

Cowbridge and district schooling in the 19th century.

1847: Reports of the Commissioners of Inquiry into the state of education in Wales

(inquiry into the means of acquiring a knowledge of the English language)

Cowbridge had 4 day schools and 5 Sunday Schools; 1 had 2 SS only

In the day Schools of C, 73 boys, 49 girls (= 122)

In the church SS, 43 boys and 55 girls

In the dissenting SS:

Cowbridge: 60b, 32g under 15 and 36b, 28g, over 15

Llanblethian: 46b, 34g under 15 and 38b, 20g, over 15

The Reports (Brad y Llyfrau Gleision) records inspections of
National School, established 1839

Mrs Burton's, 1835

Miss Harris's, 1840

Mrs James's, 1843

And for Sunday Schools :

Cowbridge Church (in Mrs Barton's house) + Church + Ramoth + Sion + Ebenezer

1851 census

1.	West Village (1 Westgate)	Wm Lewis, 52, teacher of Reading and Arithmetic
2	West Village (3 Westgate)	Mary Barton, 64, schoolmistress)
42	High St (Caercady)	Michael Farrer, 36, teacher of Maths and 2 nd master at Grammar School + 3 boy boarders
43	High St (56 HS)	William Holt Beever, 23, clergyman and HM of C Sch + Henri Bertrand, 22, French teacher + 13 boys
44	High St (54 HS)	2 boy lodgers + jane and Maryanne Barnes, 32 and 26, schoolmistresses
134	Limes	Richard Williams, 38, teacher of Mathematics
216	E Village	Annie Wilmot, 27, schoolmistress (lodger)
87	High St	4 boy boarders in house next to H & G
136	Limes	Mathew James, 54, stonemason + Catherine James, 53, wife
[152	E Village	Wm and Harriet James joiner and builder employing 3]
206	E Village	Catherine Harris, 49, schoolmistress + one 10-yr old lodger

The Eagle Academy (from David Jones of Wallington)

'Mr Thomas Rhys whose name is known to many beyond Cowbridge for the mention of it in Carlyle's Life of John Sterling, was a schoolmaster and succeeded his relative Mr T Williams in the mastership of the private commercial academy at Cowbridge called the Eagle. . . .

By 1798 the inn had been given up and the large room had been turned by Mr Williams into a schoolroom and the 'yard' made a capital playground for the boys. Here for 80 yrs boys were caned and breeched (birched?) and clobbered and generally bemaused in the doubtful operation of acquiring sufficient knowledge to fit them for the duties of life. Boys and girls were caned unmercifully. Mr Williams's health obliged him to retire rather early in life and Mr Rhys his successor kept on the school for perhaps 30 yrs

or more, when he in turn was succeeded by Mr Lewis. Both Billy Lewis and Rhys looked upon it as a crime to 'spoil the rod'. No child who went to the Eagle during the mastership of either of these gentlemen stood the slightest chance of being spoiled – for the lack of beating at any rate. Mr Lewis died about 1856.'

ANNIE LLEWELLYN

Born 14th February, 1849. One of the eight surviving children of Nathaniel Llewellyn, saddler of Cowbridge, in the Vale of Glamorgan, and his wife, Jane. Nathaniel had died some five years earlier, and his widow had kept on the family business with some success. The saddler's shop was in Church Street, opposite the Duke of Wellington Inn, and by 1860 Annie's 24-year-old brother, Nathaniel, was helping his mother to run the business. Her 14-year-old-brother, Llewellyn, was already apprenticed to the trade and Annie's oldest sister was helping her mother at home, while Margaret, the 18-year-old daughter was a draper's assistant in the town. The Llewellyns had lived in Cowbridge for generations; Annie's great grandfather had been a maltster in the town at the beginning of the century.

School Career

Annie was eleven when she came to Llandaff. She was happy at school, enjoying her lessons and well aware of the opportunity which the education at Llandaff offered. There was never much money to spare; her "next friends" walked across the fields from Cardiff to visit her, and Annie walked back with them, to the other side of the town, to eat simple but hearty meals. These, and her French and piano lessons, were the highlights of her school career. By 1867, when Annie was eighteen, she was able to assist Miss Baldwin by taking entire charge of one of the younger classes. In the June of that year, Miss Baldwin asked the Governors to allow Annie to remain at school for a further year, so that she could continue to assist the other governesses, but by that time, Annie, who was four months over the maximum age, was technically superannuated, and it was impossible for the gentlemen to agree to the request.

Subsequent Career

Annie left Llandaff at Midsummer, 1867. In the May of 1870 the Governors received a request from her "for assistance to enable her to open a school in Cowbridge, an undertaking favourably regarded by the Incumbent of the parish and by the Master of the Grammar School" (whom the gentlemen knew well, since he had been conducting the Annual Public Examination at Llandaff). It was resolved to provide Annie with the sum of £50 for this purpose. By this date Annie's mother was still conducting the family business in Church Street, and had even managed to extend the enterprise to include a seed merchant's business as well. There was therefore enough money, now, to establish a chemist's shop in the High Street of Cowbridge for Annie's brother, John, as well as to set up the private school which Annie, with the help of her older sisters would run.

The school opened in a small house in the town, Bridge House. Ten years later, the three Misses Llewellyn had moved to larger premises, Heath House. The school continued to grow until the early twentieth century. Boys were admitted into the younger classes and to some extent the school acted as a nursery for the Grammar School in the town.

It advertised itself in the following terms:

"Heath House, Cowbridge. Boarding and Day School. Principals: The Misses Llewellyn
Subjects Taught: Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. Geography and History. English Grammar and Composition, Needlework, plain and fancy. Music, French and Drawing.

The Domestic arrangements are most Liberal. Pupils have the Comforts and Privileges of Private Life. Prospectus forwarded on Application."

In choosing her curriculum, Annie was obviously strongly influenced by that which she had known, in her day, at Llandaff. Music, French and Needlework were all insisted on, and all taught to a high

standard, but the school, like that at Llandaff itself, also provided a sound basic education, and at least one of Annie's pupils graduated from Heath House to keep her own school, with great success.

Neither Annie nor her sisters ever married, though she shared with them the task of bringing up the motherless daughter of one of her brothers. Annie closed her school in the early years of the twentieth century, when it, like several other private schools in the town, faced severe competition from the newly established Girls' High School. Annie lived to the age of ninety-six. She was an energetic old lady with a lively mind and intelligence, still to be found knitting socks for her soldier great-nephew in her ninety-fifth year. She died in Cowbridge in 1944, following with great interest the fortunes of Hitler's war to the last.

From *Thomas Howell & the School at Llandaff*, JE McCann, Cowbridge 1972

Board School - Log Book, Cowbridge District Board

George Eaton Tutton, headmaster
Eva Caroline Tutton, assistant teacher, May 1876
(Eva Tutton married David Tilley; they lived in Ivy House, Westgate)
Kate Tutton, appointed assistant teacher December 1st 1876

1881 George Tutton
Eva Tutton
Kate Tutton
Caroline Tutton, pupil teacher

April 20th 1887
School received 33 dozen copy books from Ann Davis (stationer and bookseller of Eastgate)

Aril 4th 1887 Headmaster J H Harvey, late of Maindy school.

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