

From the *Cambrian* newspaper – Items relating to emigration of Mormons

The table below summarises the items, with full text for each item included below the table. Note that there are also other items in the *Cambrian* relating to Mormonism during this time period.

Date	Emigrants from where	How many mentioned	Notes
Feb 1849	Merthyr and surrounding districts Brechfa & Llanybydder	'some scores' from each area	Heading for California. Dan Jones preached farewell sermon. <i>Troubadour</i> to Liverpool thence to California
Feb 1850	Hills and surrounding county	About 100	<i>Troubadour</i> to Liverpool thence to Land of Promise
Feb 1855	Colliers and miners of the hill districts; even wealthier class	'A considerable number'	
April 1856	Surrounding hills	'Large number'	<i>Troubadour</i> to Liverpool
July 1868	Wales more than England and Ireland put together	800	Queenstown – ship = <i>Emerald Isle??</i>
1868 (not many weeks before)		600+	Ship = <i>John Bright</i> Liverpool to USA
In a few weeks		500	Ship = <i>Resolute</i> Liverpool to USA
June 1869	Llanelli	60	
Jun 1872		320	Liverpool to New York
July 1873	Some 450 Danes	670	Ship = <i>Wisconsin</i>
Within the week		500 more	Liverpool to USA
May 1878	Cwmbach (Aberdare)	20-40	
June 1878	Hills and valleys of Glamorganshire	20	

16 February 1849

MERTHYR. THE SAINTS AND THEIR NEW JERUSALEM

These misguided men commenced their expedition to California from Merthyr and the surrounding districts on Monday last. The farewell sermon was preached on Sunday

their commander-in-chief Captain Dan Jones. It is their intention not to proceed to the gold district but to the agricultural regions where they intend to dwell together and share the profits of their labourers. They will deplore the consequences of leaving England. We hear that when in the country of the 'Philosopher's Stone' they will march in detachments; one detachment will proceed to a depot where everything has been provided for them. They will there sow wheat, set potatoes, and put everything in process for yielding a plentiful harvest to the next detachment; who will reap the labours of the others, and confer the same themselves on those succeeding them.

16 February 1849

EMIGRATION TO CALIFORNIA. THE LATTER DAY SAINTS

On Tuesday last Swansea was quite enlivened in consequence of the arrival of several wagons loaded with luggage, attended by some scores of the "bold peasantry" of Carmarthenshire, and almost an equal number of the inhabitants of Merthyr and the surrounding district, together with their families. The formidable party were nearly all Latter Day Saints and came to this town for the purpose of proceeding to Liverpool in the Troubadour steamer, where a ship is in readiness to transport them next week to the glittering regions of California. This goodly company is under the command of a popular saint known as Captain Dan Jones, a hardy traveller, and a brother of the well known John Jones, Llangollen, the able disputant on the subject of "Baptism." He arrived in the town on Tuesday evening and seems to enjoy the respect and confidence of his faithful band. He entered the town amidst the gaze of hundreds of spectators and in the evening he delivered his valedictory address at the Trades Hall to a numerous audience the majority of whom were led by curiosity to hear his doctrines, which are quite novel in this town. Amongst the group were many substantial farmers from the neighbourhoods of Brechfa and Llanybydder, Carmarthenshire, and although they were well to do they disposed of their possessions to get to California, their New Jerusalem as they deem it, where their fanaticism teaches them to believe they will escape from the general destruction and conflagration that is shortly to envelop this earth. It is due to them, however, to state that they are far from being smitten by that mania for gold the discovery of which has imparted to the modern El Dorado such notoriety of late. They seem animated only with the most devout feelings and aspirations which seem to flow from no other sources (judging from their conversations) than a sincere belief that the end of the world is at hand and that their Great Captain of Salvation is soon to visit his bobl yn ngwlad y Saint. It is the intention, we are informed, not to visit the gold regions, but the agricultural district, where they intent, they say, by helping one another, to reside in peace and harmony of to exemplify the truth of "brotherly love" not in name but in practice. Amongst the number who came here were several aged men varying from 70 to 90 years of age and whose "hoary locks" not only proclaimed their "lengthened years" but render it very improbably they will live to see America; yet so

deluded are the poor and simple saints that they believe that everyone amongst them, however inform and old they may be, will as surely land in California safely as they started from Wales. Their faith is most extraordinary. On Wednesday morning after being addressed by their leader, all repaired on board in admirable order and extraordinary resignation. Their departure was witnessed by hundreds of spectators and whilst the steamer gaily passed down the river the saints commenced singing a favourite hymn. On entering the piers, however, they abruptly stopped singing and lustily responded to the cheering with which they were greeted by the inhabitants.

