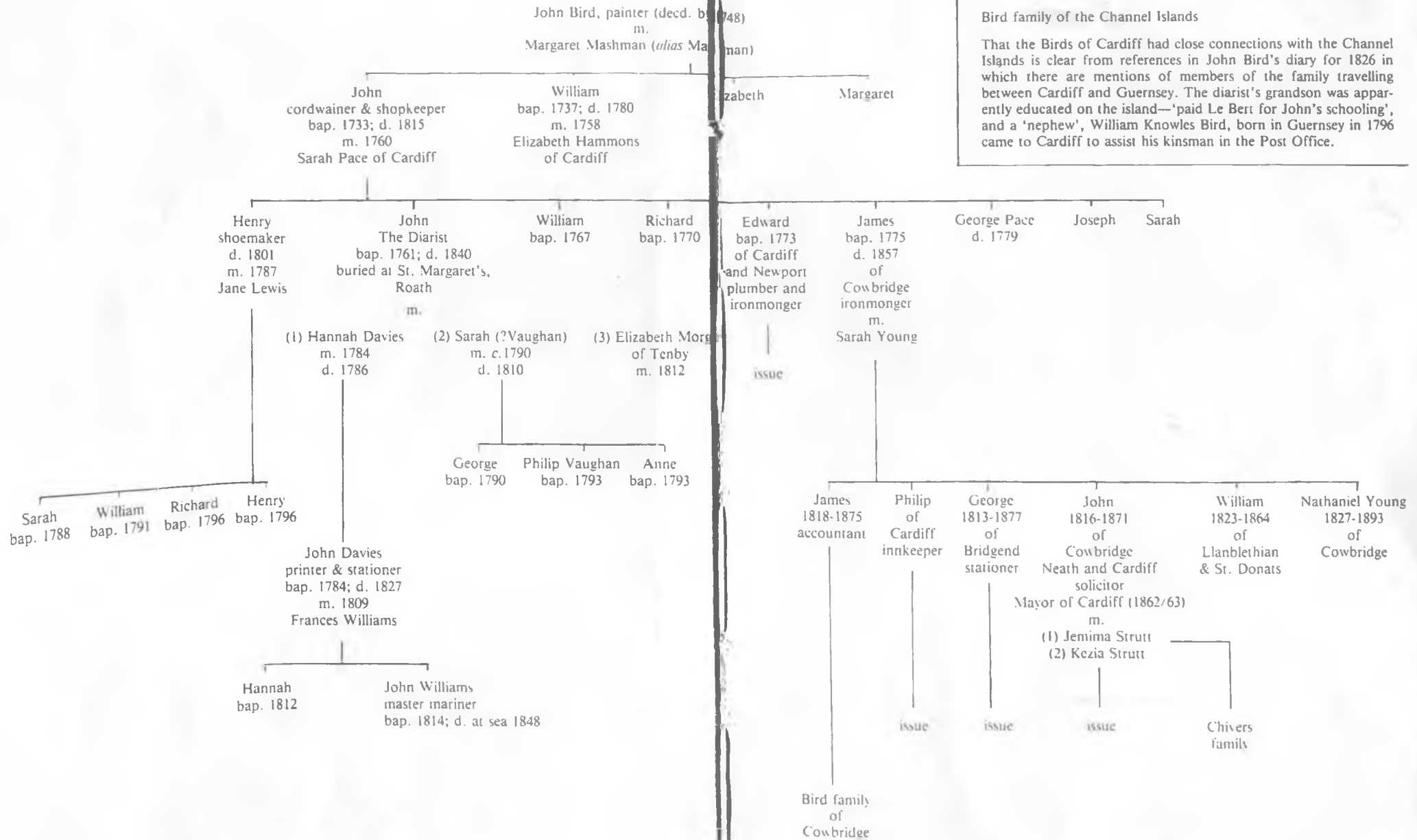


BRIEF PEDIGREE OF THE BIRD FAMILY OF CARDIFF

Bird family of the Channel Islands

That the Birds of Cardiff had close connections with the Channel Islands is clear from references in John Bird's diary for 1826 in which there are mentions of members of the family travelling between Cardiff and Guernsey. The diarist's grandson was apparently educated on the island—'paid Le Bert for John's schooling', and a 'nephew', William Knowles Bird, born in Guernsey in 1796 came to Cardiff to assist his kinsman in the Post Office.



The Diarist of John Bird. 1790 - 1803.
Edk Hilary m. Thomas.

The Bird Family, Cardiff.

