

Anyone interested in any of the names mentioned here is invited to contact:-

Mr and Mrs Gresty, Kenton, 24 Wood Lane, Fleet, Hampshire, GU51 3EA

EVANS - THOMAS - PARRY THOMAS - MORDECAI - WALSH

John David EVANS, Tailor of Cowbridge, was born in Rhydcymerau in 1835 and died in Cowbridge on 27 July 1910. He was the son of David and Eleanor EVANS. His elder sister, Anne, married David THOMAS, the Tailor of Rhydcymerau, which is a small hamlet in Carmarthenshire between Llanybydder and Llansawel. His Father was also a Tailor but died when he was a small child.

He learnt his trade in London and in 1865 married Margaret MORGAN at Islington in London. She was the daughter of Thomas MORGAN, a Butcher, and was born at Wick, Bridgend. They had five daughters (the eldest two were twins) and a son who died in infancy. By 1871 they had settled in Cowbridge where Margaret died in 1882. John subsequently married (at a date unknown) Mary.....(?) who was born in Woolwich, Kent.

As Choirmaster of Ramoth Chapel, Cowbridge, it is suggested that he took his pseudonym "Ioan Mere" from his birthplace. Rhydcymerau held its own annual Eisteddfod for over sixty years, without a break until the late 1920's, which had a national following in Wales, so he may well have performed there.

Two of his nephews, sons of his sister Anne, who were both Tailors, followed him to Cowbridge; John THOMAS (died 1918) who lived in West Village and Joshua THOMAS (died 1897) who lived first at Llanblethian and then at 2 Aubrey Terrace, Cowbridge. Joshua was married to Ann MORDECAI of Penllyn whose brother William MORDECAI was the Landlord of the White Lion in Cowbridge for over twenty years.

Joshua and Ann THOMAS's son David PARRY THOMAS (PARRY was a family Surname from Rhydcymerau and those of the family who had been given it often adopted PARRY THOMAS as their Surname - as did Joshua's other two brothers, David and Evan, who had settled in Pontypridd) married in 1906 Mary Ann WALSH daughter of William and Margaret WALSH. The family had lived in Cardiff but are believed to have moved to the Vale before that date. She gave her address on the Marriage certificate as The Druids Hotel, Cowbridge and her Father is shown as deceased, but the date of his death has eluded us.

There are substantial family charts for the THOMAS and EVANS families of Rhydcymerau dating back to 1785/1798 respectively.

May 2004

x 11 Westgate + w Rachel (St Boris) + chs Wm 19, ornamental mason, Pwll, 16 Newport.
Brynley, 11, Mabel 8, Alfred 5.
+ m-i-l Mr Griffiths 68, St Bittys.

MR & MRS R. J. GRESTY
KENTON
24 WOOD LANE
FLEET, HAMPSHIRE
GU51 3EA

29 March 2004

Dear Mrs Weavers,

We spoke on the telephone and you very kindly said that you would see if you could help us over one of the memorial stones at the Church.

My wife's great grandparents (Joshua/Ann THOMAS d 1897 & 1930) and his brother (John/Rachel THOMAS d 1918 & 1938) are buried at Ramoth. Both were Tailors in Aubrey Terrace and Westgate, respectively, and John was a Senior Deacon and Sunday School Teacher. Some 12 years ago we were able to visit and see these two memorials and we have happy memories of the very warm welcome we received after the Sunday service. We have no problems concerning either of these two memorials.

Their Uncle John David EVANS, Tailor and Grocer of Church Street, also lived in Cowbridge and it is only recently that we have discovered, from the transcriptions made by the Glamorgan Family History Society, that there is also a memorial to him, his wife and young son. We also see from the Cowbridge Record Society booklet on Cowbridge People that he was the Choirmaster at Ramoth. It is with this memorial that we do have problems and wonder if all the transcription is correct as these old stones can be difficult to read.

I enclose a copy of the FHS transcription and the location of the memorial (assuming they have not been moved in very recent years). As we no longer drive or are able to visit Cowbridge easily we would be very grateful if you are able to assist us. Please do no more than add any answers to the enclosed page and return it at your convenience.

With best wishes,

Richard Gresty

UNITED FREE CHURCH, COWBRIDGE
WESTGATE, COWBRIDGE, VALE OF GLAMORGAN CF71 7AR

31 March 2004

Mr. R. J. Gresty
Kenton
24 Wood Lane
FLEET
Hampshire
GU51 3EA

Dear Mr. Gresty,

Thank you for your letter. I have tried to find out answers to the questions you raised, and as always have found it very interesting.

