

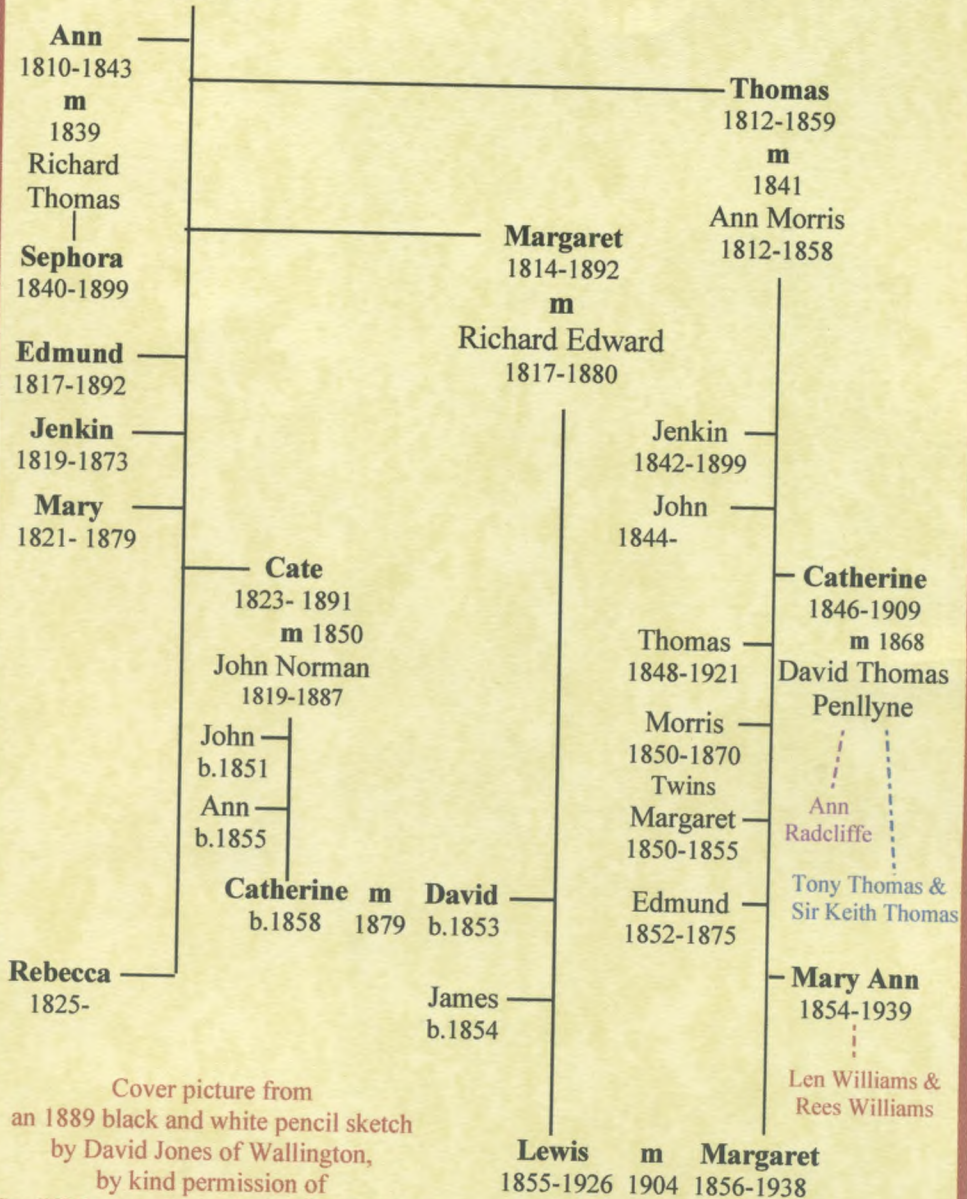
THE  
DAVID  
DYNASTY  
OF  
LITTLE MILL  
LANVITHIN



by  
*John M Cann*

# THE DAVID DYNASTY

**Thomas David**  
1787-1865  
m.1807  
**Gwenllian John**  
1786-1860



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**THE DAVID DYNASTY**  
**BEING THE DESCENDANTS**  
**OF**  
**THOMAS AND GWENLLIAN DAVID**  
**OF**  
**LITTLE MILL, LANVITHIN, LLANCARFAN,**  
**IN THE**  
**COUNTY OF GLAMORGAN**

**Thomas David was the Miller and tenant of Little Mill Lanvithin from 1809 until 1850. He was succeeded by his youngest son, Jenkin, who stayed there until sometime between 1856 and 1858, some 50 years after his father had first come to the Mill.**

**'A brief History of Little Mill Lanvithin' (Malthouse, August 2002, & May 2006) gives a history of the Mill itself. There were three millers surnamed David before Thomas. Ieuan David in 1602 followed by his son and then George David in 1723. It is not known whether they were related to Thomas.**

**Thomas David not only was the miller for a long time, he also started a long line down to the present day. Due to the 2002 publication on Little Mill three of Thomas's descendants and their families are now in contact, two still live in or near Llanccarfarn.**

**This is the story of the family tree of Gwenllian and Thomas David of Little Mill.**

### **The parentage of Thomas David**

Both Thomas & Gwenllian were of Welsh St. Donat's when they were married there in 1807. Thomas signed his will with a cross, so it is unlikely that he filled in any of the census documents in which he appears. In 1851 it is claimed that he was born in St. Lythans. In the 1861 - Llancafán. He was 77 in 1861, so is more likely to have given Llancafán in error, having lived there most of his life and had all his children there. It would also be surprising for St. Lythans to be conjured out of the blue in 1851. He was born according to the 1851 & 61 censuses and his gravestone around 1783 and the 1841 census around 1786. There was a Thomas David baptised in Llancafán in May 1784, son of Thomas and Mary, who had also a son Evan a year older. It is perhaps more likely that he is the Thomas David baptised in St. Lythans on 12 Dec 1787, son of Edmond & Ann David. In which case he would have had three older siblings Edmond, David (there was a David David witness to the marriage of Edmund Davies in 1850 - see p9) and Blanch and one younger Llewellyn. None of these are mentioned in his will, one assumes even the younger could have died before him, although he would have been 77 when he died on the 2nd Jan 1865, not 82 as his gravestone claims. If he is this Thomas his father and elder brother were both named Edmond, he named his first son Thomas as was only proper, but his second Edmond. His mother would have been Ann, and he named his first daughter Ann. This strongly suggests that this was his family, that his father was Edmond the miller at Lidmore Mill, Wenvoe, and so Thomas is likely to have been trained there. Edmond David married Ann Price in Llancafán on the 29 September 1778. Ann was the daughter of Griffith Price and Elizabeth Evan who were married at St. Lythans in 1748, one of her brothers was Llewellyn Price, the four times married parish clerk of Llancafán. Another of her brothers was Thomas Price, Miller and Carpenter at Dyffryn.

### **David or Davies ?**

Thomas & Gwenllian were certainly Welsh speaking, though must also have spoken English. Their gravestone is in English with a short Welsh text. All their children would have spoken both languages but their three male children Thomas, Edmond and Jenkin used the name Davies as well as David (they would appear to have been turning English). Certainly those of their grandchildren that can be checked also spoke both languages, as did some of their great grandchildren, but all the documents and letters available<sup>3</sup> are in English. There is no evidence that Thomas the father ever used Davies. The random use of David and Davies adds slightly to the complication of tracing the family, as does the variety of spellings of Sephora, and the use of both Thomas and David for her and her mother's surname. These various spellings of the names will be used as they are in the documents that tell their story.

## The David Dynasty

### Thomas David (1787-1865) & Gwenllian (née John) (1786-1860)

The story of Thomas & Gwenllian David of Little Mill, Lanvithin and their descendants is quite remarkable. Three of the present older generation (and some of their children) are still closely associated with Llancarfan, though no longer with Little Mill. Thomas David and Gwenllian John were both of Welsh St. Donats when they were married there on 7th November 1807. They had seven children all born in Little Mill, Lanvithin in the parish of Llancarfan.

### Ann Thomas (née David) (1810-1843)

Their eldest child Ann was baptised in Llancarfan church on 30th June 1810. In spring 1839<sup>7</sup> she married Richard Thomas, a butcher of Peterston-Super-Ely, five years older than her. They had a daughter Sephora, born in Little Mill and baptised in Llancarfan as *Deborah* Thomas in 1840. It doesn't look as though Ann ever lived with her husband Richard, though she is '*wife of*' on her gravestone in Zoar Chapel, Bonvilston. She was Ann Thomas in the 1841 Census when she was a servant in Monknash and *Seppora* was with her '*at nurse*' aged one while Richard was living with his mother, a shopkeeper, (neither of them appear in later Glamorgan censuses, maybe he died when Ann did.). Ann died in November 1843, leaving Sephora living with her grandparents Thomas & Gwenllian. In 1850, when Thomas retired, Sephora moved with them to Kenson, on the boundary between Penmark & Llancarfan. She is Sephora Thomas, granddaughter and house servant aged 10 in the 1851 Census.

They all moved to Bonvilston in 1857 and again she moved with them in 1859 when they went to Llanbethery to look after the large family of Thomas their eldest son, who had died (his wife Ann had predeceased him by a year)<sup>1</sup>. *Zipporah David* is there in the 1861 census, though Gwenllian her grandmother had died in May 1860, and Thomas now aged 77 (*in the census*) was left looking after eight grandchildren and farming his son's 20 acres.

At the beginning of 1862 Sephora was taken to Cardiff by her grandfather and her Aunt Catherine Norman (née David) and found to be pregnant.<sup>2</sup> She was sent to live with Aunt Catherine in St. Athan. Her grandfather joined her when the Llanbethery home was broken up shortly afterwards. On the 30th December 1862 the baby was baptised Miriam *David* in Llancarfan, daughter of Sephora *David* and William Samuel, farmer, of Llanbethery. As the elder William Samuel had a wife, one hopes that this was the son, also called William, who was of a similar age to Sephorah. What happened to Miriam is unknown, she was not with *Sephira* Thomas and her Aunt Catherine Norman in Canton, Cardiff in the 1871 Census, nor any later documents.

