

**“Merthyr Express” 21 April, 1866** Emigration The mauls for emigration has infected some of our working men here too. The land of the West seems to be the main point of attraction, although letters received here lately are far from encouraging the movement.

**“Merthyr Express” 6 June 1868** The Merthyr Tydfil Emigration Society The object of this Society which was established on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 1868, is to purchase land in the American States, in order to establish its members thereon to follow mineral and agricultural pursuits. Members will become free holders of their respective lots, and such land to be inherited by their descendants for ever, in a country where all people are equal in the sight of the law. The members of this society are not to be sent to the overcrowded towns, cities and manufacturing districts, but chiefly to one of its States which will secure the success and welfare of industrious emigrants. That state is Missouri, which is celebrated for richness of soil, mineral wealth, and salubrious climate. This Society will include colliers, miners, and others, to all of whom impartial facilities for emigrating will be afforded. The first of the six conditions for entry is that every member who intends to emigrate shall pay into the fund a monthly contribution of 1s. 1d. or 6½d. fortnightly, and 3d. entrance fee

**“Merthyr Express” 20 June 1868** The Cambrian Emigration Society This Society, which has just been formed, [distinct it should be stated from the Workers’ Emigration Fund], held a meeting at the Temperance Hall on Monday night, W. Simons, High Constable, in the chair. There was a numerous attendance. The chairman opened the meeting with an excellent speech descriptive of the country of North America, its industrial resources and requirements, and pointed out its advantages as a field of emigration.

**“Merthyr Express” 16 May 1874** Juvenile Emigrants A group of little girls from the Workhouse attended before Mr. de Retzen at the Police Court on Wednesday to receive His Worships sanction prior to leaving for Canada. Mr. de Rutzen spoke very kindly to them, and told them they would be accompanied by a lady (Miss Rye) who would take care of them. They all seemed to be much pleased.

**“Merthyr Express” 3 February 1906** Welshmen in an Explosion in Australia: One formerly of Fochriw The Rev. E. Mona Jones writing from Newcastle, New South Wales, says that an explosion occurred some time ago in Karri Karri, when three Welshman were killed and four injured. One of the directors of the company was also killed, and the manager (Mr. Henry M. Williams) seriously injured. Mr. Williams was formerly at Fochriw.

**“Merthyr Express” 10 February 1906** Australian Mine Disaster: Fochriw Men Victims Further information has been received at Fochriw where some of the victims in the recent mine disaster in New South Wales once lived. The mine was worked by steep slants, in a similar way to the Park Slip Colliery, Tondu. David Jones, the Fochriw man referred to, was killed in the presence of his wife and children. It appears that flames were coming up the drift with considerable force, and in order to smother the fire, he went with the others to wall up the mouth of the drift, and was in the act of carrying out this work, when the fatal explosion took place. A few years ago, his brother and his brother's son, were killed by a fall of roof at a Rhondda colliery. The widowed mother of deceased, who is now 80 years of age, and lives at Fochriw, is naturally prostrated with grief at the sad news from of the colony. Henry Morgan Williams, the manager of the works, who was injured in the accident, was originally a collier at the Fochriw pits. In company with about half a dozen others, including Evan Evans, he emigrated to New South Wales. Of studious habits,

he devoted himself to the science of coal mining, and won a prize offered by the Government for the highest marks attained at a mining examination. He was then engaged at a colliery in the vicinity, and subsequently became under-manager. Two years ago, the then resident manager returned home to the Rhondda for six months, and Williams took charge of the colliery. Later on, the Karai Karai was opened, and he secured the appointment. Williams was the founder of the Fochriw Band, and was a successful conductor at eisteddfodau. Many South Waiians from the Aberdare, Rhondda and Rhymney valleys live in the Karai Karai district.

