

The

THOMAS

families of

Carmarthenshire,

Pembrokeshire,

and

Glamorganshire

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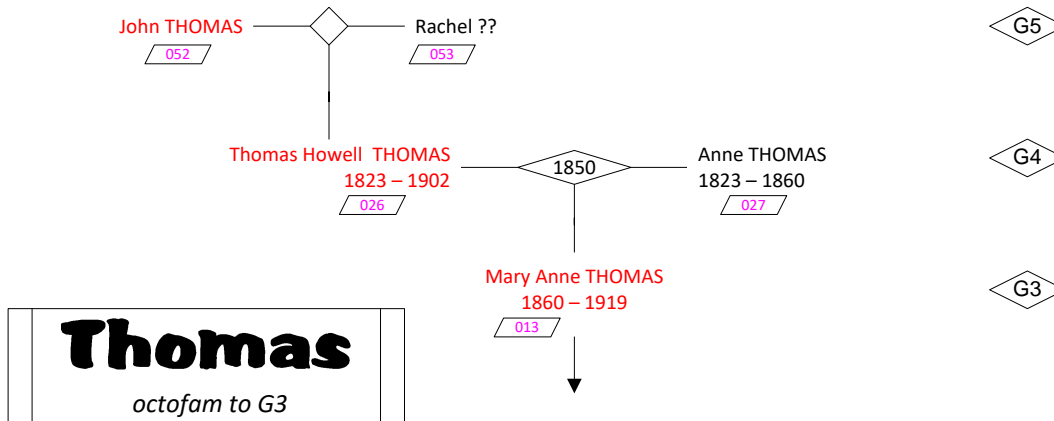
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Introduction

My great-grandmother on this branch of the family was Mary Ann OWEN (née THOMAS).



Tracing the line of a family named THOMAS in Wales has not proved at all easy, especially as her father was Thomas THOMAS and her mother's maiden name was also THOMAS.

The information below hangs together well; although much of it is demonstrably correct, some of it is guesswork – although, in every case, guesswork that is far from random.

Much of the information concerning Sarah THOMAS, elder sister of Mary Anne, has been provided by my third cousin Simon ROWLANDS.

G4 – THOMAS family

My great-great-grandfather in this line was Thomas H THOMAS¹: from two sources² I believe the ‘H’ stood for ‘Howell’, although the origin of this rather unusual forename has not been found. He has been found in each census return from 1841 to 1901: the various returns show his place of birth as Carmarthenshire (1841), Conwil Elvet – or Cynwyl Elfed (1851), Cilchadyn (1861), Kilredin (1871), Kilrhedyn (1881), Kilrhedin (1891), and Cilrhedin (1901), all of which are stated to be in Carmarthenshire. His year of birth varies from 1823 to 1827.

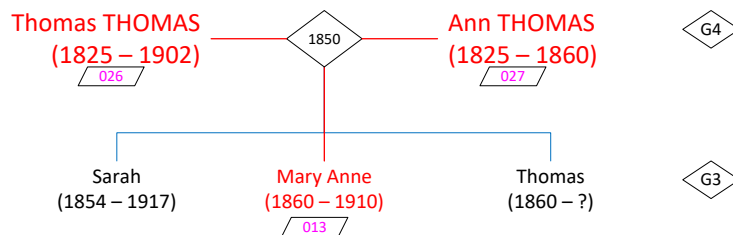
Cilrhedyn (often anglicised to Kilrhedyn) is in the union of Newcastle Emlyn. It is less than a mile from the extreme eastern border of Pembrokeshire (with Carmarthenshire).

The baptism registers for Cilrhedyn show only two entries for Thomas THOMAS between 1813 and 1831. One, in 1818, is likely to be too early; the other gives a baptism date of 28 APR 1823³. If this is indeed my gt-gt-grandfather it seems that he was illegitimate, for the register shows only ‘Anna – single woman’ in the entry. Of course, there remains the possibility that he was never baptised, and this appears to be the case as both the 1841⁴ and 1851⁵ census returns show his parents as John and Rachel.

Sometime after 1851 Thomas married Anne THOMAS⁶. There are at least three marriages between a Thomas THOMAS and an Anne THOMAS between 1847 and 1854 and without further information it is not possible to determine which one is relevant.

Thomas and Anne’s first child was a daughter, Sarah, born in 1855⁷. Sarah later married David ROWLANDS⁸.

About four years later Thomas and Anne had twins, born on 13 FEB 1860⁹; no record of any other children from this marriage has been found. Mary Anne’s birth certificate gives her place of birth as ‘Castle, Eglwyswrw’; at that time Eglwyswrw (in Pembrokeshire, about 12 miles west of Cilrhedyn) was in the registration district of Cardigan. Later census returns show that all three children were born in Eglwyswrw.



¹ shown on his daughter Mary Ann’s marriage certificate and referred to as T. H. THOMAS in her obituary (see Appendix 1)

² a marriage in 1900 to Margaret DAVIES (see later) and a death reference in 1902 (also see later)

³ baptism register for Cilrhedyn

⁴ 1841 census return for Tryalbach, Abernant, Carmarthenshire; HO107/1383.7 f38 p3

⁵ 1851 census return for Trialibach, Conwil Elvet, Carmarthenshire; HO108/2474 f189 p7

⁶ Mary Anne’s birth certificate shows “Anne THOMAS, formerly THOMAS” as the mother

⁷ there are several possibilities for the birth of a Sarah THOMAS registered in Cardigan: two instances in Q4/1854 (11 b 11 and 11 b 4) and one in Q3/1855 (11 b 8)

⁸ information from my third cousin, Simon ROWLANDS; see Appendix 013L

⁹ birth certificate

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who was about four years younger than Thomas, had been born in Pembrokeshire, in a place shown in the 1871 census return as 'Llanver Nantury' (which hasn't been traced¹).

1871 census return showing the THOMAS family (18th entry)

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the											
Civil Parish (or Township) of		Municipal Borough of		Parliamentary Borough of		Town of		Village or Hamlet, &c., of		Local Board, or Improvement Commissioners (District) of	
Merthyr Tydfil		Merthyr Tydfil		Merthyr Tydfil		Merthyr Tydfil		Merthyr Tydfil		Merthyr Tydfil	
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. of NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES No. of Flats or (1871)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION	AGE of Male Females	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	1. Date and Date of Birth	2. Imberbia or Idiot	3. Mentally
74	21 50	1	Jane Edwards	Servant	Widow	20	Servant	Merthyr Tydfil Glamorgan			
			Mary Ann Jones	Servant	Widow	15	General Servant	Swales			
75	22 50	1	William Samuel	Head	M	47	Profr. & Shop. Master	Aberystwyth			
			Ann Samuel	Wife	M	36	Wife of H ^d	City of Caerwyn Pembrokeshire			
			Elizabeth H ^d	Serv	Widow	19	at Home	Swales Glamorgan			
			Sarah Samuel	Wife	Widow	12	Scholar	Swales			
			Jane Samuel	Wife	Widow	10	Wife of H ^d	Swales			
			Ann Samuel	Wife	Widow	7	Wife of H ^d	Swales			
			William H ^d	Son	Widow	2	Wife of H ^d	Swales			
76	23 50	1	William Lewis	Head	M	52	Profr. & Shop. Master	Swales Glamorgan			
			Mary Ann Lewis	Wife	M	39	Wife of H ^d	Swales Glamorgan			
			Mary Ann Lewis	Serv	Widow	15	at Home	Swales			
			David Lewis	Son	Widow	11	Scholar	Swales			
			Sarahanna Lewis	Serv	Widow	2	Servant	Swales			
77	24 50	1	Thomas Thomas	Head	M	46	Joiner	Swales Glamorgan			
			Martha Thomas	Wife	M	42	Wife of H ^d	Swales Glamorgan			
			Sarah Thomas	Serv	Widow	16	Servant	Swales Glamorgan			
			Thomas Thomas	Son	Widow	11	Scholar	Swales			
			Mary Ann Thomas	Serv	Widow	11	Wife of H ^d	Swales			
			Martha Thomas	Serv	Widow	4	Wife of H ^d	Merthyr Tydfil Glamorgan			
			Sarah Jones	Servant	Widow	24	Servant	Swales Glamorgan			
4	Total of Houses..	3	Total of Males and Females..		8	15					

It is a distinct possibility that Martha was a widow. An entry in the 1861 census return² shows William and Martha YOUNG, with two servants but no children, living at Eglwysrwr. William was a farmer of 90 acres. According to this return Martha had been born at Nevern, about five miles west of Eglwysrwr. Two instances of a death of William YOUNG are recorded³, one in 1862 and one in 1864; the later one is the more likely. However, this does not explain why Thomas and Martha were married in the Haverfordwest area.