#### Timothy Kemp

Timothy claimed to have been born in St. Fagans ca.1832. He was the son of Timothy (an agricultural labourer) & Rebecca who both hailed from Kemble in Wiltshire. He was with his parents in Llancadle in 1851, and married Mary David (aged 25) in the summer of 1857. They had a daughter Ann E. in 1858. Mary was buried in Penmark in Aug 1860. In 1861 Ann E. aged 3, called a niece, is with Henry Davis, a shoemaker and his wife Mary, a schoolmistress, their surname was previously David. Timothy Kemp (an agricultural labourer, as he was in 1851) is with his father-in-law John David, also by then an agricultural labourer aged 59, in the Aberthaw / Fonmon area of Penmark parish. By 1871 Timothy and his daughter Ann (now 12) are reunited, living in Fontigary. Timothy's father, now a widower, is living with them. Ann is not with her father in 1881, 1891 nor 1901 when, a widower for the second time, he is living by himself in Rhoose. Timothy probably died early in 1903.

It would be satisfying if his first wife Mary David was a member of Thomas David's family and was how Sephora met Timothy. But it is not possible to make the connection. Nor does it seem possible that Ann E. was a niece of Henry and Mary Davis who looked after her after her mother's death. Mary David was baptised in 1831, one of six children of John, a shoemaker, and Ann, who were married in Penmark in June 1828. John and Ann were both born in Penmark with the surname David and baptised there in 1801, as were Henry and Mary, both baptised in 1809. Unfortunately, John's parents seem to be a John & Ann, Henry's a John & Cecil, Ann's a John & Margaret David, and Mary's a William & Mary David. Practically the only possibility of a relationship is if John's mother was the Ann buried in Penmark in March 1809, and his father John had already given Cecil a baby, Henry, baptised in Nov. 1809! Then Henry and John would be step-brothers, which might explain why both were once shoemakers, as indeed was one of Mary's brothers. Ann E. would then be Henry's great niece. She was not with her father Timothy and Sephora in 1881.

In Spring 1880 *Zipporah* Thomas married Timothy Kemp, a widower ten years her senior. Though Sephora used the surname Kemp in 1879 when she made a formal statement to a solicitor to help settle a dispute over the inheritance of the children of her Uncle Thomas Davies of Llanbethery (*see p. 22*).<sup>1</sup> They lived in Porthkerry in 1881 and 1891 and do not appear to have had any children.

Sephora always considered herself as her grandparent's daughter, never having known her parents. She says that her grandfather promised her £5 a year when he died.<sup>1</sup> But when Thomas David died in 1865 no such bequest was in his will. Instead he left most of his estate (including leasehold properties in Cardiff) to his sons Edmund and Jenkin, but in trust to provide Sephora with '*any money or monies she might need*'.

#### The Will of Thomas David 1864

It is perhaps surprising that Thomas David trusted his sons Edmund and Jenkin with his estate, considering how careful he was in his will to avoid any tricks by his son-in-laws.

His estate would have been of some value as he had leasehold houses in both Hills Terrace and Tredegar Street, Cardiff. He required Edmund and Jenkin to provide his granddaughter Sephora with '*any sum or sums of money that they may think her in need of before she receives the share due to her from the sale of my leasehold property, and deduct the same from the rent received from the said leasehold property*' When Edmund and Jenkin saw fit they were to sell up these houses and share the proceeds equally between Thomas's sons, daughters and Sephora. Much, if not all of his furniture was being kept in his daughters' homes, one item was willed to Edmund's wife and the rest to Sephora. Thomas was clearly keen to see equitable distribution of the money from the sale of the houses, so carefully inserted '*Should my Trustees have to pay any money on account of Promissory Notes which I have signed on behalf of Richard Edwards Lancarvan (one son-in-law) and also on behalf of John Norman Saint Athan (another) my will is that the same amounts be deducted out of the money due to their wives from this my Will. And in the event of Thomas Roberts of Bonvilstone (another) or John Norman of Saint Athan making any charge for the keeping of any furniture which is now in their custody my will is that the same be paid and deducted out of the money due to their wives from this my Will.*'

Edmund payed Aunt Catherine Norman 4/- a week for Sephora's 'place' with them at St. Athan for ten years.<sup>1</sup> Edmund and Jenkin as executors were also required to sell up their father's estate within 20 years and divide the money equally between his five remaining children and Sephora. She had received nothing at all by 1879<sup>1</sup>. Thomas also bequested all but a few items of his household furniture to Sephora, again there is no evidence that she got them<sup>1</sup>. *Tapporah* Kemp was buried from Rhoose at Porthkerry Church on the 2nd February 1899 aged 58, probably the last of the line from Ann Thomas, Gwenllian and Thomas David's eldest child.

### **Thomas Davies or David** (1812-1859)

Thomas & Gwenllian David's second child & eldest son Thomas was baptised in Llancarfan church on the 3rd November 1812. It is his children who have left the greatest amount of evidence of their existence. All the present generation of descendants that we know of in Llancarfan and elsewhere are from his line. So the other children of Thomas and Gwenllian will be dealt with first, before they appear again in Thomas Davies's story.

### **Margaret Edward (née David)** (1814-1892)

Thomas and Gwenllian's third child Margaret was baptised in Llancarfan Church on the 30th November 1814. She was still living with them in 1841 (*though the census has her as 20, doubtless a misreading of 26*). She later married Richard Edward, who had started preaching in Bethlehem Welsh Baptist Chapel, Llancarfan in 1839 and was a couple of years younger than her. In an article on Richard Edward in *Seren Gomer* in 1904 it is said "*Richard Edwards was considered wise to marry a young gentle woman, a member of the methodist chapel and in this area Mrs Edwards remained for the rest of her life, a handsome wife still, a good wife to the Minister of the Baptist chapel Llancarfan*".<sup>5</sup> The author of this article later reports a meeting with Margaret "*In August 1856 I visited their house and Mrs Richard Edwards was very welcoming, but her husband was in Tondou.*".



By the 1851 census they were living in Llancarfan and had a seven month old son Thomas. In the 1861 census Richard is a *'Local Baptist Minister'*. It looks as though they lost Thomas, but now have three sons, David (8), James (7) and Lewis (6). They are still living in Llancarfan in 1871, but only James, an agricultural labourer, is still living with them. They were still there in 1879<sup>2</sup> possibly with James, his wife Emily and their baby Albert (though they may have been living in The Parsonage with Emily's parents).

**Richard Edwards**  
**Welsh Baptist Minister in Llancarfan 1817 - 1880**

There is a lot of information on Margaret David's husband in an article written in 1904.<sup>5</sup> According to this he was born and bred, lived and preached in Llancarfan. Census data however gives his birthplace as Bonvilston, otherwise the facts in the article are likely to be correct. Richard was baptised by Mr Robert Pritchard at Bethlehem Baptist chapel (most likely nearby in the stream). This was sometime between 1829 and 1835. About 1839 Richard Edwards started preaching as did Bassett Edward Thomas. When the existing ordained minister (Mr Robert Williams) departed for America they were joined in 1842 by Dr Levi Thomas an ordained minister. *"Bassett Edward Thomas was the organiser, Richard Edwards the man of feeling and Dr Levi Thomas was the one who made a crowd one"*.<sup>5</sup>

Richard Edwards was a ploughman or a gardener <sup>5</sup> possibly the latter as in a poem is *"A blond haired man from Llancarfan / The son of the orchard during the day"*.<sup>5</sup> He and Bassett Edward Thomas, son of a farmer from Llanbethery, were both ordained joint ministers of the Llancarfan Baptists in 1848.<sup>5&5a</sup> *"On Sunday July 27 1851 Richard Edwards was preaching to a crowd of people on the bank of the river and Bassett Edward Thomas was baptising in the river"* <sup>5</sup> *"A respectable man and wife, Mr and Mrs Morgan, Fonnon, were baptised 27 July 1851 in the river near the chapel. Brother R. Edwards preached, and B.E.Thomas baptised them. There was a numerous congregation of every class."* <sup>5b</sup> But *"Rarely could Richard Edwards take part in the monthly Vale of Glamorgan meeting, as he was at home in his garden, content on the hill, digging in the valley, and threshing the abundance after the harvest"* (a metaphorical allusion to his faithful work in his own spiritual patch, as well as probably literally correct) *"But he did preach twice in the monthly meeting in Pisga, Pyle in November 1851"*. <sup>5</sup>

*Marmora* the author of the article was David William Morris, a baptist minister then 80 years old. He visited Richard's house in August 1856. Richard was not there but in Tondy, where he was a minister for two years. *"It was in Llancarfan that Richard Edward died on March 25 1880, 63 years old. He was buried in the Baptist cemetery in Llancarfan. It is appropriate because he was Richard Edwards, Llancarfan born and bred, was a 'member', preached and was ordained there."* <sup>5</sup>

Richard died on the 25th of March 1880 aged 63. His gravestone in Bethlehem says '*In affectionate memory of the Rev. Richard Edwards, ....*' It also records Margaret's death on the 28th of April 1892 aged 77. She had remained in Llancarfan until after the 1881 census. She was a Grocer, and had her son Lewis with her and two lodgers, both carpenters and joiners. She moved to 281 Cowbridge Road East to live with Lewis by the 1891 census.

