

Latter Day Saint Missionary Journals: 1864-1903 in Wales

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The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints – variously referred to as Mormons, Mormonites or LDS – was first introduced into Wales in 1840, beginning in Overton, Flintshire. Thereafter missionaries for the LDS Church travelled into the southern counties, and experienced notable success, particularly in the more densely populated, industrial areas. Thousands of new converts subsequently emigrated from Wales and settled parts of what are now Utah and Idaho.

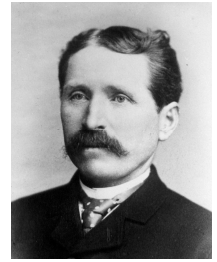
The first two decades of the history of the LDS Church in Wales have been comprehensively documented,¹ the remainder of the 19th century less so. However in April 2020, I completed a dissertation for a Masters in Local History at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, which provides an overview of the status of the LDS Church in southwest Wales 1864-1903. While making no claims for this dissertation as a comprehensive history of the LDS Church, even in southwest Wales, it is the first known summary of the topic, and is based on missionary journals of the time.²

There follow brief profiles for 20 missionaries whose journals provided primary source data for my research. The amount of time these missionaries spent in southwest Wales varied greatly, and all of them spent some time in other parts of Wales. The majority of the journals have been transcribed and are available online. The profiles indicate the areas where the missionaries served and where the journals can be accessed. Following the profiles is a chronological listing of all the missionaries known to have been in southwest Wales during the specified time period.

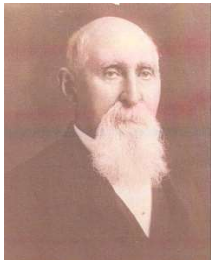
¹ See for example the various writings of Ronald D. Dennis, available at <http://welshmormon.byu.edu> and Aled Betts, *The Price of Faith: The Mormons and South West Wales Society 1844-1863*. (Unpublished Masters dissertation, Trinity University College Carmarthen, 2010).

² Supplemented by information from the *Millennial Star*, the UK-based publication of the LDS Church from 1840 to 1970; online at: <https://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/digital/search/collection/MStar>

DAVIS, Timothy Bowen (1842-1916) was a native of Llanwenog, Cardiganshire. He emigrated with his father and all but one of his siblings in 1863, and the family settled in the northern part of Utah Territory. The mother was to have followed with the remaining son, but for some reason never did. Davis returned to Wales in 1888, at the age of 46, and was assigned to work in the north of Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire, where he spent almost all of his time. His journal can be found at:

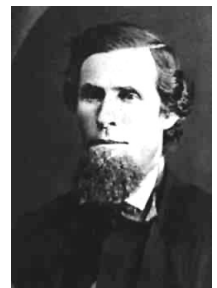


<http://welshmormon.byu.edu/Resources/pdf/18798.pdf>³



EVANS, John (1829-1920). A native of Llandovery, Carmarthenshire, Evans converted to the LDS faith in 1849 and emigrated in 1855 with his wife and infant son. He and his family settled in Brigham City in northern Utah. He returned to Wales as a missionary in 1880 at the age of 51 and served for two years, travelling across south Wales. His journal can be found at: http://welshmormon.byu.edu/Resource_Info.aspx?id=2008

EVANS, Thomas David (1833-1906) was a native of Troedyrhiw, Glamorganshire, who converted to the LDS faith in 1849. He emigrated in 1856 and settled in Spanish Fork, Utah. He served as a missionary in Wales between baptism and emigration (1852-56), being assigned to southwest Wales. Then he and T.C. Martell (see below) left Spanish Fork together in 1875 for their return to Wales as missionaries, when he spent time in southwest Wales and in the Merthyr Tydfil area. His journal is quite brief and entries are not made daily. It can be found at: http://welshmormon.byu.edu/Resource_Info.aspx?id=1567



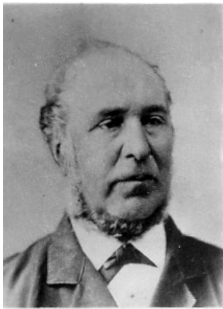
GRIFFITHS, William Thomas (1846-1931). A native of Merthyr Tydfil, Griffiths was baptised into the LDS Church in 1865 and emigrated in 1868.



³ Journals which are noted as being available via the <http://welshmormon.byu.edu> website can also be found by clicking on the *Immigrants* tab on the main page, and searching using the individual's name. Journals can then be found under the *Resources* section of the individual's record.