Shortly after their marriage, the THOMAS family moved south to Merthyr Tydfil, where a third daughter, Martha (H)annah, was born about 1867⁴. The 1871 census return⁵ shows 'Martha Hannah', whereas that of ten years later⁶ records her as 'Martha A'. As well as a change of address, Thomas changed profession from 'farmer' to 'grocer'.

The reason for this move (Merthyr Tydfil is some 75 miles from Eglwysrwr) is unknown; but either as a result of the move, or as a reason for it, by 1871 Thomas was a grocer. Sarah, the eldest daughter, was a 'servant' whilst the twins Thomas and Mary Anne were both 'scholars'.

The population of Merthyr Tydfil had been steadily increasing, from 35,000 in 1841 through 49,800 in 1861 to 51,900 in 1871. More people means more food and more groceries; perhaps this was the reason for the family's move and Thomas's change of occupation.

¹ Simon Rowlands, a third cousin, asserts that this is likely to be either Llanfair Nant Gwyn, about a mile from Eglwysrwr, or Llanfair Nant y Gof, about five miles from Haverfordwest
² 1861 census return for Jordan Mill, Cwm, Eglwysrwr, RG9/4174 f40 p8
³ ONS death reference for William Henry YOUNG, Q2/1862, Pembroke, 11a 448 or William YOUNG, Q4/1864, Pembroke, 11a 571
⁴ there are no birth registrations at Merthyr Tydfil for Martha Hannah about this time, although one for Martha Anna THOMAS, Q4/1867, 11a 376 is likely
⁵ 1871 census return for 24 Union Street, Merthyr Tydfil, RG10/5399 f57 p19
⁶ 1881 census return for 17 Mary Street, Merthyr Tydfil, RG11/5311 f98 p23

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After only seven years of marriage, Martha died¹ in 1873. Less than eight years later Thomas was still in Merthyr Tydfil² but at a different address, a different profession – by now he was a ‘commission agent’ – and with a different wife, Catherine. She had been born in Llantrisant, a suburb of Cardiff, and was about the same age as Thomas. There are three possibilities for this marriage³.

1881 census return showing the THOMAS family (6th entry)

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Page 23 98

Civil Parish [or Township] of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town or Village or Hamlet of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of	Parish or District of	Page	
Merthyr Tydfil	Merthyr Tydfil	Cardiff	Merthyr Tydfil	Merthyr Tydfil	Merthyr Tydfil		Merthyr Tydfil	98	
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. of NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited (1) or Building (2)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of Males Females	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Imbecile or Idiot (4) Lunatic
127	17 Mary St.	1	Thomas Jones	Head	Married	26	Stoker	Pennarth, Glamorgan	
			Mary do	Wife	Married	28		do Merthyr	
			Henry G. do	Son	Single	6		do Cardiff	
			Edward G. do	Son	Single	4		do do	
			John J. do	Son	Single	5		do do	
128	17 Mary St.	1	Thomas Thomas	Head	Married	54	Commission Agent	Pennarth, Glamorgan	
			Catherine do	Wife	Married	50		Pennarth, Glamorgan	
			Esther do	Servant	Single	14	Pupil Teacher	do Merthyr	
129	do	1	Samuel W. do	Lodger	Married	55	Baptist Minister	Pennarth, Glamorgan	
130	18 do	1	Ann Davies	Head	Married	69		Pennarth, Merthyr	
			Janette do	Servant	Single	32	Condenser Steam Engine	do do	
			George A. Evans	Head	Married	17	Scholar	do do	
131	14 do	1	Charles Davies	Head	Married	57	Commission Agent	Pennarth, Glamorgan	
			Esther do	Wife	Married	62		Pennarth, Merthyr	
			John G. do	Son	Married	20	Commissioner's Apprentice	Pennarth, Merthyr	
			Thomas G. do	Son	Single	4		do do	
132	20 do	1	David Thomas	Head	Married	36	Colliery's Assistant	Pennarth, Glamorgan	
			Anna do	Wife	Married	33		Pennarth, Glamorgan	
133	21 do	1	James Thomas	Head	Married	34	Coal Miner	Pennarth, Glamorgan	
			Maria do	Wife	Married	34		do Merthyr	
			Elizabeth do	Servant	Single	14		Pennarth, Merthyr	
			John do	Son	Single	2		do do	
			John W. do	Son	Single	1		do do	
134	22 do	1	Thomas V. Evans	Head	Married	24	Railway Fireman	Pennarth, Merthyr	
			Frances M. do	Wife	Married	27		Pennarth, Glamorgan	
Total of Houses...		7	Total of Males and Females...		10 18				

NOTE.—Draw the pen through such of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

Eng.—Sheet M.

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This sounds rather improbable – Thomas is now married to his third wife – and yet this is the only family I can find that seems to fit. The occupation is something of a problem, however, as the 1881 census return (taken in April) Thomas was shown as a ‘commission agent’ whereas on his daughter Mary Anne’s marriage certificate (December 1881) he is clearly shown as a grocer – is it likely that he was a grocer in 1871, a commission agent in April 1881 and a grocer once more eight months later? It is possible that he carried on both occupations at the same time. There is a further point in favour of this family – staying in the same house was a Samuel THOMAS aged 55 – i.e. a year older than Thomas – who was a Baptist minister. Although he was shown as a lodger, it is possible that he was Thomas’s brother, who appears with him in the 1841 census. On the other hand, THOMAS is a very common Welsh surname and this may have been nothing more than a coincidence.

¹ ONS death reference for Martha THOMAS, Q2/1873, Merthyr Tydfil, 11a 245

² 1881 census return for 17 Mary Street, Merthyr Tydfil, RG11/5311 f98 p23

³ ONS marriage references for Thomas THOMAS, all Merthyr Tydfil: Q1/1876, Catherine THOMAS, 11a 459; Q4/1880, Catherine EVANS, 11a 690; Q4/1880, Catherine CHARLES, 11a 629

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Ten years later, nothing much had changed. The 1891 census return¹ shows Thomas, still a 'commission agent', with wife Catherine, and living in Rees Street, Merthyr Tydfil. This is a rather larger house than the one in Mary Street, but is literally just around the corner – the two are within sight of one another.

