

# Lewis, Morris, Bowen, Philip, John Families, Farmers & Coal Miners of Llangyfelach 1700-1953

By James M. Burton 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 (Updated 27<sup>th</sup> June)



*'Shepherd with a Flock of Sheep' by Vincent van Gogh, 1884 Courtesy of <http://www.vangoghgallery.com/>*

This paper illustrates my successful attempt to trace my great grandmother, Mary Lewis' paternal and maternal lines back as far as possible in the remote, religiously Welsh and zealously Independent district of Llangyfelach, a rural parish a little north of Swansea. The family is well documented to the 1800's, but of course as usual the sparsity of legal papers prior to this period hampers research as well as the nature of the Welsh in the district, with very little English, Independent chapels and patronymic naming.

However with this insular nature comes success, they were well grounded and never moved very far from the mother nest for generations, and activity in the chapels leaves a little taste of their personalities and works while not in the mines and farms for 12 hours a day. As middle class, respectable, law abiding, chapel going people, their story might seem less exciting than the shenanigans of the Allen side of my family, but at least we can say their ghosts do not bear a bad conscience.

From living family evidence, my great uncle David Owen now residing in Buckinghamshire aged 90 and his brother Rhydwin Owen of Cwmaman (died 2004) confided that their mother was a Mary Lewis who spoke only Welsh, was very chapel and came from the Clydach area. They gave me a picture of a very formally dressed respectable lady, but no more information than that, it wasn't much to go on! So I traced her through the census and marriage certificates over time to the small village of Craig Cefn Parc carefully cross checking original documents and eliminating any anomalies. With 10 years of intermittent research I have now successfully tracked down another five generations and so can give a very accurate story here.

The Morris side of the family originate in Llannon, Carmarthenshire but come into farm leases via marriage in Craig Cefn Parc by the 1820's and continue in this vein until the 1970s on the farm Cathlyd. The Lewis family also originate from Llannon but deviated into coal mining earlier, and by 1880 had settled in Lluest cottages, right next door to the Morris'; proximity leading to matrimony. From these two prodigious families, intermarriage occurred within earshot to the Bowen, Philip, Howell, John etc families giving hours of never-ending research into the twisted maze of patronymic naming and potentially thousands of living relatives still abiding in the old parish of Llangyfelach.

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## Chapel Denominations

As regards the 20 plus types of chapel denomination in Wales, the Lewis, Morris and their appendage families seem to have been loyal Congregationalists (Independent) for all their lives, and baptised and married therein, but which were also registered with the local church of England. Sometimes these chapels had not yet received a licence to perform those ceremonies, plus many of the original registers of the chapels are missing.

Therefore as regards Pantycrwys chapel where the families were active, the original documents relating to them are still be located at this still functioning place, and fewer entries are found for them in the Llangyfelach registers.

The Independence movement was free from the doctrines and jurisdiction of the church of England and Rome, and designed to give a pure and simple form of worship. Because of this "dissent" against the established church and therefore the monarch and their Welsh language, they were not trusted and were persecuted heavily, similar to the Protestants in France until the religious toleration acts of 1689. From this time they were able to build chapels.

## Gazetteer & Toponymy

To avoid confusion over place names in the area we focus on, I provide this gazetteer:

**Craig Cefn Parc** is a small village a few miles north of Clydach in Rhydwylydach hamlet. The name is comprised of three elements of topography; Rock, Ridge and Park. To make sense it must be described, 'the rock on which runs the ridge of the park' or more succinctly 'The Rock of the Park Ridge'. A 'Park' might suggest an area of land reserved for the use of Lords of the old commote from their tenanted estates, which were sometimes invariably stocked with deer for breeding for hunting. Mountain ridges were in the older times used by travellers and traders to get between towns, and there certainly is a direct route through here to the market town of Ammanford.

As there was no village here in the olden times, the village no doubt takes its name from Cefn Parc farm, which is the other side of the Clydach river and would have been opposite the Cathylyd Estate, in the mediaeval era the home of local Land Lords, suggesting the toponymy of being opposite the park on a ridge, or 'On The Back of the Park'. The Craig part was added when the village emerged c.1840 due to the abundance of quarrying rock, utilised by the many workers who came to mine coal, which built most of Clydach & Pontardawe.

**Rhydwylydach** is the name for this hamlet located within Llangyfelach parish, etymologists suggest the name means "between the two river Clydachs".

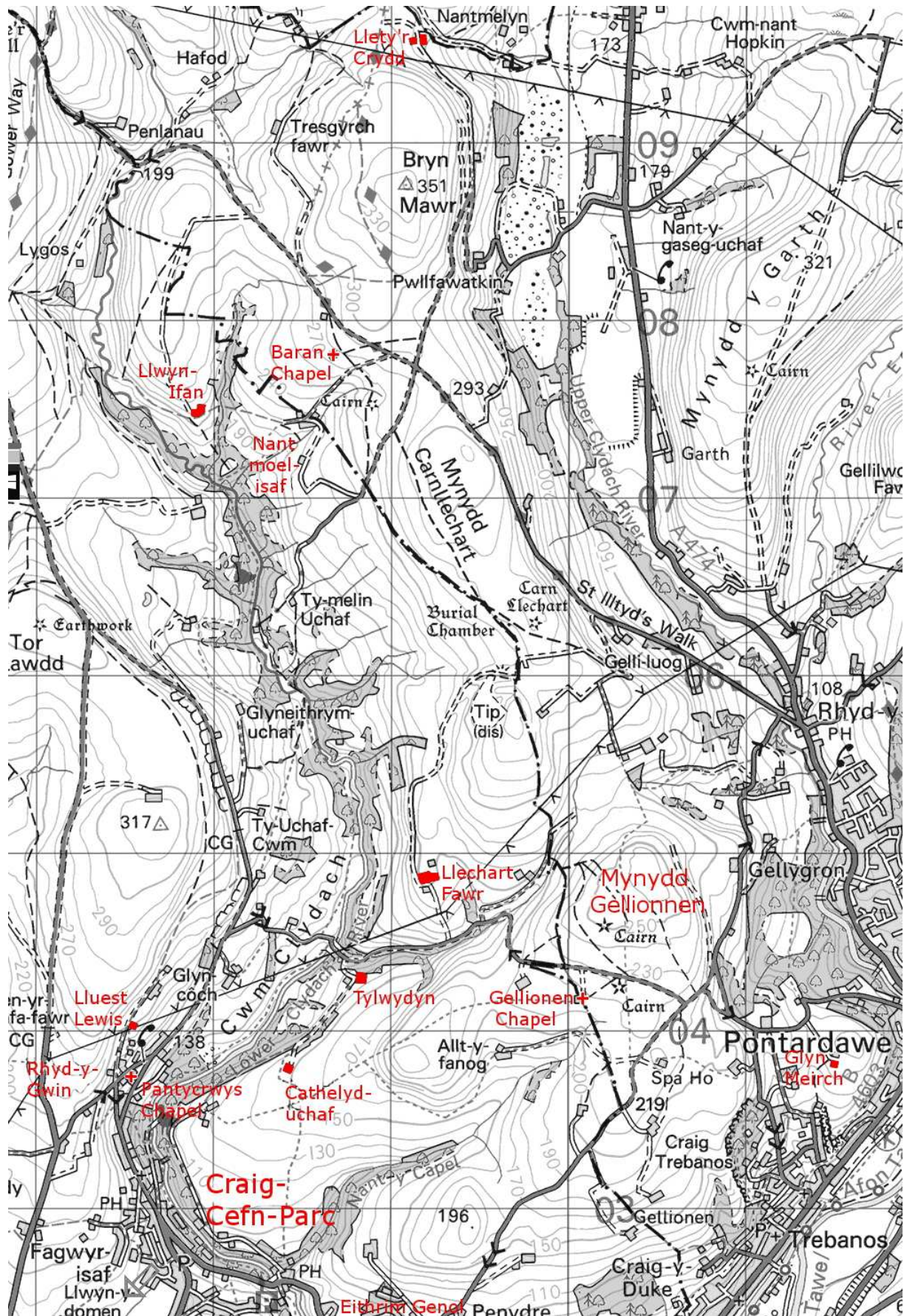
**Llangyfelach** is the old parish and comprised the old commotes (now hamlets) of Clâs, Pen Derw, Mawr and Rhydwylydach, collectively formerly known as the cantref Uwch Coed, forming the northern half of Gower in the mediaeval period (Is Coed being the southern half).

The parish town is Llangyfelach where the only English (formerly Celtic) church for many years was established and is 4 miles north of Swansea. The Welsh here were fiercely religiously independent with around 100 chapels of many denominations, with 90% of the population only speaking Welsh at that time, rejecting English taxes, laws & customs. Because of these conflicts of culture an "apartheid" was assisted by King John around 1203 separating English Gower (Gower Anglicana, Is Coed) from Welsh Gower (Gower Wallicana, Uwch Coed) in a charter, the town being on its borders.

Llan denotes an area of sacred tribal land used for religious ceremonies, which in the Christian era was where churches were built. Cyfelach or Cyfeiliog (Latin: Cimeliauc) appears to have been an early saint and Bishop, of whom variously suffered penance, chastity and austerity, a cruel death or performed miracles for their martyrdom. He is noted as a contemporary of St David, with suggestions of them both successively establishing a monastery or mother church here in the 6thC.



# Map of Rhyndwyclydach Hamlet



Rhyndwyclydach, OS 2016, via [streetmap.co.uk](http://streetmap.co.uk)  
Red areas show places associated with these families

# Lewis Family of Craig Cefn Parc

## Lewis Surname Etymology & Origins

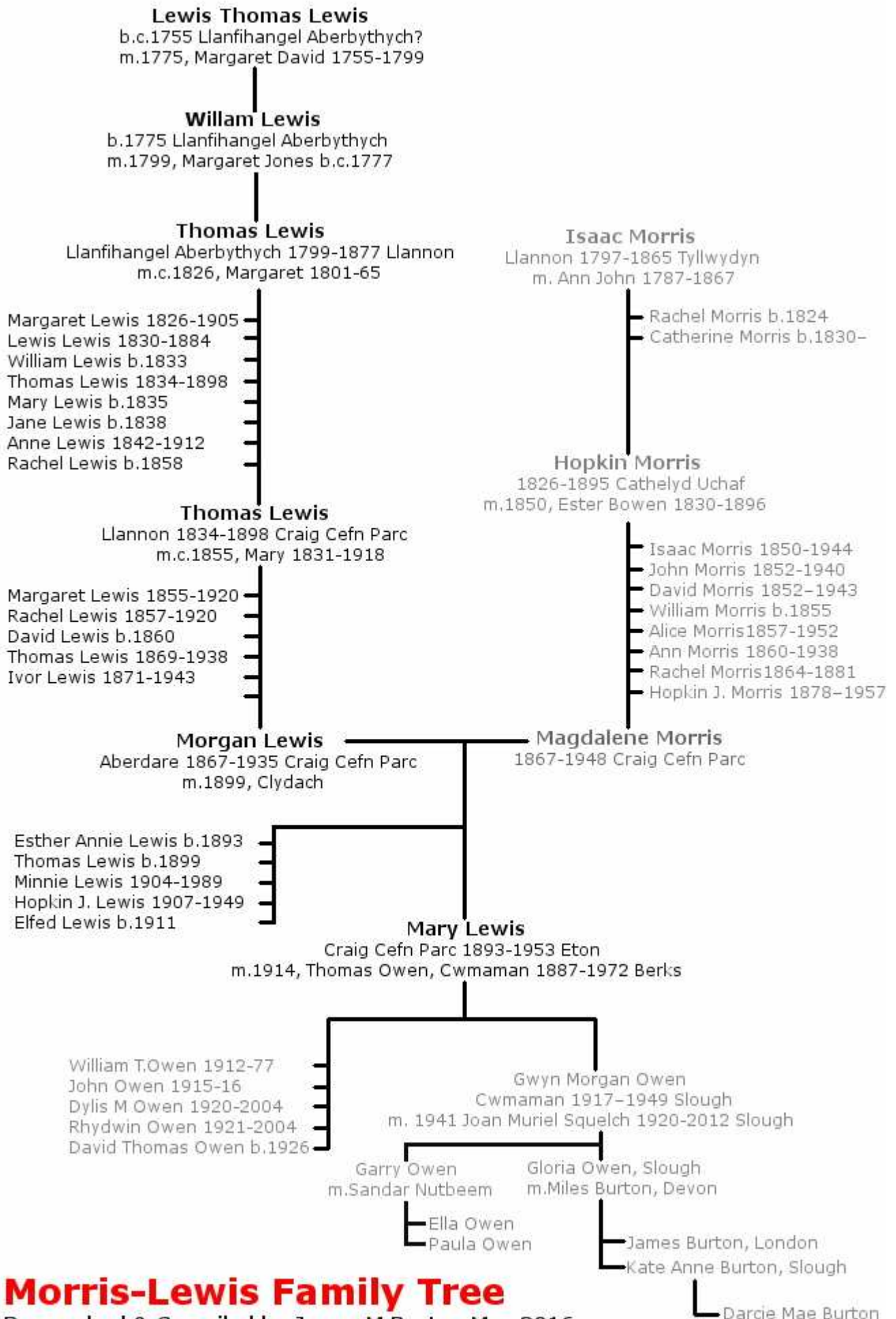
Experts state Lewis comes from the Norman personal name Lowis, or Lodovicus meaning "fame" and "war" which spread to England through the Normans. However in Wales, Lewis became confused with other unrelated names, such as Llywelyn in Welsh which was Anglicised into Lewis, earliest example, Glamorgan 1540s. This might infer that they were related to the great Llewellyns, princes of Wales, but everyone at same point can trace back to a king in some way. So again we are unsure.

