM ROGERS

The inscription on his gravestone states that William Rogers was born 28 April 1827 in Pembre. His wife Martha was born in Llanelli on 2 January 1827 and is probably the Martha daughter of David and Elinor Williams, High Street, who was baptized in the parish church on 17 January 1827. William joined the Navy and during the Crimean War was among a company of seamen who were set ashore from warships to work missiles in the fortifications and on the uplands. His ship returned home while he was in the trenches and he was reported to have on the battlefield. When he returned home he found his wife in widow's weeds, and she and his relatives welcomed him with surprise, bewilderment and joy. He was awarded 4 medals for the part he placed in the Battles of Alma, Sebastopol and Inkerman. He went to work on merchant ships and rose to the rank of captain. In 1862 his brother persuaded him to emigrate to Pennsylvania with his family, and he was there during Abraham Matthews's lecture tour of the USA, promoting emigration to Patagonia, in 1874. Many of the Welsh in north America were persuaded to emigrate to Patagonia and a ship, the *Electric Spark*, was bought to carry the emigrants, many of them affluent people, with a supply of food and drink for the journey, furniture and agricultural machinery, and William Rogers as Captain. At midnight on 26 May the ship was wrecked on the bar at Tutoya on the coast of Brazil and although all the passengers were rescued, and 40 boxes of goods carried ashore, the heavy machinery, including David Roberts's threshing machine, had to be left behind. They eventually reached Buenos Aires and were at the Emigrants Home there when the Rev. Abraham Matthews and emigrants on the *Hipparchus* arrived; they travelled to Patagonia on the *Irene*. At a public meeting held on 17 October 1874, the newcomers were welcomed and William Rogers thanked for leading the emigrants after the loss of the *Electric Spark*. He was invited to return with his family to settle in the colony. He returned to the USA, a

ship, the *Lucerne*, was purchased and William Rogers, his family and 46 emigrants arrived safely in Patagonia.

William Rogers sailed from the Chubut to River Negro with the Colony's produce in the *Juan Dillon* and returned with necessary goods for the colonists. He also hunted seals on the Northern shores and the south islands. Aged 60 he relented to the pleas of family and friends to give up sailing. He lived in Rawson for some years before moving to the Bryn Crwn area where he was a faithful member of the chapel and supported everything Patagonian. In 1905, when 80 years old, he returned to his place of birth and received a warm welcome from friends and family.

On the 1895 census of Chubut the family are listed as William (68), Martha (68), David (33), Joseph (24) and Sarah (28). His grandsons were named after two of the battles in which William Rogers took part – Alma and Sebastopol.

William Rogers died 1 January 1909 aged 82, and a ship is carved on his gravestone in Gaiman cemetery. Martha died 13 February 1911 aged 83.

DAVID COSLETT THOMAS

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, Ogmere Vale, Rhymni, Tredegar, Penrhiwfer and Tonypany before building their own house near the Misken pub in Trealew. In his autobiography, their son Joseph Coslett Thomas relates how the Rev. D. S. Davies came to give a talk on Patagonia at Ebenezer Chapel, Tonypany, and was invited to supper at his home 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 and 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 pension. Their daughter Mary Ann married Hugh Samuel Pugh, had 13 children and kept the first *casa de te* in Gaiman and then the first hotel. 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 brought 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 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 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.

DAVID BEYNON WILLIAMS

David B. Williams is said to have been a native of Cilycwm, born in 1852. When he was about 21 years old he left Wales to go to Pennsylvania, but returned to Wales before emigrating to Patagonia in October 1875, arriving in January 1876.

He spent his first years on the Colony 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, the eldest daughter of Thomas Morgan Jones, who had been born in Ystradgynlais on 20 May 1857, and returned to live in Gaiman. He was a Smith by trade and joined Robert Edward (Smith) 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. He was a cousin of Thomas G Pritchard, the Teacher and poet, with whom he travelled to Patagonia. Gwen was a skilful Seamstress and faithful to the cause of religion. They had eleven children: William (1880 but died soon after); William Alexander (born 1881, married Ann Jones); Thomas Beynon (born 1882, a bachelor); Rachel Mary (born 1884, married Crommwell Griffiths); Emely (born 1885 died in infancy); Emely Adeline (born 1886, married Llewelyn Griffiths); John Llewelyn (born 1889, married Esther Jones); Elizabeth Ann (born 1891, spinster); Margaret (born 1893, married Daniel Williams); Morgan (born 1895, died aged 1); Sabatheg (1897, died aged 1).

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

JOHN WILLIAMS, BRYN AFALLON

John Williams was born in Aberdare on 15 July 1874 but his obituary which appeared in *Y Drafod* states that his father William was from Caio and his mother Margaret from Abergorlech. They emigrated to Patagonia when John was a year old. They made their first home in Drofa Hesgog but then moved to the Bryn Gwyn area. John received his education at Cefn Hir schoolhouse and worked on his parents' smallholding until 1928 when he began working for himself. He was a member of Bryn Gwyn Chapel. He went to Buenos Aires for health reasons but died there on 3 June 1937.

JOSIAH WILLIAMS

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 had to return to her parish of birth, Trelech a'r Betws, with her youngest children Mary, 13, Esther 8 and Benjamin 5.

Josiah married Ann Williams, who was born in Abergwili, in 1855 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 the family, with children - Jane (born 1857) Benjamin (1862) and Esther (born 18 May 1867) had moved to Penynglyn, Treherbert in the Rhondda Valley. Before leaving there, the minister and members of Carmel Chapel where he was a teacher, gave him a Bible in which was 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 had horned cattle and sold butter and cheese. Josiah was the first to build a home on the land that had been measured out to form Trelew. Together with Rhydderch 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. After moving to Trelew in 1882 he became a diacon 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 old, the oldest person in the Colony. His daughter Jane married Peter Jones and were the parents of James, Annie, Margaret, Claudia, Esther, Samuel, Mary, Benjamin and Hannah. Her brother Benjamin married Enid Hughes and their children were Sephora, Dyfed, Josiah, Gryffydd and Milkah; Enid died 4 November 1938 and Benjamin 21 March 1939. Esther married John Samuel Hughes, the son of Elizabeth (Betsi) Hughes (Boncyn) on 5 July 1893, and had 7 children – Ann, Jane, Debora, Lydia, Mair, Josiah ac Elizabeth (who died shortly after birth). Josiah Williams died in Nhrelew on Sunday, 4 October 1923, aged 92.

MARGARET ANN WILLIAMS

Margaret Ann Williams was born in 1881, the daughter of Evan Williams a Margaret neé Evans from Carmarthen. Her father was a foreman on the Great Western Line in Carmarthen. On the 1891 census the family were living at 19 Seymore Terrace; Evan was originally from the parish of Llanllawddog and Margaret his wife from Abergwili. Margaret Ann married the Rev. Tudur Evans, a son of the Rev. John Caerenig Evans, on 20 November 1912 and emigrated to Patagonia Margaret Ann had a fine soprano voice and sang solos in local concerts. Their 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.

Tudur Evans died in 1959 and Margaret Ann in 1970. Margaret Ann's sister Rachel married the Rev. David D. Walters, who was one of the Colony's Ministers, on 20 May 1908.

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If anyone has information on any other family or families from Carmarthenshire who went to Patagonia, I would be very pleased to hear from them. I can be contacted through the website of Cymdeithas Cymru Ariannin.

Eirionedd Baskerville