1891 census return showing the THOMAS family (23rd entry)

Administrative County of Glamorgan																
The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the																
Civil Parish		Municipal Borough		Municipal Ward		Urban Sanitary District		Rural Sanitary District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Ecclesiastical District				
of Merthyr Tydfil		of Merthyr Tydfil		of Merthyr Tydfil		of Merthyr Tydfil		of Merthyr Tydfil		of Merthyr Tydfil		of Merthyr Tydfil				
Col. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	Inhabited or not	Number of Houses in the Street	Number of Persons in the House	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employed	Where BORN	(1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic, Imbecile or Idiot	Language Spoken			
12	Tannem Ter	1			James Pegg	Head	M	47	Part-time Office Agent	X	Swinton, Carlisle		English			
					Elizabeth do	Wife	F	44			do Bmaith		do			
					James do	do	M	14			Yorkshire Bradford		do			
13	Tannem Ter	1			George Phomoy	Head	M	34	Teacher in the School	X	Westland, Wiltshire		English			
					Wife do	Wife	F	28			Pembrokeshire Milford Haven		Both			
					Robert do	son	M	2			Glamorgan Bontau M		English			
14	Tannem Ter	1			John M. Berry	Head	M	43	Commercial Traveller	X	Pembrokeshire Porth		do			
					Mary A. do	Wife	F	41			Glamorgan Porth		do			
					Lucy B. do	Daughter	F	19	scholar		Merthyr Tydfil		do			
					William L. do	son	M	17	do		do		do			
					James G. do	son	M	14	do		do		do			
15	Tannem Ter	1			William Lewis	Head	M	49	Professor of Music	X	Merthyr Tydfil		Both			
					Mary do	Wife	F	48			do		English			
					William H. do	do	M	18			do		do			
					George H. do	son	M	16			do		do			
					Abilda Jones	daughter-in-law	F	44			do		do			
16	Tannem Ter	1			Thomas Jones	Head	M	50	Wollen Merchant	X	Spaniards, Montserrat		Both			
					Annie C. do	Wife	F	48			Ludlow, Shropshire		English			
					Clara do	do	F	22			London, Wiltshire		do			
					Edward do	son	M	18			Swansea, Glamorgan		do			
					Edith do	daughter	F	18	scholar		do		do			
17	8 Rees Street	1			Thomas Thomas	Head	M	54	Commission Agent	X	Wiltshire, Wiltshire		Both			
					Catherine do	Wife	F	52			Glamorgan, Glamorgan		do			
18	8 Rees St.	1			Daniel Price	Head	M	56	Flourisher	X	Merthyr, Glamorgan		Both			
					Margaret do	Wife	F	55			do		do			
					Lorb Price	son	M	14	scholar		do		English			
					Morgan do	son	M	11	do		do		do			
					Thomas Jones	lodger	M	21	Coalierant	X	do		Both			
19	10 Rees Street	1			Daniel Jones	Head	M	41	Contractor man	X	Merthyr, Glamorgan		Both			
					Elizabeth do	Wife	F	38			Porth, Glamorgan		do			
Total of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms ...		8			Total of Males and Females...			14	14							

NOTE.—Draw the pen through such of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

Reference: **RG12/4436**

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Kelly's Directory of 1895 lists a Thomas Hy THOMAS, insurance agent, at Emllyn Cottage, Rees Street. As we shall see in a moment (in the 1901 census) Emllyn Cottage was the name of the house at 8 Rees Street, so this was certainly the right Thomas, but with second name presumably Henry, not Howell. Of course, Kelly's could have got it wrong – it wouldn't be the first time. Certainly 'commission agent' and 'insurance agent' could be the same.

In the census taken ten years later, in 1901², he was at the same address with yet another wife, Margaret, and 'living on own means'. The 1901 entry shown is the only Thomas THOMAS born in either Carmarthenshire or Pembrokeshire between 1821 and 1831 and living in Glamorganshire.

¹ 1891 census for 8 Rees Street, Merthyr Tydfil, RG12/4436 f21 p3
² 1901 census for Emllyn Cottage, Rees Street, Merthyr Tydfil, RG13/5024 f149 p42

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Clearly this means that Catherine had died, and the most likely death for Catherine was in 1892¹. A marriage between Thomas THOMAS and Margaret DAVIES took place in 1900² and this is probably the correct one, even though Thomas would have been about 75 at the time.

1901 census return showing the THOMAS family (14th entry)

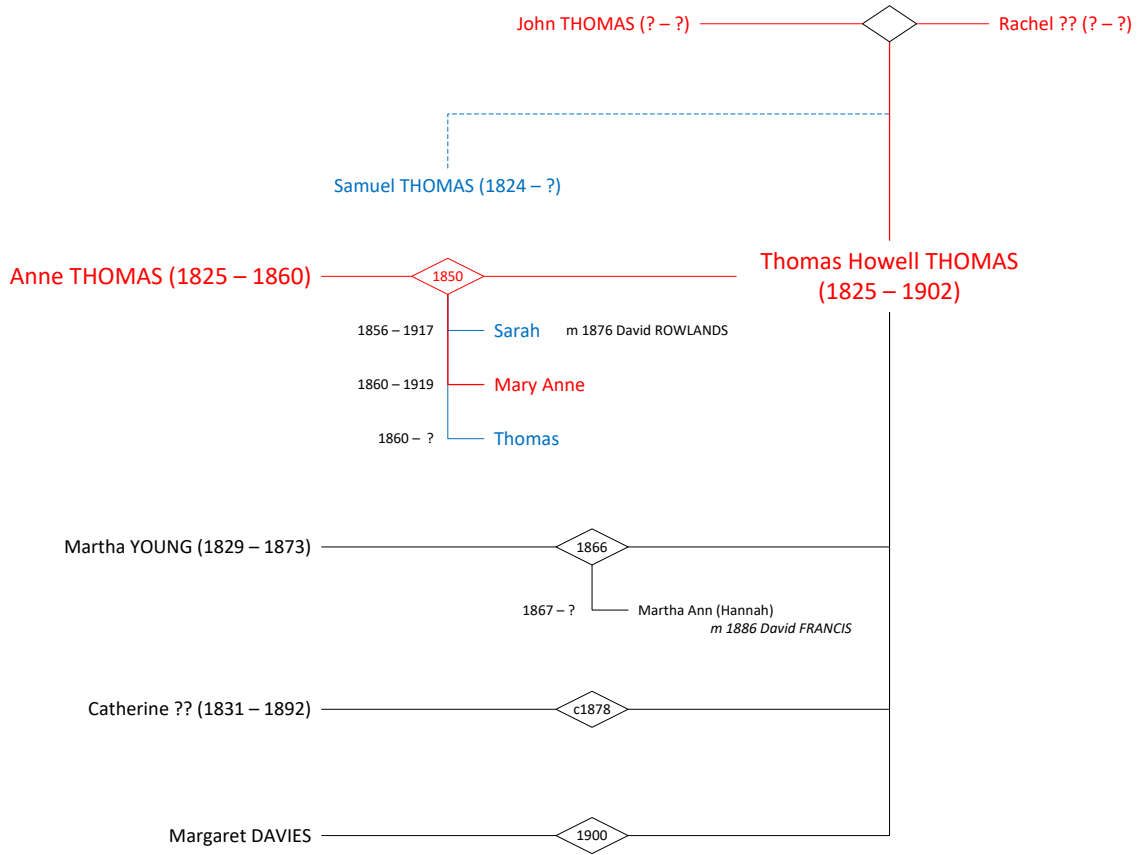
Administrative County Glamorganshire		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the										Page 42		
Civil Parish of Merthyr Tydfil		Ecclesiastical Parish of Merthyr Tydfil		County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District of Merthyr Tydfil		Ward of Municipal Borough or Urban District of Sarn Road, Part of		Rural District of		Parliamentary Borough or Division of Merthyr Tydfil		Town or Village Hamlet of Merthyr Tydfil		
No. of House	ROAD STREET, No. and No. of NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES				Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Sex	Age last Birthday	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	Working at Home	WHERE BORN	LANGUAGE spoken (Indicate, if possible, the dialect)
		Uninhabited	Number of Rooms	Number of Inhabitants	Number of Persons									
215	2 New Street	1				William Hopkins	Head	M	46	Engineer & Dockers Agent	Worker		Glamorgan, Abertau	Welf
						Maria	Wife	F	35				do do	do
						Annie	Daughter	F	16				do do	do
						Bevor	Son	M	7				do do	do
						Grandma	Daughter	F	5				do do	do
						Conlin	Daughter	F	3				do do	do
216	3 do	1				John Jones	Boarder	M	28	Marine Engineer - Engineer	Worker		do do	do
						Henry Jenkins	Head	M	37	Painter & Plumber			do do	Welf
						Edith A. do	Wife	F	30				Monmouth, Monmouth	English
						Ada S. do	Daughter	F	3				Glamorgan, Merthyr Tydfil	do
217	4 do	1				William B Lewis	Head	M	43	Dist. Rep. Assurance Co	Worker		do Carmarthen	Welf
						Thomas do	Daughter	F	14				Carmarthen, Carmarthen	do
						Anny A. Lewis	Servant	F	13	Domestic Servant	do		do St. Clears	do
248	Emlyn Cottage, New Street	1				Thomas H. Thomas	Head	M	70	Engineer and Mechanic			do Aberystwyth	do
						Margaret do	Wife	F	70				do Carmarthen	do
						Isabel Jones	Servant	F	17	Domestic Servant	do		Glamorgan, Merthyr Tydfil	do
219	9 New Street	1				Evans Morris	Head	M	44	Local Police Below Ground	do		do do	do
						John do	Wife	F	39				do do	do
						David do	Son	M	13				do do	do
						Edgar do	Son	M	10				do do	do
						Stanley do	Son	M	18				do do	do
						John W. do	Son	M	8				do do	do
						Annie do	Daughter	F	6				do do	do
250	10 do	1				Morgan J. Williams	Head	M	27	Local Police Below Ground	do		do do	do
						Mary J. do	Wife	F	27				do do	do
						Annie E. do	Daughter	F	7				Carmarthen, Carmarthen	do
						William J. Griffiths	Boarder	M	40	Boatman	do		Glamorgan, Merthyr Tydfil	Welf
251	11 do	1				William Jones	Head	M	27	General Domestic	Gen. Account		do Cardiff	do
						Margaret A. do	Wife	F	27				do do	do
						Harold do	Son	M	1				do do	do
						Elizabeth M. Davies	Servant	F	18	General Domestic	Worker		Stafford, Rollin Bridge	Welf
Total of Males and of Females...							16	15						

