

[REDACTED]

20.3.19

Dear Betty,

I'm not sure if I have found anything about Morgan Howells (or Howell) that your enquirer does not already know.

Most importantly, no connection with Cowbridge has come to light. I hoped that he might prove to be related to the Howell(s) family of Llwynhelyg - but there is no hint of that. Neither is there any reason to think that he was related to the Rev. Howell Howells (1750-1842).

Morgan, son of Morgan and Elizabeth Howell, was baptised at St Nicholas on 28 June 1794. His parents - Morgan Howell and Elizabeth Morgan - were married at St Nicholas 12 March 1793. They lived at Breach, a cottage on the side of the A48 between Sycamore Cross and the entrance to Cottrell. The will of Morgan Howell of St Nicholas was proved at Llandaff in 1807 (ref: National Library of Wales LL 1807/135).

A Welsh biography of M.H. by Evan Morgan was published in 1853, and a shorter biography in English, by David Harries Williams, in 1908. I had a look at the latter; it includes a rather poor reproduction of an oil painting of M.H. and a good photograph of his memorial in Ebenezer Chapel, Newport.

A brief article, by J.O.Evans of Trehill, in a Welsh periodical of 1931, is based on M.H.'s diaries, which at that time were in the possession of a grandson, James Evans of Peterston, a retired barrister and civil servant. They survived for most years from 1825 to 1852. (I don't know where they are now - but the first place to look for them would be the Calvinistic Methodist Archive at the National Library of Wales.)

Please let me know if I need to follow up anything mentioned above.

Yours ever,

Alan



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far as Wales is concerned the interest of the bishop arises solely from this family concatenation. Some indeed accused him of being somewhat of a Puritan, but the impression left by his many promotions at the hands of Charles I, especially his appointment to the see of Bristol in 1644 at a critical juncture in the royal fortunes, and by the tributes paid him by David Lloyd and Thomas Fuller, is that he was the most loyal of Anglicans (he was the last bishop to be consecrated in England for sixteen years).

*D.N.B.*; *Hist. Carm.*, ii, 139, 143, 159.

T.R.

**HOWELL, WILLIAM** or **GWILYM** (1705-75), almanac maker and poet—see Howell, Gwilym.

**HOWELL, WILLIAM** (1740-1822), Arian minister and Academy tutor; b. at Wincanton, Somerset, in 1740, the son of the Rev. William Howell of Birmingham. He was taught by his father and by Jenkin Jenkins (q.v.) of Llanfyllin. He went to Warrington Academy, 1759-60, and then to Carmarthen Academy, 1760-4, where according to the *Cofiant* he was a fellow-student of David Davis (Dafis Castell-hywel, 1745-1827, q.v.) He spent some time on the continent where he was in charge of the English church in Amsterdam. On his return he became minister of the church at Chelwood, near Bristol (1771-86), whence (1786) he was called to be minister of the Presbyterian church, Swansea, and senior tutor of the Academy there. He was in office for nine years until midsummer 1795 when a dispute arose between him and his fellow-tutor, John Jones, who is said to have had an ungovernable temper, and the Academy was closed for a time. Although he is alleged to have been an Arian, William Howell was not an advanced thinker. In 1813 he tendered his resignation on account of blindness, but withdrew it when he was offered a coadjutor. Unfortunately, agreement could not be reached as to who should be appointed, the church split into two factions, and Howell and his adherents broke away and founded the Castle Street Congregational church; the new chapel was opened in Dec. 1814 and, although he was not the minister, he became a member of it. The real cause of the trouble was that he refused to adopt the Unitarian doctrine, which was accepted by his successor, Richard Aubrey; this probably explains the 'rugged church business' as it was called. He d. 21 June 1822 and was buried in the High Street Presbyterian churchyard, Swansea.

*M.R.*, 1814, 203, 323; Jeremy, 69; W. J. Evans *MSS.*, in *N.L.W.*

T.O.W.

**HOWELLS, HOWELL** (1750-1842), Methodist cleric; b. 12 May 1750 at Ystradgynlais, Brecknock. As a young man he joined the Methodist society and began to preach when he was travelling in North Wales with

John Evans (d. 1784) (q.v.) of Cil-y-cwm. He was educated at Llanddowror school c. 1778 and was ordained deacon in 1781; when he was ordained priest in 1782 he was referred to as 'curate of Ystradgynlais.' After that, he is said to have served at Glynccorwg but later went to S. Nicholas, Glam., where he associated with David Jones, Llan-gan (q.v.) and came into collision with his parish priest because of his Methodism. He obtained an appointment as curate of Llanddiddan Fach, near Tre-hyl, and the local Methodists flocked there to receive communion. In 1818 he was forced to relinquish this appointment, and from that time until his death, 19 Jan. 1842, remained a staunch Methodist, frequently taking part in the ordaining of Methodist ministers. He was twice m. (1) to Miss Thomas, daughter of the parish priest of Bonvilston and (2) to Miss Samuel of Cowbridge.

T. Morgan, *Galarnad H.H.*, 1842; *Drys.*, 1842, 161-3; *Tadau Meth.*, ii, 300-5; Epp. Regg., S. Davids, no. 5.

G.M.R.

**HOWELLS, MORGAN** (1794-1852), Calvinistic Methodist minister; b. at the Breach, S. Nicholas, Glam., in May 1794, son of Morgan and Elizabeth Howells, who were members of the Tre-hyl Methodist society and communicated in Llanddiddan Fach church, where Howell Howells (q.v.), the Methodist curate, officiated. He received a smattering of education in the local schools but his father d. in 1807 and he had to go to Newport, Mon., to learn to be a carpenter. The vital importance of religion was brought home to him under the ministry of John Rees, minister of Gobaith (Hope) chapel, and he joined that church. He began to preach in 1815 and was ordained at the Llangeitho association, 1824. He was m. twice: (1) to Mary Lewis, sister of Richard Lewis ('Dic Penderyn,' q.v.), 1827 and (2) to Ann Morgan of Ebbw Vale, 1843. At the time of his second marriage he moved to Tredegar where he d. 21 March 1852. In the course of his short life he became the chief ornament of Calvinistic Methodism in Monmouthshire and was celebrated throughout Wales as a preacher. The liveliness of his imagination, the ardour of his emotions, and the warmth of his genius inevitably kindled the fervour of his congregations. In 1829 he built a chapel at Newport, and at one time the debt incurred on it nearly overwhelmed him, but he collected money over the whole country to pay for it. In 1903 a new chapel was built at Newport to his memory. In 1858, *Gweithiau Morgan Howells . . . pregethau a thraethodau*, was published under the editorship of Edward Matthews (q.v.).

E. Morgan, *Boanerges; sef Hanes Bywyd M.H.*, 1853; D. H. Williams, *Morgan Howell*, 1908; A. Morris, *The Story of Ebenezer, Newport*, 1916; *Cylch. Cymd. Hanes M.C.*, xvi, 49-53; *Drys.*, 1919, 418-19; *Lladmerydd*, 1910, 297; I. ap Nicholas, *Dic Penderyn*, 14, 54, 58.

G.M.R.

**HOWELLS, THOMAS** (Hywel Cynon, 1839-1905), collier, printer, poet, preacher, and musician; b. 12 Oct. 1839, at Glyn Neath,

= St Lythens