The older members of the Bird family in Cardiff used to say that the first of their family who came to Glamorganshire was an artist. He had been employed by Sir Edward Stradling, of St. Donats to paint the pictures he wished to place in the mortuary chapel. When that commission was executed, Mr Byrd (as the name was then spelt), liking the country, settled in Cardiff. These pictures are still to be seen at St. Donat's, on the west wall of the Chapel of St. Mary, in excellent preservation. They are in panels of a large size. Their present good condition is due, I am informed, to their having been sent to London about 20 years ago by Dr. Carne to be restored, which restoration seems to have been most judiciously performed. These pictures represent Sir Edward Stradling, Knight, the 5th of that name, and Catherine his wife, and da. of Sir Thomas Gamago, of Coity, and the Lady Agnes Stradling, his wife, da. to Sir Ed. Gage, of Sussex, Knight, and Elizabeth, his wife, da. of John Parker, in the co. of Sussex, Esq., which said Sir Edward Stradling now in his lifetime has set forth these monuments of his ancestors, deceased, and by God's grace meaneth both he and his wife ~ company in this self same place, *Anno Domini* 1590. Above the picture is hung the iron helmet of a knight. This remarkable series of pictures are probably unique in monumental art.

In the nave of the church at St. Donat's is a mural monument to Richard Hyett, steward to Ed. and William Stradling, whose death took place in 1749, aged 70 years, with the following interesting epitaph:—

"It all men followed his example,
Their resurrection will be ample."

Alderman John Bird, diarist, born 1762, died 1871

The recent publication of a long series of interesting extracts from the diary of a famous Cardiffian of a century ago, Alderman John Bird, has given rise to some discussion as to his identity. Some confusion has arisen from the fact that during the 19th century there were 2 well-known figures in Cardiff of the name of John Bird, each of whom was an alderman of the borough.

Alderman John Bird, diarist, came of a Cowbridge family. During the first half of the last century, Mr James Bird, his brother, carried on the business of an ironmonger at Cowbridge. Mr James Bird had a large family, of whom one, who bore his uncle's name, was articled to the law, & who had his early legal training at Cowbridge & Neath. Alderman John Bird, who was by then getting an old man, took a warm interest in his promising young nephew, & it was he who was the first to encourage the young lawyer to come & start practice in Cowbridge. John Bird the elder had, however, been dead some five or six years before his nephew, who was then a young man about 30 years of age, eventually came to Cardiff. He soon proved himself to be an exceedingly good advocate, & speedily built up for himself a good practice. He was a Wesleyan.....During his early days in Cardiff he resided in Charles Street, but then moved to a house on the southern side of Crockherbtown, almost opposite where Windsor Place is now.

Glamorgan Gazette 1914, 27th February

Dear Betty,

Thank you for the superb family tree of the Birds. It tells us everything we need to know. My idea that Nathaniel Bird (1827-93) was married twice and was the father of Harold is quite wrong. Harold was the son of Nathaniel's brother James (1818-75) who married Catherine, daughter of the Rev. David Griffiths and the South African lady, Hendrica Oostwaldina (d.1867). My guess is that her maiden name was van Breda.

The Griffiths family were buried at Pendoylan, which explains why the later Birds were buried there too.

Harold Bird (1856-1941), for some reason, went to live with his mother's (Griffiths) family in Bonvilston, and was still living with them at the censuses of 1871 and 1881. John Davies of Eglwysbrewis (1796-1874), living at the Great House in Pendoylan, had married Elizabeth Griffiths. Harriet Griffiths, living in Metal Street, Roath, in 1881 was another of the daughters of the Rev. David Griffiths and the South African lady.

Remarkable how the Afrikaner names continued to be given in the Bird family.

Your notes on James Gilbert Harold Bird are very useful. You suspected that his father was not Nathaniel - an unusual mistake in the parish register.

The baptism of Catherine Griffiths at Bonvilston in 1822 was indeed Harold Bird's mother. She was buried at Pendoylan in 1869, but there does not seem to be an MI. Her husband, James Bird, apparently died in Australia.

The baptism of Catherine Emily in 1850 was probably at Michaelston super Avon (nowadays known as Cwmavon, near Port Talbot), not super Ely.

I suspect that the Harriet Griffiths and the Nathaniel Bird who appear in the poor law and workhouse records were not of the same family.

Thanks also for the notes on Honor Alice Williams. There is a gravestone in the Borough Cemetery of Honor Alice, wife of Alderman William Davies; she died 13 May 1935, aged 66. She is listed in Kelly's Directory for 1926 as: Davies Honor Alice (Mrs), stationer, 16 High Street. So she was living then in the house where she had been born.

With thanks for all the information and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. I trust that all our jabs will keep us safe from this new variant of Covid.

Your etc

Brian