

Subject: Re: Thos Davies family

Date: Mon, 23 Dec 2002 22:24:26 -0000

From: "John Etherington" [REDACTED]

To: <jeff.alden@talk21.com>

Cc:

Happy Christmas Jeff

Bob Sanders bits and pieces are appended below - attachments can be a curse sometimes.

John

Copy starts

EMAIL ONE I have just received the November newsletter. In it you ask if anyone knows of any of the people referred to on the back page (The Jeff Alden contribution). Well I immediately recognized the name Sephora Thomas and on reading the papers Mr & Mrs Norman jumped out at me ! Some years back I had a good deal of correspondence with David Porter. He is descended from the Norman family and the Mr & Mrs Norman referred to in the 1879 papers were his great great grandparents. John Norman (b.1818 St.Athan - died 1887 Cardiff) was a carpenter & wheelwright in St.Athan. His wife was Catherine David (b.1823 Llancafarn - died 1891 Cardiff). Sometime before 1871 John Norman moved to Cowbridge Road, Canton, where he set up as a wheelwright. By 1881 he had become a coal merchant at 1 Market Street, Canton. His son John subsequently opened a wheelwright business at the same address and this business flourished as carriage maker and later a garage. There are adverts for it in one of the Cardiff Yesterday books and a very nice drawing in the 1893 Bristol Channel Ports Directory.

Back to Sephora Thomas. She was born 1840 at Llancafarn, the daughter of Richard Thomas, butcher from Peterston-super-Ely, and Ann David (b.1810 Llancafarn) eldest daughter of Thomas & Gwenllian David. Thomas, as stated in the 1879 papers, was the miller at Little Mill. In the 1851 census Sephora was living with her grandparents (the GFHS transcript of the Llancafarn parish registers has her as Deborah). Thomas David was baptised 1787 at St.Lythans the son of Edmund David, miller at Lidmoor Mill, Wenvoe, by his wife Ann nee Price. The latter couple were married at Llancafarn 29 September 1778. Interestingly from a Llancafarn point of view, Ann was the sister of the 4 times married parish clerk of Llancafarn, Llewellyn Price (1750 - 1838). Another of Ann Price's brothers was Thomas Price Miller & Carpenter at Dyffryn (St.Nicholas). The parents of these Prices were Griffith Price & Elizabeth Evan who had married at St.Lythans in 1748. I am fairly certain that Elizabeth Evan was the sister of my ancestor Thomas Evan of Llanbethery. Certainly the Price family and their relatives turn up several times as witnesses etc to the marriages of my ancestors.

I must admit that until I read the 1878 papers I had not linked Catherine David (wife of John Norman) as a child of Thomas & Gwenllian David. However this is quite clear from the papers you published and I thank you (and Jeff Alden) for that. The Norman family were "cousins" of my Morgan ancestors from Wenvoe. It now appears that David Porter is also a "cousin" on the other (Evan) side of my family !! By the way Catherine David's baptism is not in the Llancafarn PRs. I am still looking for that. Also still looking for the marriage of Thomas David & Gwenllian ?

I will be contacting David Porter to tell him about the latest find.

I hope this is of interest and that you might be able to use some of it in a future newsletter. I was also very interested in John Cann's article but have not read it properly yet as I got too immersed in the Norman/David family !

EMAIL TWO Thanks. I would be very interested in the descent of the Williams from

Sephora. I tried to mail David Porter but he must have changed his address. However, I know someone who has been in touch with him more recently than

I, and have asked them for his latest address. He is from Swansea originally but I am not sure if that is where he lives now. By the way I now know that Sephora married Timothy Kemp (from St.Fagans). Also I found that Edmund Davies, mentioned as of Penarth in the 1879 papers moved to Swansea sometime between 1879 and 1881 as he was in Swansea in the 1881 census.

Copy ends

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, December 23, 2002 7:09 PM

Subject: Re: Thos Davies family

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>

> John, Many thanks for your two Emails, although disappointingly I was quite unable to open Bob Saunders's attachment. At least my contribution has excited some interest.