**13 June 1914** Personal On Thursday evening last, a large number of friends assembled at the Station and gave a hearty send-off to Mr. & Mrs. Rees Rees, and their youngest daughter and son, who are leaving for Brisbane, Australia. Mr. & Mrs. Rees left Fochriw for Brisbane 28 years ago, where they spent 17 years of their life. They then returned to Fochriw with their family, spending the last 11 years in the village.

**14 April 1917** From South Africa We were all pleased to see Private William Lewis, South African Infantry, back in the old homestead for a few days. Private Lewis, who is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lewis, Martin-street, left for South Africa 9 years ago, and worked in the gold mines. On the outbreak of hostilities, he enlisted with General Smuts' Army in German East Africa. He fought for 12 months, during which time he suffered from a severe attack of malaria, and lay unconscious on the battlefield for two days. He was picked up and taken back to the base, where he remained unconscious for a week afterwards. He was removed to several hospitals, finally having his discharge. Later on he enlisted for service in France. His wife and three children are also in this country.

**8 October 1921** Presentation On Thursday evening at the Mount Pleasant Inn, a presentation meeting was held to bid God-speed to Mr. Thomas Lewis Griffiths and family, who is leaving for the USA. The event was organised by his friends of the Mechanical section, of which he is an engine driver, to show their appreciation of the high esteem in which he is held amongst them. The chair was occupied by Mr. Tom Sims, M.E., who spoke in glowing terms of Mr. Griffith's character. The presentation was made by the Rev. J. C. Payne, an old engine driver before going in for Holy Orders. A musical programme accompanied the presentation. The duties of secretary were carried out by Mr. Harry Hughes, with Mr. David Harris as treasurer.

**1 July 1922** Noted Visitor Mr. Edward Mostyn Davies, who left Fochriw 43 years ago, is home on a visit to the old country. He is staying with his nephew, Mr. John Mostyn Evans, Railway-terrace.

**21 June 1924** From Australia The numerous friends of Mr. and Mrs. Evan Evans, now of Australia, late of Fochriw, were delighted to see them looking so well after an absence of 38 years. While in Fochriw, they will stay with Mr. James Evans, Moore's-row.

**28 June 1924** Home From South Africa The numerous friends of Mr. & Mrs. William Adams were pleased to see them home on a short visit to the old country this week, looking in the best of health. All join in wishing them a happy holiday.

**25 October 1924** Whist Drive A whist drive was held at St. Mary's Hall. Among the players were Mr. and Mrs. Evan Evans of Australia, who had left the village 38 years ago. They presented the prizes to the winners. The Conservative candidate called to apologise for the clash with his election meeting. The duties of M.C. were shared between Rev. S. Evans and Mr. W. J. Payne.

**8 November 1924** Send Off On Tuesday morning at Fochriw Station, villagers said goodbye to Mr. and Mrs. Evan Evans who were returning to Australia.

**16 May 1925** Off To Canada A large number of friends have wished Mr. John Edgar, youngest son of Mr. Herbert Edgar and the late Mrs. E. Edgar, Guest-street, bon voyage. On Friday last, he sailed from Liverpool to Lyleton, Manitoba, Canada. Before leaving, he was presented by his friends from Nazareth C.M. Chapel, with a handsome dressing case and Bible. The presentations were made by Mrs. Budd, Mrs. Davies and Mrs. Lawrence who all wished him good luck and God-speed. The Fochriw Male Voice Choir presented him with a very nice attache case. This was made by Mr. E. H. Lewis the chairman of the Choir, who wished Mr. Edgar well in his new sphere.

**24 April 1926** Off to Canada On Sunday evening, at Nazareth Chapel, a handsome hand-bag and two books were the presentation pieces to Mrs. Mary Burrows and family, who are leaving on Wednesday for Canada. Mrs. Burrows is the daughter of the late Mr. J. Lawrence and Mrs. Elizabeth Lawrence, who had been a faithful deacon at Nazareth up to the time of his death. The presentation was made by the Rev. Richard Evans, on behalf of the members and friends.