In 1871, aged 18, **David** was an apprentice wheelwright with his uncle John Norman in St. Athan. David's cousin, Catherine Norman, aged 13, was also there. They married in early 1878. In 1881 he was a fully fledged wheelwright, most likely still working with his father-in-law / Uncle, who now had a wheelwright business in Canton. David & Catherine lived in Llyndu Cottage, Llandaff with two sons Richard (2) and baby John (4 months). By 1891 they lived in 17 Kenilworth Rd. Cadoxton, David was a Relieving Officer (*an official who administered relief to the poor*) and they had another child, a daughter Katie 5 years old, and a lodger, a 32 year old schoolmaster from Llanelli. In 1901 they had moved up-market to 24 Harbour Rd. Barry, Richard was a '*Ministerial Student - Presbyterian*' taking after his grandfather. John was a railway clerk and both he and Richard now only spoke English, whereas when younger in 1891 they had also spoken Welsh.

**James**, who was the only child still living with his father and mother in Llancarfan in 1871, married Emily the daughter of Morris Griffiths, the Llancarfan Blacksmith, and his wife Eliza. Their son Albert was born in Llancarfan in 1878 when Emily was 19, so they were either living with Emily's parents (in the Parsonage) or Richard & Margaret Edward. In the 1881 census they lived in 18 South Luton Place, Cardiff, James was now a carpenter. By 1891 they were in 1 Market Road in Canton with no further children, but with Emily's young sister Margaret, a 17 year old dressmaker. James was now a foreman wheelwright, doubtless of his cousin John Norman's business, as 1 Market St. was where he lived in 1881 (*see pp. 16 & 17*).

In 1901 James was now a Railway Engine Inspector, they were living in 200 Cowbridge Rd., their son Albert was a Hotel Clerk married to Annie from Carmarthen with a baby Emily. James's widow Emily was living in 3 Kingsland Road, Canton, Cardiff in 1938.<sup>6</sup>

**Lewis** was not in Llancarfan in 1871, though back there with his mother in 1881 after his father died. Lewis was a grocer and insurance agent. By 1891 Lewis is no longer a grocer but still an insurance agent and head of the household in 281 Cowbridge Rd East, Cardiff, the rest of it consisting only of his mother Margaret and Alice Evans a servant of 26. His mother died in 1892 and by 1901 Lewis was living with his cousin Thomas Davies, eldest son of Thomas and Ann Davies of Llanbethery, a Grocer in 8 North Clive St. Canton, and Thomas's sister and assistant Margaret. Lewis was probably back doing a bit of grocering alongside his insurance activities. Rather like his brother David, in Spring 1904, aged 48, he married his cousin Margaret (also 48). They probably set up house next door in 6 North Clive St. his address in his will proved in 1926 when he would have been 71.<sup>6</sup>

### **Edmund Davies or David** (1817-1892)

Thomas and Gwenllian's fourth child Edmund was baptised on the 6th May 1817 in Llancarfan church. By the time he was 24 he had left Little Mill. Where he was or what he was doing is unclear. From the 1841 census he possibly could have been an agricultural labourer in Llantwit Major or just a labourer in Bridge Street, Cardiff. Neither of these seem very likely as at his marriage in October 1850, the Aberdare Parish Register shows he is a grocer in Cardiff, son of Thomas Davies, a farmer. He married Joanna Williams born in Aberdare ca. 1811, daughter of Rees Williams, a farmer (her mother was probably Jane). The register has Joanna resident in Cwmbach, a region of Aberdare, this was possibly with an elder sister Mary Jones. It is likely that her parents were dead before 1841. One of the witnesses was a David David (*an unknown cousin, or maybe his uncle ? - see p2*).

In the 1851 census, Edmund, still a grocer, and Joanna were in 1 Trinity Street, Cardiff. (*In 1841 the grocer in Trinity St. was John David (27) with a wife Mary & two young children - another cousin perhaps?*) While there are some contradictions in the Census documents, it looks as if they left Cardiff in about 1855, lived in Gileston for four years and then moved to Penarth.

In 1861 Edmund was still a grocer, but living in Windsor Place, Penarth (*an unidentified address apparently in Salop St.*) and had five children - Mary Ann (9), Margaret (7), Sarah (5), Rees (3) and Alice (1). He had also become the main person responsible for the welfare of the eight orphaned children of his elder brother Thomas (of Llanbethery - *see pp. 20 & 21*), a task he appears to have performed with a firm eye on his own financial gains.<sup>2</sup> Nonetheless, he does appear to have dealt with the apprenticeship of two of Thomas's sons & to have taken two sons and one daughter into his home, albeit briefly and in the case of the girl as a servant. He had also built houses in Christina St., the Docks, Cardiff alongside those of his brother Thomas (*see p. 20*).<sup>3</sup> By 1871 he had moved to Harcourt Street (probably Arcot St. and likely to have been his shop) still in Penarth. His two eldest daughters were working in the shop as was a Grocer's assistant, who also lived with them. Joanna had now had twins, David James and Edmund Walter (8) and another son Thomas Jarvis (3). Edmund was executor of his father's will, and probably dealt with that as carefully as he did his brother's (*see p.5*).

By 1881, when he finally settled the inheritance of Thomas's children he had moved to Swansea where he had 7&8 Humphrey, Grocer & Outdoor Licence, and employed three assistants. These were Joanna, who was called a Grocer and Mary Ann (now 28) and Alice (now 21) who were both '*In shop grocer's assistants*'. Margaret had married Adolphus Sims early in 1881, but the three younger children were still with them. Joanna died in late 1886 aged 63. Edmund made his will on 7 Aug 1888, he was still in Swansea at 8 Montpellier Terrace so had probably already retired.

By 1891, Edmund had moved back to Penarth, 78 Salop St, with his daughter Mary Ann. Edmund died on 31 January 1892. The will of "*Edmund Davies or David*" is of interest, he had five leasehold houses in Christina St, Bute Town, Cardiff and two in Frederick St. Cardiff. All these he left to his four daughters Mary Ann Davies, Sarah Jane Davies, Margaret wife of A.N. Sims, and Alice wife of W.H. Thomas. Edmund also had leasehold houses and properties in Arcot Street and Salop Street Penarth. These doubtless included his earlier shop and where he was living in 1891. He left these to his four sons Rees William, David James, Edmund Walter and Thomas Jarvis. This also reveals that Sarah and Rees, the two children claimed by the 1861 census to be born in Gileston, who never reappeared with the family in the later censuses, did survive and were still alive when Edmund made his will.

In fact Edmund split his Household furniture and effects between Mary Ann, with whom he was living and Sarah Jane, probably the only daughters who weren't married. (Sarah Jane was still unmarried in 1921, according to the will of her cousin Thomas Davies - *see p. 26*)<sup>6</sup> He also had enough books to share out between Mary Ann, Margaret, Sarah Jane and Thomas Jarvis. So he had clearly built up quite an estate. We don't know how much of it was generated by showing restraint in the allocation of the estates of his father and his brother Thomas.

### Jenkin David or Davies (1819-1873)

Thomas David the Miller's next child Jenkin was the son that stayed to work in Little Mill and succeeded his father as the Miller. He was baptised at home in Lanvithin Mill on 4th April 1819,<sup>4</sup> by which time Thomas and Gwenllian must have become non-conformists, as all the rest of their children were baptised at home or in Aberthaw.<sup>4</sup> Jenkin married Margaret Mumford (aged 24) of Llantrithyd at the Ebenezer Chapel, Cardiff, on the 18th October 1845.

He took over the Mill around 1850 when his father retired to live in Kenson with Gwenllian and their orphaned granddaughter Sephora. Jenkin and Margaret had two children born in Lanvithin Mill, Richard (bapt. 27 July 1851) and Gwenny (bapt. 25 Nov 1855). Despite Jenkin being baptised a non-conformist and married in Chapel, both these children were baptised in Llancarfan Church.

Although Jenkin was present in Llanbethery when his elder brother's wife Ann died on 14th March 1858,<sup>6</sup> he had moved from the Mill with his family to Salop Street, Penarth by the time his next child Margaret was born also in 1858. With Edmund, Jenkin was joint executor of his father's will and his brother Thomas's, but appears to have left it all to Edmund. Certainly he took no hand in controlling Thomas's legacy.<sup>3</sup> The evidence of his will<sup>6</sup> shows that he couldn't write, which possibly explains this but does not explain why he appears to have taken no part in looking after Thomas's children.

In the 1861 census he was an innkeeper in Salop Street, doubtless the Plymouth Hotel. While he was still Jenkin David in his father's will of 1864, the family were called Davies and still in Salop St. in the 1871 census with another daughter Pattie Mary born in 1861. Jenkin and his wife Margaret (aged 40) are now '*Omnibus Proprietors*', and their eldest son Richard is a ship's carpenter. In fact like three other Inns in Penarth they were running horse-drawn coaches to take people to and from Cardiff.

"*Jenkin David or Davies of the Plymouth Hotel, Penarth*"<sup>6</sup> died at the age of 55 on the 11 April 1873 leaving his younger children in the guardianship of his wife Margaret and his son Richard, then 22, until such time as Margaret died or remarried when she would no longer have the guardianship of her children or any rights to his estate, which was to be divided among the children.<sup>6</sup> Jenkin appears to have done reasonably well despite being unable to write.

### Horse Buses

Jenkin and Margaret were among the first people to run horse buses from Penarth to Cardiff. The earliest 'carrier service' was in 1860, a small spring cart capable of carrying four to five people and 'parcels'. By 1865 two more services running small carts with tarpaulin covers were in being, one being run by the landlord of the Clive Arms. During the 1860's these services were joined by three passenger services all from other hotels. The landlord of the Dock Hotel, Maugham Terrace had by 1871 three horse buses and seven horses. The landlord of the Ship Hotel on the corner of Glebe and Maughan Streets ran an hourly service from the Ship to St. Mary St., Cardiff. And Jenkin Davies/David ran omnibuses from the Plymouth Hotel. All these services were bought out (ca 1871) by Solomon Andrews, who was thus the proprietor of the horse bus shown in the photograph which is from around 1890 & the earliest picture available showing a complete bus.