The furthest I can trace with certainty is to a Lewis Lewis b.c1755 in Llanfihangel Aberbythych, a small hamlet in Llannon and likely to have been farming around this area for many centuries. Progress is hampered by the abundance of the Lewis surname and patronymic naming, e.g Lewis Thomas naming his son Lewis Lewis, and he having 2 cousins of the same name and age nearby. They came to live at Whitland farm at Pontyberem around this time, with activity in the local Tumble colliery and chapel, before upping sticks to Aberdare then Lluest in Craig Cefn Parc.

**Lluest** is a collection of Victorian miner's cottages built from the 1880s onward, over the river from Cathylyd farm nearby in Craig Cefn Parc. The literal meaning is a "shelter hastily built", sometimes for shepherds, suggesting it may have originally been a "Ty Unnos" ; a house built overnight on common land, an "ancient right" given to newly weds, although usually frowned upon by English land magnates. Original cottage Lluest Treharne above the 1880 miner's cottages could date to 17<sup>th</sup>C and a precursor of it before that associated to either Cathylyd or Cefn Parc farms. That might tie in with the other meaning for lluest, as "Treharne's summer dwelling" a capable shepherd who came to attend the flocks in favourable seasons. Lluest Newydd appears to have been built or had built by my 3<sup>rd</sup> g.grandfather c.1880 and is Victorian terrace in style, and is still extant although the interior is modernised. Along the lane in 2016 there are ruins of small outbuildings and stables, with evidence of cow pens and blacksmithing, hinting at the extra curricular activity of these mining families.

**Whitland** farm is west of Tumble village near Pontyberem, Llannon, Carmarthenshire. It is alternately known as White Land, suggesting an Anglicisation of Rhoswen alluding to the gleaming nature of moorlands in summer or purity of the pleasant townsfolk. Or it could be from Hendy-gwyn, "Old White House" aka Whitland in honour of the first Welsh parliament held by Hywel Dda in 930AD. Or the previous owner may have come from Whitland town in Carmarthenshire. But so small a farm was it, it bears no label from 1820-90 until the 1900s OS maps. The census however carries the White Land name from the 1840s suggesting that it wasn't a traditionally named Welsh farm, maybe an overseers house for the nearby numerous collieries. Being in Llannon, it is bereft of any succinct historical information that could be easily gathered. Appears to have been demolished around 1960, with parts surviving as an outhouse, and the house renamed Wheatland, wheat being the old Anglo Saxon for white, whether this is the correct version we'll never know.





**Morris-Lewis Family Tree**  
Researched & Compiled by James M Burton May 2016

# William Lewis (1775-1830)

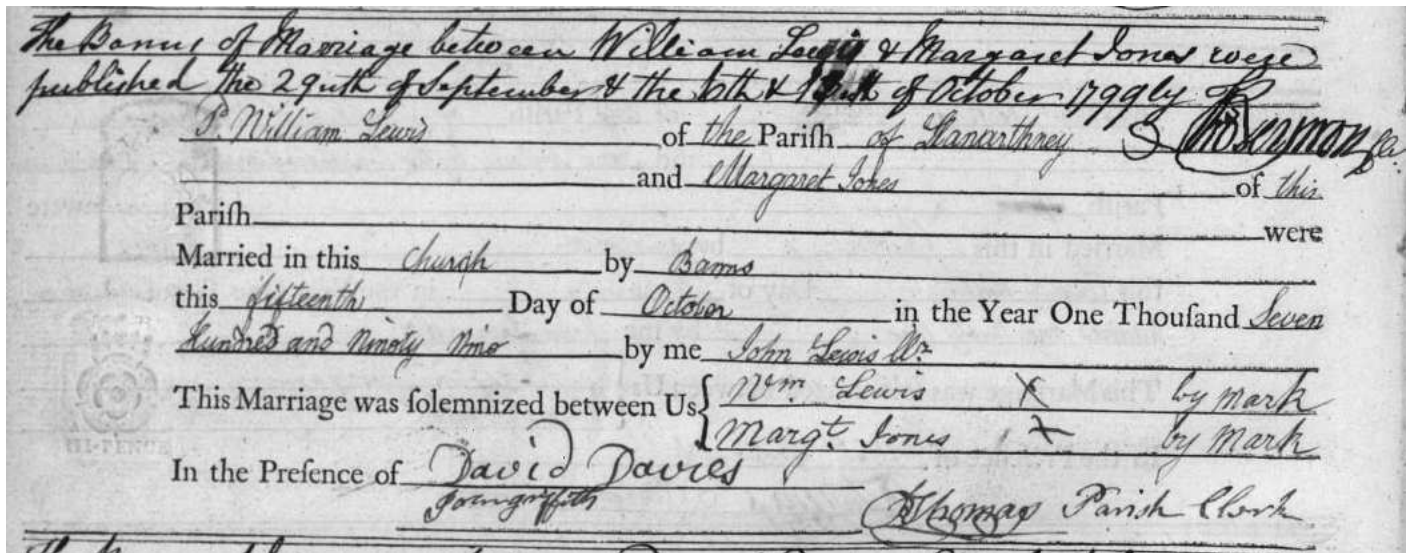
Llanfihangel Aberbythych, Llannon, Carmarthenshire  
8th Generation Grandfather to the Author

William is stated as living in the Llanartheny district at the time of his marriage in 1799 to a **Margaret Jones** in Llanfihangel Aberbythych. However, as there are no matching baptisms for that parish, he appears to have been a native of the latter place with only one possible matching baptism in 1775, for the son of **Lewis Lewis** (b.c.1755), who married a **Margaret David**, same year, same parish. This suggests his grandfather in turn may have been a **Thomas** (b.c.1735). We have no other matching entries at present, and as their descendants are deemed free men and farmers, and subject to the long standing traditions of marriage and inheritance of farm lease at the coming of age we can be sure they were native to the immediate area. Extensive research would be required to prove the lineage beyond this point, especially with a common and patronymic name like Lewis Lewis.



1775. April the 24th. William the Son of Lewis Lewis was baptized.

A. 24<sup>th</sup> April 1775 baptism, William son of Lewis Lewis, Llanfihangel Aberbythych. Via findmypast.co.uk



The Banns of Marriage between William Lewis & Margaret Jones were published the 29<sup>th</sup> of September & the 10<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> of October 1799 by P. William Lewis of the Parish of Llanartheny and Margaret Jones of this Parish were Married in this Church by Banns this fifteenth Day of October in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety Nine by me John Lewis M<sup>r</sup>. This Marriage was solemnized between Us } W<sup>m</sup>. Lewis X by mark } Margt Jones X by mark } In the Presence of David Davies } Younger } Thomas Parish Clerk

15 Oct 1799 marriage, William Lewis & Margaret Jones, Llanfihangel Aberbythych. Via findmypast.co.uk

# Thomas Lewis (1799-c.1877) *senior*

Whitland Farm, Llannon, Carmarthenshire  
7th Generation Grandfather to the Author

Thomas is recorded in the census as born in Llanfihangel-Aberbythych, and a single baptism matches in that parish to a **William** and **Margaret**, one assumes they were farmers in that district. In 1826 he marries another **Margaret**, of Abergwili, Carmarthenshire, presumably a farmer's daughter and gains the lease of Whitland Farm in Pontyberem, Llannon, where he alternates between farmer of 30 acres and coal miner, at one of the nearby pits. The fact that he dies a "pauper" around 1877 suggests a hard working life spattered with tragedy.

As I have suggested previously Whitland appears to have been a small holding and not worthy of a place name on the early maps, suggesting it may have been a cottage built by Thomas while he was working as an overseer in the mine, considering his sons careers below. Some of the children were baptised at Upper Tumble Independent chapel near the farm, and helped found Moriah Aman Independent chapel in Cwmaman, suggesting active chapel involvement.

## Children of Thomas Lewis *senior*

**Margaret Lewis** (1826-c.1905) married **James Rees** collier, son of **Thomas** of Tynewydd nearby, settling in Grosfaen in Pontyberem. James leaves all money in his will to Rev Ben Morris, suggesting connection with an Independent chapel nearby. Issue: **William Rees** (b.1856). **Ann Rees** (b.1858). **Jane Rees** (b.1859). **Thomas Rees** (b.1863). **Hannah Rees** (b.1866). **Margaret Rees** (b.1870).

**Lewis Lewis** (1830-1884) married **Elizabeth Evans**, daughter of **William** a blocklayer, living at Pantybredych, Upper Tumble nearby as a collier, before moving back on his wife's death age 40 to Whitland. Issue: **Mary** (b.1861). **Thomas** (b.1865) **Anne** (b.1867). **David** (b.1872).

**William Lewis** (b.1833) married a **Margaret** and moved with the family to Cwmaman in the 1850s to pursue a coal mining career and work in Moriah Aman chapel. Issue: **John** 1857. **Llywelyn** 1860.

**Thomas Lewis** (1834-1898) *see further pages*

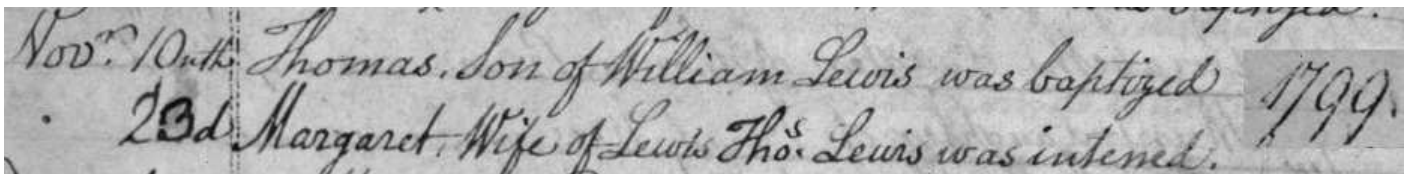
**Mary Lewis** (b.1835) moved to Aberdare with the family in the 1850s

**Jane Lewis** (b.1838) moved to Aberdare with the family in the 1850s

**Anne Lewis** (1842-1912) served her brother **Lewis** as a milkmaid at Pantybredych. Moved back to Whitland to care for her elderly father. After his death 'inherits' Whitland, starts a grocery business, marrying **James Gibby**, widow, farmer & colliery banksman from Pembroke, age 51. In 1911 found a widow with a large **Price** family, at Whitland. Possible illegitimate child **Thomas G. Wilkinson** b. 1878.

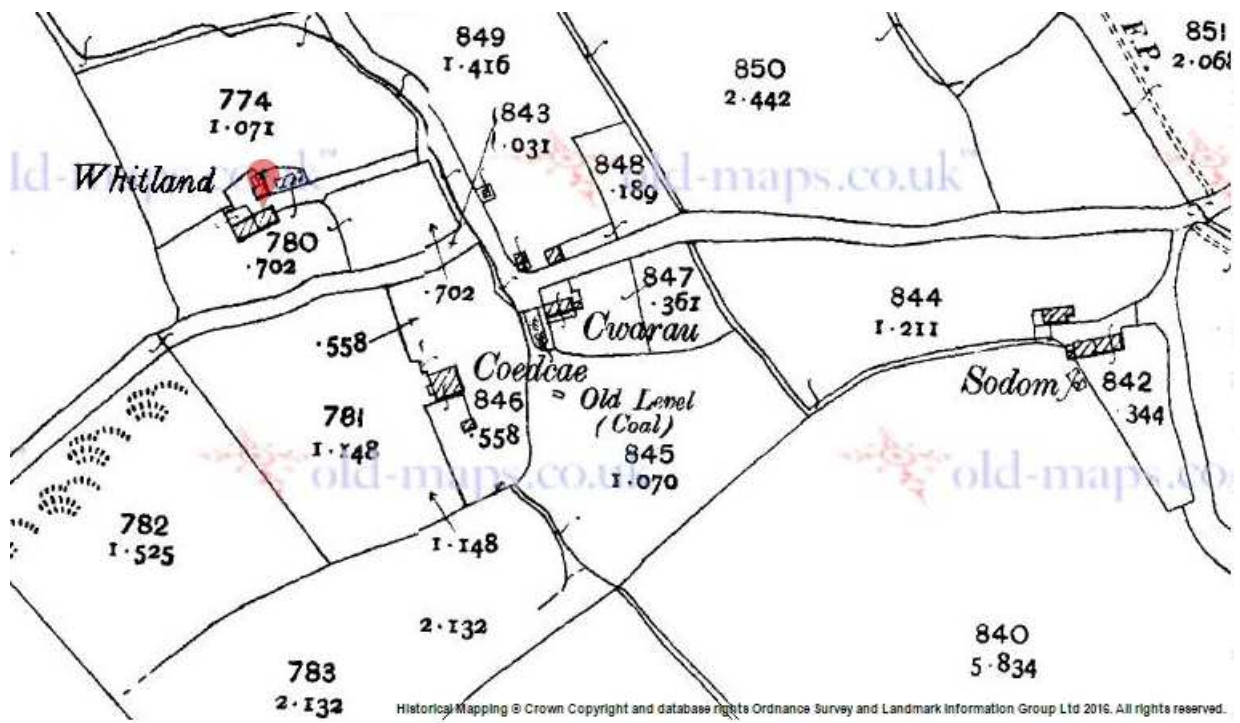
**Rachel Lewis** (b.1858) may have married locally or died

## Images relating to Thomas Lewis *senior*



10<sup>th</sup> Nov 1799, baptism, Thomas son of William Lewis and possible burial of his grandmother, 23<sup>d</sup> Nov, Llanfihangel-Aberbythych parish. Via findmypast.co.uk





*Whitland farm, near Pontyberem, Llanon, OS 1907*



*Bethania Congregational Chapel, Bethania Road, Upper Tumble, Llanon, Google 2016*

# Thomas Lewis (1834-98) *junior*

Llannon, Cwmaman & Craig Cefn Parc  
6th Generation Grandfather to the Author

**Thomas Lewis** was born over the border in Carmarthenshire on his father's small farm Whitland near Pontyberem in Llannon and baptised in the Independent Bethania chapel nearby in Upper Tumble. As he was later to become a deacon, one assumes he received his literary and religious education there. A coal mine next door to their home, the Tumble is likely where he received his apprenticeship, and by this route came to Cwmaman in Aberdare as a mine supervisor with his three siblings Jane, Mary & William around 1855 after marrying a '**Mary**' from Pembrokeshire, provenance unknown. They all lived at Railway Row, now demolished and where Dan-y-rhiw flats now sit. They immediately took up community life in the local chapels, Thomas' becoming a deacon at the young age of 20 by his faithful service to Moriah Aman Independent around the time it was built in 1854, suggesting they were instrumental in its foundation.

