

Enquiry re Oak Piece from Original CGS.

Coalfields Heritage Group Inc,

Local History Society and Museum Management

Affiliated with Royal Australian History Society & Museums Australian & National Trust

Sir Edgeworth David Memorial Museum (established 1971)

Comerford Library, Archives and Research Centre (established 1996)

Postal address	The Secretary Coalfield Heritage Group 36 Gillies Street, Kurri Kurri, 2327	Phone: [REDACTED] Email [REDACTED] Museum address: Deakin St. opposite Greta St. Kurri High School grounds web site: www.coalfieldsheritagegroup.org
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ABN 39 277 163 1

Cowbridge Library
Vale of Glamorgan Council

Thursday
29.10.2015

The old Sixth Form of Cowbridge school

Today, Sir William Edgeworth Tannatt Davis is seen as a famous Australian – geologist, university professor, WWI soldier, and Antarctic explorer with Shackleton. However, he was originally an emigrant from Wales, being born on January 28, 1858, at the rectory of St Fagans, Glamorganshire, Wales, the eldest child of the Rev. William David (an Anglican minister) and his wife Margaret Harriett Thomson.

Yesterday, a great grand-son of Sir Edgeworth visited our Sir Edgeworth David Memorial Museum, where our Coalfields Heritage Group is housed, and donated several historic items to our valuable collection.

Two photos are attached of one item – a rectangular cut piece of very old hardwood, according to a very old label attached - "A piece of the old sixth form of Cowbridge School built A.D. 1685 ."

The mystery to us is to identify the origins of this piece of old hardwood – why was it so significant to Sir Edgeworth? It seems that he may never have attended this school, so was it just something to remind him of his early days growing up in Wales? Were the carvings on both sides a form of graffiti by school children, but they appear to be cut by someone more skilful.

Our Sir Edgeworth David Memorial Museum is located within the grounds of the Kurri Kurri High School, which is located in the centre of the South Maitland Coalfields, once the

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home to some 66 collieries. We are a regional History Society.

If you can shed any information we would be extremely grateful.

Regards -

Brian J. Andrews, Order of Australia Medallist (OAM)
secretary, Coalfields Heritage Group & Edgeworth David Museum.

A piece of the old sixth
form of Cowbridge School,
built A.D. 1685 and rebuilt



OXFORD

WALDEN

BRADY

INCIDIT. AD. 1840



OXFORD

[REDACTED]

2 November 2015

Dear Betty,

Thanks for the copies. One is expected to know where Kurri Kurri is - but I've never heard of it!

Fortunately I can throw some light on the piece of hardwood. It is apparently part of the 'sixth form' at Cowbridge. 'Form' in this sense is a long desk at which several pupils sat. (Some of these forms were still in the Schoolroom in the 1950s.) The carving does look rather skilful for the work of a schoolboy - but this is likely to be the work of William David who was born at Radyr Court in 1823.

He would have been 16 or 17 in 1840 and almost certainly then a sixth former at Cowbridge (but I can't prove that). He went up to Jesus College, Oxford, in 1842 and from 1857 to 1897 was the Rector of St Fagans.

The word at the bottom of the piece of wood is 'incidit' (= inscribed, or engraved). Someone else's initials are carved on the back.

His son, Sir Edgeworth David, was born in St Fagans in 1858 and was sent to Magdalen College School, Oxford, in 1870 at age 12. He was never at Cowbridge School.

There is a pedigree of the family (the Davids of Fairwater) in Burke's Landed Gentry (my copy comes from the 1952 edition).

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Yours ever,

Brian