**25 June 1927** Off to New Zealand Mr. and Mrs. David Price and their family of seven children left for New Zealand on Thursday. Mrs. Price is the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Hughes, Martin-street, and Mr. Price is a native of Deri.

**16 July 1927** St. Mary's Hall A social evening and presentation took place at the Hall on Tuesday evening for Mr. W. Candrick, Mrs. Candrick and family, on the occasion of their departure for Tasmania. The Vicar made the presentation which took the form of purse of money placed in a hand-made bag which had been made and given by Miss Rosie Davies. Rev. Evans spoke very highly of Mr. and Mrs. Candrick, and he also voiced the feelings of all present, in wishing them and their family God-speed. Mrs. Candrick feelingly responded. Miss Margery Lewis gave a solo. During the evening there was a whist drive.

**30 July 1927** Off to Tasmania Mr. & Mrs. Candrick and family left Fochirw on Friday, and sailed from Tilbury Dock on Saturday morning.

**10 November 1928** Bon Voyage Mr. Tommy Harris, Plantation-street, left for Brooklyn, New York, on Saturday last aboard the "Aquitania."

**27 April 1929** Bon Voyage At the Old Library on Wednesday evening, a presentation meeting took place, when Mr. David Lewis, a member of the Fochriw Glee Party, was the recipient of a beautiful cigarette case, suitably inscribed, to mark the occasion of his departure for Manitoba under the Emigration Scheme. The presentation was made by Mr. Mr W. J. Payne, chairman of the party, who spoke in glowing terms of Mr. Lewis's faithfulness. Mr. Lewis is one of four brothers who are members of the party, and the well-known singer, Miss Margery Lewis, is his sister. Miss Lewis has assisted the party on numerous occasions. All members of the Party wished Mr. Lewis good luck and God-speed. Others who spoke were Messrs. James Thomas, James Gregory and D. J. Davies. After the presentation, the Party sang a number of choruses.

**26 July 1930** Personal The numerous friends of Mrs. S. J. Evans, (granddaughter of the late Mr. Thomas Williams, Pentwyn, one of the oldest pioneers of Carmel Chapel, and eldest sister of Mesdames A. Jones, Post Office, and J. M. Lawrence, Emlyn House), join in giving her a hearty welcome back to the "Old Country," after her absence of 30 years in the United States, where she has made

her home. She emigrated from Clydach, Rhondda in 1900, to Dubois, Pennsylvania, where she reared a family of eight children who occupy prominent positions in the States. She is at present spending her time with her sisters at Fochriw, but later intends visiting her relations and friends in Swansea and the Rhondda Valleys.

**13 September 1930** Welcome Visitor The many friends of Mr. Llewellyn Rees, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rees Rees, were delighted to see him again back in the old country on a visit from Chicago, U.S.A., where he has been for several years as an electric car driver. Before going abroad, he was a fine athlete and a well-known footballer.

**11 October 1930** Bon Voyage Mrs. Evans, who has been on a visit to the old country, sailed from Southampton to America on Saturday. She is sister to Mrs. Aneurin Jones, Mrs. James Lawrence and Mr. Thomas Price. It is 30 years since she left the village for America, and this was her first return visit.

Edwards, Willie Walters, Evan Lewis and Bertie Hiscox; song, Sailor Boys.

**18 July 1931** Welcome Home The many friends of Mr. William Adams were delighted to see him back in the old country again from South Africa, looking in the best of health. He left Fochriw 21 years ago.

**23 June 1934** In China Mr. William Sullivan, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Sullivan, Terrace Bungalow, Pontllynn, who joined the South Wales Borderers in 1926, and was drafted to China, has finished his army service and has joined the Civil Police at Kowloon, Hong Kong. His father is an old soldier, who saw active service with the 3rd Welsh Regiment throughout the South African War. During the Great War, he was again on active service with the Welsh Horse and R.W.F. He was badly wounded in Palestine in the battle of Gaza, and was invalided home with spinal injuries in 1918.