> I was going to write anyway - first to thank the Llancarfan Society for sending me the most interesting 'Llancarfan, a Century of Pictures' which will keep me going for some time. Some of the photos are particularly interesting. Secondly, thanks for including my bit about Sir John Wildgoose; there must be a lot of information about him somewhere.

> My best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

> Jeff Alden

>

JOHN M CANN

TEL [REDACTED]

Mr A J L Alden  
1 Mill Park  
COWBRIDGE  
CF71 7BS

15.07.05

Dear Jeff,

I thought you might like to see Brian's response to my summary of the Morris property.

I'm now a little perplexed, Brian has identified 12 High St. as the one with the £250 mortgage, but in his previous letter he said the tithe gave (161) part of 14 High St. as owned by Thomas Morris. Maybe one or other is a typo.

Of more interest to you will probably be the Death Certificate of John Morris, which I have courtesy of Len Williams (from Box 19, I assume). John Morris died 25 Nov 1842 in Cowbridge, and was a Publican, aged 64. Not surprisingly he died of a Diseased Liver and Stomach. John Llewellyn Surgeon, Cowbridge, was in attendance. So he had a pub somewhere. I've checked the 1841 census of Llantrithyd, and no Morrises are there. In fact I can find none of the Morrises using the FHS CD-Rom. Of course the Cowbridge 1841 census is missing, but it seems most likely that that's where they were. In the Pelican?

This does seem very likely, considering Margaret's presence in 1851, and son John having the licence in 1857. As son John was born in 1823 he would have been a minor when his father died in 1842, so Margaret would have had to have someone else as licencee. John died in 1860, Margaret in 1857, hence the new tenants until the family had a need and Margaret's daughter Elizabeth and her husband became the licencees. There is one other additional possibility - was the John Morris who owned it before Thomas actually the same one that died in 1842? If so then he had just mortgaged it to his brother Thomas, hence his apparent ownership in 1843.

I hope all this is of some interest to you. Please don't hesitate to disagree.

Regards  
John

P.S. Perhaps you might like the death cert for your files.

# Cowbridge Record Society

Registered Charity No 1094061

1 Mill Park Cowbridge CF71 7BG

01446 - 773373

[jeff.alden@talk21.com](mailto:jeff.alden@talk21.com)

18th August 2005

Dear John,

Many thanks for your two letters. I have been away, hence the delay in responding to your first; but at least that gave me a chance to consider Brian's comments.

Brian is quite correct in identifying 12 High Street (now demolished) as the one with the £250 mortgage. 14 High Street was the one which used to be the *Lamb*, and which in the 1843 Tithe Map was owned and occupied by James Bird – nothing to do with No 12. (I had jumped one property in my recollection of the area – should have gone back to my source book straight away). However, we can quite clearly locate the Temperance as 12 High Street, because the 1881 indenture, Edmund Davies of Swansea to David Thomas, farmer, of Penllyne, granted the messuage and shop formerly known as the Temperance . . . bounded to the E by . . . gardens of the Butchers Arms Inn (No 10) and to W by ironmongers shop belonging to Nathaniel Bird (No 14). In that draft indenture in the Gwyn and Gwyn papers, the succession from the Corporation of Cowbridge and their 99-year lease in 1825 is clearly laid out.

I have not found any links between the Morris/Davies family with the Ship Aground. Neither can I locate any Cwmro, which is my explanation of the mysterious word in the accounts you sent on. (Another pub – the Cymro??)

As far as 81 High Street is concerned, our researcher had sight of the property deeds, confirming that this was the Morris property. The 1844 mortgage from John Bevan was for only £160, not the full value of the property.

If I find out any more about the family and the various properties, I'll let you know.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Jeff Alden

[REDACTED]

10 August 05

Dear John,

Thanks for your letter, and for contents. Your interesting notes on the Morris properties in Cowbridge are very helpful. I have looked again at the Morris wills and other documents such as the tithe map, and offer the following comments.