Finally, the death of 'Thomas Howell THOMAS' is recorded in 1902 at the age of 77³, giving a YoB of 1825; I believe that this is 'my' Thomas. Mary Ann's obituary (1919) refers to her 'late' father and so he had certainly died by this date.

¹ ONS death reference for Catherine THOMAS aged 62, Q4/1892, Merthyr Tydfil, 11a 349
² ONS marriage reference for Thomas Howell THOMAS and Margaret DAVIES, Q4/1900, Merthyr Tydfil, 11a 1206
³ ONS death reference for Thomas Howell THOMAS age 77, Q2/1902, Merthyr Tydfil, 11a 371

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Thomas THOMAS: his four marriages



Sarah THOMAS (1855 – 1917)¹

013L

Sarah was the first child of Thomas and Anne THOMAS.

In 1876 she married David ROWLANDS, a grocer's assistant in Merthyr Tydfil². The 1881 census return³ shows the family (now with the addition of Thomas A, six months old) in Mary Street, Merthyr.

Thomas THOMAS (1860 – ?)⁴

013M

Thomas, twin brother of Mary, was born on 13 FEB 1860. He married either Anna or Anne and they had at least five children.

Mary Anne THOMAS (1860 – 1919)

Mary Anne was one of my four great-grandmothers. Her birth certificate confirms her date of birth as 13 FEB 1860 and the place as "Castle Eglwysrwrw". It also confirms her parents as Thomas THOMAS (farmer) and Anne THOMAS, formerly THOMAS.

She has not been found in the 1881 census, although it is possible that she was a general servant with John and Anne EDWARDS in Nevern, Pembrokeshire⁵. John was a farmer; and as Nevern is less than five miles from Eglwysrwrw this is feasible⁶. However, her age shown in this census is 17 (whereas it should be 21).

What is certain, though, is that eight months later, in December, she married Evan OWEN in Aberaman. Their story continues in the 'Present Generations' booklet.

Martha Ann (Hannah) THOMAS (1867 – ?)

013N

Martha married David FRANCIS in 1886. They had one child, who died during infancy.

¹ see Appendix 013L

² information from Simon ROWLANDS; ONS marriage reference for Sarah THOMAS and David ROWLANDS, Q3/1876, Merthyr T, 11a 640

³ 1881 census return for 49 Mary Street, Merthyr Tydfil, RG11/5311 f99 p26

⁴ see Appendix 013M

⁵ 1881 census for Trewenfionfaior, Nevern, Pembrokeshire, RG11/5425 f89 p4

⁶ there is a possible connection with Nevern in that Thomas's second wife, Martha, may have been born there

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The above history, particularly that relating to Thomas THOMAS (senior), is complicated and, in parts, difficult to accept. The table summarises the various points along the way.

Date	Event / source	Wife/family	Place	Occupation
1823	birth (from possible baptism)		CMN Kilrhedyn	
1825	birth (from census and death cert)		CMN Kilrhedyn	
1850	married Anne THOMAS	Anne THOMAS	Carmarthen *	
1855	birth of Sarah (1861 census)	Anne	PEM Eglwyswrw	
1860 Feb	birth of twins Thomas and Mary Anne	Anne	PEM Eglwyswrw	farmer
1860	death of Anne		PEM Cardigan *	
1861	1861 census	(widower)	PEM Eglwyswrw	farmer
1866	married Martha YOUNG	Martha	Haverfordwest *	
1867	birth of Martha Hannah	Martha	Merthyr Tydfil *	
1871	1871 census	Martha	Merthyr Tydfil, Union Street	grocer
1873	death of Martha			
1875	Kelly's Directory		Hirwaun	grocer
1881 Apr	1881 census	Catherine	Merthyr Tydfil, Mary Street	commission agent
1881 Dec	Mary Anne's marriage			grocer
1884	Kelly's Directory		Aberaman Cardiff Road	grocer
1891	1891 census	Catherine	Merthyr Tydfil, Rees Street	commission agent
1892	death of Catherine		Merthyr Tydfil *	
1900	married Margaret DAVIES	Margaret	Merthyr Tydfil *	
1901	1901 census	Margaret	Merthyr Tydfil, Rees Street	'on own means'
1902	death			

* indicates a registration district rather than a village or parish.

The THOMAS families

Several questions arise from this: not least, what took them there, how could they afford the voyage, and why did they return after only a couple of years? In both the 1881 and 1891 census returns David is a 'grocer's assistant'.

The 1891 census (above) clearly shows that the Rowlands have four children (Thomas, David, Grover and John). and by the time their next son, Archibald, was born in early 1893¹ they were once again living in Merthyr Tydfil.

Two more sons followed in fairly quick succession – Harry² and Gilbert³ – and the 1901 census return shows the family in William Street, Merthyr Tydfil⁴.