He moved to Craig Cefn Parc in 1880 again as a coal miner. The 1871 census states he was a colliery fireman, meaning he kept a fire lit below ground at an open shaft to drive in fresh air into the mine. This job was often given to those infirm or semi retired, but afterwards continues as a coal miner to his official retirement. He became a deacon of Pantycrwys Independent chapel on arrival, not a stones throw from the family cottage Lluest, again the early date suggesting he was instrumental in the founding years of the then thriving chapel, and had built up personal connections to the area through work and the chapel movement. Indeed 1880 was the year when Pantycrwys united with Nebo chapel in Felindre and appointed student Mr Joseph Henry as minister, who also came from Pontyberem, one of them may have nominated the other.

Lluest is a collective name for a row of cottages that were built in 1880. They are located on a quiet back-lane near Pantycrwys chapel. On the 1877 OS map only Lluest Treharne is depicted with a small cottage a little lower down, but by 1889 there are 8 other cottages surrounding it, each housing a coal mining family, with an average of 6 children. One of these was known in the censuses as 'Lluest Newydd' or 'Lewis' (as so today). The name 'new' and label 'Lewis' suggests it was built by or for him when he came to live there in 1880 but whether he owned it is not clear at present. (*The Duke of Beaufort was active in land and mines at this time here*). He died in 1898 aged 64 leaving £250 (£14,265 in 2005) and presumably the cottage lease to his widow in 1898. He was buried with a prominent headstone at Pantycrwys. Because of his church activity he gained a detailed obituary of his life (*see page below*). From local publications:

*"8th March 1889: I went to the night vigil (watching over the corpse) at the house of John Thomas (brother-in-law). There were present John Thomas, Lluest, David Thomas of Elim, Dan Davies and **Thomas Lewis of the Lluest**"* Diary of Enoch Davies (via Clydach Historical Newsletter 2004-6)

*"**Thomas Lewis (Y Lluest)**. A native of Pontyberem. Came here from Aberdare in 1880, whence he was made a deacon. A very kind man, gentle of spirit, his zeal was extraordinary over the cause of religion. He raised three sons, who later were all elected deacons. He died suddenly in 1898".*  
*'Pant Y Crwys Craig Cefn Parc 1862-1962' by Robin J. Williams. Same entry in 'Hanes Pantycrwys 1847-1947' by J.T. Evans, 1947.*

## **Children of Thomas Lewis *junior***

**Margaret Lewis** (1855–1920) married **John Daniel** and moved to Fforchaman Road in Cwmaman both working or even owning a confection bakery from c.1880-1910. He was also a senior deacon at Moriah chapel, responsible for negotiating tenders for its rebuilding in 1893, his father David originating from Llangwymo in Carmarthenshire. I might suggest that since tea and cake parties were popular at chapels of the period, he may have been a supplier to them. Before coming to the faith and marriage we have reports of John's drunken behaviour in the 1873 newspapers while working as a collier, with threats of a prison sentence, suggesting he may have been prompted by delegates of the chapel to do penance, and this worked out well for him. His obituary states they had a son, but no trace, this possible from his previous marriage.

**Rachel Lewis** (1857–1920) married **William Benjamin**, son of **Richard** of Aberdare, a coal miner all his life, settling at Colliers Row, Abernant. They had 4 sons, 1 daughter, all sons apprenticed in the coal mining industry. They were involved with the Independent chapels, the Benjamins long established coal miners from the Aberdare area, apparently originating in Montgomery. Issue: **Frederick Benjamin** (1879-1911). **Mary Benjamin** (b.1881). **William Benjamin** (1883-1942). **Richard Stephen Benjamin** (1889-1914). **Thomas Benjamin** (b.1895)

**David Lewis** (b.1860) married a **Mary** and emigrated in 1899 to West Mahanoy, Schuylkill, Pennsylvania, joining the many thousands of Welsh coal mining colonists in that area.

**Morgan Lewis** (1867–1935) *see entry on further page*

**Thomas Lewis** (1869–1938) married **Rebecca Alexander** da. of **William**, from Abercrave and remained at Lluest Bach as a collier all his life. The Alexanders were colliers hailing from Bettws. He was elected a deacon in Pantycrwys aged 53 in 1922, and has a prominent headstone at that chapel. *"Tom Lewis, brother to (Morgan) above, elected at the same time (1922). There was a time when the three brothers sat together in the "Big Seat". He died in 1938"* from 'Pant Y Crwys, Craig Cefn Parc 1862-1962' by Robin J Williams. They had 6 sons 2 daughters, one of whom Gweirydd Rhys stayed on at Lluest, dying in 1975, his wife surviving to 2003, he kept and showed chickens at the local fairs. Issue: **Thomas Idris** (1894–97). **William** (b.1896). **David** (1897-99). **Mary Tegwen** (b.1900). **Gweirydd Rhys** (1902-75). **Maggie** (1906-06) **Oswald** (b.1906). **Alexander** (1908-46)

**Ifor Lewis** (1871–1943) married **Sarah Anne Thomas** daughter of **John**, a collier & deacon next door. He remained at Lluest Newydd all his life working as a collier, later a mine 'deputy'. He also became a deacon of Pantycrwys like his brothers. *"Ifor Lewis, one of the 3 sons of Thomas Lewis (Lluest). Elected in 1905. Gentility and tenderness were the pearls of his life. An efficient prayer and was often called to take the devotional in large gatherings to higher ground. He died in 1943."* 'Pant Y Crwys, Craig Cefn Parc 1862-1962' by Robin J Williams. Buried at Pantycrwys They raised 2 sons and 2 daughters, who married and worked locally. Issue: **David Victor** (1899–1962). **Thomas S** (b.1906). **Eluned** (1907-1996). **Irona Rebecca** (b.1910).

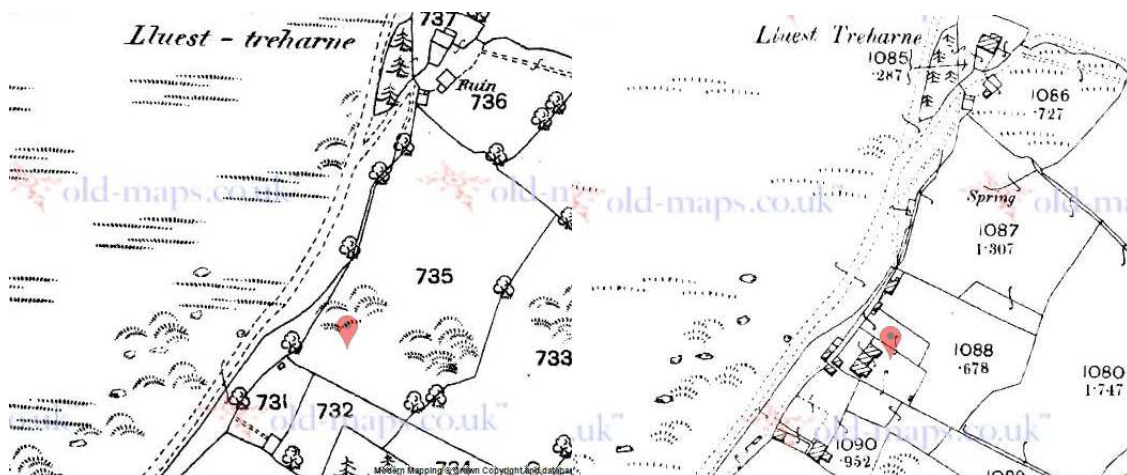
## Images relating to Thomas Lewis junior



### Wales Births and Baptisms 1541-1907 Transcription

First name(s)	Thomas
Last name	Lewis
Gender	Male
Birth year	1834
Baptism year	1834
Baptism date	29 Jun 1834
Baptism place	BETHANIA CONGREGATIONAL, UPPER TUMBLE, CARMARTHEN, WALES
Father's first name(s)	Thomas
Father's last name	Lewis
Mother's first name(s)	Margaret
Place	Upper Tumble
County	Carmarthenshire
Country	Wales
Record set	Wales Births & Baptisms 1541-1907

29th Jun 1834, baptism of Thomas son of Thomas & Margaret Lewis, Llannon. Via findmypast.co.uk



Lluest, Craig Cefn Parc, OS Maps 1877 (left) ; 1898 (right) ;





Moriah Aman, Independent, Fforchaman Road, Cwmaman. Jaggery 2014 via [geograph.org.uk](http://geograph.org.uk)

### **Thomas Lewis Obituary**

**'Y Tyst' 21st September 1898 p.9 col.3, bot** "Sudden Death Sept 4th Mr Thomas Lewis of Lluest Newydd, Pantycrwys. The community was thunderstruck with shock at hearing of his death. He was in the chapel in the morning and afternoon of the Sabbath and died about 6 o'clock in the evening aged 64. He was born in Cwmgwendraeth, Carmarthenshire. He moved to Cwmaman, Aberdare when a youth. He was accepted in Moriah chapel (Independent, Fforchaman Road) by Rev J. Davies, Aberaman (Rev John Davies, Saron, Independent, 1854). He was a colliery overseer in Cwmaman for years and was a very honest man in character in that office. He was deacon in Moriah and Pantycrwys for over 30 years.

He moved to the former place about 18 years ago (1880). A quiet man, gentle, kind but determined and conscientious. Many young men would flock under his eaves, they would greet him affectionately every time. He was faithful and this despite the physical weakness of his later years. Like his minister said in his funeral speech, "The last day of his life was most interesting. He went to a prayer meeting in the morning at Beren chapel, to a large meeting at 2, and at 6 went to an important assembly".

His funeral was held on the Wednesday following. A multitude assembled with many local personalities. The service was started at Pantycrwys by Rev R. Lewis (B), Elim (Rev Rhys Lewis, Baptist, Craig Cefn Parc, 1895). Then an address by Rev L.E. Jenkins Trelyn (Rev. Llewellyn Edward Jenkins, Congregational, Trelyn (Salem), Bedwellty) former minister of Pantycrwys. Rev J.C. Evans, Patagonia, previous minister in Cwmaman, visiting the country (Rev John Caerenig Evans, Moriah, Cwmaman, 1867). The two spoke tenderly and effectually of one who proved to be a pleasant companion. In addition a few words were said by Rev E.A. Jenkins, Pantycrwys (Rev Evan (H.) Ifan/Afan Jenkins, 1893), he who arranged the service, which finished with prayers. He spoke very suitably over the grave and prayers were led by Rev H.A. Davies, Cwmaman (Rev Henry Aeron Davies, Independent, Moriah, 1875).

Our dear friend left two sisters, married, one daughter and four sons (one of whom is in America (David Lewis moved to West Mahanoy, Schuylkill, Pennsylvania c.1890) to solemnly grieve over him along with many other acquaintances. We wish the shelter of heaven on them all. A memorial was given for him the following Sabbath at Pantycrwys by the minister to a large congregation. The subject was "He who worshipped with his weight upon his staff". Translation by James M. Burton 2016

## PANTYCRWYS.

9

*Ma wolaeth Ddisymwth* — Medi 4ydd, bu farw Mr Thomas Lewis, Lluest Newydd, Pantycrwys. Tara-  
wyd y lle â synded pan glywyd am ei farwolaeth. Yr  
oedd yn y capel boreu a phrydoawn y Sabbath, a bu  
farw am chwech o'r gloch yr hwyr hwnw, yn 64  
mlwydd oed. Ganwyd ef yn Nghwmgwendraeth, sir  
Gaerfyrddin. Symudodd pan yn lled ieuanc i Gwm-  
aman, Aberdar. Derbyniwyd ef yn aelod yn Moriah,  
gan y diweddar Barch J. Davies, Aberaman. Bu yn  
oruchwyliwr glofaol yn Nghwmaman am flynyddau, a  
chadwodd ei gymeriad fel dyn gonest yn y swyddog-  
aeth hono. Bu yn ddiacou yn Moriah a Phantycrwys  
am dros ddeg-ar-hugain o flynyddau. Symudodd i'r  
lle olaf tra deunaw mlynedd yn ol. Dyn tawel,  
addiwyn, caredig, ydoedd, ond penderfynol a chyd-  
wybodol iawn. Bu llawer o genadon hedd yn lletya  
dan ei gronglwydydd, ac yr oedd iddynt groesaw  
helaeth bob amser. Bu yn ffyddlon, a hyny o dan yr  
anfantais o wendid corfforol yn ei flynyddau olaf. Fel  
y dywedodd ei weinidog yn ei bregeth angladd—'Yr  
oedd diwrnod olaf ei oes yn ddyddorol iawn. Aeth i  
gwrdd gweddi yn y beren, i gwrdd mawr am ddau, ac  
am chwech aeth i gymanfa dragywyddol.' Cymerodd  
ei anzladd le y dydd Mercher dilynol. Daeth cynull-  
iad lluosog yn nghyd, a nifer lluosog eithriadol o  
berthynasau. Dechreuwyd y gwasanaeth yn y capel  
(Pantycrwyys) gan y Farch R. Lewis (B), Elin. Yna  
cafwyd anerchiadau gan y Parch Ll. E. Jenkins,  
Trelyn, cynweinidog Pantycrwyys; Parch J. C.  
Evans, Patagonia, cynweinidog Cwmaman, yr hwn  
sydd ar ymweliad â'r wlad hon. Siaradodd y ddau yn  
dyner ac effeithiol am un a brofasant yn cyfai' l mwyn.  
Cafwyd ychydig eiriau yn mbellach gan y Parch E.  
Atan Jenkins, Pantycrwyys, yr hwn a drefnai y gwas-  
anaeth, ac a ddiweddodd drwy weddi yn y capel. Siar-  
adwyd yn hynod o bwrpasol ar lan y bedd, a gweddi-  
wyd yno gan y Parch H. A. Davies, Cwmamar. Gad-  
awodd ein hanwyl frawd ddwy chwaer, priod, un ferch,  
a phedwar o feibion (un o'r rhai sydl yn America), i  
ddwys alara ar ei ol, yn nghyda llawys o berthynasau  
ereill. Dymaun naxdl y Nef aroynt oll. Tra idod-  
wyd pregeth angladd iddo y nos Sabbath dilynol yn  
Mhantycrwyys, gan y gweinidog, i dyrfa fawr. Ei  
destyn oedd, 'Efe a addolodd â'i bwys ar ben ei ffon.'