81 High Street

I don't know if Jenkin Morris (d.1827) bought this house from John and Elizabeth Morris, or if it was left to him. It is difficult to reconstruct the wider Morris family tree but it is quite likely that John Morris and Jenkin were cousins (not necessarily first cousins). The tithe map must be wrong; I think you are right that the entry has been reversed. (I suspect several other errors in the Cowbridge tithe map and apportionment, but it is difficult to prove anything.)

12 High Street

Thomas Morris's inventory dated 21 March 1850 includes "mortgage from David John for the deceased of a dwelling house in Cowbridge for £250". This is a bit confusing, but it must mean that TM had lent DJ £250 and not the other way about, otherwise the £250 would appear as a debt rather than an asset. I now think the house was 12 High Street, which used to adjoin no 14 but was demolished in the 1960s to widen the access road to Hurran's and Bird's garden centre etc. The property belonged to the Corporation of Cowbridge, in fact it seems to have been built c.1787 on a strip of waste ground between the town wall and the town ditch. The Corporation leased the house in 1825 to David John, shopkeeper, for 99 years or the lives of his children Ann, David and Simon (GRO B/Cow 141). This is shown on the tithe map as belonging to Thomas Morris and occupied by Thomas Jones. Morris would technically have been the owner of the lease until the mortgage had been redeemed.

The Ship, 6 High Street

I have no solution to this conundrum. But is it possible that the Ship referred to was somewhere else, in Cardiff for instance?

The Temperance

I have never heard of this before.

best wishes

from  
[unclear]

## The Wills of the Morrises

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**'s 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. 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, and the lease was eventually *sold (back?)* to Ann's eldest sister Mary Thomas of Pencyrn 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 Lambethery in 1862/3, which may have been when the Morrises reclaimed the lease.

**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.

## The Property in Cowbridge

left to Ann David by Thomas Morris her uncle, who lived with them in his last year/s.

### 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<sup>1</sup>. We don't know whether Thomas Morris redeemed the mortgage before his death.

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<sup>1</sup>. The property that Ann Davies (née Morris) sold for £380 in 1851 was occupied by Edward Davies, surgeon, and Dr Sylvester lived next door<sup>2</sup> so it clearly was 81 High Street.

**???** on which Thomas Morris left Ann a mortgage of £250.

The property mortgaged to Thomas is not identifiable, it shouldn't be 81 High Street. But maybe Ann collected the £250 as well as selling 81 for £380, or used the £250 to pay off the mortgage on 81, if there still was one.

## 14 High Street

In the 1643 Tithe, Thomas Morris owned a House and Garden, that had briefly been the Lamb alehouse in the 1780's and then Iolo Morganwg's book shop.<sup>3</sup> There was an associated Malthouse, though most likely this belonged to the Birds who owned the next door property. If Thomas still owned it in 1850 then it looks as though Ann sold this also, though there is no evidence, unless it was called 'The Temperance' in 1859 when Thomas Davies Ann's husband died. (The house which was the Temperance after 1880 was in The Limes, off High St.<sup>1</sup>)

## The Temperance

This property is the only one in Cowbridge named in the will of Thomas Davies (who inherited all Ann's properties, one assumes). Not yet identified.

## Pelican Inn & Garden, 5 Westgate

This was owned by Thomas Morris in the 1843 tithe. He had owned it since 1830, which suggests it was previously Jenkin Morris's who died in 1827 (Though 3 suggests it was a John Morris). It should have been part of Thomas's legacy to Ann, unless he had already transferred it to his brother John, Ann's father, before he died in 1842 and prior to Thomas's will of 1850. As the Pelican doesn't seem to appear in any of the documents<sup>2</sup> concerned with Thomas Davies's will this seems quite possible. Also, 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's will was entailed first to John and then to daughters Mary, Ann Davies, and Elizabeth in turn. 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 licence 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 quite likely that the Pelican was not among the properties that Thomas left to his niece Ann.

## The Ship 6 High Street

There is no evidence that Thomas Morris owned the Ship (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>. It therefore looks 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, most probably the Temperance and the Ship and possibly 14 High Street.