My friend and neighbour is a retired Welsh teacher and School Inspector, and with his help the full translation is as follows:

In memory of William Morgan, son of John Dafydd and Margaret EVANS of this town who died on December 27th 1879 at 11 months old / Margaret EVANS who died on 14th January 1882 at 44 years of age. Also John David EVANS (Ioan Mere) who died on 27th July 1918 at 73 years of age.

I have looked at the headstone today and confirm that the date 1918 and age 73 are correctly copied (although the 1918 looks more like 1910, probably due to a growth of lichen over the number 8).

Ioan Mere is a puzzle to my friend also, as the word Mere (it has a capital letter on the headstone) does not usually appear in today's written Welsh. He wonders if it was a name adopted by Mr. Evans if he wrote poetry or hymns, as was the custom in those days. He looked in a reference book which covers such names, but no trace was found. He also telephoned a friend at Lampeter University who again had not heard of the word Mere. He suggests that if you still wish to pursue this line of enquiry, a good place to start would be the National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth where they have a reference of pseudonyms (*mynegai a fugennau*), for the attention of Dr. Huw Walters, and saying you were referred to him by Gareth Watts, Lampeter.

Our old Church Records now rest with the Glamorgan Record Office, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff, Tel: 029 2078 0282, which is perhaps where your original information came from. As you say, in 'Cowbridge Buildings and People' it states that John Evans was choirmaster at Ramoth Baptist Chapel in 1891.

I hope this is of some help, and wish you well with your research.

All good wishes,

Margaret Weavers
Church Secretary

Kenton
24 Wood Lane
Fleet
Hampshire
GU51 3EA

Mr R.J. Gresty

28 April 2004

Dear Mrs Wearnes,

I promised to let you know if Dr Huw Walters of the NLW could resolve the problem of "Ioan Mere". I enclose a copy of his reply - sorry it is so poor but our local shop has a constantly failing copier.

Rhydcymerau had its own annual Eisteddfod until the 1930's so it is possible he took part as he had numerous relatives still there.

The tiny hamlet of Rhydcymerau is divided between three Parishes and he always (correctly) gave his place of birth as Llanybydder even after he moved to Cowbridge - with one exception - in the 1901 Census of Cowbridge he gave "Carmarthen, Rhydcymerau". This is the only Census entry I have ever seen mentionig Rhydcymerau, either as a location or place of birth. Maybe he was telling us something!

Once again, many thanks for your kind help and that of your neighbour.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Gresty

PS/ I am inclined to think that 1918 is in fact 1910 as you suggest. Bearing in mind that those born before Birth Certificates existed were often a year or two out over their ages in the absence of a family Bible, 1910 would make much more sense. - although he was probably 75 not 73.

2004/CASG/DATA/HW/139/MET

19 April 2004

Mr R. J. Gresty
Kenton
Wood Lane
Fleet
Hampshire
GU51 3EA

Dear Mr Gresty

Thank you for your letter dated 5 April regarding John David Evans ('Ioan Mere'). 'Ioan Mere' is, as you note, a pseudonym, but it does not appear in the extensive lists of Welsh pseudonyms, which have been compiled here at the Library over the years. Ioan Mere was probably a local folk poet, and a detailed search of the Welsh periodical press of the second half of the nineteenth century would probably locate some of his published verse. I have also searched the Library's catalogue of printed material, but to no avail. I suggest, indeed I am quite sure, that 'Mere' is derived from the name of his birthplace - Rhydcymerau, which is pronounced 'Rhydcymere' in colloquial south Wales dialect. It means: the ford over the river Cymere. I hope this information will be of interest to you.

Yours sincerely

Huw Walters

Dr Huw Walters
Head of The Bibliography of Wales Unit
Department of Collection Services
Tel: 01970 632901
Fax: 01970 632882
E-mail: hws@llgc.org.uk



Noddir gan
Lywodraeth
Cynulliad Cymru
Sponsored by
Welsh Assembly
Government

Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru
The National Library of Wales

Aberystwyth, Ceredigion
SY23 3BU

Ffôn/Tel: +44 (0) 1970 6328
Ffacs/Fax: +44 (0) 1970 6157
holl@llgc.org.uk
www.llgc.org.uk

Rhif Elusen Cofrestredig 52577!
Registered Charity Number 525

Mae'r Llyfrgell yn cadw manylion am gyflenwr grefnfa ddata er mwyn dilyn hanes archebion, rhyddid a chelidau adnau cyfreithiol, ac i hwyluso i gyfreithion archebion ar gyfer materion gwelyddol. Cefnwl yr wybodaeth am gyfnod rhesymol ddatgelir y manylion i sefydliadau allanol hefyd. Am ragor o wybodaeth ewch at w Llyfrgell www.llgc.org.uk/gwyb/dpa/index_c.htm cysylltwch â'r swyddog Gwarchod Data yn y ffôn uchod.