Administrative County		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the												- 148 Page 39						
Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish		County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil		Urban District of Merthyr Tydfil		Ward of Merthyr Tydfil		Rural District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Town of Merthyr Tydfil						
Scale	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
No. of HOUSES	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. of NAME of HOUSE	Uninhabited	Number of Tenants	Number of Rooms	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Sex	Age last Birthday	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Date and Death (2) Sex (3) Marital Status	LANGUAGE SPOKEN (4) Native (5) English (6) Welsh (7) Irish (8) Scotch (9) Other						
228	25 William St	1			Richard Prods	Head	M	47	Insurance Agent	Worker		Corwall Below		English						
					Mary Ann do	Wife	F	36				Glamorgan Porthkerry		do						
					Edwin do	Son	M	14	Insurance Agent	do		do		do						
					Robert P. do	Son	M	14	Insurance Agent	do		do		do						
					Henry J. do	Son	M	11				do		do						
					Sarah A. J. do	Daughter	F	4				do Merthyr Tydfil		do						
					Richard L. do	Son	M	7				do Merthyr Tydfil		do						
					Joseph H. do	Son	M	2				do Merthyr Tydfil		do						
					Frank B. do	Son	M	52.0				do		do						
229	26 do	1			Henry Arnold	Head	M	22	Coach Builder	Worker		Monmouth Major		English						
					John P. do	Wife	F	23				Glamorgan Merthyr Tydfil		do						
230	27 do	1			David Rowlands	Head	M	30	Grocer's assistant	Worker		Brecon Llanidloes		Welsh						
					Sarah do	Wife	F	16				Merthyr Tydfil		do						
					Thomas do	Son	M	20	Shoemaker	Worker		Glamorgan Merthyr Tydfil		do						
					David H. do	Son	M	16	Shoemaker	Worker		do		do						
					Archibald do	Son	M	8				do		do						
					Barry do	Son	M	6				do		do						
					Gilbert do	Son	M	4				do		do						
					Edith M. Jones	Daughter	F	17	General Agent	Worker		do		do						
231	27 do	1			John Jones	Head	M	33	Shoemaker	Worker		do		do						
					Ann do	Wife	F	17				Monmouth Chepstow		English						
					Barth M. do	Son	M	16				do		do						
					Jessie A. do	Son	F	13	Teacher	do		Glamorgan Merthyr Tydfil		do						
					Arthur J. do	Son	M	10				do		do						
232	29 do	1			Elizabeth Thomas	Head	F	15				Monmouth Redwells		Welsh						
					Elizabeth A. do	Daughter	F	33				Glamorgan Merthyr Tydfil		do						
					Henry John do	Son	M	27				do		do						
					William J. do	Son	M	23	Shoemaker	Worker		do		do						
					Sarah M. do	Daughter	F	20				do		do						
					Albert J. do	Son	M	25	Shoemaker	Employer		do		English						
5	Total of Houses and of Tenants with less than Five Rooms	5			Total of Males and of Females			16/11												

This seems quite straightforward – seven children (all boys) born between 1880 and 1896 following a marriage in 1876 – but the following census, taken ten years later in 1911, clearly shows that the marriage produced only six children.

The same census shows that David was boarding with a family in Merthyr Tydfil, while Sarah and four of the boys were living in Penarth, almost thirty miles to the south

¹ ONS birth reference for Archibald ROWLANDS, Q1/1893, Merthyr T, 11a 667
² ONS birth reference for Harry ROWLANDS, Q3/1894, Merthyr T, 11a 616
³ ONS birth reference for Gilbert ROWLANDS, Q1/1897, Merthyr T, 11a 278
⁴ 1901 census return for 27 William Street, Merthyr Tydfil, RG13/5024 f148 p39

The THOMAS families

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE (last birthday) and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE					PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards			BIRTHPLACE of every Person born in a Foreign Country	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country	INFIRMITY	LANGUAGE SPOKEN
			State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—	Children born alive in present Marriage. (If no Children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Children born alive in former Marriage. (If no Children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Children still living when last seen.	Children who have died.	Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employed, Working, or on Leave from Work.				
1 Sarah Rowlands	Head	56	Married	4	6	6				Protective Glasser	491	Wales	Both	
2 Howard Rowlands	Son	26	Single						Law Clerk	479	Wales	English		
3 Groves Rowlands	Son	22	Single						Commercial Traveller	480	Wales	Both		
4 Elizabeth Rowlands	Son	18	Single						School	380	Wales	Both		
5 Gilbert Rowlands	Son	14	Single						School	380	Wales	Both		
6 Elizabeth Ellen Hughes Rowlands	Son	15	Single						General Servant (Penarth)		Wales	Both		

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

1. I certify that—
 (1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper columns.
 (2) I have entered the names and surnames in Columns 1 and 2 respectively, and have compared their surnames with the total number of persons.
 (3) After making the necessary corrections I have compared all persons on this Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Male: 4, Female: 2, Person: 6

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (Kitchens, Transoms or Apartments).
 Count the kitchen as a room but do not count sanitary, lavatory, lobby, closet, bathroom, nor warehouse, office, shop.

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: Sarah Rowlands
 Postal Address: 33 Grove Place, Penarth

Ten years later David is shown as a 'grocery manager' (rather than as an assistant), but the census return shows him living apart from the rest of the family, perhaps because he was about to retire and was still running a shop. Whatever the reason, he was living as a boarder with the RICHARDS family in Merthyr Tydfil¹ and Sarah was at Grove Place, Penarth², with four of their sons.

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE (last birthday) and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE					PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards			BIRTHPLACE of every Person born in a Foreign Country	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country	INFIRMITY	LANGUAGE SPOKEN
			State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—	Children born alive in present Marriage. (If no Children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Children born alive in former Marriage. (If no Children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Children still living when last seen.	Children who have died.	Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employed, Working, or on Leave from Work.				
1 William Richards	Head	44	Married	—	—	—			Refurber	100	Wales	Both		
2 Margaret Richards	Wife	45	Married	18	4	3			Colony		Wales	Both		
3 David Richards	Son	16	—						Colony	450	Wales	Both		
4 John D. Richards	Son	13	—						Colony	450	Wales	Both		
5 Sarah Ann Richards	Daughter	8	—						Colony	450	Wales	Both		
6 David Rowlands	Boarder	60	Married	34					General Manager	320	Wales	Both		
7 Gilbert B. Rowlands	Boarder	24	Single						Dance Clerk	401	Wales	English		

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

1. I certify that—
 (1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper columns.
 (2) I have entered the names and surnames in Columns 1 and 2 respectively, and have compared their surnames with the total number of persons.
 (3) After making the necessary corrections I have compared all persons on this Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Male: 5, Female: 2, Person: 7

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (Kitchens, Transoms or Apartments).
 Count the kitchen as a room but do not count sanitary, lavatory, lobby, closet, bathroom, nor warehouse, office, shop.

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: William Richards
 Postal Address: 3 Hanover Street

David died in 1916³, aged 69, and Sarah died the following year⁴.

¹ 1911 census return for 3 Hanover Street, Merthyr Tydfil, RG14/32469 ED19 SN146

² 1911 census return for 33 Grove Place, Penarth, RG14.32171, ED6 SN23

³ ONS death reference for David ROWLANDS aged 69, Q1/1916, Cardiff, 11a 520

⁴ ONS death reference for Sarah ROWLANDS aged 63, Q4/1917, Cardiff, 11a 435

The THOMAS families

Thomas Augustus, born on 19 SEP 1880¹, became a school teacher, and married Jessie ROBERTS in 1907². The census taken in 1911 confirms that they had married three years earlier; they were living with Jessie's parents³ and her younger sister. By 1939 he had become a 'Headmaster Senior Service', and he and Jessie were living at 23 The Avenue, Merthyr. Thomas died aged 86 at Bangor in 1962⁴.

David was born on 17 DEC 1884⁵. Towards the end of 1914 he married Dorothy E KITCHEN; the marriage was registered at Axbridge (Somerset). The 1939 Register shows them living at 55 Beulah Road, Cardiff, with two children. David was a Civil Servant in the Ministry of Labour. A likely death was at Reading in 1959, when he was aged 74⁶.

Grover married Elizabeth MORRIS in 1915⁷. He appears in the 1939 register, living at 48 St Mark's Road, Henley-on-Thames. He was an 'Iron and Steel merchant's representative', and although the register shows him to be married, he was the only occupant of the house. He died towards the end of 1955⁸.

Archibald became a Civil Servant and in 1920 married Constance PHILLIPS⁹. In 1939 he was the Second Deputy Secretary at the Air Ministry in London. His death was registered in Henley in 1953¹⁰.

Gilbert died in 1923, aged only 27¹¹. He had married a couple of years earlier, to Dorothy E BOWEN.

¹ from 1939 Register

² ONS marriage reference for Thomas Augustus ROWLANDS and Jessie Harriet L ROBERTS, Q3/1907, Merthyr Tydfil, 11a 1326

³ 1911 census reference for 25 Victoria Street, Merthyr Tydfil, RG14/32425, ED1, SN63

⁴ ONS death reference for Thomas A ROWLANDS aged 86, Q1/1962, Bangor, 8a 127

⁵ from 1939 Register

⁶ ONS death reference for David H ROWLANDS aged 74, Q1/1959, Reading, 6a 124

⁷ ONS marriage reference for Grover C ROWLANDS and Elizabeth G MORRIS, Q1/1915, Cardiff, 11a 701

⁸ ONS death reference for Grover C ROWLANDS, Q4/1955, Henley, 6b 799

⁹ ONS marriage reference for Archibald ROWLANDS and Constance M PHILLIPS, Q3/1920, Swansea, 11a 2937

¹⁰ ONS death reference for Archibald ROWLANDS, Q3/1953, Henley, 6b 634

¹¹ ONS death reference for Gilbert ROWLANDS, Q3/1923, Cardiff, 11a 340

Appendix 013M – Thomas THOMAS (1860 – ?)