## References

- 1 Cowbridge Record Society Notes - courtesy Jeff Alden
- 2 From Box 19, Gwyn & Gwyn Depository - courtesy Len Williams
- 3 Old Inns & Alehouses of Cowbridge, Cowbridge Record Society
- 4 Much not referenced is from Brian James, wills or census data.



24th April 03.

Dear Jeff,

We still can't believe how fortunate we are to have had all this information on my grandmother's family from Box 19 and also from John Cann and his friend Brian James, a local geneologist, who had previously carried out some research on the Morris family from Llantrithyd.

The box contains much fascinating information relating to the events which happened in the family after my great grandfather's - Thomas Davies (formerly David) - death in June 1859 from phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis). His wife Ann, formerly Morris from Llantrithyd, had died 15 months earlier also from TB, and it is interesting to note that she lost 3 brothers and 3 sisters at a relatively early age around this time. Most are in Llantrithyd churchyard.

Anne's uncle, Thoms Morris (1770-1850), was living with them in Llanbethery before his death and he bequeathed his properties in Cowbridge to his niece, one of which - in High St - she sold in 1851. This property must have been substantial as it sold for £380 and was in the occupation of a Mr Edward Davies, surgeon. It was next door to a house occupied by a Dr Sylvester. My great grandfather was a carpenter and, in the same year, he commenced building 4 houses in Christina St, Docks, Cardiff with the aid of the proceeds from the house sale. His brother, Edmund, was also involved in the building of 3 houses in the same street at the same time.

On Thomas' death in 1859 he left the 4 properties and also a property called the Temperance in Cowbridge (which came from Thomas Morris' estate) to his 8 children, the oldest being 17 and the youngest 3. The executors were his 2 brothers Edmund and Jenkin. They were to support and educate the children from the rents, interest and profits until the youngest reached the age of 21 when the estate was then to be divided amongst the family.

Initially, the grandfather, Thomas David, who had been at the Little Mill for many years and his wife Gwenllian, together with their grand-daughter, Sephora, went to Llanbethery to look after the children but Gwenllian died 11 months later. In the Census of 1861 Thomas was 77 and Sephora 20 and they are shown there with the 6 youngest children. Thomas died in January 1865 but the family were split up before then - 5 went to relatives, 2 into service and the oldest was already living away as an apprentice. My grand mother, Mary Ann was with her aunt Margaret and uncle Richard Edward who was a Baptist Minister. She was boarded for 3 shillings a week. In 1867 she was at her uncle Jenkin's in Penarth where she worked as a servant. In 1869 she was at Penkirk. There is no record of her education and this substantiates Catherine's statement of 1879 when she wrote that Mary Ann was never put to school.

In 1873 uncle Jenkin died so Edmund became the sole executor with full responsibility for the estate. The youngest child Margaret became of age in 1877.

The family were finding great difficulty in obtaining information about their inheritance from Edmund because he was making numerous excuses about his not being able to finalise the accounts. They finally turned to a solicitor for support - hence Box 19.



One son, John, had emigrated to the United States and was living in Knoxville, Illinois where he was working as a farmer. There is a letter from his youngest sister, Margaret, dated March 1878 which states 'not one of us has had any account or a penny from Uncle Edmund. He is continually making excuses and one of them is that he must hear from you. He has never given us any details of the rents etc. that he has received and now we intend making him settle'. The letter enclosed a 'Power of Attorney' document which had to be taken to the British Consul in Chicago for completion to show that he was John Davies and was rightly due a share of his father's estate. Power of Attorney was granted to his brother-in-law, David Thomas of Penllyne- Catherine's husband.

After much deliberation and the sale of the 4 properties in Christina St, Edmund submitted the account and final settlement was made to Thomas' children- only 6 of the 8 survived- in October 1881- 22 years after his death and 4½ years after the youngest, Margaret, became of age.