*(information and picture by courtesy of Alan Thorne.)*



Margaret *Davis* had not remarried by 1881, and the family were living in 1 Luton Place Cardiff. Richard was unmarried and still a ship's carpenter. Gwenny, still unmarried, had her name enhanced to Gwendoline, (*English to match the Davis!*) rather than her grandmother's Gwennlian, after whom she would have been christened. Pattie was unmarried and a dressmaker and Margaret had married Edwin Jarvis, a carpenter born in London, and had two children, Richard (2) and baby Bertram.

The baby must have died young but by 1891 Margaret & Edwin (now a Cabinet Maker) had three more children, Frank, Arthur and William and were living in 3 Oxford St. Roath, Cardiff. Jenkin's widow Margaret was also living in Roath, at 8 Wordsworth St. with her daughter Gwendoline, who was married to David Evans a Master Mariner from Swansea, their two sons David (5) and Richard (3), plus Marjorie (5) and Gerald (3) the children of Pattie who married James Gordon in the Spring of 1884. Richard is not in the 1891 or 1901 census, at sea perhaps.

Shortly after 1891, Gwendoline took her mother Margaret with her to 19 Grove Place, Penarth, where a third child Frank Aubrey was born in 1893. (the 1901 census has only Gwendoline and her three children there, her husband was doubtless at sea). Margaret died in Penarth on 22nd October 1899, aged 79 and is buried where she was born, in Llantrithyd, as was her husband Jenkin (both with the name "Davies").

**Mary Roberts (née David)** (1821- 1879)

On the 19th April 1821 Gwenllian's sixth baby, Mary, was baptised at home in Little Mill.<sup>4</sup> Apart from one five year gap (between her second child Thomas and her third Edmund) Gwenllian had babies every two years, and continued to do so having two more after Mary. Mary was 20 in 1841, and already married to Thomas Roberts a blacksmith working with his 65 year old father Henry in Bonvilston. By 1851 they already had three children, Henry (4), Thomas (3) and a baby Mary Ann. Thomas Roberts had now taken over the business and was flourishing, he was a blacksmith and farmer of 30 acres and employed a young smith and ironmonger, a farm labourer and a girl house servant. By 1861, Mary was emulating her mother in production of babies, they had three more children, Ruth (7), Jenetta (5) and Catherine a babe in arms. By 1871, when their address is given as 'Farm House' Bonvilston, Jenetta was no more, but another two children had been born, John (8) and Sarah Jane (6). So Mary had eight babies by the time she was 43, of whom seven survived.



Mary died in Oct 1879 aged 58 and her husband Thomas in Aug 1897 aged 79, both are buried in Zoar, Bonvilston, near Mary's parents and sister Ann.<sup>6</sup> In 1881 their son Henry was a Publican and Smith (34) living in the Red Lion, Bonvilston with his sister Mary Ann as housekeeper. His brother Thomas was a Butcher and Innkeeper running the Dynevor Arms, Pentyrch with a wife Eliza.

### **Catherine Norman (née David)** (1823- 1891)

Two years after Mary, Gwenllian's seventh child arrived. She was baptised Cate in Aberthaw <sup>4</sup> on the 24th October 1823. She was to become invaluable as a support to many other members of the family and their children. One assumes she spent her early years in Little Mill, but was not there by the time she was 18. The most likely entry in the 1841 census is a Catherine David a servant with the large extended family of John David, a gardener in the Square, Newcastle Lower. While this John David had a wife and three children of his own, he also had three female servants all with the surname David. How he could afford this is not clear, nor is there any certainty that this was Cate David from Little Mill.

Early in 1850 Cate married John Norman, a Master Carpenter, the son of a widow of independent means, Esther Norman from Broadway, St. Athan (on the road to Cowbridge). John (32) and Catherine (28) lived in Llantwit Road in St. Athan and had a baby, John, of two months when the census was taken in 1851. By 1861, John was a Wheelwright and Publican (at the Four Bells or the Black Horse ?) and they had three more children Sarah (8), Ann (6) and Catherine (3). In 1862 Catherine went to Cardiff with her father to check whether her niece Sephora was pregnant, and then took Sephora into their home, where she was joined shortly afterwards by Catherine's father Thomas David the miller and Margaret (*see p29*) the youngest daughter of her brother Thomas of Llanbethery, who was dead . Thomas David the miller died there in Jan. 1865.<sup>6</sup>

By 1871 the whole family, except Sarah, had moved from St. Athan to Canton in Cardiff including Sephora and David Edward, Catherine's nephew (*see pp 4&8*). He was an apprentice to John Norman, who is now advertised in the Cardiff Directory as a wheelwright in Cowbridge Rd, Canton, with a residence in Severn Road, though the census of that year gives his home address as Cowbridge Rd. The 1874 Cardiff Directory puts his wheelwrights shop in Cattlemarket, Canton.

#### The Canton Cattlemarket

The cattle market stretched from Cowbridge Road north to what is now Carmarthen St. It was between Market Rd. on the west and Llandaff Rd. on the east. From an 1886 map it appears to have buildings and maybe houses on the corner of Market Rd and Cowbridge Rd., and slaughterhouses on the corner of Carmarthen Rd and Market Rd, which were still standing in 1940. 3 Market Rd. is still there opposite the Cattlemarket site, it is a smallish end of terrace house. No 1 clearly must have been a detached building next to it, but has had a more recent 'Market House' built on at least part of it. The only stonework remaining matching the terrace is a wide entrance to a 'garage' which could have been the entrance to John Norman's wheelwright's shop or yard. It is possible, however, that this was actually across the road in the Cattlemarket itself.

By 1881 John Norman is a coal merchant at 3 Market St. (*No- Rd.*) John junior is next door at No 1, now in charge of the Wheelwright business employing five men and two boys. He'd married Lavinia Wiltshire in early 1880 and they have a five month old baby Esther (after her great grandmother, John Senior's mother). John and Cate's other three children had all married before then (as had Sephora *see p5*). Catherine married their nephew David Edward (*see p8*) early in 1878. In June 1878 Sarah aged 25, staying in 1 Market Rd. with her brother, married Frederick Jonah Howell, a commercial clerk of 24, in Loudon Square Wesleyan Chapel - the witnesses were her father John and sister Annie Norman. In 1881 Sarah and her sons Norman (3, born in Penarth) and Geo. (8 mths) were with her parents in 3 Market Street. Her husband is with his father George and the family in 171 Severn Road (they had come from Pembroke in the 1860s).

Frederick (now a railway clerk), Sarah and their children were living together in 1891 in Holly Bush, Llantwit Vardre, Pontypridd. They had a year old daughter, born there. Sarah was widowed in spring 1900 and moved to 83 Porthkerry Rd. Barry, where in the 1901 census she lived with her daughter Minnie.

Annie was herself married later in June 1878, to Edward Jones, a grocer born in Wrexham, and by 1881 was living in Swansea with him & sons Victor (1) and Brinley (5 months). By 1891 Edward was a Yeast Merchant, and by 1901 employed Victor as a '*Baker Bread*' and Brinley as a '*Confectioner Sweets*'. They also had four more children, Gwenllian Annie (*after her great grandmother*) (16), Hilda (11), Thomas Francis (7) and Albert Edward (4).

John Norman senior died in January 1887, aged 68, of chronic inflammation of the kidneys and fluid retention, then called dropsy. His death was registered by Annie, in St. Athan with him when he died, though still living in Swansea. The death certificate says he was a publican (*maybe he was at the Four Bells*). Cate went to live with her daughter Catherine Edwards in Kenilworth Rd. Cadoxton (*see p8*) where she died on the 4th of January 1891. Her son-in-law and nephew, David Edwards, registered her death.

The census of 1891 shows that John junior is now a Coach-builder in 282 Cowbridge Road, with Lavinia and five children, a posher terraced house some way away from 1 Market Rd. This now houses his cousin James Edwards (*see p8*), who was probably also trained as a wheelwright by his uncle John Norman. By 1901 John Norman junior now 50 and a Master Coachbuilder is back in 1 Market Road, speaks both Welsh and English, unlike the rest of the household, who only speak English. He and Lavinia have living with them their five children; Ettie (20) a Coachbuilder's Clerk, Lavinia (19) Assistant Housekeeper, John (17) Coachbuilder's Clerk, Frank (15) Coachm (*sic*) apprentice, Archibald (13) and Edith (7). They also had a General Servant Domestic, Elizabeth Naish, single, 34.

**Rebecca** (1825- )

Two years after she had Cate, Gwenllian, now forty, had her last baby Rebecca baptised in Aberthaw on the 10th October 1825.<sup>4</sup> She was living in Little Mill with the family in the 1841 census, but no Rebecca David of the right age can be found in any of the following censuses, nor any evidence of marriage or death. It is possible that she was the Rebecca Davies (25), an unemployed lodger in Cowbridge in 1851, and just maybe Rebecca Davies (30) a grocer at 77 John St. Georgetown, Merthyr in 1861 (though gone by 1871), both claimed to be born in Llanearfan & there are no baptisms in the parish register for this name. But there is no evidence to prove any of this. Nor is she mentioned in any of the family documents <sup>1,2&3</sup> that have been so useful in finding some of the history of the other children.

These documents have however provided an insight into the fascinating story of the family of Thomas Davies of Llanbethery.

**Thomas Davies or David of Llanbethery** (1812-1859)

*(See the tree inside the back cover)*

Thomas & Gwenllian David's second child & eldest son Thomas was baptised in Llanearfan church on the 3rd November 1812. He married Ann Morris of Llantrithyd, who was the same age, on 15th May 1841 in St. Athan (*Ann was not then living in Llantrithyd, her family were in Cowbridge. Why she was staying in St. Athan we don't know, maybe she was helping out Thomas's sister Catherine Norman, having her first baby - see p15*).

Before his marriage Thomas may have worked as a miller at Lanvithin. More likely he was apprenticed as a carpenter, possibly in the Carpenter's shop in Llanearfan, now the Fox and Hounds. In the 1841 census he was a carpenter living with Ann (both 25 years old) and a servant Alice Griffith aged 15, on the edge of Llancadle and Llanbethery, in part of a house of which the other part was occupied by another 25 year old carpenter Thomas Eddils.