GOHEBYDD.

Thomas Lewis, obituary, 21<sup>st</sup> Sept 1898, Y Tyst. Via NLW Newspapers



Grave of Thomas Lewis at Pantycrwys (JMB 2016)



*Er Coffadwraeth Barchus Am Thomas Lewis, Lluest.  
Yr hwn a fu farw Medi 4, 1898 yn 64 mwlydd oed  
Hefyd Mary weddw yr uchod. Yr hon a fu farw Rhag 26, 1911 yn 81 oed  
'Na... ymaith... Amser... Penant... Na... Wrdd... Pan''*

*"In respectful memory of Tomas Lewis, Lluest who died 4 Sept aged 64.  
Also Mary his widow who died 25 December 1911 aged 81.  
Possibly 'No one knows the hour or the day'"*

**LEWIS** Thomas of Lleast Llangyfelach Glamorganshire collier and farmer died 4 September 1898 Administration **London** 22 December to Mary Lewis widow Effects £244 15s.

22 Dec 1898 will of Thomas Lewis, Lluest. Via Government Probate



# Morgan Lewis (1867-1935)

Cwmaman & Craig Cefn Parc  
5th Generation Grandfather to the Author

Born in Cwmaman, but apprenticed in the coal mines of Craig Cefn Parc age around 13, when his father came to live there in 1880. He married **Magdalene** (or Mary) **Morris** of Cathelyd Uchaf farm on coming of age, it is likely they knew each other as neighbours and chapel goers all their youthful days. He continued working as a collier living at Lluest, but moved to Rhydygwin new houses nearby around 1895. Like his father he was encouraged to study and worship at Pantycrwys chapel, and by 1922 was of sufficient cognizance to become a deacon age 54, along with his 2 brothers **Ifor** and **Thomas**, and often sat in the "big seat" together in the church. He died in 1935, and was buried with a prominent grave at Pantycrwys. Issue: **Mary** (1890–1953) (*see further entry*). **Esther Annie** (b.1893) possibly married locally or died. **Thomas** (b.1899) possibly married locally or died. **Minnie** (1904–1989) active chapel member, died a spinster in Clydach nursing home aged 85. Buried Pantycrwys. **Hopkin John** (1906–1949) collier, died a bachelor, leaving all money to Minnie above. **Elfed** (b.1911) possibly married locally or died.

From local publications:

*"3rd Nov 1889: Morgan Lewis of Lluest Newydd married Mary the daughter Hopkin Morris of Cathelyd today"* 'Diary of Enoch Davies' (via Clydach History Newsletters 2004-6).

*"Morgan Lewis, son to Thomas Lewis, Lluest. No other of his like was found as keeper of the chapel. Elected with 4 others in 1922. A truly conscientious man. He died in 1935".* 'Pant Y Crwys Craig Cefn Parc 1862-1962' by Robin J Williams. Also in 'Hanes Pantycrwys 1847-1947' by J.T. Evans.

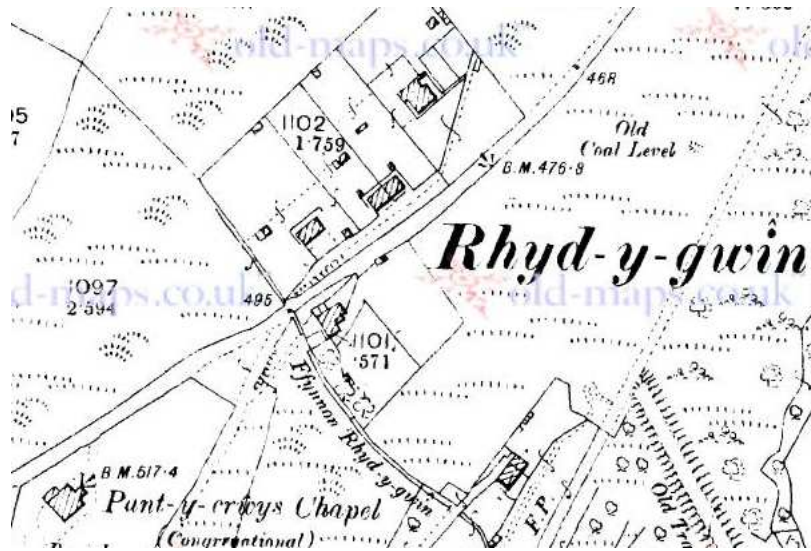
## Images relating to Morgan Lewis



*Morgan, Tom & Ifor, brothers, deacons, Pantycrwys chapel c.1922. 'Pantycrwys' by J.T. Evans 1947*



*Pantycrwys Independent Chapel, Craig Cefn Parc, 2016, JMB*



Rhydygwin, Craig Cefn Parc, 1898 OS map

**Grave of Morgan Lewis at Pantycrwys (JMB 2016)**



*“Er cof am Morgan Lewis o'r lle hwn a fu farw Gorph 26ain 1935 yn 68 oed. 'Dy Ewyllys Di A Wneler'. Hefyd Magdalen ei wraig a fu farw Mawrth 26ain 1948 yn 81 oed. Hefyd Hopkin John (Lewis) eu mab a fu farw Ebrill 21 1949 yn 42 oed. Hefyd Minnie Lewis a fu farw Hydref 12 1989 yn 84 oed 'Hedd Parffraith Hedd'”*

*“In remembrance of Morgan Lewis of this place who died July 26<sup>th</sup> 1935 aged 68. 'Thy Will Be Done'. Also Magdalen his wife who died March 26 1948 aged 81. Also Hopkin John (Lewis) their son who died April 1949 aged 42. Also Minnie Lewis who died Oct 12 1989 aged 84 years. 'Peace, Perfect Peace'”*



# Mary Lewis (1890-1953)

Lluest, Craig Cefn Parc, Llangyfelach. Cwmaman & Slough.  
4th Generation Grandmother to the Author

Born in a remote upland farming parish, wholly Welsh speaking, with her father and grandfather (*Morgan & Thomas Lewis*) respected deacons in the then busy Independent chapel Pantycrwys, not meters from her home, it is no surprise that Mary would have been a regular attendee and there learnt a little more in the Sunday School than her peers in the government run British school where Welsh was forbidden and attendance was poor. My family described her as a dedicated Christian, and indeed her grave bears the inscription that she "Lived for Jesus". And so by this route she must have met future husband **Thomas Owen** from Cwmaman.

The Lewis family had links to that town in that their first family home was at Railway Row in Cwmaman. Mary's aunt **Margaret** had married a **John Daniel** and came to live at 17 Fforchaman Road same village. He was a baker of confectioneries, we do not know the extent of his business, but Mary came to assist them as a "servant" around 1911. As tea parties were fashionable at meeting houses, I might suggest he was a regular supplier. Thomas Owen was living then at 41 Fforchaman, working as a coal miner where there was a Calvinistic Methodist chapel right opposite them. It is my supposition that although Mary's family were 'Independent' and Thomas' family 'Calvinistic' there is no reason to suspect that they may not have visited and worked with other denominations as was peculiar to the period and met in one of the chapels while both were working behind the scenes and thence married in 1914. The Lewis family were closely connected with Moriah Aman Chapel, at No.29 Fforchaman, her uncle John (above) a prominent deacon therein to 1914, and her grandfather Thomas also, from 1854-80.

A formal portrait of Mary around 1922 shows a well dressed serious lady, upright and respectable, holding an open book. Pictures of the Victorian period were a one off and so taken as a snap shot of a 'day in their life', so this display of conservative dress and open book suggests a lady of learning, piety, modesty and chastity. Her activities at the chapel may have been leading prayers, bible study, singing groups, tea parties and teaching children at Sunday School. The picture has the same cloudy background as the one taken by her father Morgan, and I suggest therefore they were both taken at the same time, and probably same studio in honour of their work.

During the 1930's depression following the closure of coal mines Thomas, Mary and their 5 children up sticks to live in Slough, then a burgeoning town of industry, where there were many other Welsh settlers. So many were there, that in 1934 Thomas decided with Mr D.E. Davies the stationmaster at Burham to set up services in Welsh at a local chapel. By 1946 it had amassed such a following that they bought Mary Strong church on Stoke Poges Lane in central Slough and turned it wholly to a Welsh Congregational Chapel, named Capel Y Lon where services were held up to at least the late 70's, and was demolished in 1999. Because of the patriarchal nature of the period, Mary is very much absent from usual lists of the period, but I firmly believe she worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make that unique chapel a success. She died aged 63 and was buried in the family grave at Slough cemetery.

*For information on the husband of Mary, Thomas Owen and her children please see the "Owen Story 2<sup>nd</sup> Revision" on this website or in local libraries by myself.*

## **Children of Mary Lewis**

**William Thomas Owen** (1912–1980) factory worker in London, married a **Gladys** a mildly eccentric lady, and died in Kidwelly or Kilgetty Carmarthenshire with no issue.

**Gwyn Morgan Owen** (1917–1949) apprenticed as a steward aboard Cruise Liners he works as a lathe operator between the wars, and then is signed up as an Engine-room Artificer with Petty Officer rank RN serving in the Atlantic Convoys, surviving WWII. Married **Joan Muriel Squelch**. Buried in Slough cemetery.

**Dylis M. Owen** (1920–2004) married **Frank Mattingly** working as a school teacher in the Berkshire area.

**Rhydwin Owen** (1921–2004) Field Ambulances WWII. Married **Sylvia A. Gale**. Worked in the royalties department of EMI in London. Upon retirement came to live in Cwmaman, giving organ lessons.

**David Thomas Owen** (1926–Living in 2016) worked in Horlicks, Slough as a draughtsman. Married **Joyce Knight**. Started a successful printing business. Retired in Buckinghamshire.



## Images relating to Mary Lewis

### THE WELSH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

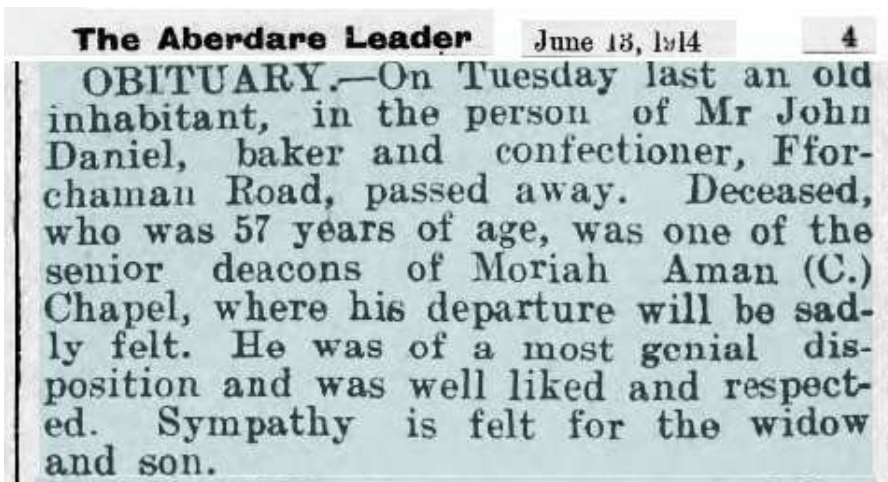
Between the two World Wars, the Eglwys Annibynnol Cymraeg (Welsh Congregational Church) was established in Slough through a chance meeting of Tom Owen, a production worker at Horlicks, and D.E. Davies, Station Master at Burnham, on Christmas Eve, 1934, which led them to become the joint founders.

Meetings started in the vestry at the Baptist Church, Windsor Road, after the Baptists had held their services. Later a church was established at the Thomas Gray School. Capel-y-lon, Stoke Poges Lane (then Marystrong Church) was bought in 1946. It still holds its services in Welsh, and comes under the Welsh Congregational Union. (23)

*Extract from "Slough Churches" by Maxwell Fraser (aka Dorothy Phillips) 1973*



*Mary Lewis c.1922, Owen photo album*



*13<sup>th</sup> June 1914, John Daniel obituary, uncle to Mary Lewis, Aberdare Leader. Via findmypast.co.uk*

# Morris Family of Cathylyd

## Morris Surname Etymology & Origins

I personally believed that there was some connection with the town of Morryston nearby and the origin of the family and surname, but this myth is dispelled below.

If we go by what experts say in that the Old French personal name Maurice was introduced to Britain by the Normans to Wales, it seems to suggest that they may have come into land via the invasion of Gower c.1100, when that district included Llangyfelach.