The Executor's final account provides much information on the costings incurred on the Estate over the 20 year period. Some examples are as follows:-

1859 - <u>Thomas Davies' funeral</u>		
	Drapery	£1.17. 7
	Grave	12.10d
	4 Rakes & Carriage	5.3d.
	Trap Hire to Cowbridge	6.0d
	Beer at funeral	5.6d
	Stones for 'Tommy's' grave	10.0d
1860	Half premium for apprenticing Jenkin (carpenter)	£7.10.0.
	5cwt coal	2.10d
	1 cwt potatoes	7.0d
	Repairing roofs of 4 houses	11.0d
	Quarterly Water Rate	15.0d
1862	16lbs Cheese	8.8d
	1lb Tea	4.8d.
	Sephora's wages     £1 per week	
1863	Boarding for Mary Ann Davies 3 shillings a week	
	Boarding for Margaret Davies £10 for the 12 months	
1866	Boots for Thomas	12.0d
	1 Cow	£7 0.0
	Suit of Clothes	£2.13.6d
	Schooling for Edmund & Thomas(6 mons)	£7. 0.0
	Board & Lodging for Morris (with Aunt Norman)	
	March 65 to March 66	£15.4.6d
	Premium for 3 years apprenticeship (Morris)	£13.0.0
1870	12 mons Poor Rate on Bute Town properties	£8. 0.0.
	12 mons Board of Health Rate -do-	£2.16.0.

1871 Mrs Norman's expenses for the funeral of Morris (drowned in Pontypridd)	£15.12.4.
1875 Expenses for the funeral of Edmund	
Coffin	£4. 0.0.
Hearse fly trap	£3.13.6.
Trap for Penllyne	10.0d
Refreshments at 'Old Post'	10.9d
1876 Taking down old mortar and replastering fronts of 4 houses with ground lime	£9.5.0.
Receipts	
1865 Rent of Temperance House, Cowbridge -6mons.	£7.10.0
1866 Rent of 1 house in Christina St (74 weeks at 7 shillings a week)	£25 18.0
1852 Cost to build 1 house in Christina St	approx. £110.0.0.
1878 Sale of 1 house -do-	£307.10.0

It is interesting to note that the boys were put to school and later apprenticeships but very little was spent on the girls .

We could not find the whereabouts of my grandmother in the 1881 Census but the documents have shown that she was in service at Pilston House, Llandogo, Coleford, Glos, so now we have very comprehensive details of her early life and that of her family in the Llancarfan area. She married my grandfather, William Richard Williams who was brought up by his grandfather and an aunt in Cowbridge. In the 1851 Census the grand father, Richard Thomas, is living in the Nags Head but in 1871 he was living with his daughter, Elizabeth, and my grandfather in West Village.

Many thanks again, Jeff, for 'opening the Box' - and passing on that information to John Etherington

Sincerely,

*Ken Nina Williams*

Ps

*Am enclosing the documents on the 2 Cowbridge properties which may be of interest to you.*

[REDACTED]  
1<sup>st</sup> April 04

Dear Jeff,

We were very pleased to meet you Jeff at the exhibition two weeks ago and to be able to purchase your book on the old Inns of Cowbridge. We have found it fascinating, especially when the Morris family from Llantrithyd and later the Pelican, who are my ancestors, are mentioned in it. John and Margaret's daughter, Ann, married into the David family from the Mill in Llancafarn, so she was my great grandmother.

On the other side of my family- the Williams side- my grandfather, Wm Richard Williams, was brought up by his grandparents and their daughter, Elizabeth, at the Nags Head and I understand that he was always known as 'Will my nephew' in his early years.

I'm enclosing my latest 'update' on the family together with some 'bits & pieces' which we have collected along the way which may be of interest to you :-

Jenkin Morris (Maltster) 1773-1827. This will mentions his son-in-law, Thomas Evans, publican, Llanfadle. I would assume that he is the same person who was later in the Pelican and afterwards at the Masons Arms. It is interesting to see that James Ballard, the Landlord of the Bear, was one of the witnesses.

*Not Thomas  
(61844 St Lytle*

Sale document of a substantial house in the High St - value £380- which was rented to a Surgeon, Mr Edward Davies. This house was previously owned by the Morris's before it was willed to Ann David by her uncle Thomas.