They started a family shortly after, moved to a more substantial house, Higher End in Llanbethery, with 26 acres of land and Thomas began farming, having 35 acres by 1851.

Ann was a daughter of the important & wealthy Morris family of Llantrithyd. In 1827 her father John Morris inherited a Messuage farm and lands (of around 26 acres) in Llanbethery from his brother Jenkin, who had made his money as a Maltster in Cowbridge. At the time of Jenkin's will this had been '*recently bought of Mr Edward Perkins and in the occupation of Evan Thomas*'. By 1841 it was occupied by Llewellyn Morgan. John left all his property to his wife Margaret, but entailed first to their son John, next their daughter Mary, then Ann (David) and so on through their nine children. Margaret didn't die until 1857 only a year before her daughter Ann, and the son John died a year later than Ann. So either Margaret or Ann's father must have given the tenancy of the Llanbethery farm to Thomas and Ann, though whether for a full rent or a peppercorn one, we don't know. It would seem likely that it was a form of dowery, though never belonged to Ann or Thomas. The farm house is still standing and is now called 'Higher End' and lived in by Thomas Davies's great great grand-daughter.

#### Higher End, Llanbethery

We know that this farm, was willed by Jenkin Morris to his brother John Morris, who left it to his wife Margaret entailed to his children. It was rented to Thomas and Ann Davies and when they died the lease was given to Edmund Davies (*see p 10*) who sublet the land to John Thomas of Cliff. Once Thomas and Ann's children were taken away from Llanbethery, Edmund sold the leasehold back to the remaining Morris sisters, Mary Thomas of Pencyrn and Elizabeth Thomas of Bettws. We don't know how long the Morris family retained the property. It was owned by Billy Dunn in 1941 when it was bought by Richard Emlyn Williams of Aberogwrn Farm, Llanancarfan. Richard was the great grandson of Thomas Davies and Ann Morris. So, by luck, Higher End was back in the Morris family and is still there, being lived in by Richard's granddaughter, Thomas and Ann's Great Great Granddaughter.

So this did not transfer any of the wealth of the Morrises to Ann, this happened later in 1850 when her uncle Thomas made his will when he left *'to my niece Ann, wife of Thomas David, carpenter of Llanbethery, with whom I am living'* all his freehold and leasehold property, which was all in Cowbridge and a mortgage of £250 (on another property in Cowbridge, the Temperance). But Thomas David was to have *'no power to have rents or receipts therefrom'*. So while Uncle Thomas rewarded Ann with considerable wealth, doubtless for looking after him in his final years, he was not on good terms with Thomas David, referring to him only as a carpenter, which he probably still was, rather than a farmer as he claimed to be in the 1851 census. Nonetheless, regardless of the legality of the clause in Uncle Thomas's will, Ann sold 81 High Street, Cowbridge for £380 in 1851 and her husband Thomas used this to build four houses in Christina St. The Docks, Cardiff<sup>3</sup>. And, of course her inheritance passed to Thomas when Ann died of consumption in July 1858, aged 44.

During Ann's illness she was nursed by a Peggy Thomas, who stayed on as housekeeper for Thomas to look after the children.<sup>2</sup> In June 1859, aged 46, Thomas also died of TB only a year after Ann. They are both buried in Llantrithyd with Ann's family. Both are in the Parish Register as David, but on the gravestones as Davis, as are their children (though Thomas appears twice, once as Davies)

When Thomas died his mother and father Thomas and Gwennllian David moved to Llanbethery to look after the children, taking their granddaughter Sephora with them (*see p3*). But Gwennllian died some 11 months later leaving Thomas, in his 70s, to cope and run the farm. He moved in 1762 to his daughter Cate Norman in St. Athan taking Sephora and the youngest child with him, the other children were dispersed.

In the will of *"Thomas David or Davies"* his estate was left in the care of his brothers Edmund and Jenkin, the income to be used to *'support and educate'* his children until they were all twenty one

**Property of Thomas Morris**

It is certain that in 1843

Thomas Morris owned the following Cowbridge property

**The Cowbridge Arms Inn** (46 High Street) held by lease from the Dunraven Estate, which expired with Thomas's death in 1850.

**The Pelican Inn and Garden** (5 Westgate) was fairly certainly rented to Thomas's brother, Ann's father John, who was by 1841 a publican in Cowbridge. It is most likely that the lease of the Pelican was transferred to John, as it was not in Thomas's will.

**81 High Street** was one of the properties that Thomas left to his niece Ann. She sold it for £380.

**12 High Street** was called the **Temperance** in the early 19th Century, it was leased from the Corporation of Cowbridge. It is the only one to be named in Ann's husband Thomas Davies's will. It does appear in Thomas Morris's will, he had provided a mortgage of £250 to the leaseholder David John and hence technically owned it. It also appears by name in the document of John Davies witnessed by the British Consul in Chicago (*see p 24*).

The two properties above, 81 & 12 High St. were definitely left to Ann by Thomas Morris. She may also have inherited the **Ship** (6 High Street). This, previously called the 'Ship Aground' may be the Ship that appears a few times in the accounts of Thomas Davies<sup>3</sup> (*or his executors*). But there is no evidence that it was the Ship in Cowbridge.

*(More details of the Wills and property are in the Appendix)*

when the estate was to be sold and divided between them. It looks as though his trust was misplaced as was that of his father when he later died and also left his estate in the trust of Edmund and Jenkin (*see Sephora's legacy p5 & Edmund p.10*). Jenkin apparently took no part in the handling of the estate leaving it all to Edmund the other executor (*see p.12*).

Edmund was granted the lease of the Llanbethery farm for seven years by the Morrises, doubtless to bring up the children. He had this in his own right, not as executor, smartly sublet the land to John Thomas of Cliff for a £50 backhander (*'for goodwill'*) and later *'sold'* the lease back to the Morrises. However, it is down to Edmund's perfidy, or at the very least his reluctance to settle the estate, that we have much of the information on the family<sup>3</sup>.

In the will of Thomas David, the miller, he left £40 to be shared between his grandchildren from Llanbethery. Edmund did put £40 into an account for the children but not until 1869, and then made £5 payments to each of them when they reached 21. While this eventually should have disbursed eight payments it apparently took no account of the interest the forty pounds must have accrued during the eight years before the last child became of age. As for the children's legacies from their father Thomas Davies of Llanbethery, Uncle Edmund proved even more reluctant to settle. He had not bothered to obtain probate until 1872.

In 1877, when the children had all become of age, they started to ask their Uncle Edmund about their inheritance. They found it very difficult to obtain information from him. Edmund, by now a successful grocer in Penarth (or maybe already Swansea), made numerous excuses for not being able to finalise the account. In the end the 'children' went to the Solicitors Thomas Rees in Cowbridge for help. Much of the paperwork survives in the depository of his sucesors Gwyn & Gwyn. Jeff Alden extracted two fascinating documents, these are the depositions by Sephora (*see p.5*)<sup>1</sup> and Catherine Thomas of Penllyne (*see p.25*).<sup>2</sup>

A great deal or the following family information comes from the second of these documents. The rest is either from census data or parish registers or from the rest of the Gwyn & Gwyn papers.<sup>3</sup> These have now been well studied by Len & Vina Williams. Len is a great grandson of Thomas and Ann David. He had previously done considerable work on his family tree back to Thomas David of Little Mill.

Thomas and Ann David of Llanbethery had nine children between 1842 and 1856, every two years rather like Thomas's mother and his sister Mary. One child, Margaret a twin born in 1850, died aged four in 1855 and is buried in Llantrithyd with her maternal grandparents. Their youngest child born in 1856 was also christened Margaret. All were baptised in Llancarfan church with the surname David.



Their eldest child **Jenkin** was baptised on the 27th of April 1842 and lived in Llanbethery until sometime before his father died, when he was apprenticed to Philemon Thomas a wheelwright in St. Athan, he would have been 16 or 17. He was with Philemon in the 1861 census, a 19 year old boarder. One assumes his apprenticeship fees were kept up from the children's inheritance by Uncle Edmund, but suspect they would have stopped as soon as possible. After the involvement of the Solicitor Thomas Rees, Jenkin was given an advance of £20 by Rees. In 1881 on the finalisation of the accounts, Edmund himself paid Jenkin his share (£110 3s 4d) doubtless less the advance, and later had to pay the solicitor the advance, interest on it, and the solicitors fee. From the 1881 census, Jenkin *Davies* was then a publican and carpenter at the Royal Oak in Newcastle Higher, with a wife Jane and five children ranging from 9 years to 9 days (again every two years). By 1891 Jenkin was just a carpenter and with his family lived at 4 Factory Terrace Aberkenfig. He died in the summer of 1899, aged 57.

**John**, their second son, was baptised on the 31st of March 1844, and was around 15 when his parents died. He was still with the family, and their grandfather Thomas David, in Llanbethery in 1861. Sometime before 1862, when the family was finally dispersed, John had already left to stay with his maternal Aunt Mary Thomas in Pencyrn, a farm in Llanblethian (near Cowbridge). He later emigrated to America, probably before 1875. John was used by Uncle Edmund as an excuse for failing to settle his brother Thomas's estate, he claimed he couldn't find him.

However his brothers and sisters did find him, he was a farmer in Knoxville, Illinois. In a letter <sup>3</sup> to his brother (probably Thomas) sent doubtless sometime late in 1877, John says he is sick and has had a bad couple of years. He's been speculating, buying land, cattle and hogs. Due to problems with the animals and crop failure he had lost two hundred pounds in the last two years. Consequently John really needs his inheritance.

Unfortunately, he has to go to Chicago to the British Consul to have his signature witnessed on a document to confirm his entitlement to the inheritance and appoint his brother-in-law, David Thomas (Catherine's husband - *see p. 25*), to be his lawful attorney for the receipt of his inheritance. This trip is going to be difficult as he has to take two men to confirm his identity, and it's going to cost him eight to ten pounds "*that is a good deal of money in this Cuntry now*".