Our Morris line however were entrenched in the Welshry district of Gower and Llannon, so because of their deep Welsh roots and language, and farming activity, probably derives from the Welsh Meurig (derived from Latin Mauritius). However this is all 3<sup>rd</sup> hand information and we will never be quite sure.

## Cathylyd Uchaf Farm Etymology & Origins

The Morris family home for many years was Cathylid / Cathelyd / Cathylyd Uchaf farm. This was the most important farm in the immediate area and formed part of the Cathylyd estate owned at one time by mediaeval squires the Aubrey family who gleaned much land in the immediate area by intermarriage with the Welsh noble families. By the Civil War era it had passed to William Penry of Llanedi in 1650. Thomas Perrot (1770-1850) was the landowner of the estate by marriage around the time of the Morris' and included Cathylyd ganol, Ty Llwydyn, Llechart Fach and Penlan, owning much land elsewhere in several Gower parishes.

These farms were leased out to Welsh freemen, under the auspices of a Leet Court. Four farms gave their name to it, Cathylyd Uchaf (higher) Genol (middle) Isaf (lower) and (bach). This not only indicated their topographical position, but also their importance in farming hierarchy, and may have been split in the Welsh inheritance laws of cyfran (gavelkind) prior to 1536. It comprised of 149 acres in 1838. 40 acres were sold to the RSPB in 1985 to make up the Clydach Nature Reserve. 85 acres were acquired by Cefn Eithrim farm, denuding it to 25 acres today. It was also bombed during WWII. The original mediaeval farm is now demolished. The farm stayed in the Morris hands up and till the 1970s.

Our Isaac Morris 1797-1865 gained the farm lease by marriage to an Ann Jones, daughter of Hopkin John, having previously lived at Eithrim Genol farm nearby, but he came originally from Llannon. Although I cannot at present trace further back than Isaac I have no doubt there were family connections in Llangyfelach.

Indeed by complete coincidence we have a Robert Morris of Swansea mortgaging Cathylyd Genol in 1755 from a Nemiah Thomas of Plymouth, who was the father to Sir John Morris, 1st Baronet (1745-1819) an industrialist who built and named Morryston town for his workers nearby c.1768. They also built the "barracks" miner's houses on Cathylyd land to house their miners. Sir John also rented farms in Llangyfelach, as noted in the 1798 tax records to Hopkins and Evans families, who are related by marriage to our Morris' later, indeed Hopkin John of Cathylyd as mentioned above left the lease of the farm to be cared for by Isaac after his wife died in 1834. Thomas Perrot (above) was also renting parts of it to Sir John Morris in 1798.

John's older brother Robert was quite a wild character and married a farmer's daughter from Llangyfelach after being a barrister in London, involved with radical politician John Wilkes, and sent to prison once, but returned to Wales in 1785, but likely had no children. Their father Robert however was a Shropshire entrepreneur who had come to Swansea in 1724 to supervise the Llangyfelach Copper Works, founded in 1717. All this info is a tantalisingly close connection, could there have been an older generation with cousins in Wales? But I have no proof of family ties.

There is much debate over the etymology of the farm name. Welsh farm names are down to earth referring to the local topography, owner or use. Etymological dictionaries give a slew of meanings to cath, which many might associate with the most familiar meaning, cat, but can refer to many types of wild animals, like polecats, wild cats, red squirrels, hares including the cath ermin, the stoat from which ermine was made. The suffix -ylid may derive from dylid, texture of material. All this hints at a mediaeval fur farm.



However, although the farm name and these terms date to the mediaeval period, the actual farms in the area date back to Pre-Roman times and language changes drastically over the centuries, especially when English speakers mangled the Welsh names in their surveys. Indeed the first documentation of the farm names are 1515: Achathelett. 1575: Kehelyd. 1629: Kethilyd. 1650: Rythlyd. If we take the earliest example as being more correct in historicity it might translate as acha: near, and thelett a mis-transcription of a place nearby; Deledd may have been the name for a river or ravine or a nearby hill in pre Christian times, but again with absolutely no proof. So any idea any linguistic expert or otherwise comes up with would be dangerous to assert as the correct version, other than that you trust them by reason of their qualification. Some other ideas on possible etymology of the modern name:

**cath ermin:** a stoat from which ermin was made. **-dylid:** texture of material

**cathlydd:** a cuckoo, garden warbler, other song birds

**caethglud:** prisoner of war camp. this is near troublesome Gower and in former times a Roman fort

**caethedig:** confined, restricted, referring to lack of access, remoteness?

**caethwas:** bondsmen, serfs, villeins

**cae & dylid:** field of payment for debts owed to the lord

**cae & telid:** elegant fields

**cae & delyth:** the fields of Delyth an early land owner?

**catholig:** early owners of the estate were Aubrey, secret and later persecuted Papish Catholics

**-lyd:** this suffix can add to seriousness in verbs like poison-some, bard-some, cruel-some (literal example)

## Eithrim Genol Farm Etymology & Origins

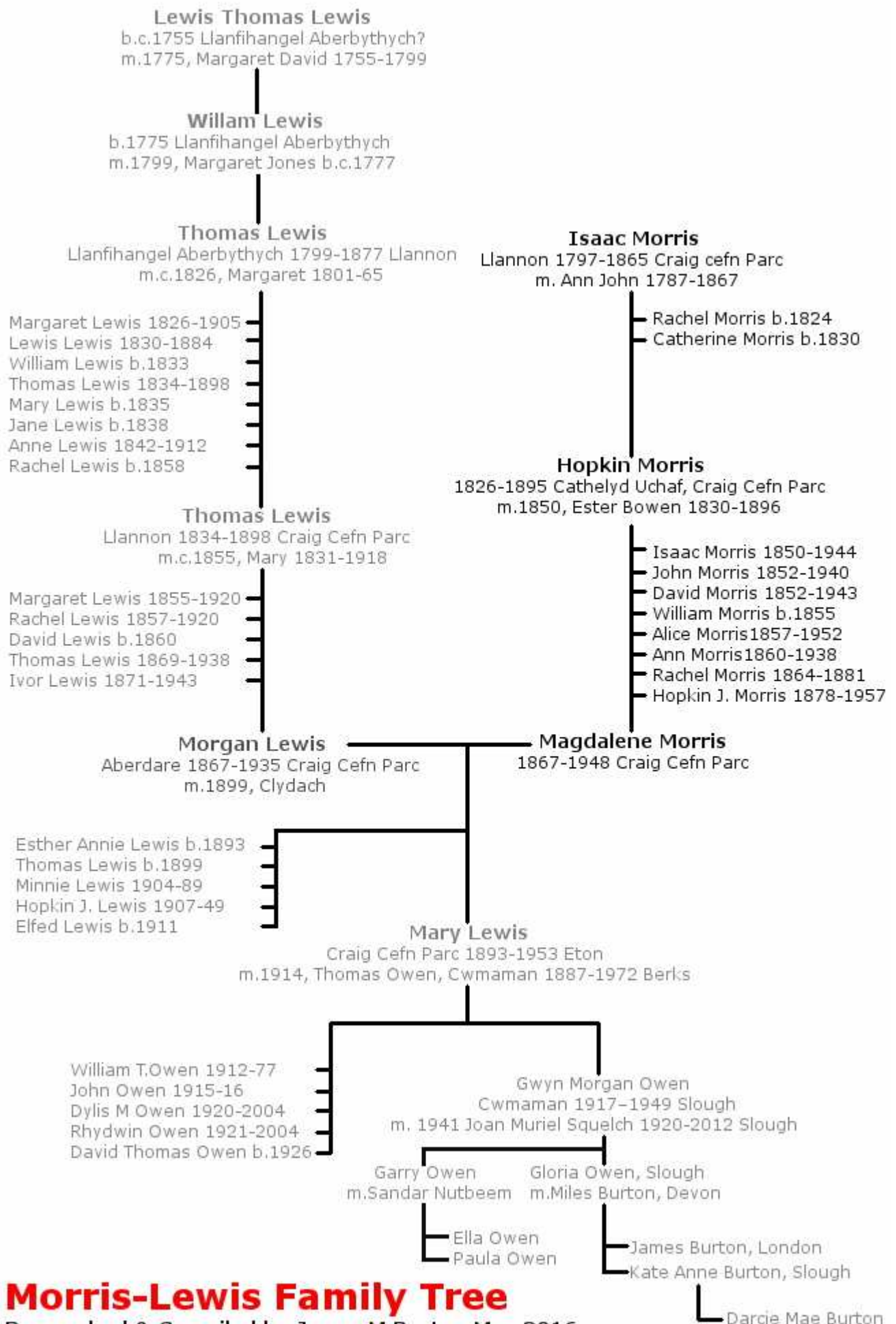
Ithrim / Eithrim gives its names to 9 farms in the district and according to experts was the old name for the lower Clydach river, given to it after Eithrym a 6<sup>th</sup> century Christian saint who may have established a llan (holy ground) either at Allt-y-Fanog or more plausibly at Cae'r Fynwent (field of the churchyard) demolished in the c.1540 Reformation. A possible meaning could come from **ieithrym** : powerful speech, noted preachers gave orations to hundreds on top of desolate hills in those days and had to be heard. Genol means middle.

We presume the tenancy came into the hands of Isaac Morris by the marriage to Ann John/Jones, the daughter of Hopkin John of Cathylyd. He alternates between here and Cathylyd before taking it over briefly from the widow of Hopkin and then moving to Tylwydyn allowing his son to take it. I am unable to locate the farm from the earliest maps, but one presumes it is near the simply named Eithrim or Eithrim Uchaf near Plasnewydd, to distinguish it from Cefn Eithrim and Glyn Eithrim groups. An 1827 (John Hopkins) will states that Eithrim Uchaf is an alias for Gellionnen Uchaf nearby, which might suggest Gellionnen Genol is the farm. Jeff Childs suggests it is now called Penybanc farm.

## Tylwydyn Farm Etymology & Origins

The name has several literal meanings: **llwydyn:** grey haired man, dusk or hedge sparrow. Another derivation maybe **llwyd y din:** silver weed, plenty of that in the damp grassland on the farm. **Llwyd:** sacred, or alternatively unremarkable. We even have **llwyden**, a rabbit or hare. I would personally go for Ty llwyd dyn: house of the grey haired man, or wise man. However the farm has probably taken its name from the stream Nant Llwydyn nearby.

The farms seems to have been bound to the Cathylyd Estate at the time of Thomas Perrots ownership (see Cathylyd above), and thus its history might be contiguous with it prior to that. Indeed in the 1764 Gower survey "Tuy Llwydin" has the same owner / occupier as Cathylyd, the owner David Thomas and lessee Lewis Howell. Evan Thomas was the lessee prior to 1840, wife Anne, presumably a direct descendant of David. Isaac Morris (1797-1865) came here after Cathylyd for most of his latter years. After he died it came to a branch of the Hopkins from Cathylyd Genol.



## Morris-Lewis Family Tree

Researched & Compiled by James M Burton May 2016



# Isaac Morris 1797-1865

Eithrim Genol & Cathylid & Tylwydyn Farms, Craig Cefn Parc  
7th Generation Grandfather to the Author

**Isaac** was born into farming life in the rural district of Llannon, Carmarthenshire. Sparsity of documents preclude the discovery of his exact origins but we know he was related to families in Llangyfelach a parish near to him, and came to Eithrim Genol farm to marry **Ann Jones** the daughter of **Hopkin John** in 1823.

Hopkin leased Cathylid Uchaf next door and in 1834 left the care of it in his will to wife **Ann John** and son **Isaac John**, and upon her decease in trust to **Isaac Morris** his son-in-law, for his son. We can only guess why Hopkin did not leave the lease to his natural son. Isaac John certainly never married, and maybe because of this he annulled the traditional contract. Maybe he was adopted, there were 7 families sporting the John surname baptising children around this time at nearby Gellionnen chapel.

This is therefore how we presume Isaac Morris inherited the lease on Cathylid, which he further passed to his son **Hopkin Morris** on his marriage to **Esther Bowen** of Lwyn Ifan farm nearby in 1850, going on to lease Tylwydyn farm also nearby where he died aged 68.

There was some confusion over his wife Ann Jones origins, but the 1834 will (above) seems to confirm she was born with the surname John, along with brother Isaac John in the Bettws area. We presume that they are given the name Jones in subsequent church and census documents as their names were Anglicised by English officials. There is obviously a link here to the Glynmeirch estate that was bought by the John (alias Jones) family in 1808. An **Isaac John** (b.1794) of Llechart Fawr, (a farm a mere 2 miles from Cathylid) bought that farm in 1818 from Briton Ferry Estates, and passed it into Glynmeirch, he a different Isaac than the one mentioned above, his father a **David John**. Issue: **Rachel Morris** (b.1823) married locally or died. **Hopkin Morris** (1826-1895) *see next pages*. **Catherine Morris** (b.1830) married locally or died.

## John > Morris Timeline

**1823:** 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 1823. Llangyfelach. Marriage, Isaac Morris to Ann Jones. Witness Isaac John

**1824:** 30<sup>th</sup> May 1824. Llangyfelach. Baptism, Rachel Morris, da. Of Isaac & Ann, Cythylyd

**1834:** Will of Hopkin John, Cathylid Ycha, Llangyfelach, proved 25 Oct 1834. *“Goods and effects & farm lease to executrix, Ann John, wife & Isaac John, son. To Rachel Rees, daughter, 3 cows and 30 lambs. On wife's death to Isaac Morris, Eithrim Genol, son in law, in trust for my son. If there is any property left after them, I bequeath it to Isaac Morris”.* NLW SD/1834/204 W

**1838:** Tithe Schedule : Kethylid Uchaf. Occupier: Ann John

**1841:** Census: Cathelid Uchaf. Head: Isaac Morris (40yrs) , farmer. Ann Morris (50), wife Rachel (15). Hopkin (14) Catherine (10). Isaac Jones(45), farm labourer

**1851** Census: Tylwydyn. Head: Isaac Morris (54yrs), farmer. Ann Morris (60), wife Catherine (21), daughter. Isaac Jones (58), brother-in-law, unmarried, farm labourer

MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of Llangyfelach  
in the County of Glamorgan in the Year 1823

Isaac Morris of this Parish  
Bachelor

and Anne Jones of this Parish  
Spinster

were married in this Church by Parson with Consent of  
this Eighth Day of  
February in the Year One thousand eight hundred and Twenty Three.