**12 December 1942** Died in Australia The death has taken place at Kurrie Kurrie, Hopetown, New South Wales, of a well known former Fochriw inhabitant, Mr. Myall Williams, aged 76. Mr. Williams emigrated 32 years ago with his family. His wife is the daughter of Mr. Thomas Mantle, Pentwyn. Mr. Williams was well known as a local preacher and a singer of repute.

**12 May 1951** Home Again A warm welcome awaited Mrs. Marian Clayton, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Tom Sullivan, when she arrived home with her children from America on Monday, on a three months' visit. Mrs. Clayton was met from the "Queen Mary" by her parents, and the streets were gay with flags and bunting when the party arrived home. A large crowd was there to receive them. Mrs. Clayton met her husband while he was serving with the American forces during the war, and afterwards went to America.

**26 April 1952** Home From Canada Mrs. Megan Hanson, Fredrickton, New Brunswick, Canada, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Gomer Williams, Aelybryn, is home on a short visit to her parents.

**1 August 1953** His 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Mr. James Griffiths, now living in New South Wales, Australia, who is well known to many local people, celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday recently. A special function was organised by members of the church that he attends. After the birthday tea, Mr. Griffiths was presented with an armchair. Among the guests present were Mrs. Myall Williams (nee Mantle), formerly of Pentwyn, and Mr. & Mrs. Idris Roberts, late manager of Bedwas Colliery. Mr. Griffiths still writes regularly to his relatives and friends in this country. He lived for a time at Abercynon, Brithdir, Trethomas, afterwards moving to Dolgelly, North Wales. He now lives with his son and daughter-in-law at Kurri Kurri, New South Wales.

**21 September 1957** Return To America Mrs. Marion Clayton of Newport, Kentucky, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Tom Sullivan, 7, Aelybryn, who has been home for a three-month visit to her parents, with her seven children, started her journey back to the States on Wednesday. They were sailing on the Queen Mary. They were given a great send-off by relatives and friends who had gathered at the station.

**10 September 1960** Return to Wales From Brooklyn, New York, Mrs. Jane Williams, daughter of the late Mr. & Mrs. Walter Thomas, Dynevor Street, has returned on a visit to Wales after 38 years. After 16 years' absence, Mrs. Mgan Hanson, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Gomer Williams, Heol Iago, is at home with her family from St. John's, Newfoundland.

**2 September 1961** Return To U.S.A. Mrs. Marion Clayton, wife of Mr. LeRoy Clayton, and daughter of Mr. Tom Sullivan, Aelybryn, returned to her Kentucky home on Saturday. Mrs. Clayton and her youngest son Mark were on a visit to her parents. She has lived for the past fifteen years in Newport, Kentucky. She travelled home by jet via New York.

**28 April 1962** Canadian Visit Mrs. Rachel Willaims, wife of Mr. Gomer Williams, 30, Heol Iago, is leaving by air to visit her two daughters in Canada. She will be away six months, Her daughter Megan lives at St. Johns, Newfoundland, and Dwywnwen in Brantford, Ontario. Both left Fcohriw in 1946.

**22 June 1963** U.S. Visitor Mr. Thomas Sedgemore, now of America, arrived at the home of his brother, Rev. Evan Sedgemore on Sunday, for a short holiday. His mother is living at the vicarage at present. Mr. Sedgemore was born in Hirwaun.

**27 June 1964** Canadian Holiday Mr. & Mrs. Gomer Williams, 33, Heol Iago, sailed from Liverpool on Tuesday on the S.S. Empress of Canada, for a six month holiday in Canada. They will spend the first three months with their younger daughter, Mrs. Dwywnwen La Salle, at Brantford, Ontario. Mrs. La Salle married a Canadian soldier during the war, and went to Canada in 1946. The latter part of the holiday will be spent with their elder daughter, Mrs. Megan Hanson, at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Mrs. Williams visited Canada two years ago, but for Mr. Williams, who is retiring in April, it will be his first visit to Canada.