The Library maintains databases of supplier details in order to keep track of orders, donations and deposit claims, to facilitate the generation of invoices and for other administration purposes. Information will be retained for a reasonable period of time and will not be disclosed to any other organisations without your permission. For more information, please visit the Library's web page at www.llgc.org.uk/gwyb/dpa/index_c.htm or contact the Data Protection Officer at the above address.

Cowbridge Record Society

1 Mill Park Cowbridge CF71 7BG

01446 - 773373

24 June 2004

Dear Mr and Mrs Gresty,

Apologies for the delay in replying to your last letter: I have had rather a lot on my plate recently.

However, I now enclose a copy of the Email photo I mentioned. This is of the wedding in November 1906 of Edmund Ashelford and Pauline Myfanwy Evans, one of JDE's daughters. My correspondent stated "John Evans is the man with the beard in the centre. All Pauline's sisters are in the photo although we are not sure which is which. The lady with the bun is John Evans's second wife, and Mum thinks she was a Nurse and possibly Matron of the School at Cowbridge. Pauline Myfanwy was married at Ramoth Baptist Chapel on 28 November 1906. One of the witnesses was Ethel M Pickard". (Probably Eleanor or Nelly, who had married William Pickard). Edmund Ashelford was the son of George

The Cowbridge Board School Admissions Book shows five children of John D Evans: Ada and Bertha, both born 23/3/1866, Nelly, born 7/9/1867; Erionwy (sic) born 10/6/1870; and Myfanwy, born 28/7/1875. This book also shows Rowland Thomas, son of Joshua Thomas of Llb, b 23/12/1878; the book ended before the other children were admitted to school. It also shows an Ann M Thomas, born 11/5/1876, and Gertrude born 30/9/1878, both daughters of John Thomas of Cowbridge: I have not checked if these are your Thomases. Before he moved to Croft Terrace, Joshua almost certainly lived in the left-hand cottage of a pair near the Mill, now converted into one and called Mill Cottage (I believe).

John Thomas lived in 11, Westgate - the terraced cottage is still there. You no doubt have details of his marriage to Rachel Griffiths of St Brides, so I have not looked that up! Unfortunately I have no more information about either John or Joshua. I thought I might have found another link with my neighbour who was a Parry Thomas from Llanybydder, but she is a very keen genealogist and said that she was not linked to any of the people you mentioned. Shouldn't jump to conclusions! As yet I have no knowledge of the Walshes at The Druids Hotel - Annie Bridget Thomas was the landlady both before and after 1906.

Hope some of this is of interest.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Jeff Alden
Editor &c



reply to

File in: or

Subject: **Cowbridge**

Date: Tue, 26 Sep 2000 15:04:11 EDT

From: [REDACTED]

To: jeff.alden@talk21.com

Cc:

Dear Jeff

Thank you so much for your e-mail.

My Great Grandmother was born on the 28th May 1874 and was registered at birth as Myfanwy Daughter of John David Evans Master Tailor of Cowbridge and her mother was Margaret nee Morgan. Her father was also the Choir Master at Ramoth Baptist Chapel.

Pauline Myfanwy was married at Ramoth Baptist Chapel on the 28th November 1906 and her address is given as church Street, Cowbridge. The interesting thing on the marriage certificate is the name of one of the Witnesses, Ethel M Pickard. Mum is convinced that Paulines sister was Eleanor but I now wonder if she is mistaken and she is really Ethel. Pauline was 30 when she married so its possible that her sister married before her. We don't know which one of the sisters was the eldest. The Photograph we have shows John Evans with his daughters Pauline Myfanwy, Bertha & Ada (who were twins) Eironwy and Nellie.

I don't know if its helpful or of interest but Pauline Myfanwy married Edmund Ashelford who came from East Village, Cowbridge. Edmund's father George was a signal man come seedsman and both he and Edmunds mother Emma are buried in the Church yard at Llanblethian and now have my Grandmother Dorothy Myfanwy with them.

My mother remembers her mother telling her, her sister and Brother to wave to Auntie Nellie when they went through Cowbridge each year on their way to Newquay for their annual holiday. Nellie apparently used to sit in the top window of her house and watch the people go by.

My Grandmother loved Cowbridge and always talked about the Town and her memories of it. It was only due to ill health that she was never able to live there in her final years. When she died we all knew that it was the only place that she would really want to be.

Once again thank you for your help and I hope the information I have given you is useful.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Roberts.

Children of John D Evans (School Log Book)

Nelly	b	7.9.67
Ada		23.3.66
Bertha		23.3.66
Eironwy		10.6.70
Bertha again		23.3.67
Myfanwy		28.7.75