By me Henry Williams Min.

This Marriage was solemnized between us { Isaac Morris by Minister  
Anne Jones by Minister

In the Presence of { Isaac Jones  
Joseph Williams

No. 448.

8<sup>th</sup> Feb 1823, marriage certificate, Isaac Morris & Anne Jones, Llangyfelach. Via findmypast.co.uk



1898 OS map showing Cathelyd Uchaf & Tyllwydyn



# Hopkin Morris 1826-1895

Eithrim Genol & Cathyld Farms, Craig Cefn Parc, Llangyfelach  
6th Generation Grandfather to the Author

**Hopkin** born on Eithrim Genol farm, by the time of his father's death had gained a sufficient knowledge of farming to inherit the lease of Cathyld farm and had married **Ester Bowen**, daughter of **John**, farmer of Llwyn Ifan nearby in 1850. He continues this career stoically, census takers noting that he only spoke the Welsh language, suggesting this was the state of his families deep roots for many centuries prior to this. He was steward of the local ploughing matches from 1876-8, the last held on Cathyld Farm, suggesting he was well known and trusted in the district.

We then come to the strange circumstance of his death. The local papers report that in the winter of 1895 he borrowed a horse to travel home from Pontardawe to Cathyld farm over Gellionnen mountain. We can only suggest that he may have been visiting the Alltwen chapel, the report suggests he was 68 years old and well respected, and no hint of any other activity. In the morning he had not returned, so a search party was sent out, and he was found frozen stiff near Gellionnen chapel, without his horse or his hat, with the reins in his hands and bridle wrapped about his feet, the body was taken to the New Inn nearby for an autopsy.

In the Welsh edition of the news & the coroner's report it states that he was "warned of undertaking the journey" but he "did not listen". There was deep snow and it was a cold night, so maybe the horse was startled and he was thrown off, he becoming concussed and freezing to death. In my research I found it was common for people to borrow horses who 'knew the way home' and because the rider was so often tired from hard work, they would fall asleep and let the horse do the work. He was buried in Pantycr wys Independent Welsh chapel opposite the farm, with a large prominent headstone, suggesting he worshipped here, but does not appear in the list of elected deacons. Esther perished a year later, helped by her 5 sons and 4 daughters at Cathyld.

## Children of Hopkin Morris

**Isaac Morris** (1850-1944) worked as a coal hewer, married **Jennet John** (1867-1931) in 1888, settling in Cae'r Craig House in Craig Cefn Parc. Jennet was active with Elim chapel. One son, **David** died 1915 aged 16.

**John Morris** (1852-1940) worked as a coal miner / farm worker and took over Cathyld on his parents demise. His wife **Margaret Alexander** (1852-79) of Ystradgynlais (*sister to Rees, see Alice below*) dies 4 years after his marriage in 1875, and produced no issue. Was twin to **David** below.

**David Morris** (1852-1943) a coal miner all his life, he also found time later to run a grocer and butcher's shop at Twy'n Y Bedw Road with help from his prodigious family of 13 with wife **Ann Williams** (1864-1949) daughter of **Watkin** coal miner, Bettws. On his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday with his twin John above, he appeared in the West Wales News, described as being a retired coal merchant, keen gardener and member of the Carmel Congregationalists in Clydach. 3 of his sons played for Vardre RFC 1922-23. Children: **Watkin** (1885-1936). **Hopkin** (1887-1961). **David John** (1889-1960). **Rachel** (1891-1980). **Daniel** (1893-1971). **Hugh Graham** (1895-1975). **Mary** (1898-1983). **Esther** (1899-1995). **Isaac** (1901-1973). **Elizabeth Irene** (1902-1982). **Ann** (1904-1987). **William** (1906-1973). **Matilda** (1910-94).

**William Morris** (b.1855) apprenticed farm worker and coal haulier, he married a **Ruth** (b.1853) c.1878 and took the licence of the Globe Inn, Glais, Llansamlet, later a butcher at the Star Inn, Ynisymond, finally going back to the collieries in Llansamlet. 2 children, **Esther** (b.1878) & **Thomas** (b.1880).

**Alice Morris** (1857-1952) married **Rees Alexander** (1854-94) (*sister to Margaret, see John above*) a coal miner from Ystradgynlais, also deacon at Pantycr wys. Settled in Rhydygwin, Craig Cefn Parc. Buried in latter chapel. Children: **Mary Hannah** (b.1881). **Hopkin** (b.1886). **Margaret** (b.1888). **Esther** (1890-1982). **Rachel** (1891-1893). **William** (1893-1960). **Edgar** (1894-1918). **Elizabeth** (1894-1946).

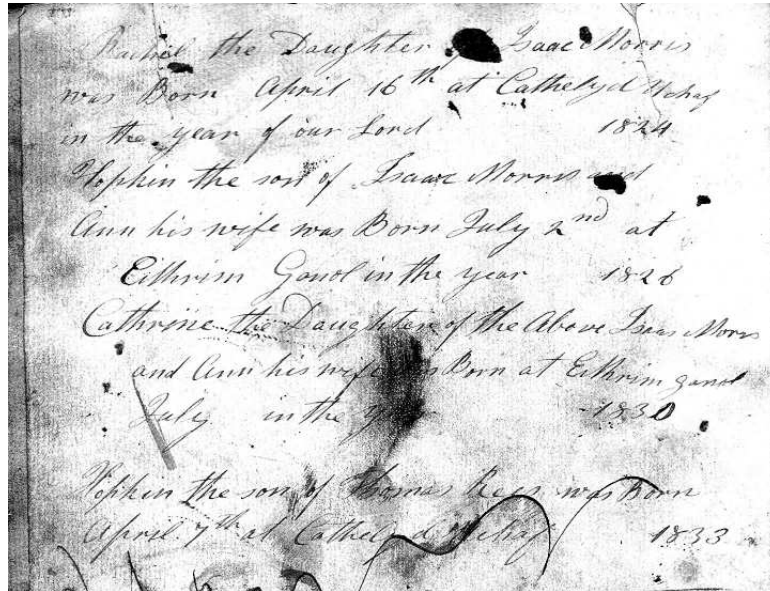
**Ann Morris** (1860-1938) lived as spinster with brother John at Cathyld. Apparently died in Vaynor.

**Rachel Morris** (1864-1881) either died or possibly emigrated to Pennsylvania

**Magdalen Morris** (1867-1948) *see entry some pages below*

**Hopkin John Morris** (1878-1957) stayed on at Cathyld farm with brother **John** and sister **Ann**. Upon his marriage to an **Esther** in 1910 he migrated to Cwmbryn farm in Pontardawe. He died at Cathyld. He apparently had only 1 son **William John** (1910-78) who lived local to the area.

## Images relating to Hopkin Morris



Family Bible of Cathelyd Farm. Baptisms of Isaac Morris' children. "Hopkin the son of Isaac Morris and Ann his wife was born July 2<sup>nd</sup> at Eithrim Genol in the year 1826" via Clydach Historical Society

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>Llangyfelach</u>						
in the County of <u>Glamorgan</u> in the Year 18 <u>26</u>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
27 <sup>th</sup> No. 879.	Hopkin son of	Isaac and Anne	Morris	Eithrim Genol	Farmer	By Do

27<sup>th</sup> Aug 1816 baptism, Hopkin son of Isaac & Anne Morris of Eithrim Genol, Llangyfelach. findmypast.co.uk

1850. Marriage solemnized at <u>S. John's Church</u> in the Parish of <u>Clydach</u> in the County of <u>Glamorgan</u>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname	Age.	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the Time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname	Rank or Profession of Father
36	June 22 <sup>nd</sup> 1850	Hopkin Morris Esther Bowen	27 years 24 years	Bachelor Spinster	Farmer —	Cathelyd Llangyfelach	Isaac Morris Late John Bowen	Farmer Farmer
Married in the <u>Parish Church</u> according to the rights and Ceremonies of the Established Church <u>after Noon</u> by me,								
This marriage was solemnized between us,		<u>Hopkin</u> <u>Esther Bowen</u>		in the presence of us,		<u>Thomas Matthews</u> <u>David Bowen</u>		

22<sup>nd</sup> June 1850, marriage, Hopkin Morris to Esther Bowen, Clydach parish church, transcript. Swansea Archive



CLYDACH, SWANSEA VALLEY.—The third annual Ploughing Match was held on the 14th inst., on a field given by Mr. **Hopkin Morris**, of Cathelyd-uchaf farm. The weather was very favourable, and a large number of teams appeared on the field in due time. At 10.30 a flag was hoisted and 21 competitors began their work—six in the first class, open to all comers eleven in the second, open to Swansea Valley and the adjoining parishes; and four in the third class, open to boys under 18 years of age. The ploughing was generally good, and it was the opinion of most of the visitors that the work done in the second class was quite equal, if not superior, to that in the first. The judges were Messrs. David Thomas, Glanddu, near Llangadock; Howel Jones, Crystal Palace, Oxford-street, Swansea; and Thomas Rees, Garth farm. The stewards, who did their duty very creditably, were—Messrs. W. Davies, Down farm; J. Williams, Nantymilwr; George Jenkins, Cynghordy; Evan Jenkins, Penrhiwgwysfa; John Jones, Penybanc; L. Hopkin, Cathelyd; E. Jenkins, Gelli-wastad; J. Davies, Gellionen-isaf. Treasurer, Mr. H. Pugh, Clydach. Secretary, Mr. John Evans, Glais. Two competitors in the first class were disqualified because they did not finish their work at the specified time.

22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 1878, *The Cambrian* p4 col 4 mid. Ploughing match at Cathylyd. findmypast.co.uk  
Other: *Cambrian* 10<sup>th</sup> March 1876 p6 col 4 bot. *Cambrian* March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1877 p7 col1 mid

**STRANGE DEATH.**

**FARMER FOUND ON PONTAR-  
DAWE MOUNTAIN.**

Some commotion has been caused at Pontardawe by the strange death of Mr. **Hopkin Morris**, farmer, Cathelyd Farm, Llangyfelach. Deceased was last seen alive at Pontardawe between 9.30 and ten o'clock on the night of January 29. He then borrowed a horse for the purpose of going home, his route being over the Gellyonen Mountain. He started away all right, but, not getting home on the following morning, a search party was formed, and after some time the poor fellow's body was discovered, stark and stiff, holding the bridle of the horse which he had ridden in his hands. Deceased was 68 years of age, and was well known in the district and much respected by all who knew him.

1<sup>st</sup> Feb 1895, *Evening Express* (p.2 col 8 bot). Death of Hopkin Morris. findmypast.co.uk  
Other Reports: *Baner ac Amserau Cymru* 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 1895 (p4 col 2 bot).  
*Y Drych* 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 1895 (p.8 col 2 mid). *Tarian Y Gweithiwr* 7<sup>th</sup> February 1895 (p.4 col1 bot)

## Grave of Hopkin Morris, Pantycrwwys (JMB 2016)



*“Er Cof am Rachel, merch Hopkin ag Esther Morris, Cathelyd Uchaf . Yr hon a fu farw Gor. 24 1881.  
Hefyd yr uchod Hopkin Morris, yr hwn a fu farw Ionawr 30 1895 yn 68 oed.  
Hefyd yr uchod Esther Morris, yr hon a fu farw Mai 12 1896 yn 66 oed.  
Hefyd Ann merch yr uchod, yr hon a fu farw Mawrth 18 1938 yn 77 oed. Gorffwys mewn hedd.*

*“In remembrance of the daughter of Hopkin & Esther Morris, Cathelyd Uchaf, who died on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1881.  
Also the above Hopkin Morris who died 30 Jan 1895 aged 68. Also the above Esther Morris, who  
died 12<sup>th</sup> May 1896 age 66. Also Ann daughter of the above, who died 18<sup>th</sup> march 1938 aged 77. Rest In Peace.”*

## **Magdalene Morris 1867-1948**

**Cathyld Farm & Lluest, Craig Cefn Parc, Llangyfelach  
5th Generation Grandmother to the Author**

One of 9 children born on Cathyld farm, as the youngest daughter she was expected to be married off to a local lad. That she did to **Morgan Lewis** (see *Lewis family above*), a coal miner and deacon born in Aberdare who came to Craig Cefn Parc with his father on the boom in mining around 1880. They lived in a small collection of cottages known as Lluest and later Rhydygwin near to Cathyld. They sired 6 children. She died at the family home and was buried at Pantycrwwys chapel nearby so one assumes that she was active within its activities.

# Bowen Family of Llangyfelach

## **Bowen Surname**

Bowen appears to be a contraction of two ancient Welsh name elements 'ap' or 'ab' meaning 'of', alluding to paternity and 'Owen', giving Bowen. Owen in turn may derive from the Latin "Eugenius", which derives from the Greek "Eugenios", meaning well-born or noble, or even directly from the Welsh, Oen, a lamb.

Their origins prior to 1735 in Llangyfelach are so far obscure but we can be reasonably sure they are a well established Welsh family local to the area due to the way they inherit and lease large farms in the area. They joined the bloodline of Morris by marriage in 1850. Most are buried in Baran or Gellionnen chapel, suggesting a very ancient affinity with the works of faith there.