He returned to Wales in 1895 as a missionary and served for almost two years. His wife's family were from Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, so he had many connections in the area. His journal can be found at:

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/memories/KW8J-27N>



JEREMY, Thomas E. (1815-1891). Born in Llanegwad, Carms, Jeremy and his wife were the first converts to the LDS Church in Llanybydder, where they were baptised in 1846. They emigrated in 1849, but he returned to Wales as a missionary in 1853 and again in 1862. Volumes I and II of his journal cover the first mission, Vols. III and IV the second. Both times Jeremy travels across south Wales, with occasional visits to the north. Jeremy returned to America in 1864. His journal can be found at:

http://welshmormon.byu.edu/Resource_Info.aspx?id=181

JOHN, David (1833-1908) was a native of Little Newcastle, Pembs, who was first baptised in his mid-teens, but who, because of his family's staunch Baptist loyalties, agreed with his father's demands that he set aside his new faith and train to become a Baptist minister. This he did, making him one of the best educated LDS converts of the time. He returned to the LDS church, and served as a missionary for four years before emigrating to America in 1861. He returned to Wales as a missionary in 1871 and was assigned to serve on the presidency of the Welsh conference. In this capacity he travelled extensively across Wales. David John's journals, which are detailed and extensive, can be found at:



<https://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/digital/collection/SCMisc/id/9982>

JONES, Evan (1839-1935) Born in Llanegwad, Cardiganshire, Jones converted to the LDS faith in 1863 and emigrated in 1867. He settled in Cache Valley in northern Utah Territory. He returned to Wales as a missionary in 1893 and served for two years. His journal is extensive, and



he travelled across south Wales. An illustrated copy of Evan Jones' journal is lodged at West Glamorgan Archives, Catalogue Reference: GB 216 D/D Z 931/1.

LEIGH, Samuel (1815-1894). Born in Llanedy, Carmarthenshire, Leigh was baptised into the LDS Church in 1848 and emigrated in 1849, although he did not arrive in Salt Lake City until 1852. He settled in Cedar City, southern Utah. He was age 60 when he returned in 1875 to Wales, where he spent his time in south Wales. His journal, which is brief, can be found at: http://welshmormon.byu.edu/Resource_Info.aspx?id=178



LEWIS, Daniel (1834-1905) was a native of Caio, Carmarthenshire. He converted to the LDS faith in 1854 and emigrated in 1856 with the second large company of Welsh converts under the leadership of missionary Dan Jones. Lewis returned to serve a mission in Wales, 1886 to 1888. He was appointed president of the Welsh conference and travelled across south Wales with a brief visit to the north. His journal can be found at: http://welshmormon.byu.edu/Resource_Info.aspx?id=5481



LEWIS, John Saunders (1835-1893) was born in Bedwellty, Monmouthshire. He converted to the LDS faith in 1855 and emigrated in 1856. He was known for his musical abilities, particularly singing. He died in Salt Lake City, Utah. Lewis served as a missionary in Wales between 1867 and 1870, and only one volume of his journal was accessible for research, although it is clear that the volume formed part



of a larger record. It is not however currently in the public domain.



LEWIS, Walter J. (1854-1924) Lewis was born in Salt Lake City, Utah Territory, as his parents had converted to the LDS faith in Wales, but married in Salt Lake City. His father and mother were from

Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire respectively. Lewis served two missions in Wales: 1877-79 and from 1892. His journal relates to the first of these missions, and begins in 1878; it is almost certainly part of a larger collection of his writing. Digital images of the hand-written pages can be found on the following website, with a transcript of each page available below the image:

http://archives.lib.byu.edu/repositories/14/digital_objects/4665

MARTELL, Thomas Charles (1823-1905), a native of Newcastle Emlyn, Carms, converted to the LDS church in 1849 and emigrated to Utah Territory in 1854, where he settled in Spanish Fork. He was 52 years old when he returned to Wales to serve as a Travelling Elder. Before emigrating he had been the manager of a draper's in Llanelli, but had also served for several years as a local missionary, and was appointed president of the Carmarthenshire conference (see T.H. Lewis 'Three Carmarthenshire Mormons' *Carmarthen Antiquary* 4, p. 49). Of the approximately twelve months covered by his missionary journal, Martell spent about 300 days in southwest Wales. The remainder of the time was spent in the Swansea and Merthyr Tydfil areas. Martell's journal can be found at: http://welshmormon.byu.edu/Resource_Info.aspx?id=2602