John *Davies* can write well enough, but his spelling and grammar are very poor. He did indeed get to Chicago, and the documents from the Consulate<sup>3</sup> were signed in December 1878 and sent back to the solicitors. Nonetheless, it was still necessary for John to write again to his brother Thomas in November 1881 "*to let Mr Reese attorney know that I am in Existence*" This is a much shorter letter, but the spelling and grammar are perfect, it looks as if it has been written by a professional. The letter is from Maguon, Illinois, but he asks for the money draft to be sent to Knoxville to a David Harper. He will have received only around £100, which while helpful won't cover the losses he talked of. To be a farmer and have lost £200 over two years suggests that he must previously have been rather successful. So one would guess that he had been in America some time and had probably emigrated in the middle 1860s. Regrettably, what happened to John after 1881 is not known.

Thomas and Ann David's third child, and first daughter, **Catherine**, was baptised on the 4th of March 1846. She was at school by the time she was five in 1851. She was still a scholar in 1861 when her grandfather Thomas David was looking after the children in their house in Llanbethery, in which she had been brought up. Her parents had died when she was 13. When the family was broken up in 1862 Catherine went to her maternal aunt Mary Thomas at the farm in Pencyrn, probably joining her brother John.

She is a most useful source of information on the family in the deposition she made in 1879 to Thomas Rees the solicitor,<sup>2</sup> but she doesn't give much information on herself. In Spring of 1868 Catherine *Davies* married David Thomas (27) of Court Farm, Penllyne, a farmer of 20 acres, employing 3 workers. By the census of 1871 they had a two year old daughter Ann and a baby Martha. Catherine's maternal aunt Mary, from Pencyrn, had been widowed in 1862 and was at Penllyne when the census was taken. She is recorded as a visitor aged 60, though she may have been living with Catherine, as Pencyrn was now being farmed by her sister Elizabeth's husband Morgan Thomas.

By 1881 Catherine and David had five more children, William (6), Catherine (5), Margaret (4), Mary Elizabeth (2) and David (1). It was around this time that Catherine and her remaining siblings finally obtained their inheritance. Uncle Edmund was forced to cough up. But the children decided not to make him sell the Temperance in Cowbridge but have Edmund transfer it to David Thomas for the benefit of his wife Catherine and her siblings. This was, in fact, the only sensible thing to do, one assumes they would be getting the rent from it, and selling it would have raised very little. (The lease from Cowbridge corporation was due up on the death of the last of the children of the original leaseholder of 1825, one Simon John. He would have been around 70, and his location was unknown. - *see p35* )

Catherine and David Thomas of Penllyne, were still in Court Farm in 1901. Catherine died in 1909. As evidenced by Margaret Edwards' will (*see p29*), by 1938, of Catherine and David's children, Ann was Ann Munden of Gwsgod, Broughton, Wick, William was of Torgelly Farm, Llanharry, Pontyclun, Catherine was Catherine Roberts of Village Farm, Penllyne, and Mary was Mary Elizabeth Radcliffe of Village Farm St. Nicholas. It is descendants of Martha (the baby in 1871) and Margaret (4 in 1881) that are still living in or near Llancafarn parish (*see p 30*).

Thomas & Ann's fourth child **Thomas** was baptised on the 7th of March 1848. He was born in Llanbethery and lived there until he was 13 or 14. After his father's death, he went to Uncle Edmund Davies in his Grocers in Penarth, who apparently paid him a man's wage (so Edmund wasn't all bad!). However he went to school in Cardiff with his younger brother Edmund, also staying with Uncle Edmund. He commenced learning the trade of carpenter with another uncle (John Norman again?). All this according to his sister Catherine Thomas, Penllyne.<sup>2</sup> She gives his address as 18 Adams Down Square, Splotlands, Cardiff (in 1879). The letter (to Thomas *Davis*) from his brother John in the USA dated Nov 20th 1881 is addressed to 10 Louisa St., Docks, Cardiff.<sup>3</sup> However, in 1891 Thomas *Davies* was a grocer in 8 North Clive St. Grangetown, with his youngest sister Margaret his assistant, he seems to have followed his Uncle Edmund's profession after all. By 1901 he had moved to Canton, still apparently unmarried, and still with his sister Margaret. His cousin Lewis Edwards (*see p9*) was also living with them as a boarder. They had a 20 year old servant Mary E. Davies. Lewis later married Margaret (*see p.9*). Thomas died in 1921 and was by then married to a Mary Ann (*the servant in 1901?*) and living at 12 Newfoundland Road, Cathays, Cardiff. They do not appear to have had children as all his bequests are to his remaining sisters and two of his uncle Edmund's children, Sarah Jane and Thomas Jarvis.

When Thomas died he owned some 23 houses in Cardiff as well as stocks and shares. He left three houses to his wife Mary Ann, eight to his executors, the income from them to be for his wife, nine to be sold up to pay any debts and a small bequest, the rest to be split between his two remaining sisters, Mary Ann Williams and Margaret Edwards, and Margaret's husband Lewis Edwards. Three houses were left to his sister Margaret Edwards. He was apparently considered the 'posh' one of Thomas and Ann Davies's children.<sup>6</sup>

The next born, **Morris**, was baptised on the 22nd April 1850 with his twin sister Margaret, who died young in 1855. Morris aged 12 went to John Morgan of Aberthaw as a servant, all the expenses being paid by his grandfather Thomas David, rather than Uncle Edmund.<sup>2</sup> He was later apprenticed to John Norman (surprise, surprise) but drowned in Pontypridd in July 1870 aged 20. Morris *David* was in a club, so Uncle Edmund had the club money and paid for the funeral expenses. His body was transported by train from Pontypridd to Cardiff then by Hearse to Llantrithyd where he was buried with his father and mother and her family. His tools of trade (one assumes he was a wheelwright) were kept either by Uncle Edmund or Uncle John Norman.<sup>2</sup>

**Edmund** was baptised the 25th June 1852. When he was ten and the household was broken up he went as a servant to Mr Jenkins Llanbethery. He then went to school in Cardiff, staying at Penarth (with Uncle Edmund). His sister Catherine Thomas, Penlline, also says that he and Thomas were in school in Cardiff at the same time.<sup>2</sup> Edmund was then apprenticed to Mr Evan Thomas a draper in Cardiff.

*(In 1871 Evan Thomas was a bachelor of 40, his 'shop' was 14 & 15 High Street, his 25 staff were living in and were a male Accountant, 10 male Drapers Assistants, 5 female Assistants, 4 Milliners, 3 Dressmakers, a Housekeeper and a General Servant (all female) - quite a store. Edmund was not one of them.)*

On the 22nd May 1875 he was admitted to Angelton Asylum, Bridgend. Their records say that he was suffering from "**religious excitement**" and had previously been in an Asylum in Coney Hatch, prior to that he had been a Draper's assistant at Aberkenfig. *(This would have been with William Jenkins, Tailor & Draper, but Edmund was not there in 1871.)* Edmund *Davies* died in Angelton on 19th of June 1875 of TB and is buried in Llantrithyd with his parents.

**Mary Ann** was born on the 11th Feb 1854, she was only eight when the family was split up and went to her maternal Aunt Mary Thomas at Pencyrn, Llanblethian. Mary Ann *Davies* was still in Pencyrn as a dairy maid in 1871, though now the farm was in the hands of another maternal aunt Elizabeth Thomas, who's second husband Morgan Thomas had taken it over when Mary's husband died in 1862. After Pencyrn Mary Ann went to Uncle Edmund in Penarth where she did a servant's work. Edmund had not had her educated as her father's will required. When she eventually received her inheritance from her father in 1881 she was living in Pilston House, Llandago, Nr. Coleford in Gloucestershire doubtless as a servant (Pilston House does not occur in the 1881 census).<sup>3</sup>

She was married on 5th April 1884 in St. Marys, Cardiff. Her husband, Wm. Richard Williams, was a carpenter with the Taff Vale Railway, though had once worked at Penllyne Castle. (He was brought up in Cowbridge by his grandfather Richard Thomas, and his aunt, Richard's daughter. Richard Thomas was "*the victualler & agricultural labourer*" at the Nag's Head in Cowbridge in the 1861 census.) They lived at 109 Cathays Terrace, Cardiff and in the next 13 years had six children, four boys and two girls. One daughter Annie was killed, at only seven months, and a son Eddie aged 7 (Len Williams' father) and Mary Ann herself seriously injured on the 12th of August 1893. They were travelling by rail, near Llantrisant, when the train came off the tracks and down an embankment. Another son Leonard died aged 25 in the 'flu epidemic of 1919, and the other daughter Gwendoline died from TB in June 1936 aged 39.<sup>6</sup>

Leonard Charles Williams is Mary Ann's grandson by her son Charles Edmund (Eddie), a carpenter and builder in Cardiff. Len has traced his family tree back from Mary Ann to Thomas David of Little Mill. Despite Mary Ann's poor treatment and lack of education when young it was she who was the force of the family, not her husband. She was a good cook, ran a boarding house and

also was the local money lender. Doubtless this was helped by the money from brother Thomas when he died, and she also inherited two more houses in Cathays Terrace when Thomas's wife died.

She had three remaining sons. Lloyd worked for Wm Hancock, Brewers, for many years. Arthur and Eddie were both carpenters by trade. Despite the bad accident when he was 7, Eddie, won the Welsh Powderhall Sprint in 1921, run in Pontypridd. The prize was £100 and a gold medal. Arthur's son Ivor played top class rugby and toured South Africa with the British Lions in 1938. These successes must have given great satisfaction to Mary Ann, who lived to see both before she died in September 1939 aged 85.