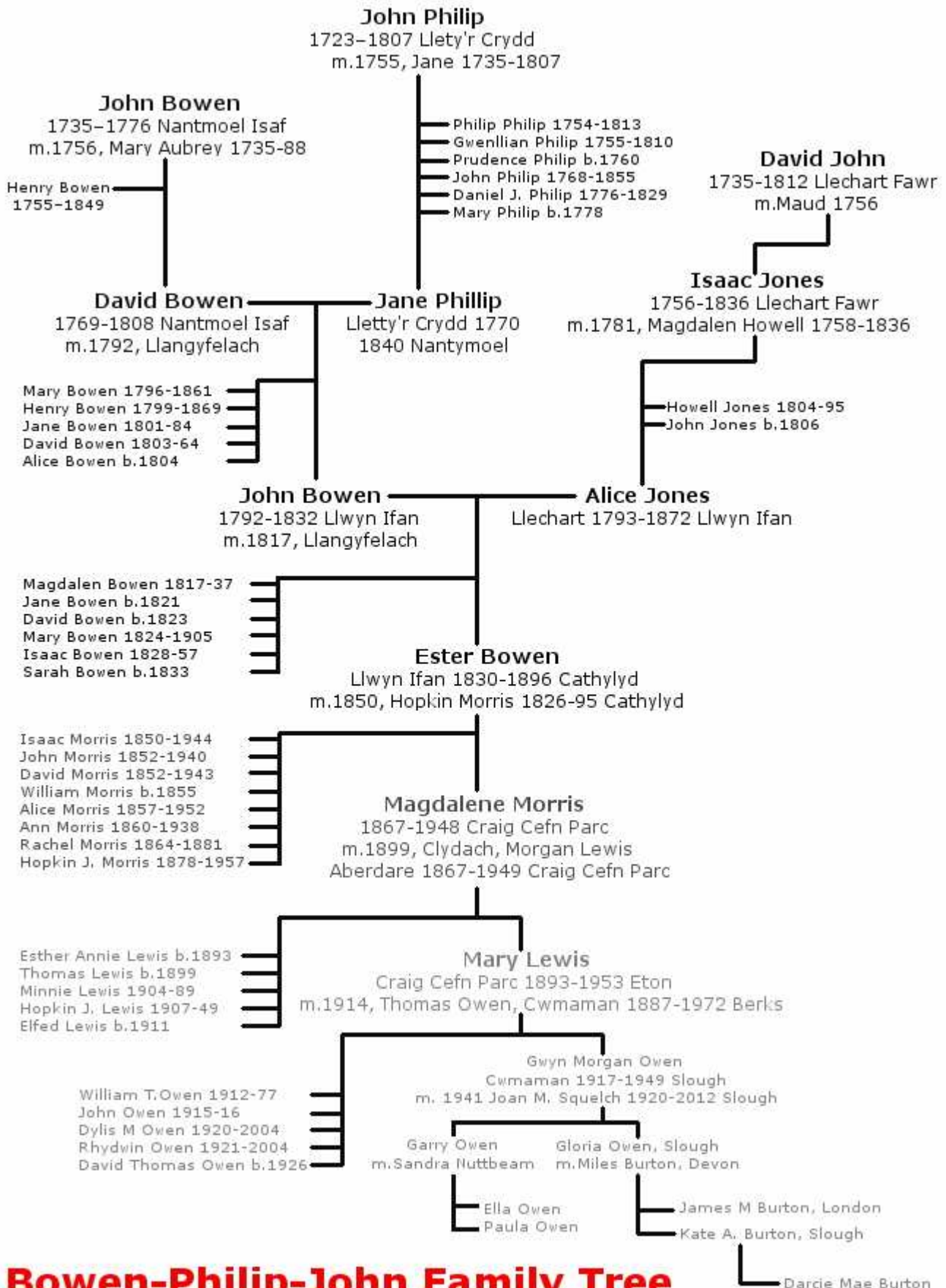
## **Nantymoel Isaf Farm**

Mole usually derives from moel, alluding to a bare hill, and therefore named after the stream (nant) coming from it. Mynydd Carn Llechart is indeed a desolate place. The older name in 1764 was Blaen Nantymoel, blaen meaning at the head of, alluding to the stream source. It is appurtenant to Nantymoel Uchaf, the larger farm, which may have been split through inheritance prior to 1536. There was active worship and teaching at Uchaf, so one may presume these activities spilled over to Isaf, especially since Baran chapel was built a few hundred yards from it to the north c.1808.

## **Llwyn Ifan Farm**

Llwyn is a copse of wood, and Ifan a personal name, meaning one of the first owners was an Ifan or Evan, a lease dated 1828 suggests this was an Evan Jenkin, who may have come here to clear this marshy headland of trees in the late mediaeval period. It was part of the Briton Ferry Estate prior to 1818, and bought from them by large landowner William Gwyn of Neath, and subsequently the Clydach Estates. John Bowen (1792-1832) came to the lease by marriage to Alice Jones in 1817, daughter of Isaac who (*presumably*) inherited the Glynmeirch estates. A David Bowen, who could be either his great grandfather or great uncle is leasing the farm in 1764.





## Bowen-Philip-John Family Tree

Researched & Compiled by James M Burton June 2016

# John Bowen 1735-1776

Nantymoel Isaf farm, Llangyfelach  
9<sup>th</sup> Generation Grandfather to the Author

With no evident baptism, we can but assess that as **John Bowen** gained the lease to Nantymoel Isaf farm he was local to the area and married well. Indeed his wife was a **Mary Aubrey** who he married in Llangyfelach in 1756. I cannot state with any firm evidence that she is related in any way to the ancient line of country squires **Aubrey**, we have a speculative baptism from Ystradgynlais, also another from Llandilo Fawr. He is evidenced in the Land Tax registers of the period, dying at the farm in 1776. Mary continued as a widow on the farm until 1788.

**Henry Bowen** (1755-1849) his elder son gained the lease to Glynmeirch farm, we presume by marriage into the John/Jones family, to **Mary Jones**, who he married aged 58 in 1813. We presume Mary at present to be the widow of **David John** of Glynmeirch. In Henry's will dated 1842, Glynmeirch was to be left to his step-son **Isaac Jones/John**. He names several other step children, but no children of his own, suggesting Mary Jones was a widow, and Henry a long term bachelor.

I am confused however by the naming of Isaac John/Jones as his step son, there is no evidence that he was the natural son of David John. A clue from Henry's will states another step-daughter was Mary Jones at Corsllan, and we have a David John making his will at that farm in 1812, a year before Henry's marriage which might be a clue.

# David Bowen 1769-1808

Nantymoel Isaf farm, Llangyfelach  
8<sup>th</sup> Generation Grandfather to the Author

**David** the younger son marries earlier than his brother to **Jane Philip** daughter to **John** of Lletyr Crydd in 1792 and therefore secures the lease to Nantymoel Isaf. He is named in the 1798 Land Tax but leaves no will, dying at the young age of 39. Jane continues as a widow with her 3 sons and 3 daughters, leaving everything in her will of 1840 to be divided among them. She was buried with 4 of her children at Baran Independent Chapel in Pontardawe. The family also lived next door to and intermarried with the children of Rev Roger Howell, Nantymoel Uchaf who established a school at his farm and the latter chapel, suggesting close involvement in the movement.

## Children of David Bowen

**John Bowen** 1792–1832 (*see entry on further pages*)

**Mary Bowen** (1796-1861) married a **David Rees** (1793-1866), farm labourer and settle at Blaencwmbach in Bettws. Issue: **Rees** (1817-1867). **Hannah** (b.1819). **Mary Margaret** (1821-1888). **Jane** (1822-1874). **Catherine** (b.1824). **William** (1825-1901). **David** (1825-1909). **Henry** (1833-1908). **Mary** (1834-1915). **Daniel** (1835). **Rees** (1836-1837). **Joseph** (b.1839). **Rees** (1840-1914). (*Line not well researched, many name duplicates*).

**Henry Bowen** (1799–1869) married **Sarah Howell**, daughter of **Rev Roger Howell** (Baran chapel) of Nantymoel Uchaf. Gains the lease of Lletyr Crydd via his mother's family. In his retirement he moved to his daughter **Rachel** in Brynhynydd in Bettws where he died. Both buried in Baran chapel. Issue: **Jane** (b.1833). **Sarah** (1835-1901). **Rebecca** (1838-1899). **Hannah** (1841-1892). **Ann** (b.1847).

**Jane Bowen** 1801–1884 *married locally, multiple entries*

**David Bowen** (1803-1864) married **Catherine Hopkins** daughter of **John** of Gellyonen (alias Eithitrim Uchaf) and gained the lease of Nantymoel Isaf from his parents. His uncle **Henry Bowen** (*see above*) left him £10 in his will. Upon his death he leaves everything to his widow. Issue: **John** (1833–1906). **Mary** (b.1836).

**Alice Bowen** *unknown, mentioned in mother's will 1840*

# John Bowen 1792-1832

Llwyn Ifan farm, Llangyfelach  
7<sup>th</sup> Generation Grandfather to the Author

The eldest son **John** married his step-cousin, **Alice John/Jones** (1793-1872) da. of **Isaac** (see **Henry Bowen** above) and gained the lease to Llwyn Ifan farm. He dies at the young age of 40, and leaves everything in his will to his wife, on on her decease to be divided among his 6 (or hopefully he states, 7 children). His wife continues as a widow for 40 years, leaving the farm lease to eldest son David. Family mostly buried at Baran Chapel.

## Children of John Bowen

**Magdalen Bowen** (1817-37) *presumably died unmarried*

**Jane Bowen** (b.1821) *may have married locally*

**David Bowen** (b.1823) *stays on at Llwyn Ifan to help his mother, apparently unmarried*

**Mary Bowen** (1824-905) marries a **Thomas Harris** a farmer in 1847 of Gellywren farm then Fynnon Fedw, local farms, issue eight daughters, 1 son, but he dies in 1869, so she remarries an **Evan Jenkins** of Penrhywngwisfa in Clase hamlet, no issue. Issue: **Magdalen Harris** (1847-1887). **John Harris** (b.1849). **Alice Harris** (b.1852). **Ann Harris** (1854-1896). **Jane Harris** (b.1857). **Mary Harris** (1861-1896). **Esther Harris** (1865-1931). **Sarah Harris** (b.1869). **Savey Harris** (b.1871).

**Isaac Bowen** (1828-1857) *dies unmarried, buried Baran.*

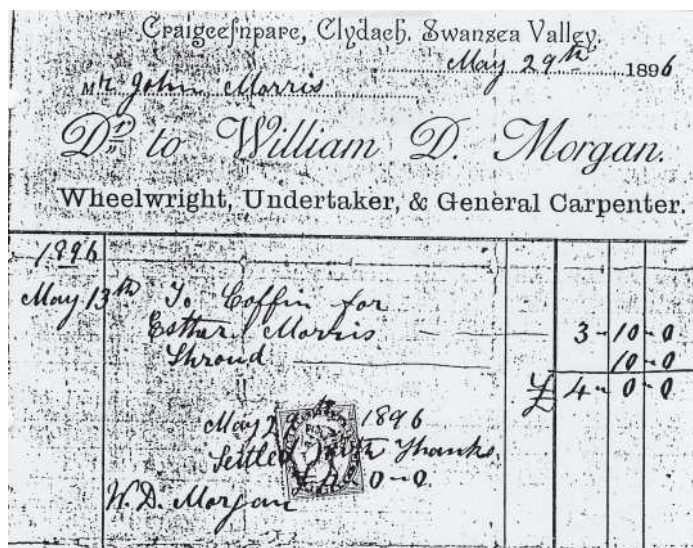
**Ester Bowen** (1830-1896) *see entry below*

**Sarah Bowen** (b.1833) marries **Evan Jenkins**, farmer of Gellywastod, living at Penrhywngwisfa. On her death Evan marries her sister **Mary** (above). Issue: **Rachel Jenkins** (b.1859). **John Jenkins** (b.1862). **Isaac Jenkins** (b.1866).

# Esther Bowen 1830-96

Llwyn Ifan, Cathylyd Farm, Craig Cefn Parc, Llangyfelach  
6<sup>th</sup> Generation Grandmother to Author

Born on Llwyn Ifan farm not half a mile from Cathylyd she would have grown up with **Hopkin Morris**, and thus on marriage became co-heir to the lease of that farm in 1850. The records indicate the 'normal' life of child rearing, farm help and chapel going, although she had lost her father at the age of 2 which must have left an impression. The sudden loss of husband Hopkin on the mountain in 1895 might have been the reason she departed the world a year later. By great fortune we have her funeral bill which came to £4 (approx £250 in 2005). She was interred in the family grave at Pantycrwys chapel.



