

The

THOMAS

families of

Carmarthen

and

Pembrokeshire

The THOMAS families of Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Glamorgan

© Chris Green

Noddyshall, Rockshaw Road, Merstham, Surrey, RH1 3DB

01737 644145 noddyshall@onetel.com

updated on 10/03/2011

The THOMAS families

Introduction	4
G4 – THOMAS family.....	5
Sarah THOMAS (1855 – ?) 013L	7
Thomas THOMAS (1860 – ?) 013M	7
Mary Anne THOMAS (1860 – 1919).....	7
Appendix 013M – Thomas THOMAS (1860 – ?)	9
Appendix 1 – Newspaper extracts.....	10
Weekly Mail, Cardiff, Sat 6 th September 1919 (page 4).....	10
Weekly Mail, Cardiff, Sat 6 th September 1919 (p4) +photo	10
Charts and diagrams	11
Outline tree for the THOMAS family	11
THOMAS G4	11
Thomas THOMAS 013M.....	12

Introduction

Tracing the line of a family named THOMAS in Wales has not proved at all easy.

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. Appendix 2 gives step-by-step details of how the various guesses were arrived at.

G4 – THOMAS family

My great-great-grandfather in this line was Thomas THOMAS¹: from two sources² I believe the 'H' stood for 'Howell'. He was born in Cilrhedyn (often anglicised to Kilrhedyn), which is on the extreme eastern border of Pembrokeshire, and less than a mile from Carmarthenshire.

Various census returns offer Cilchadyn, Kilredin, Kilrhedyn or Cilrhedin; and his year of birth varies from 1823 to 1827.

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 1823*³. 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.

Towards the end of 1850 he married Anne THOMAS⁴ - possibly a cousin, or some other relation, but I am unlikely ever to be able to prove it. If she had also been baptised in Cilrhedyn there is only one possibility, the date of which is *17 MAR 1823*. Rather unfortunately she too appears to have been illegitimate as her father John, a carpenter, is shown, but no mother.

Over the next eight years they had three children, the youngest two of which were twins. From census returns all were born in Eglwyswrw, in Pembrokeshire, about 12 miles west of Cilrhedyn. It appears that Anne died at about the same time as the twins were born⁵, possibly as a result of the birth; in the 1861 census return⁶ Thomas was a widower.

Although the twins were born on 13 FEB 1860⁷, the births weren't registered until the twentieth of the following month; understandable if Thomas had the death of his wife to cope with as well as the birth of twins.

By the time of the census the following year, in April, Thomas (senior), now a widower, was living with a six-year-old Sarah in the village of Eglwyswrw⁸ – the village in which the twins had been born. He was a farmer, and this is confirmed by Mary Anne's and Thomas's birth certificate.

Baby Thomas was a 'nursling' (in the care of a wet-nurse) with Thomas and Maria DAVIES and their daughter and son-in-law Elizabeth and Thomas DAVIES, at Meline⁹. Both Thomasses 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'¹⁰ – Castell Henllys being about a mile north of Eglwyswrw.

¹ shown on his daughter Mary Ann's marriage certificate and referred to as Thomas 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 ONS marriage reference for Thomas THOMAS and Anne THOMAS, Q4/1850, Carmarthen 26 841: Mary Anne's birth certificate shows "Anne THOMAS, Formerly THOMAS" as the mother

⁵ there are three possibilities for the death of Anne THOMAS registered in Cardigan district (which includes Eglwyswrw): Q1/1860 11b 3 or 11b 11, or Q2/1860 11b 11

⁶ 1861 census return for 'village of Eglwyswrw', Pembrokeshire,

⁷ birth certificate

⁸ 1861 census for 'village of Eglwyswrw', Pembrokeshire, RG9/4174 f28 p2

⁹ 1861 census return for Pontyglazier, Meline, Pembrokeshire, RG9/4174 f22 p14

¹⁰ information from the headmaster at Eglwyswrw school

The THOMAS families

His twin sister Mary Anne was living with Daniel and Elizabeth EVANS and their three children – she is shown as a ‘boarder’, albeit at the age of one! – in Eglwysrwrw¹.

During the next ten years a great deal happened in the life of this family. Thomas had married again, to Martha YOUNG, towards the end of 1866², in Haverfordwest. She had been born in Pembrokeshire, in a place shown in the 1871 census return as ‘Llanver Nantury’ (which hasn’t been traced). Shortly after their marriage, the now reunited family moved south to Merthyr Tydfil, where a third daughter, Martha Hannah, was born about 1867.

The reason for this move is unknown; but either as a result of the move, or as a reason for it, by 1871 Thomas was a grocer³. Kelly’s Cardiff Directory for 1875 lists a Thomas THOMAS, grocer, in Merthyr Road, Hirwaun, Aberdare (Hirwaun is about four miles north-west of Aberdare, about seven miles west of Merthyr Tydfil).

After only seven years of marriage, Martha died⁴ in 1873; less than eight years later Thomas was still in Merthyr Tydfil 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 marriage⁵.

This sounds rather improbable – Thomas is now married to his third wife – and yet this is the only family that seems to fit. There is a ‘Thomas’, born in Carmarthenshire and living in Pembrokeshire, with wife Martha; but none of the children fit, he was a ‘founder in iron works’ and came from Pendine, near Tenby on the south coast. The occupation is something of a problem, however, as in 1881 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? There is, however, 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.