The last child of Thomas and Ann Davies/David of Llanbethery was **Margaret** baptised on the 21st of March 1856. The Llanbethery home was broken up when she was 6, she went with her grandfather, Thomas David, to her Aunt Catherine Norman in St. Athan. Her grandfather claims to have maintained her until she went into service. As her grandfather died in 1865 she must have gone into service before she was nine. It is not clear where she was in 1871 but in the 1881 census she appears to be with her sister Catherine Thomas in Penllyne "*Margaret Davies, unmarried 28(?) a General Servant*". In 1891 she was still unmarried at 35 and with her elder brother Thomas as a grocer's assistant in North Clive St., Grangetown, Cardiff. She was still living with Thomas in 1901 and married her cousin Lewis Edwards in 1904 when she was 48 and he was 49 (*see pp.9&26*). Not surprisingly they had no children. In Margaret's will of 1938 she was of 227 Gladstone Rd. Barry and bequeathed equal shares to five children and one granddaughter of her elder sister Catherine (Mrs Thomas, Penllyne) and the three sons of Mary Ann. Margaret is just about remembered by Len Williams as Aunt Maggie, and was much loved by all the family. She died on the 25th of January 1938.

### Descendants of Thomas Davies of Llanbethery

It is more than probable that there are today descendants of most of Thomas and Gwenllian David's children. But only some of those of their eldest son Thomas are presently known. The grandson of Mary Ann, Len Williams (*see p. 28*), who provided a lot of valuable information, lives in Hampshire. He has four known living cousins, Rhys and Tudor the grandsons of John Arthur Williams, and Beryl and Mary the daughters of Lloyd George Williams. These last two are still in Cardiff.

All but one of Thomas & Gwenllian's children moved away from Llancarfan, and all of their grandchildren did so. Nonetheless some of their descendants returned and there are now two families back in the parish of Llancarfan. Both are descendants of Thomas and Ann Davies's eldest daughter Catherine Thomas of Penllyne<sup>2</sup> (*see pp. 24 & 25*).

**Martha** was the second child of David & Catherine Thomas of Penllyne, granddaughter of Thomas & Ann Davies of Llanbethery and Great granddaughter of Thomas & Gwenllian David of Little Mill, Lanvithin. She married Richard David Williams in spring 1899, he was the son of Richard Williams of Craig Penllyne. Richard & Martha had a son Richard Emlyn, who married Eleanor Bowen of Pennon and farmed Aberogwrn (very close to Llancarfan). Richard Emlyn's daughter Ann married Andrew Radcliffe of Penmark Place. Their daughter Jane now lives in Higher End Llanbethery (*see p.19*). One of two remarkable coincidences. The other is that Andrew Radcliffe is from the family who had the Radcliffe Estate which owned Little Mill, Lanvithin from 1927 until the 1960s. So Jane living in Higher End is linked to Little Mill through both her mother and her father. Martha only died in July 1961 aged 90.

**Margaret**, a younger daughter of Catherine Thomas of Penllyne, married Griffith Thomas of Clawddymynach, Monkash. in the summer of 1898.



Their only daughter Phyllis was the grandniece who received a share in Margaret Edwards' will. As Margaret's favourite, she got all her jewellery. Their son Vivian J Thomas moved to Llancarfan and with his son Tony built up the major Pancross farm. This is now run by Tony's son Edward, six generations after Thomas David was the miller in Little Mill.

### References

- 1 *Statement of Sephora Kemp 1879 (Box 19 Gwyn & Gwyn depository)*
- 2 *Statement of Mrs Thomas, Penline 1879 (Box 19 Gwyn & Gwyn depot.)*
- 3 *Box 19 Gwyn & Gwyn depository (now in GRO)*
- 4 *Penmark & Aberthaw Calvinistic Methodist Society  
(Non-Parochial) Register (GRO)*
- 5 *'Llancarfan & Richard Edwards' Seren Gomer XXV (1904) pp 260-265  
Translated by Non Evans*
- 5a *Y Bedyddiwr VII (1848) p 68*
- 5b *Y Bedyddiwr X (1851) p 286*
- 6 *Family information, wills, birth & death certificates, from Len Williams.*
- 7 *Unless the actual month is given, deaths and marriages are from FreeBMD  
(on line) which only gives the quarter of registration.*

*All other information is from Parish Registers, Census records  
and the General Register of Births, Deaths & Marriages*

### Acknowledgements

*First and foremost, my thanks to Len & Vina Williams for the considerable information and documents they have obtained.*

*Thanks to Bob Saunders for the family history of Edmond David of Lidmore Mill, and the early identification of the history of Sephora.*

*Brian James is to be thanked for alerting us to the fact that Vivian Thomas & family were descendants, for most of the information on the Morris family of Llantrithyd, and the Seren Gomer and Y Bedyddwr extracts.*

*Brian James and Jeff Alden identified the Morris Cowbridge properties, and Jeff Alden, of course, started the whole thing off by finding the depositions of Sephora and Mrs Thomas Penllyne.*

## ADDITIONS & CORRECTIONS APRIL 2007

**p18 - Rebecca David (1825-1903) found.** It is now almost certain that Rebecca was the Rebecca Davies in Cowbridge in 1851 & the grocer in Merthyr in 1861 (p.18). In late 1861, when she was 36, she married Samuel Jones (50) also a grocer. In 1871 they were living in their Grocer's shop in Cefn-coed-y-Cymmer (in the parish of Vaynor, now in the district of Merthyr). Both were grocers, they had two daughters, Gwen Eliza aged 8 and Mary Charlotte 6. The 1871 census entry also shows that living with them were Rebecca's 14 yr old niece Margaret Davies of Llanbethery (p29) who was a general servant and also her nephew Lewis Edwards aged 16 (p9) an assistant grocer - it was another 33 years before these two were married! Sarah Norman, another niece, was a *visitor* on census day, so **had** moved to Cardiff with her family (top of p16).

It is reasonably certain that Samuel Jones was preaching in Cefn as in 1881, living in 15 Windsor Rd. Penarth, Samuel was a Calvinistic Methodist Minister. He was by then preaching both in Penarth and in Bethania Chapel, Loudon Square, Grangetown (Welsh Calvinistic Methodist now Presbyterian Church of Wales) where he had married Annie Norman to Edward Francis Jones (no relation) on Sept. 18th 1878 (p17). The witnesses were John Norman (Annie's father or brother) and G. E. Jones, Rebecca's daughter. Edward Jones was a grocer doubtless running one of Seymour Arthurs Swansea shops (Edward's given address). Samuel died in Dec. 1886 aged 74, his obituary in 'Y Drysorfa' (1887 p.70) said that the Calvinistic Methodists had lost one of their ablest preachers, who was both thoughtful and evangelical. He had been unable to preach for some eighteen months due to infirmity and for several months confined to his bed.

Rebecca was living in 9 Victoria Rd. Penarth in 1891, and visiting Henry & Elizabeth Gwynne in Droitwich Worcester, when the census was taken in 1901, as were her daughter Gwennie with her husband Thomas Powell M.A. (married in late 1890) and their 9 year old son Thomas R. Powell. Rebecca died in November 1903 aged 77, and was buried in St. Augustine's Church, Penarth, with Samuel and their daughter Mary Charlotte, who had died in June 1885 aged 21.

**p.3 and back cover** - Ann Thomas was buried with her parents Thomas & Gwennlian David in Zoar churchyard. Zoar was at that time Calvinistic Methodist, the same denomination as Samuel Jones. It was later that the Calvinistic Methodists became called the Presbyterian Church of Wales.

**p.6** We now know also of a descendant of Catherine Norman (p.15) David Porter from Maidstone in Kent, who is the grandson of Albert Edward Jones, Annie's youngest (p.17)

**p.11** In 1891 Edmund's son David James Davies was a grocer in Taff St., Pontypridd with his brother Edmund Walter a partner, sister Sarah Jane as their cashier, and brother Thomas Jarvis, a joiner living with them. In 1901 Sarah Jane was living with her widowed sister Margaret Sims in Glyn Taff.

**p.14** Although Mary David was 20 in 1841, she didn't marry Thomas Roberts of Bonvilston until the 10th of May 1845, when she was still '*of Little Mill*'. The Mary in Bonvilston must have been a sister of Thomas.

**p.15** Catherine David married John Norman on March 16th 1850 at Ramoth Baptist Chapel, Cowbridge. Richard Edwards (p.7) was a witness.

**p.17** Minnie Howell (Margitina in the 1891 census) was Mariana Dorothea (24) when married in spring 1915 to Hubert G MacDonald. They had a son Norman who lived in Barry or St. Athan and died in the late 1990s.

**p 29** Should read "*Margaret Davies, unmarried 25 a General Servant, born in Llancarfan*"

*Many thanks to Bob Saunders for finding Rebecca and to him and David Porter for most of these additions. - JMC April 2007*

## APPENDIX

### The Wills of the Morris

John Morris of Llantrithyd, the father of Ann Davies, had two brothers, Jenkin, who predeceased him, and Thomas.

**Jenkin Morris** made his money as a Malster in Cowbridge. His will of 1827 leaves to his brother John *'the Messuage, farm and Land in Llanbethery, lately bought of Mr Edward Perkins and in the occupation of Evan Thomas'*. Apart from one property in Cowbridge, the rest of his estate was left to his other brother Thomas, who was executor and had to find from it significant monetary bequests to their sister and Jenkin's three *'reputed daughters'*.