Thomas was the twin brother of Mary Ann, born on 13 FEB 1860¹ at ‘Castle Eglwysrwr’. There are today the remains of a castle at Eglwysrwr, located to the west of the village, which is about six miles south-west of Cardigan and miles east of Fishguard.

As his mother, Anne, died soon after his birth, Thomas was taken to live with Thomas and Maria DAVIES and their daughter and son-in-law Elizabeth and Thomas DAVIES, at Meline², where we was described in the 1861 census as a ‘nursling’ (in the care of a wet-nurse). Both Thomases were agricultural labourers and were, possibly, workers on the THOMAS farm. Meline is the ‘church next to the site of the Celtic Fort of Castell Henllys’³ – Castell Henllys being about a mile north of Eglwysrwr.

Ten years later, in 1871, Thomas was living with the rest of his family (father, step-mother Martha, two sisters and half-sister Martha Hanna) in Merthyr Tydfil⁴.

1871 census return showing the THOMAS family (18th entry)

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										Page 18	
*Civil Parish (or Township) of	Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Village or Hamlet, &c. of	Local Board, or Improvement Commissioners District of	Sanitary District of	Where			
Merthyr Tydfil		Pontyglaiz	Merthyr Tydfil	Merthyr Tydfil	Merthyr Tydfil	Merthyr Tydfil	Merthyr Tydfil	1. Deaf and Dumb	2. Blind	3. Insane or Idiot	4. Lunatic
No. of Schedules	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. of NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES (Number of Houses in the Schedule)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION	AGE of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN			
						Male	Female				
74	No 20 Union Street	2	Lane Edwards	Butcher	Widow	20	20	Defensible	Merthyr Tydfil Glamorgan		
			Mary Ann George	Servant	Widow	15	15	General Servant	Soulais	0	0
75	21 Do	1	William Samuel	Head	M	47	47	Prot. Bible Maker	Aberystwyth	0	0
			Ann Samuel	Wife	M	36	36	Wife of Do	City of Caermarthen	0	0
			Elizabeth Do	Daughter	Widow	19	19	at Home	Soulais Glamorgan	0	0
			Sarah Samuel	Do	Do	12	12	Scholar	Do	0	0
			Lane Samuel	Do	Do	10	10	Do	Do	0	0
			Ann Samuel	Do	Do	7	7	Do	Do	0	0
			William Do	Son	Do	2	2	Do	Do	0	0
76	23 Do	1	William Price	Boarder	Widow	97	97	Prot. Bible Maker	Talgarth Breconshire	0	0
			William Lewis	Head	M	57	57	Arching Undergrove	Llangensell	0	0
			Mary Lewis	Wife	M	39	39	Wife of Do	Soulais Glamorgan	0	0
			Mary Ann Lewis	Daughter	Widow	15	15	at Home	Do	0	0
			David Lewis	Son	Do	11	11	Scholar	Do	0	0
			Sarahanna Lewis	Daughter	Do	2	2	Do	Do	0	0
77	24 Do	1	David Rees	Boarder	Widow	77	77	Joiner	Quiter Town Caermarthen	0	0
			Thomas Thomas	Head	M	46	46	Glover	Hilredon	0	0
			Martha Thomas	Wife	M	42	42	Wife of Do	Manor, Kenyng Pemb. Breconshire	0	0
			Sarah Thomas	Daughter	Widow	16	16	Servant	Do	0	0
			Thomas Thomas	Son	Widow	11	11	Scholar	Do	0	0
			Mary Ann Thomas	Daughter	Do	11	11	Do	Do	0	0
			Martha Thomas	Daughter	Do	4	4	Do	Merthyr Tydfil Glamorgan	0	0
			Sarah Jones	Servant	Do	24	24	Domestic Servant	Standish Cardiganshire	0	0
4	Total of Houses..	3 1/4	Total of Males and Females..			8	15				

* Draw the pen through such of the words as are inappropriate.

Eng- Sheet D.

Sometime during the following ten years it seems that he returned to his father’s native Carmarthenshire. The 1881 census records him living as a farm servant with the DAVIES family at Cenarth⁵, just inside Carmarthenshire but fewer than ten miles from Eglwysrwr. This family is unlikely to be the same that wet-nursed him in 1861 but the families may, of course, be related.

¹ birth certificate

² 1861 census return for Pontyglaiz, Meline, Pembrokeshire, RG9/4174 f22 p14

³ information from the headmaster at Eglwysrwr school

⁴ 1871 census return for 24 Union Street, Merthyr Tydfil, RG10/5399 f57 p19

⁵ 1881 census for Penralltygills, Kenarth, Carmarthenshire, RG11/5430 f54 p4

The THOMAS families

1881 census return showing Thomas THOMAS [013M] with the DAVIES family (16th entry)

Page 4] The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Civil Parish (or Township) of <i>Cearan</i>		Division of Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town or Village or Hamlet of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of <i>Newcastle Emlyn</i>	Metropolitan Parish or District of		
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited (U. or R.)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of		Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	If (1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Imbecile or Idiot (4) Lunatic
						Male	Female			
19	<i>Parke</i>	1	<i>Margaret Evans</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Single</i>		18	<i>Laborer's Daughter</i>	<i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>	
20			<i>David James</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	46	<i>Ag. Laborer</i>	<i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>		
21			<i>Mary James</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Do</i>	46	<i>Do " Wife</i>	<i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>		
22	<i>Penrhynole</i>	1	<i>Samuel Davies</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	52		<i>Farmer</i>	<i>Kilrhedyn</i>	
23			<i>Mary Davies</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Do</i>	46	<i>Do " Wife</i>	<i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>		
24			<i>David Davies</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Single</i>	20	<i>Do " Son</i>	<i>Kilrhedyn</i>		
25			<i>Benjamin Davies</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	15	<i>Do " Do Scholar</i>	<i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>		
26			<i>James Davies</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	12	<i>Do " Do</i>	<i>Do " Do</i>		
27			<i>Samuel Davies</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	9	<i>Do " Do</i>	<i>Do " Do</i>		
28			<i>Anna Davies</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Do</i>	5	<i>Do " Daughter</i>	<i>Do " Do</i>		
29			<i>Thomas Davies</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	41	<i>Farmer of 100 Acres</i>	<i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>		
30			<i>Mary Davies</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Do</i>	61	<i>Farmer's Wife</i>	<i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>		
31			<i>Thomas Davies</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Single</i>	17	<i>Do " Son</i>	<i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>		
32	<i>Samuel Lewis</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Do</i>	22	<i>General Servant (Dom)</i>	<i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>				
33	<i>Thomas Thomas</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	21	<i>Farm Servant</i>	<i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>				
34	<i>Gellygall farm</i>	1	<i>Elizabeth Owen</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	48	<i>Farmer of 318 Acres</i>	<i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>		
35			<i>John Owen</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Married</i>	21	<i>Farmer's Son</i>	<i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>		
36			<i>Mary Owen</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	14	<i>Do " Do Scholar</i>	<i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>		
37			<i>John M. Owen</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Do</i>	6	<i>Do " Daughter</i>	<i>Do " Do</i>		
38			<i>Samuel Owen</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Do</i>	11	<i>Do " Son</i>	<i>Do " Do</i>		
39			<i>William Jones</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Do</i>	29	<i>Dairymaid</i>	<i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>		
40			<i>Mary Jones</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	25	<i>Housemaid</i>	<i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>		
41			<i>Thomas Jones</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	28	<i>General Servant</i>	<i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>		
42	<i>William Jones</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	13	<i>Farm Servant</i>	<i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>				
43	Total of Houses...	4	116	Total of Males and Females...		13	11			

NOTE.—Draw the pen through such of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE						Reference:-	COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON
1	2	3	4	5	6	RG11 / 5430	

Towards the end of 1881¹ he married either Anne DAVIES or Anna HUGHES, from Penboyr². The uncertainty is because the 1891 census shows his wife as Anna, whereas that of 1901 shows her as Anne.