Kelly’s Cardiff directory for 1884 lists a ‘Thomas THOMAS, grocer’ at 23 Cardiff Road, Aberaman, Aberdare. As this is the same road in which the OWEN family (into which Mary married) was living it is at least possible that this was Mary Ann’s father. Later on, though, both the 1891⁶ and 1901⁷ census returns show him living in Merthyr Tydfil, at the same address. In the former he is with wife Catherine, and a ‘commission agent’; in the latter with yet another wife, Margaret⁸, and ‘living on own means’. The 1901 entry is the only Thomas THOMAS born in either Carmarthenshire or Pembrokeshire between 1821 and 1831 and living in Glamorganshire.

¹ 1861 census return for Henllanorren, Eglwysrwrw, Pembrokeshire, RG9/4174f29 p3

² 4th quarter 1866, Haverfordwest, 11a 1401

³ 1871 census return for 24 Union Street, Merthyr Tydfil, RG10/5399 f57 p19

⁴ ONS death reference for Martha THOMAS, Q2/1873, Merthyr Tydfil, 11a 245

⁵ 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

⁶ 1891 census for 8 Rees Street, Merthyr Tydfil, RG12/4436 f21 p3

⁷ 1901 census for Emlyn Cottage, Rees Street, Merthyr Tydfil, RG13/5024 f149 p42

⁸ ONS marriage reference for Thomas Howell THOMAS and Margaret DAVIES, Q4/1900, Merthyr Tydfil, 11a 1206

The most likely death for Catherine was in 1892¹. A marriage between Thomas THOMAS and Margaret DAVIES took place in 1900² and this is a possibility, even though Thomas would have been over 70 at the time.

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.

Sarah THOMAS (1855 – ?)

013L

Sarah was the first child of Thomas and Anne THOMAS. There are only two birth registrations recorded in the Cardigan district⁴ (which includes Eglwyswrrw) between April 1854 and April 1855; these dates assume that Sarah's age was recorded correctly in the census returns.

She has not been found in the 1881 census, neither has a record of her marriage been traced.

Thomas THOMAS (1860 – ?)⁵

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 Eglwyswrrw ". 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 just possible that she was a general servant with John and Anne EDWARDS in Nevern, Pembrokeshire⁶. John was a farmer; and as Nevern is less than five miles from Eglwyswrrw this is feasible. 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.

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

⁴ ONS birth registrations for Sarah THOMAS at Cardigan, both Q4/1854: either 11b 11 or 11b 4

⁵ see Appendix 013M

⁶ 1881 census for Trewenfionfaior, Nevern, Pembrokeshire, RG11/5425 f89 p4

The THOMAS families

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 Eglwysrwr	
1860 Feb	birth of twins Thomas and Mary Anne	Anne	PEM Eglwysrwr	farmer
1860	death of Anne		PEM Cardigan *	
1861	1861 census	(widower)	PEM Eglwysrwr	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

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.

Although 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, it seems that some time after 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 less 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. Towards the end of 1881⁶ he married either Anne DAVIES or Anna HUGHES, from Penboyr⁷. The uncertainty is because the 1891 census shows his wife as Anna, whereas that of 1891 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 Kilrhedyn⁸. The 1891 census shows five boys and a step-daughter, presumably Ann’s daughter from a first marriage although her surname is given as ‘Thomas’. Thomas’s profession is shown as ‘farmer’. Ten years later still, in 1901, he was a general labourer, and the family had moved back to Cenarth⁹. They have not been found in the 1911 census.

¹ birth certificate

² 1861 census return for Pontyglazier, 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

⁶ ONS marriage for Thomas THOMAS and Anna HUGHES, Q4/1881, Newcastle Emlyn, 11b 53

⁷ 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

⁸ 1891 census for Eden-Blaenwaun, Kilrhedyn, Carmarthenshire, RG12/4547 f25 p13

⁹ 1901 census for Penywann, Kenarth, Carmarthenshire, RG13/5139 f13 p1

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

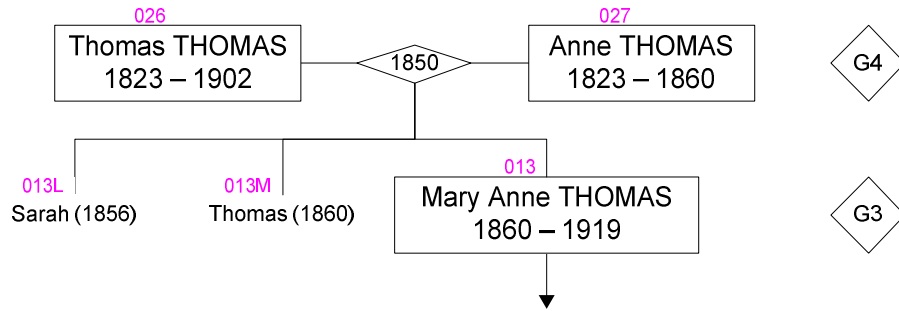
OWEN On August 29th, suddenly, at Llwyn On, Ruthin Gardens, Cardiff, Mary Anne, the beloved wife of Councillor Evan Owen, JP, in her 59th year. Funeral 3 p.m., Tuesday, for Cardiff cemetery.

and additionally, on 1st September

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

Charts and diagrams

Outline tree for the THOMAS family



THOMAS G4