**John Morris** was a substantial farmer in Llantrithyd, where all his children were born. At some time after 1827 and before 1841 he and all his family left Llantrithyd and he became a publican in Cowbridge. He died there on 25 Nov 1842 of a diseased liver and stomach. His will of 1841 (pr.1843) leaves everything to his wife Margaret, but entailed to first his son John, then in turn his daughters Mary, Ann and Elizabeth and the rest of his children. So, as Ann Davies died before her brother John, she never got to own the Llanbethery farm, and nor did Thomas Davies, her husband. They were tenants of Ann's mother, who died a year before Ann, and then of John. According to Elizabeth Thomas, Ann's younger sister, when Thomas Davies died in 1859 the lease on *Lambethery* was granted to his brother Edmund Davies, for the purpose of bringing up the children. The lease was to him not to the executors of Thomas's will of which he was one. Edmund underlet the land to John Thomas of Cliff (*for a backhand of £50*), and the lease was eventually *sold (back?)* to Ann's eldest sister Mary Thomas of Pencymr and Elizabeth.<sup>2</sup> This was possibly some device to give Edmund money to raise the children, though there should have been plenty from their legacy from their parents. The family was dispersed from Llanbethery in 1862/3, which may have been when the Morris

**Thomas Morris's** will of 27 Jan 1850 leaves to his *'niece Ann, wife of Thomas David, Carpenter of Llanbethery, with whom I live, all my freehold and leasehold property'* (which is all in Cowbridge) and a mortgage of £250 (on another property in Cowbridge). Thomas David was to have no power to have rents or receipts therefrom. So Ann inherited various unspecified properties in Cowbridge, some of which were doubtless those Thomas was left by Jenkin. Identifying some of them is possible.

## APPENDIX - THE MORRISES

### Their Property in Cowbridge

**81 High Street.** Owned by John Morris, the son of Edward & Ann Morris, in 1776 when he married Elizabeth Howell.<sup>1</sup> Owned and lived in by Jenkin Morris 1821-27.<sup>1</sup> Doubtless one of the properties left in his will to Thomas Morris who owned it until his death, although the 1843 tithe gives him as tenant of Edward Davies. Perhaps the entry was reversed, though Edward Davies was living in Flemingston in the 1841 census. More likely Thomas had a mortgage from Edward Davies, though on 1 March 1844 he mortgaged it to John Bevan for £160, this may of course have been an additional mortgage.<sup>1</sup> The census for 1851 shows a house in High Street in the occupation of Edward Davies, general medical practitioner, with Charles Sylvester living next door. Dr Charles Sylvester is well known and definitely lived in 83 High Street.<sup>1</sup> Ann Davies (née Morris) sold one of her inherited properties for £380 in 1851, this was occupied by Edward Davies, surgeon, and Dr Sylvester lived next door<sup>2</sup> so it clearly was 81 High Street. We don't know whether Thomas Morris redeemed the mortgage/s before his death or whether Ann had to repay John Bevan his £160.

**The Temperance** This property is the only one in Cowbridge named in the will of Thomas Davies (who inherited all Ann's properties). It can be identified as 12 High St from an indenture of 1881<sup>2</sup> when Edmund Davies the remaining executor of Thomas Davies of Llanbethery, transferred the ownership of the property to David Thomas of Penllyne, husband of Thomas Davies's daughter Catherine, for the benefit of all his remaining six children, who did not wish it to be sold and the proceeds divided. One assumes they shared the income from it.

The history of the Temperance is given in the 1881 indenture. The property seems to have been built ca. 1787 on a strip of waste ground between the town wall and the town ditch. It was owned by the Cowbridge Corporation in 1825 when they leased the house to David John, shopkeeper, for 99 years or the lives of his children Ann, David and Simon. This effectively meant that David John *owned* the property. In the 1843 Tithe Thomas Morris is the owner, doubtless because David John had mortgaged it to him for £250 (*GRO B/Cow 141*), the mortgage that appears in Thomas Morris's probate Inventory as part of his bequest to his niece Ann.

## APPENDIX - THE MORRISES

However, according to the 1881 Indenture Thomas Davies was in absolute possession of the leasehold when he died in 1859, and for some years previously. It would appear that only Simon John was still alive in 1881. As Simon was 12 in 1825, he would have been 68 in 1881, hardly worth his while to pay £250 to reclaim the property. Similarly the lease would not have been worth much, having only Simon's lifetime to run. When David John first leased it he was a shopkeeper, and in 1881 the property was a '*messuage and shop formerly known as the Temperance*'.

**Pelican Inn & Garden, 5 Westgate** This was owned by Jenkin Morris in 1815 (shown in the Land Tax Assessment for that year). It was doubtless one of the properties he left to his brother Thomas, when he died in 1827 as Thomas certainly owned it from 1830 and appears as the owner in the 1843 tithe, with Richard Morris as occupier. This is most probably an error as it is fairly certain that he had transferred at least the tenancy to his brother John who was a Publican in Cowbridge when John's daughter Elizabeth was married in Cowbridge in Nov 1841, and also when he died in Nov 1842. It seems most likely that he had actually transferred ownership of the property to John, as he doesn't mention it in his will of 1850, nor does any mention of it occur in the papers concerning Thomas Davies's legacy. Margaret Morris, John's widow was living there in the 1851 census, and the licence was transferred to their son John in 1857<sup>3</sup>, the year Margaret died. Any property that Margaret had from her husband John was entailed first to their son John and then to daughters Mary, Ann Davies, and Elizabeth in turn. Son John himself died in 1860, and Ann had died in 1858, so, if it was indeed their father's property, the Pelican should have gone to Mary. Maybe it did as the licensee was not a Morris again until 1881 - Mary had died in 1873. Against the wishes of the constabulary the licence was given to 80 year old Morgan Thomas and his wife of 65, Elizabeth daughter of Margaret Morris,<sup>3</sup> who, of course, was the next in line for any property her father John had left. So it seems most likely that the Pelican was not among the properties that Thomas left to his niece Ann.

## APPENDIX - THE MORRISES

**The Ship, 6 High Street** There is no evidence that Thomas Morris owned the Ship in Cowbridge (as it was called in 1851, previously it was the Ship Aground<sup>3</sup>). But there is an account of expenditures for 1859<sup>2</sup>, the year of Thomas Davies's death. In this, amongst other items including repairs to the four houses he had built in Christina Street Cardiff, there are three significant entries - '*June 16th, Repairing Window of Ship Inn, 2/6d*', '*Aug 22, Justices Licence for Ship, 7/6d*' and '*Oct 3, Advertising Ship to Let, 3/-*'. (Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be any adverts in the *Cambrian* or the *Cardiff Times* over this period). Also, '*May 20, Allowed Mrs Jones for cleaning house, 3/-*', and the landlady of the ship probably was a Mrs Jones<sup>3</sup>. While it is possible that it was not in Cowbridge, it does look as though the Ship was a property of Thomas Davies and so probably part of Thomas Morris's legacy to Ann.

### **Ann's Inheritance**

Definitely 81 High Street and the Temperance. Possibly the Ship.

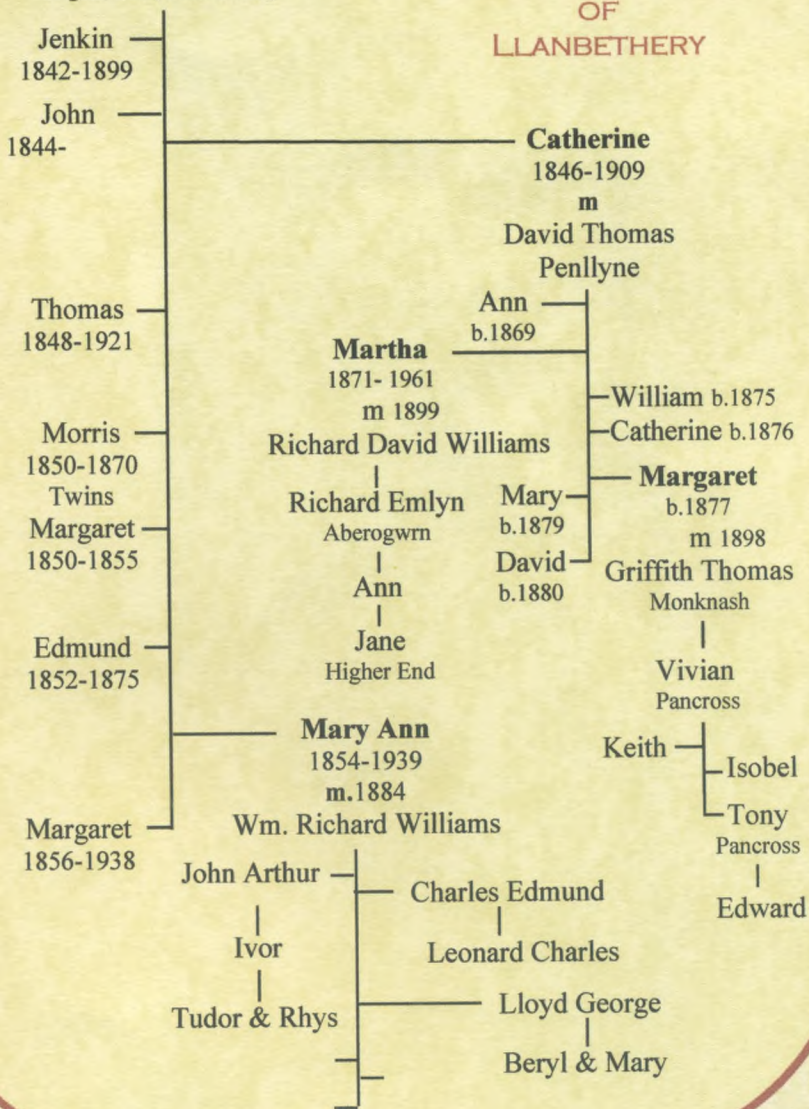
### **References**

- 1 *Cowbridge Record Society Notes* - courtesy Jeff Alden
- 2 *From Box 19, Gwyn & Gwyn Depository* - courtesy Len William & Jeff Alden
- 3 *Old Inns & Alehouses of Cowbridge, Cowbridge Record Society*

*Much else is from Brian James, wills, census data or Parish Registers.*

**Thomas David m Ann Morris**  
 1812-1859 1841 1812-1858  
 Higher End, Llanbethery

THE DESCENDANTS  
 OF  
 THOMAS & ANN DAVIES  
 OF  
 LLANBETHERY





Gravestone of Thomas David, Gwenllian & their daughter Ann  
in Zoar Presbyterian churchyard, Bonvilston.  
Courtesy Len Williams