MORRIS, Elias (1825-1898) A native of Llanfair Talhaiarn, Denbighshire, Morris converted to the LDS faith in 1849. He served as a missionary in north Wales 1850-51 after his conversion, and emigrated in 1852. He returned to Wales 1865-1869, which is the time period covered in detail by his journal. The majority of this second mission was spent in south Wales with two short visits to the north. Morris' journal, in two volumes, can be found at:

http://welshmormon.byu.edu/Resource_Info.aspx?id=199

PARRY, John (1817-1882) Born in Trelawnyd, Flintshire, and often given the suffix 'jnr' as he was the son of John Parry, who founded what would become the Mormon

Tabernacle Choir. Baptised in 1846, Parry emigrated in 1856 after serving a first mission in Wales. He returned to Wales in 1865, where his first six months were spent in North Wales. He was in south Wales between February and December 1866, serving as counsellor to Abel Evans, President of the Welsh conference. His journal can be found at: http://welshmormon.byu.edu/Resource_Info.aspx?id=2924



PRICE, Daniel Evan (1852 -1926) A resident of Samaria, Idaho – a town settled by the Welsh - when he left for his mission in Wales, Price was born in Talgarth, Breconshire. He was baptised at age 8, as his parents had converted to the LDS faith. The family emigrated in 1860. Price was 42 years old when he returned to Wales as a missionary and served from 1895 to 1897. He spent less than a month in southwest Wales - mainly in Llanelli – out of the year and a half of his mission. The remainder of his time was spent in Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire. His journal can be found at: http://welshmormon.byu.edu/Resource_Info.aspx?id=2720



REESE, William Griffiths (1857-1938) was a native of Amroth whose parents converted to the LDS faith there and emigrated when he was only two years old. He returned to Wales in 1882 as a missionary and spent the majority of the eighteen months of his mission in the Swansea area and points east. He visited southwest Wales only twice during that time – for two weeks and later for three weeks – and spent all of his time there visiting (and expounding the gospel to) his relations and friends, or to the families of church members he had known in Utah Territory. Reese’s journal can be found at: http://archives.lib.byu.edu/repositories/14/archival_objects/154257

RICHARDS, David (1823-1902). Born in Aberstruyth, Monmouthshire, he and his wife and four children emigrated in 1860 and crossed the plains to Utah Territory as part of a handcart company. Before this he had lived in



County Durham, and his first two journals cover that area and time. Richards returned to Wales as a missionary in 1881, and spent the majority of his time in Glamorganshire, with some visits to southwest Wales. His Missionary Journal covers this time period, and can be found at: http://welshmormon.byu.edu/Resource_Info.aspx?id=3654



THOMAS, John (1837-1914) was a native of Llanelli, Carmarthen, who was baptised into the LDS church and emigrated to Utah Territory in 1870. He returned to Wales as a missionary in 1886, age 51. He spends the majority of his time in south Wales, the latter months in the Manchester area. His journal, which comes in four volumes, is particularly detailed – the transcript (with transcriber footnotes and index) runs to almost 300 pages - including information on a number of families he encountered while on his mission, inscriptions on gravestones, lists of letters he wrote and received, addresses of family, friends and acquaintances. The time spent in Manchester is covered in Volume 4. Thomas' journal can be found at:

http://welshmormon.byu.edu/Resource_Info.aspx?id=2481

TREHARNE, William (1838-1907) was a native of Llangyndeirne, Carmarthenshire. His family joined the LDS church when he was a child and they were among the first large group of Welsh converts to emigrate under the leadership of Dan Jones on the *Buena Vista* in 1849. William's parents both died on the journey west but he and his four older sisters continued to Utah Territory. He settled and raised a family in Salt Lake City. He was in his late fifties when he returned to Wales as a missionary. Treharne's journal can be found at: <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/memories/LVPD-W54>



WRIDE, Barry (1833-1913). Born in Llantrisant, Glamorganshire, Wride was baptised as a member of the LDS Church in 1857 and emigrated in 1861. He returned to Wales as a missionary just four years later. Although



he presided over the Monmouthshire conference he also travelled across south Wales. His journal includes his life in Wales prior to emigration, and is detailed and regularly kept. It can be found at: <http://welshmormon.byu.edu/Resources/pdf/12049.pdf>

Missionaries in south-west Wales, 1864-1903.