*St H's.*

You will see on the chart that the Morris family went through a very sad time in the 1840/50's. 9 of them died- 5 in their 20's. We know that Ann and her husband both died from TB so that could have been the cause for a number of them. John Morris, the Publican at the Pelican, died from a diseased liver and stomach !.

We shall continue to plod on with our research, especially to see if there is a link between Francis Morris 'Alderman of this town' who died December 5 1729 aged 75 and who lies in the south aisle of Holy Cross.

Thanks again, Jeff, for going through that Box- still can't believe it !!!

Best Wishes,

\* *Richard Hyary Thomas*

*Ken*

mainly for information Jeff - but many  
thanks for what you did. *hxy*

2nd January 2003

Dear *Jeff*

Both Vina and I were delighted to receive a copy of John's booklet on the history of the 'Little Mill' where my great great grandfather, Thomas David and later his son Jenkin, lived and worked as millers for many years. It was fascinating reading for us.

Both of us are keen family historians and we have been researching the 'David's' for a number of years now with the main emphasis on Mary Ann, my grandmother, who died in 1939 when I was 10 years old. She was the daughter of Thomas David (Davies) and grand daughter of Thomas the miller. She was born in Llanbethery in February 1854. Her mother was Ann (formerly Morris) of Llantrithyd, daughter of John and Margaret Morris. Ann died on the 1st July 1858 and Thomas on the 21st June 1859 so my grand mother was orphaned at the early age of 5.

Despite extensive searching we had no knowledge of her whereabouts until she married William Richard Williams, my grandfather, on the 5th April 1884 in St Mary's Church, Bute Road, Cardiff in the name of Mary Ann Davies. We have no idea why her surname changed from David to Davies but we later found out that her father's Will is in the name of 'Thomas David or Davies of Llanbethery'. Incidentally the Will was made out on the 13th June 1859, only 8 days before he died but it was not proved until the 27th November 1872!!

We were recently sent a copy of the Newsletter by Marilyn Cann, the sister of a childhood friend of mine, detailing John's history of the 'Little Mill', and to our utter amazement and delight, on the back page were statements made in 1879 by 2 members of my grandmother's family, her older sister Catherine and her cousin Sephora, to a solicitor giving details of what had happened to the children after their parents' death. We thank you, Jeff and John, for finding and then publishing these 'snippets'. It is incidents like this that makes geneology so fascinating. We have been in touch with the solicitors, Gwyn & Gwyn, and will make arrangements to view the documents in the near future.

I am enclosing a chart giving details of our findings on the family together with photocopies of some of the documents supporting this information. These documents are:

Thomas David's (the miller) baptism on the 2nd May 1784 at Llancarfan.  
1841 Census of the Mill  
1861 Census showing grandfather in charge.  
Death Certificate of Thomas 2nd Jan. 1865

Baptism of the son Thomas ( my great grandfather) Nov.3rd 1812  
1841 Census- Llanbethery  
1851 Census- Llanbethery  
1854 Birth Certificate of my grandmother, Mary Ann.  
Wills of Thomas, Edmund and Jenkin David ( or Davies)

I am also enclosing a copy of the marriage banns between Thomas David of Llancarfan and Mary Stradling dated 15th Sept 1783 on the assumption that they could be Thomas the miller's parents.

Finally, both Thomas and Gwenllian are buried in Zoar, Bonvilston along with their daughter Ann-mother of Sephora - who died at the age of 33. We have been unable to trace any of the records of this chapel other than the Monumental Inscriptions.

With very many thanks,  
Sincerely,

*Ken & Vina (Williams)*

*Copies to John to, John to & Marilyn*

## **Morris family research**

### **From memorials in Holy Cross church :**

Francis Morris of St Hilary died 24<sup>th</sup> June 1811 aged 71

Mai..., his wife, died 29 July 1826 aged 90

Jenkin Morris, their son, died 28 May 1827 aged 54

Francis Morris, Alderman, died 5 December 1729 aged 75

John Morris of Newton, father of Margaret David

John Morris of Newton, father of Anne Watkin

John Morris of Newton, father of Mary Thomas