1 Feb 1850

THE LATTER DAY SAINTS AND THE PROMISED LAND

About one hundred of the Latter Day Saints from the hills and a neighbouring county arrived at Swansea this week and embarked in the Troubadour for Liverpool en route for the Land of Promise.

16 Feb 1855

THE MORMONITES

The emissaries of the Mormonites are most active in various parts of South Wales in spreading the doctrines of the Latter Day Saints and among the labouring and ignorant population they are particularly zealous in urging the advisability of polygamy. We regret that in too many cases they have succeeded in perverting poor people and that a considerable number are preparing this spring to seek their fortunes at the great Mormon settlement on the banks of the Salt Lake. Among the colliers and miners of the hill districts of South Wales the peculiar tenets of this sect find favour and a large number of these have recently joined the ranks. Even wealthier people – persons in the middle-class of life – have also been perverted, and are selling their all in order to emigrate to the “land of promise.”

18 April 1856

THE MORMONS

[on edge of paper – photographed so as to make it difficult to read full lines]

A large number of these deluded fanatics left our port on Wednesday by the Troubadour for Liverpool en route for the Salt Lakes. They consisted chiefly of the ?? class of society from the surrounding hills. ??? of their relatives and friends were assembled on the

quay to bid them adieu, and many shed tears?? Separation. Society at large however has ??? deplore their departure.

17 July 1868

MORMON EMIGRANTS FROM SOUTH WALES

A ship put into Queenstown harbour the other day with a large cargo of Mormons on board. They were in charge of two elders, named Smith and Johnson, and numbered about eight hundred altogether. Wales contributed more than England and Ireland put together. We commend this fact to the rectors and curates of churches in the Principality. Smith and Johnson have been collecting the lot for two years, under a commission from Brigham Young, and have travelled through the United Kingdom and the Continent, having made Clapham their headquarters while in London. "Not many weeks ago" writes the Cork Examiner, "a vessel named the "John Bright" of the same size as the "Emerald Isle" and belonging to the same firm, left Liverpool with over six hundred Mormons. The ship "Resolute" also belonging to Messrs Tapscott & Co. is to leave Liverpool in the course of a few days with about five hundred more. The contract is £2 10s. for each adult passenger, and this money is paid to the owners in Liverpool by a man who holds the rank of President in the Mormon faith and is styled "Brother Richard." The captains say that nothing can be more decorous and orderly than the conduct of their passengers. They spend a certain part of each day on board in prayer, work and amusement. The hymns are in praise of Mormon doctrine, and are set to the popular airs familiar to the people who witness burlesques.

4 June 1869

Emigration to the Salt Lake.

About sixty Latter Day Saints left this place [Llanelly] on Monday last, for the Salt Lake City. A remarkable incident took place near the South Wales Railway Station, just before the train left. An old man, aged about seventy, named John Wilkin, had decided to leave "his wife, his children, his land and his country" for the enchantments of the Mormon City. His wife, who was not a Saint, and a very determined woman, followed him to the Station, prevented him entering the railway carriage, and actually drove him home before her. Seeing her determination, he gave his pass to a sister Saint, who although she had not made any previous preparations, jumped into the carriage and proceeded with the Mormon party.

28 June 1872

[Local Intelligence]:

Three hundred and twenty Mormons left Liverpool on Wednesday for New York.

4 July 1873

The Mormons. On Wednesday 670 converts to Mormonism, 450(?) of whom are Danes, left Liverpool in the steam Wisconsin for Utah. Another batch of about 500 are expected to leave the same port during the ensuing week.

31 May 1878

An exodus to Salt Lake City from Aberdare. Much excitement was apparent at the Aberdare Great Western Railway Company's station on Friday morning by the emigration to Salt Lake City from 20 to 40 residents in the district. The majority of the voluntary exiles were from Cwmbach – married men with families.

29 June 1888

[Good natured gossip]:

Mormonism is not yet dead and from some recent occurrences in our own district it may be doubted whether it is not yet in a moribund condition. Something like a score of converts, gleaned from the hills and villages of Glamorganshire, sailed a few days ago from Liverpool for America en route for Salt Lake City, Utah. These converts to polygamy are said to be the harvest gathered in by an elder of the name of Williams who some time ago carried on a Mormon mission in Wales.