Penboyr is a small village in Carmarthenshire about ten miles south-east of Newcastle Emlyn. Anna (or Anne) was about ten years older than Thomas, according to the census indexes.

By the time of the next census in 1891 Thomas and Ann were living in his father's home village of Kilrhedyn³, where Thomas was a farmer. They already had five sons of their own, plus a 15-year-old step-daughter Elizabeth – presumably from Anna's previous marriage. Everyone in the family spoke Welsh, but Thomas (senior) was the only person who also spoke English.

¹ ONS marriage for Thomas THOMAS and Anna HUGHES, Q4/1881, Newcastle Emlyn, 11b 53

² ONS marriage reference for Thomas THOMAS and either Anna HUGHES, Q4/1881, Newcastle E., 11b 53, or Anne DAVIES, Q4/1881, Newcastle E., 11b 57

³ 1891 census for Eden-Blaenwaun, Kilrhedyn, Carmarthenshire, RG12/4547 f25 p13

The THOMAS families

1891 census return showing the THOMAS family (9th entry)

Administrative County of Carmarthenshire																			
The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the																			
Civil Parish		Municipal Borough			Municipal Ward			Urban Sanitary District			Town or Village or Hamlet			Rural Sanitary District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Ecclesiastical Parish or District	
of Llanidloes		of			of			of Newcastle Emlyn			of		of		of		of		
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME OF HOUSE	Inhabited	Number of Houses	Number of Persons	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employer	Employed	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lame, Paralyzed or Idiot	LANGUAGE Spoken					
					Frederica Davies	Wife	M	22	Scholar			Carmarthen Llanidloes		Welsh					
					Elizabeth do	Daughter		11	do			do do		Welsh					
					Frances do	do		9	do			do do		Welsh					
					Sarah do	do		7	do			do do		Welsh					
					John do	Son		7	do			do do		Welsh					
74	Aden	1	2	2	Hannah Evans	Head	Wid	65	Librarian	X		Carmarthen Llanidloes		Welsh					
75	Aden Arms	1	3	3	Mary Jones	Head	Wid	51	Widow	X		Carmarthen Llanidloes		Welsh					
					James do	Son		19	Widow	X		Carmarthen Llanidloes		Welsh					
76	Blawysaron	1	2	2	Thomas Thomas	Head	M	41	Farmer	X		Pembrokeshire Llanidloes		Both					
					Anna do	Wife	M	42	do			Carmarthen Llanidloes		Welsh					
					Thomas do	Son		9	Scholar			do do		Welsh					
					John do	Son		7	do			do do		Welsh					
					David do	do		5	do			do do		Welsh					
					James do	do		5	do			do do		Welsh					
					William do	do		1	do			do do		Welsh					
					Elizabeth do	Step-daughter		15	Farmer's Daughter			do do		Welsh					
77	Griffingam	1	1	1	Sarah Williams	Head	Wid	77	Living on her own means			Carmarthen do		Welsh					
78	Glamorgan	1	1	1	John Davies	Head	M	40	Farmer	X		Carmarthen Llanidloes		Welsh					
					Ann do	Wife	M	48	Farmer's Wife			do do		Welsh					
					William do	Son	M	28	do do	X		do do		Welsh					
					Sarah do	Daughter		25	do do			do do		Welsh					
					John do	do		23	do do			do do		Welsh					
					David do	Son		22	do do			do do		Welsh					
					Margaret do	Daughter		18	do do			do do		Welsh					
					Thomas do	Son		7	Scholar			do do		Welsh					
					Thomas do	Son		7	do			do do		Welsh					
79	Abergeleib	1	1	1	William Williams	Head	M	71	Farmer			Carmarthen Llanidloes		Welsh					
					Mary do	Wife	M	69	Farmer's Wife			do do		Welsh					
					Anna do	Daughter		16	do do			Carmarthen Llanidloes		Welsh					

Note.—Draw the pen through such of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
Reference: RG12/4547

1901 census return showing the THOMAS family (18th entry)

Administrative County Carmarthenshire																
The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the																
Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish			County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District			Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District			Rural District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Town or Village or Hamlet	
of Kenarth (part of)		of Kenarth (part of)			of			of			of Newcastle Emlyn		of		of	
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME OF HOUSE	Inhabited	Number of Houses	Number of Persons	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employer	Employed	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lame, Paralyzed or Idiot	LANGUAGE Spoken		
1	Cwmsarah	1	2	2	Ben Powell	Head	M	50	General Labourer	Worker		Cardigan, Llanidloes		Both		
					Rachel do	Wife	M	52	do			do do		Welsh		
					Mary A. do	Daughter	F	14	do			Carmarthen, Cwmsarah		Both		
					Thomas do	Son		10	do			do do		Welsh		
					Elizabeth do	Daughter	F	8	do			do do		Welsh		
2	Pwngelbach	1	1	1	David O. Davies	Head	M	48	Farmer	Employer		Cardigan, Bronwynn		Both		
					Jane do	Wife	M	40	do			Carmarthen, Cwmsarah		Both		
					Samuel R. do	Son	F	16	Farmer's Son	Worker		do do		Both		
					David J. do	Son	F	14	do			do do		Both		
					John E. do	Son	F	13	do			do do		Both		
					Margaret do	Daughter	F	10	do			do do		Both		
					Thomas O. do	Son		8	do			Cardigan, Bronwynn		Welsh		
					William O. do	Son		6	do			Carmarthen, Cwmsarah		Welsh		
					Rebecca do	Daughter	F	5	do			do do		Welsh		
					Mary A. do	Daughter	F	1	do			do do		Both		
					Sarah J. do	Servant	F	22	General Serv. (Domestic)			Cardigan, Bronwynn		Both		
					Hannah do	Servant	F	17	General Serv. (Domestic)			Cardigan, Bettws Bran		Both		
3	Pwngwam	1	2	2	Thomas Thomas	Head	M	41	General Labourer	Worker		Pembrokeshire, Cwmsarah		Both		
					Jane do	Wife	M	52	do			Carmarthen, Pwngwam		Welsh		
					David do	Son	F	14	Green's Apprentice			do do		Both		
					James do	Son	F	12	do			do do		Both		
					William do	Son	F	10	do			do do		Both		
4	Paratycycto	1	1	1	David Griffiths	Head	M	47	Farmer	Employer		Pembrokeshire, Manwiddy		Both		
					Thomas do	Wife	M	51	do			do do		Both		
					Sarah J. do	Daughter	F	19	do			do do		Both		
					William Jones	Servant	F	16	Farmer's Serv.	Worker		Carmarthen, Cwmsarah		Both		
					Griffith J. W. Phillips	Servant	F	13	Farmer's Serv.	Worker		do do		Both		
5	Pwngwam	1	1	1	Margaret Thomas	Head	Wid	57	Farmer			do do		Both		
					Ketty do	Daughter	F	35	do			do do		Both		

Note.—Draw your pen through such words of the headings as are inapplicable.

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The THOMAS families

Ten years later still, in 1901, he was a general labourer, and the family had moved back to Cenarth¹. The third son, David, was a grocer's apprentice – perhaps following in his grandfather's footsteps.

The 1911 census shows only one instance of a Thomas THOMAS born at Eglwysrwrw and of the right age, but he was a 'colliery labourer' and the family was living at Abercarn, in Monmouthshire. Moreover, he is shown as 'Thomas H', and he was married to Margaret. A point in favour is that he spoke both Welsh and English (as previous census returns indicated).