Note: This listing of missionaries known to have served in southwest Wales may be incomplete, as it is based on names referenced in the journals and occasional references in the *Millennial Star*. There were certainly missionaries in other parts of Wales at the time, some of whom may have kept a journal. A database of LDS Church missionaries worldwide from the 1830s can be found at: <https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/missionary-database>

Missionaries	Years served		Notes
	Start	End	
1864-1869			
BYWATER, George G.	1860	1864	With Thomas Jeremy at a meeting in Carmarthen 1863
JEREMY, Thomas E.	1862	1863	Journal (Vols 3 and 4 cover 1862-63)
DELL, Philip	1863	1865	Transferred from Pembrokeshire to Swansea 1864
DAVIES, Richard J.	1866	1868	Referred to by Barry Wride as going to Llanelli
EVANS, Abel	1865	1866	1866 preaching tour incl. Carmarthenshire & Pembrokeshire
WRIDE, Barry	1865	1868	Journal , though only a small amount of time in south-west Wales
MORRIS, Elias	1865	1869	Journal
LAWSON, Joseph	1866	1868	John Parry refers to his appointment to Pembrokeshire in 1866.
PARRY, John	1866	1868	Journal
THOMAS, William C.	1868	1869	Referred to by Elias Morris
LEWIS, John S.	1868	1870	Journal (one volume: 1869-70)
1870-1879			
JOHN, David	1871	1873	Journal

WILLIAMS, Miles Ll.	1874	1875	Referred to by Martell as visiting Cardiganshire
MARTELL, Thomas C.	1875	1876	Journal
LEIGH, Samuel	1875	1877	Referred to by Martell as being in Llanelli.
EVANS, Thomas D.	1875	1878	Journal
HOWELL(S), Lewis	1876	1878	Referred to by Leigh as being in south-west Wales
WILLIAMS, William N.	1877	1879	Referred to by Lewis as being in Carmarthen
HOWELLS, Thomas F.	1877	1879	Referred to Lewis as being in Pembrokeshire
LEWIS, Walter J.	1877	1879	Journal
LEWIS, Enoch	1879	1881	In Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire with John Evans
1880-1889			
EVANS, John	1880	1882	Journal
HARMON, Benjamin M.	1880	1882	<i>Star</i> refers to his being in Carmarthenshire in 1881
HARMON, Edwin	1880	1882	<i>Star</i> refers to his being in Carmarthenshire in 1881
DAVIES, Daniel	1881		<i>Star</i> refers to his being in Carmarthenshire with Thomas Perkins
RICHARDS, David	1881	1882	Journal
PERKINS, Thomas	1881	1883	Star refers to his being in Carmarthenshire with Daniel Davies
REESE, William G.	1882	1884	Diaries
MANTLE, Llewellyn J.	1883	1884	Confirmed in Wales incl. South-west Wales
JONES, Ricy H.	1885	1886	In Carmarthenshire with Lewis
THOMAS, Daniel F.	1885	1886	Served in Brechfa area
THOMAS, John	1886	1888	Journal

WATTERSON, William	1886	1889	Referred to by Thomas as assigned to Pembrokeshire
DAVIES, Thomas B.	1887		Referred to by Thomas as assigned to Carmarthen
DAVIES, Alma C.	1887		Referred to by Thomas as assigned to Pembrokeshire
DAVIS, Theophilus M.	1887	1888	Referred to by Thomas as being in south-west Wales
MORSE, Richard	1887	1889	Referred to by Thomas as assigned to Carmarthen
DAVIS, Timothy B.	1888	1890	Journal
THOMAS, H.H.	1889		Referred to by Davis as being in Carmarthen
EVANS, John T.	1889	1890	Referred to by Davis as being in Carmarthen
1890-1899			
GRIFFITHS, John J.	1889	1890	Referred to by Davis as being in Carmarthen
JONES, Evan	1893	1895	Journal
TREHARNE, William	1894	1896	Journal
GRIFFITHS, William T.	1895	1896	Journal
ELLIS, Ellis J.	1895	1896	Referred to by Price as being in south-west Wales
PRICE, Daniel E.	1895	1897	Journal
REES, David	1896		Referred to by Price as having transferred from Carmarthenshire
JONES, William	1896		Referred to by Price as having transferred from Carmarthenshire
PETERS, John W.	1899		Referenced in the <i>Star</i> as being in Saundersfoot
WILLIAMS, Benjamin	1899	1901	1901 census in Carmarthen with John Davis
1900-1903			
DAVIS, John	1900	1902	1901 census in Carmarthen with Benjamin Williams

