

found it so interesting, as my Great Great Grandfather Thomas Whitney (born 1820 Wolvesnewton) and married Mary Ann Collier in 1842, lived all his married life in Llanblethian. He lived in Bridge House and then Broadway Farm also. He had twelve children and I am researching them all as part of my family history. Two of his sons worked in the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge when they were in their teens and he has many descendents still living in the area in 1911. (That is the last census that I can refer to). My Gt. Gt. Grandfather is buried in Ramoth Baptist Chapel in Westgate, Cowbridge and I made the trip in May of this year to see his grave. I live in Lincolnshire and so do not get to Wales as often as I would like.

I wondered if you had any knowledge of the family, or had come across them in your research for your website. Thomas is mentioned in the book Llanblethian Buildings and People, published by the Cowbridge Record Society, who I have recently been in touch with.

I have attached a photograph of Thomas Whitney's grave for you to see. I would look forward to hearing from you, especially if you have any knowledge at all of my family.

Yours sincerely,

Diana Smith (nee Whitney)

Thank you for your email. It would be lovely if you were able to unearth anything about my family. I have already had a letter published in the Cowbridge Gem, about my Gt. Gt. Grandfather - Thomas Whitney, who lived in Llanblethian all his married life and had 12 children. He died in 1890 and is buried in Ramoth Baptist Chapel, Westgate, Cowbridge. If your free Newspaper is in the Cardiff area though, I know that 2 of my Gt. Gt. Granddad's sons moved to that area. One of them - William Whitney was in Whitechurch, Nr. Llandaff in 1901 and he had seven children, so he may have descendents in the area now. The Thomas Whitney that I had asked your Newspaper about, was Gt. Gt. Granddad Thomas's grandson. His daughter Beryl, married the son of the local Vicar - Ivor Bidgood in 1949, who was the son of the Revd. Ivor Thomas Bidgood. (Hope I have explained that well enough).

I have attached a copy of the letter that they very kindly printed for me in the Gem.

Look forward to hearing from you,

Regards,

Diana Smith (nee Whitney)

Date: Sun, 5 Dec 2010 20:33:48 +0000

My Gt. Gt. Grandfather & his wife were Thomas & Mary Ann Whitney, sometimes written as Witney. He lived in Llanblethian and I believe they had 13 children. I have recently been looking into the lives of these children and there are 3 of them that I can't find any information on, other than they were born. I am wondering if they may have possibly died at a young age.

Thomas & Mary Ann's first six children seemed to have been baptised at Llansannor Church. I only know this from the Church of the Latter Day Saints website, which can, I know, be unreliable at times. Llansannor was where Mary Ann was from. I noticed from looking at your website, that you have Parish Records for Llansannor.

The 3 children that I would like to find any details on are:

**Jane Whitney (Witney)** born 1843. She appears on the 1851 census as being 8 years old, but I cannot find anything in any further censuses for her. I would like the date of her baptism if possible and also if she possibly died before the 1861 census. It is possible that she married before the 1861 census, but I have not been able to find any record of it. Their address at the time of the 1851 census was: Penylan, Llanblethian.

**Jacob Whitney (Witney).** There seems to be two records for a baptism for him on the LDS website, one in 1850 and one in 1851, both say born to Thomas & Mary Ann Whitney. There are also two deaths for Jacob, one in 1852 and one in 1853. I'm not sure if this is a mistake, or if Thomas & Mary Ann actually had two children, both named Jacob.

**Thomas Whitney (Witney)** I have him baptised in Llansannor 24th July, 1853, according to LDS records. I have a feeling he may have died age 11, but cannot find any definite proof of that. He appears on the 1861 census age 7, living at - By Greenfield, Llanblethian. I have found a death on freebmd for a Thomas Whitney in 1864, in the Bridgend district but it doesn't give any age of course.

If you are able to help me with any of this information, I would be very grateful.

Best regards from,

Diana Smith (nee Whitney).

2011