The change of occupation, address and wife are all points against this being the right Thomas, but cannot rule it out – indeed, all might be inter-dependent. None of the other census returns shows another Thomas born at Eglwysrwrw, and this is a strong point in his favour. In addition, the census shows that they had been married for only one year, so it is possible that Anne had died and Thomas had remarried.

Sure enough the death of Anne THOMAS, age 52, was registered at Newcastle Emlyn (which includes Cenarth) in 1902²; but there are too many marriages of a Thomas THOMAS to a Margaret between 1902 and 1909 to be certain of choosing the right one.

1911 census return showing the THOMAS family

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Number of Schedule 201
(To be filled up by the Enumerator and collector.)

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE (last birthday) and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE				PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Person aged 15 years and upwards				BIRTHPLACE of every Person	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country	INFIRMITY	LANGUAGE SPOKEN	
			Married	Widowed	Single	Divorced	Personal Occupation	Industry or Service with which worker is connected	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account	Whether Working at Home					
Thomas H. Thomas	Head	50	Married					Colliery Labourer		Worker		Glynwysrwrw, Carmarthenshire	British subject		Both
Margaret Thomas	Wife	49	Married									Newcastle Emlyn, Carmarthenshire	British subject		Both
Thomas Harold Humphreys	Boarder	17	Single					Railway Porter	G. W. 184	Worker		Cardiff, Glamorgan	British subject		English
Reinald William Brown	Boarder	18	Single					Railway Porter	G. W. 184	Worker		Cardiff, Glamorgan	British subject		English
Ernest Clifford Knapp	Boarder	18	Single					Railway Porter	G. W. 184	Worker		Cardiff, Glamorgan	British subject		English

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

1. Every man, woman, child, and person of any age, sex, or condition, who was on the 15th day of April 1911, in the dwelling and was alive at midnight, or arrived in the dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 16th, not having been ornamented elsewhere. No one else must be included. (For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)

2. In every case of this Schedule an entry in the proper sex column, and have completed their own with the total number of persons, and also entering the number of persons in each sex column, as shown in the Examples on back of Schedule, and also the number of persons in each sex column, as shown in the Examples on back of Schedule.

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (Kitchens, Parlours, or Apartments). Count the Kitchens as a room but do not count sanitary, landing, lobby, closet, bathrooms, or workrooms, office, shop.

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: *Thos. H. Thomas*
Postal Address: *27, Boylston St., Abercarn*

Similarly, finding the right death of a Thomas THOMAS is a near-impossible task.

¹ 1901 census for Penywann, Kenarth, Carmarthenshire, RG13/5139 f13 p1

² ONS death reference for Anne THOMAS aged 52, Q3/1902, Newcastle E., 11b 571

Appendix 013N – Martha Ann (Hannah) THOMAS (1867 – ?)

Martha is recorded as living with her parents in both the 1871 and 1881 census returns at Merthyr Tydfil. Her second name is recorded variously as Hannah or Ann.

Information supplied by Simon ROWLANDS states that her married name was FRANCIS; and a marriage took place in 1886 between David FRANCIS and Martha THOMAS¹. It was registered in Pontypridd.

The 1891 census return shows David and Martha living in Penarth². David was a clerk, and a couple of years older than Martha. They had no children, but two other clerks, presumably work colleagues of David's, were lodging with them.

Ten years later, in 1901, David and Martha had moved a little way along the street³. Still no children; Martha's name was recorded as 'Martha A'.

In 1911 she was still 'Martha Anna', but undoubtedly the family is the same. They had remained in Penarth, but had moved to, literally, the next street⁴. David was now a railway clerk, and the census reveals that they had had one child but it had died, presumably in infancy.

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.																																					
NAME AND SURNAME																		RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family		AGE (last birthday) and SEX		PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE				PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards				BIRTHPLACE of every Person		NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country		INFIRMITY		LANGUAGE SPOKEN	
David Francis																		Head		47		Married				Railway Clerk				Glamorgan Penarth		British				Both	
Martha Anna Francis																		Wife		44		Married				24 1 1				Glamorgan Penarth		British				Both	
Ada Williams																		Boarder		26		Single				Teacher				Glamorgan Penarth		British				Both	

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

I certify that:
 (1) All the names on this Schedule are entered in the paper are authentic.
 (2) I have entered the names and dates in Column 7 last 9 separately, and have compared these with the total number of persons.
 (3) After making the necessary enquiries I have ascertained all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and are corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Includes of Enumerator: *W.H.*

Writes below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (Houses, Tenement or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom; nor warehouse, office, shop.

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: *David Francis*
 Postal Address: *Penarth, Grove Terrace, Penarth*

¹ ONS marriage reference for David Morgan FRANCIS and Martha Hannah THOMAS, Q4/1886, Pontypridd, 11a 630

² 1891 census return for 18 Ivy Street, Penarth, RG12/4402 f 17 p29

³ 1901 census return for 35 Ivy Street, Penarth, RG13/4989, f151 p40

⁴ 1911 census return for Gwyndre, Grove Terrace, Penarth, RG14/32173 ED8 SN254

Appendix 1 – Newspaper extracts

Weekly Mail, Cardiff, Sat 6th September 1919 (page 4)

DEATHS

OWEN On August 29th, suddenly, at Llwyn On, Ruthin Gardens, Cardiff, Mary Anne, the beloved wife of Councillor Evan Owen, JP, in her 59th year.

Weekly Mail, Cardiff, Sat 6th September 1919 (p4) +photo

OBITUARY Mrs Evan Owen, Cardiff

The death took place suddenly on Friday morning at her residence, Llwyn On, Ruthin Gardens, Cardiff, of Mrs Evan Owen, wife of Councillor Evan Owen, JP. Mrs Owen, who was in her 59th year, was the daughter of the late Mr T. H. Thomas, a retired grocer of Merthyr, and in 1881 she was married to Councillor Evan Owen, and they had lived in Cardiff ever since. Mrs Owen had been a member of the Cardiff Union Board of Guardians for about 15 years, and all through her life she took a keen and active interest in the Welsh Baptist Union, having been the Treasurer of the Zenana section of that movement for 13 years, during which period nearly £ 25,000 passed through her hands. She leaves 4 sons and a daughter. Two of the sons are in West Africa, one being the manager of the Elder Dempster Agency there, and another is a bank inspector. Another son is a barrister in Canada, and the fourth is an electrical engineer at Wigan. Mrs Owen was a member of the Board of Management of King Edward VII Hospital. It was only recently that Councillor and Mrs Owen returned from a holiday at Bath, and the deepest sympathy is felt with Councillor Owen and family in their bereavement.

The funeral took place at the Cardiff Cemetery on Tuesday. In the heavy downpour of rain, many hundreds of friends of Mrs Owen joined the relatives in paying respect to one who had endeared herself to the poor of the district. After leaving the house the cortege halted at the Miskin Street United Methodist Church, where the Revd Charles Davies, the Tabernacle, assisted by Principal Edwards and the Revd H. M. Hughes conducted an impressive service. "She lived for Cathays", remarked Principal Edwards during the course of the service.

Western Mail, Cardiff, Sat 30th August 1919 (page 1)

DEATHS

OWEN On August 29th, suddenly, at Llwyn On, Ruthin Gardens, Cardiff, Mary Anne, the beloved wife of Councillor Evan Owen, JP, in her 59th year. Funeral 3 p.m., Tuesday, for Cardiff cemetery.

and additionally, on 1st September . . .

. . . Service at 3 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, Miskin Street.

The area around Ruthin Gardens and Miskin Street is (2013) very close to the campus of Cardiff University, and consequently many of the houses are now student dwellings. The houses in Ruthin Gardens appear to be largely unaltered from how they were 130 years ago. There is no chapel in Miskin Street; most of the houses are Victorian although there is a row of some four to six much more modern houses that may now occupy the site of the former chapel.