Funeral bill for Esther Morris (nee Bowen) 29<sup>th</sup> May 1896 via Clydach Historical Society



# Philip Family of Llangyfelach

## Philip Surname

Apparently comes from the Greek, meaning 'friend of horses' or 'lover of horses', latinized Phillipus. It is a patronymic element and common name in Wales, and are said to be early settlers from Europe in the Early Christian era. Due to patronymics I am unable to trace with certainty the family line beyond 1723. But they were definitely locally connected to the area as they came into the lease of Llety'r Crydd farm through marriage in 1755. *For the Philip Family Tree see Page 28.*

## Llety'r Crydd

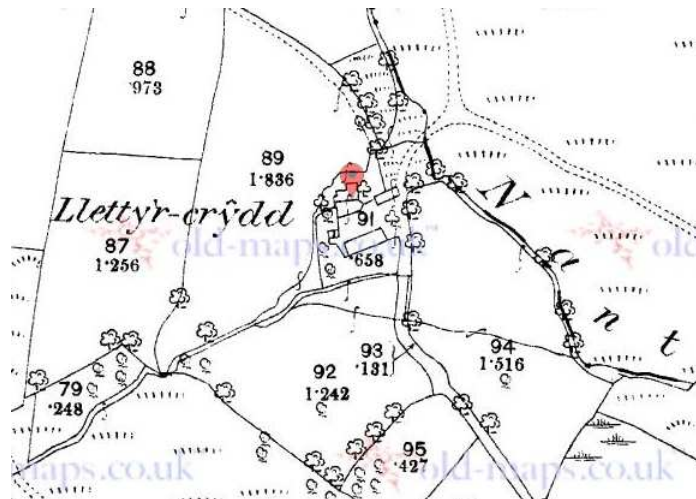
The literal translation is shelter of the shoemaker, or cordwainer as they were known in those days. I presume the first occupant made clogs from the local alder trees. This later developed into a farm. In the Land tax records 1777-1809 it belonged to Charles Cemmise Esq. By 1855 it was part of the Ynisarwed Estates, but not mentioned in the auction of such in 1891. I cannot reliably trace it in the 1764 survey, but is listed in a 1776 Land Tax, suggesting it was a new tenement or renamed. This is where dissenters from Gellionnen chapel met prior to the erection of Baran chapel in 1805.

## John Philip (1723-1807)

Llety'r Crydd, Llangyfelach  
9<sup>th</sup> Generation Grandfather to the Author

**John** appears to have been born local to the area, and is reliably recorded from the time of his marriage to **Jane** in 1755 to his death as located and working as a farmer at Llety'r Crydd. We are not certain of his wife's identity, but I might suggest she was a Howell or Bowen, as they have a close affinity with those families later. **David Philip** of Penyresgirne nearby and **Henry Philip** of Llechart Fawr are likely relatives, listed in the 1764 Gower survey. I would have expected to find John in that survey too, but they *are* listed as members of Gellionnen chapel in 1767. Also said to have farmed Tresgyrch after his step son **Elias John** retired (husband of da. **Gwenllian**) for a while until he passed it to his son **Daniel** c.1800. As he was buried in Baran chapel in 1807, a few years after that chapel was founded, it is likely he would have been a leading figure in the schismatic split from Gellionnen. A summary of his will is as follows:

*"To son Philip £1. To Son John, lease of Tyweith and John his son, £2 a year of lease to wife Jane. To son Daniel, lease of Llety'r Crydd, £5 out of which to to be paid to my wife Jane annually. Daughters Gwenllian, Prudence, Mary, Jane £20 each with interest to mother. Jane da. of John £20 when 21. All else to wife Jane." Witnessed by Roger Howell, John Howell, Samuel William. May 19 1807 SD/1807/184*



1878 OS Map, Llety'r Crydd, Llangyfelach

## **Children Of John Philip**

**Philip Philip** (1754-1813) appears to have died unmarried at Nantygwin, after which his brother John took over the farm lease. No further details other than mentioned in his fathers will as receiving £1. Speculative report of a deserter from the Napoleonic Wars under this name coming from the parish, unproven.

**Gwenllian Philip** (1755-1810) married **Elias John/Jones** son of **Richard** of Tresgyrch farms. His father farmed Fawr, he, Fach. Issue: **John Jones** (1782-1815). **Mary Jones** (b.1786). **Richard Jones** (1789-1874). **Gwenllian Jones** (b.1793). **Catherine Jones** (b.1796). **Hannah Jones** (1798-1879).

**Prudence Philip** (b.1760) married **William Bevan**, possibly related to Bevans at Twllygwiddil (1841). Settled locally.

**John Philip** (1768-1855) married a **Gwenllian Bowen** c.1789 and farmed Penllerfedwen, Nantygwin and Penlane and Nantygwili farms. She was the presumed cousin of **David Bowen** who married **Jane Phillip** her sister (*below*). Member of Baran chapel in 1841. Issue: **John** (b.1801). **William** (b.1816). **Hanah** (1821-1850)

**Jane Philip** (1770-1840) 8<sup>th</sup> great grandmother to author, married **David Bowen** (1769-1808) (*see previous pages*) and lived at Nantymoel Isaf, continuing as a widow after husbands death. Will, published 6<sup>th</sup> Sep 1840; "to Mary da. all clothes and beds, furniture, spinning wheel, sheep, at Tirylan. To son Henry two chairs, box, sheep with him at Llety Crydd. Children Alice, Mary, Henry, David £15 each. witness Roger Howell (Nantymoel Uchaf), William Bevan (Twllygwiddil, nephew-in-law?)" : SD 1840 / 277 Issue: **John Bowen** (1792-1832). **Mary Bowen** (1796-1861). **Henry Bowen** (1799-1869). **Jane Bowen** (1801-1884). **David Bowen** (1803-1864). **Alice Bowen** (b.c.1804).

**Daniel John Philip** (1776-1829) took the lease of Llettyrcrydd then Tresgyrch Bach & Fawr. He died intestate leaving a wife **Mary** and 8 children. He dropped the Philip name around the time of his marriage, and took John alias Jones as a surname. Maybe he was illegitimate or wanted closer alignment with that family in law. Issue: **Thomas Jones** b.1806. **Samuel Jones** (b.1811). Will: SD/1829/218

**Mary Philip** (b.c.1778) *may have died or married locally*

# John / Jones Family, Llangyfelach

This branch of the Jones / John is connected to this tree by the marriage of John Bowen to Alice Jones in 1817. They alternate the John / Jones in many state documents, I was proposing because they wished to confuse tax collectors and future genealogists, but it more likely to distinguish them from a similar family with exact names. The research therefore into the family due to the confusion of the surname is a little messy and there appears to be at least 6 Isaac John/Jones in the district at that time. According to those who have researched the family, they bought the Glynmeirch estate from Britton Ferry Estates in around 1808 when the economy hit a downturn after the Napoleonic Wars. But I believe there were three related David John's at this time that have become confused, therefore I note some caution with this branch.

## Llechart

One of the largest farms in the district. Comprises of two name elements lech: a rock/slab, but could also mean a covert place or a square league (3 miles) and arth from garth an enclosure or a wooded promontory or uncultivated land. The farm is upon the edge of the Gellionnen moor, so I personally like the idea that the first owner was granted a square league of uncultivated land to improve, but I cannot prove that. Others state it comes from a stone enclosure, alluding to the first settlers with bronze age structures nearby, or more likely topographically, alluding to a stony promontory.

Was probably originally one farm but split on inheritance before 1540 or a little later into Fawr & Fach farms. Mentioned by Rice Merrick in 1578 as an ancient house once owned by Howell Melyn (c.1400), associated with Ynyspenllwch, a very ancient family related to the last princes of Wales. Was a temporary meeting house for religious meetings, Howell Harris, Methodist minister came to preach here at Christmas 1738. By 1744 it had passed to Bussy Mansel of Briton Ferry estates. Due to economic downturn after the Napoleonic Wars it was auctioned off by them in 1818 and bought by Issac John (below). Auctioned again in 1928 as part of the Glynmeirch estate, then still owned by the John/Jones family. A ruin in 2016, abandoned in 1985.

## David John / Jones (1735-1812)

Llechart Fawr, Llangyfelach  
9<sup>th</sup> Generation Grandfather to the author

Confirmed in the land tax records of the period 1750-1764 as being the tenant of Llechart Fawr, and listed as member with wife **Maud** at Gellionnen chapel in 1772. So, very strong evidence therefore to suggest he is the father to **Isaac**, BUT he might not be the David who bought Glynmeirch Estates, he may only have bought Llechart Fawr, for the reasons I have stated above, and below.

## Isaac John / Jones (1756-1836)

Llechart Fawr, Llangyfelach  
8<sup>th</sup> Grandfather Grandfather to the author

Confirmed as the father to **Alice** on her grave and baptism, we know he married **Magdalen Howell** in 1781, of unknown provenance. Common sense links her to the Howells of Nantymoel Uchaf. Experts who have researched this family state that it is this Isaac who lived at Llechart Fawr and bought the said farm from Britton Ferry Estates in 1818, passing it into the Glynmeirch estates, which had already been bought by his father **David John** in 1808. The lists of tenancy from 1764 seems to confirm this. However the only "fly in the ointment" is his will made at Llechart in 1836, which names his wife as a Maud (died same year). This might be a knick-name for his wife, as his grave of the same year confirms everything else.

Another anomaly occurs in that **Henry Bowen** (*see pages above*) names an **Isaac Jones** (presumed son to this Isaac by other researchers) in his 1842 will as his step son, leaving Glynmeirch to him, which would mean he would have married **Magdalen**, the widow of **Isaac**, but she is already dead, and in the 1841 census **Mary** is listed as his wife, suggesting these two families have been



confused. Henry mentions a step-daughter **Mary Jones** of CORSLAN farm in that will, and in 1812 another **David John** makes his will at CORSLAN, a year before Henry marries Mary, suggesting three different families at Glynmeirch, Llechart and Corllan with the surname John / Jones. Issue: **Alice Jones** 1793-1872 (*see below entry*). **Howell Jones** (1804-1895) inherited Llechart fawr, m. **Jane Howell** of Nantymole Uchaf. **John Jones** (b.1806) may have died or moved to Bettws.

*Will of Isaac John, Llechart Fawr 1837. "To John & Howell sons by Maud, wife deceased, Hafod farm in Bettws occ. John Thomas Eynon. Goitre Fach occ. Hopkin Hopkin dec. butcher. Llechart lease to Howell. Witness Roger Howell, David Hopkin, David Bowen". SD/1837/13*

## Alice John / Jones 1793-1872

Llwyn Evan, Llangyfelach  
7<sup>th</sup> Generation Grandmother to the author

With reference to **John Bowen** (1792-1832) her husband (*see entry above*) we see her married in Llangyfelach in 1817 under the name **JONES**, but the only matching baptism we can trace is at Gellionnen chapel in 1793 under the name **JOHN** as the daughter of **Isaac John**. Her grave in Baran chapel 1872, confirms all these relationships without doubt. Her husband dies at the young age of 40, and leaves everything to her in 1833, she then continues as a widow supported by her 7 children at Llwyn Ifan farm. **David** her eldest son is last to leave and executes her will. Issue: *See husband John Bowen (above)*.

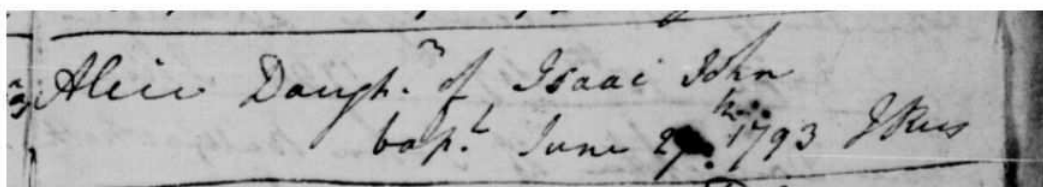


### England & Wales Non-conformist births and baptisms Transcription

[Learn more](#)

[Print transcription](#)

First name(s)	Alice
Last name	John
Birth year	-
Birth date	-
Baptism year	1793
Baptism date	27 Jun 1793
Place	Gellionnen
Denomination	Presbyterian
Father's first name(s)	Isaac
Mother's first name(s)	-
County	Glamorganshire
Country	Wales
Archive reference	TNA/RG/4/4415
Description	GLAMORGANSHIRE: Gellionnen, Llangyfelach (Presbyterian): Births & Baptisms



27<sup>th</sup> June 1793, baptism, Alice daughter of Isaac John, Gellionnen, Llangyfelach. Via findmypast.co.uk

# Reference & Acknowledgement

This thesis on the origins of my direct ancestors of Rhyndwyclydach was written by myself, James M. Burton and published 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016. I certainly claim copyright by default on my work, but I consider it “open source” and can be added to, quoted from and changed by any one who has a direct interest in this subject. All images come from open source software already published online and remain the property of those organisations. This is an educational paper, a not for profit venture, and therefore claim fair use of those images to illustrate the thesis, and have cited origin beneath each one.

The five lines of the tree have been extensively researched by others tracing their ancestors over many years, all I had to do essentially was prove my link to them by cross checking original certificates over 10 years and then joining the families together through re-analysis of documents on Ancestry.co.uk, findmypast.co.uk, National Library of Wales, Clydach Historical Society Newsletters, books at Swansea & Clydach archive and library and extensive research by Rina Callingham at a-glamorgan-family.com.

Many thanks to the Clydach Historical Society committee whom I bumped into by chance while doing the research, and the farmers and residence of Rhyndwyclydach who confirmed many of the details in this thesis, including those who actually knew many of my cousins and aunts before they died. Thanks also to Jean Bowen who allowed me access to Pantycr wys chapel and graveyard to view pictures and registers therein.

My Lewis-Morris-Bowen-Phillip-John family tree can be seen on Ancestry.co.uk (fee payable, free at the library) with all the relevant documents and pictures. Search for my username spooksprung at <http://community.ancestry.co.uk/directory/directory.aspx> and scroll down to the BURTON tree.

The following links are live as of June 2016, but may move or be deleted as time goes by.

## Probate & Wills

<https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills> (Government Wills 1856-1996)

<https://www.llgc.org.uk/discover/nlw-resources/wills/> (NLW Wills 1300-1858)

## Chapels

<http://www.welshchapels.org/nonconformity/independents/> (Independents)

<http://www.a-glamorgan-family.com/BaranChapelMembers.html> (Baran Chapel members)

<http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cwmgors/CapelBaran.html> (Baran Chapel History)

<https://books.google.co.uk/> (Google Books) “An Essay on the Welsh Saints Or the Primitive Christians, of the Churches in Wales” Rice Rees Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown, Green, and Longman, 1836

## Welsh Language

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#### Missing Index

"Mary by Geinor Steel" "Davies Family of Gellionnen Isaf Farm" Enid Jenkins "Llangyfelach Fair"