

## MAJOR DAVID ITHEL ELLIS MC RFA

David Ithel Ellis was the son of William Twigge Ellis and his wife, Jane Prichard. He was one of eight children. David was the oldest, born in 1894, followed by William Tudor, (who lost an arm in the war), Trevor Edgar (who was also killed in the war) and five younger siblings. He was brought up in Bethesda where his father was a solicitor. In the 1911 Census the family had moved to Bryn Crafnant in Trefriw as William Ellis was now a solicitor in Llanrwst. David had moved to Milford Haven in Pembrokeshire where he was working in a bank.

Rhodri Prys Jones in his book: *Conwy Wledig a'r Rhyfel Mawr* suggests that David joined the training officer corps and then served as a Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery.

In the summer of 1917 he won the Military Cross. He was complimented for gallantry for saving a man under fire by General Weston Hunter. (*North Wales Weekly News 12 July 1917*) The entry in the *London Gazette 17.9.17* reports that Lieutenant Ellis showed 'conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when under an intense and accurate hostile bombardment of his battery. He worked incessantly throughout the night in order to keep his guns in action, by his splendid personal example and devotion keeping the spirits of his men under circumstances of an exceptionally trying nature. On several occasions he has been the life and soul of his battery under the heaviest shell fire, restoring confidence and cheerfulness at a time when they were most difficult to maintain.'

(Quoted in *Conwy Wledig a'r Rhyfel Mawr*)

In September he was promoted to Captain (*Herald Cymraeg 25.9.17*) and two months later to Major (*North Wales Chronicle 28.12.17*). The rapid promotion of a young soldier was due in part, undoubtedly, to his dedication and ability, but also to the fact that so many officers were killed or wounded that the army generals had no alternative other than to look to young and often fairly inexperienced men to take their place.

Major Ellis finally lost his life on April 9<sup>th</sup> 1918 in the ferocious fighting which marked the German Spring Offensive. He was killed in action at the battle of Lys and commemorated at Ploegsteert. He was 24 years old.

There is a copy of his will in which he left £360 to his mother. He gives his address on the will as Mill Bank. His medals were sent to his father.



**Major David Ithel Ellis Portrait  
London Gazette**



**A Military Cross**

## YOUNG MILFORD MAJOR KILLED.

The many friends of Major D. Ithel Ellis, M.C., will regret to hear that he was killed in action on the 9th inst. The news was conveyed to Mr. Herbert Cole, L. C. & M. Bank, by the gallant officer's father. Only the day previous to his death he had written home to his parents a cheerful letter. Major Ellis was for three years previous to the outbreak of war a clerk in the London City and Midland Bank, Milford Haven, and was very popular amongst his acquaintances. He joined the local Company of Pembroke R.G.A., and was mobilised in August, 1914. For a time he was on the pay staff and was promoted sergeant. On securing a commission he transferred to the R.F.A., and by his ability and devotion to duty he gained rapid promotion. He was only 23 years of age at the time of his death, and had won the Military Cross. His home was at Trifrew, North Wales.

### Major David Ithel Ellis - Obituary



Major David Ithel Ellis Memorial Stone at Milford Haven

Correspondence.

M. W. T. Ellis. makes application in respect of  
the late. D. J. Ellis (Major) 24-5-1919

689 11.7.21.

Address.

Hdgqs.  
no 4. District.  
Shrewsbury

Millbank  
refuge  
Wales.

Campaign:—

1914-15 Star  
6.8.21

(A) Where decoration was earned.

(B) Present situation.

	Name	Rank	Reg. No.	Roll on which included (if any)		
				MEDAL	ROLL	PAGE
(A)	Ellis.	D/12904 R.F.A. Major	2/65	VICTORY	OFF 132	57 <sup>B</sup>
(B)	D. J. (M.C)			15 STAR	OFF 132	21 m.

Action taken

David Ithel

\* 1915 Star }  
\* B. M. M. } 14. + / 5705. 8/8/21. 8/8/1498  
K. in. a.  
9 April 1918

Theatre of War France  
1st Dec: 1915.

Qualifying Date

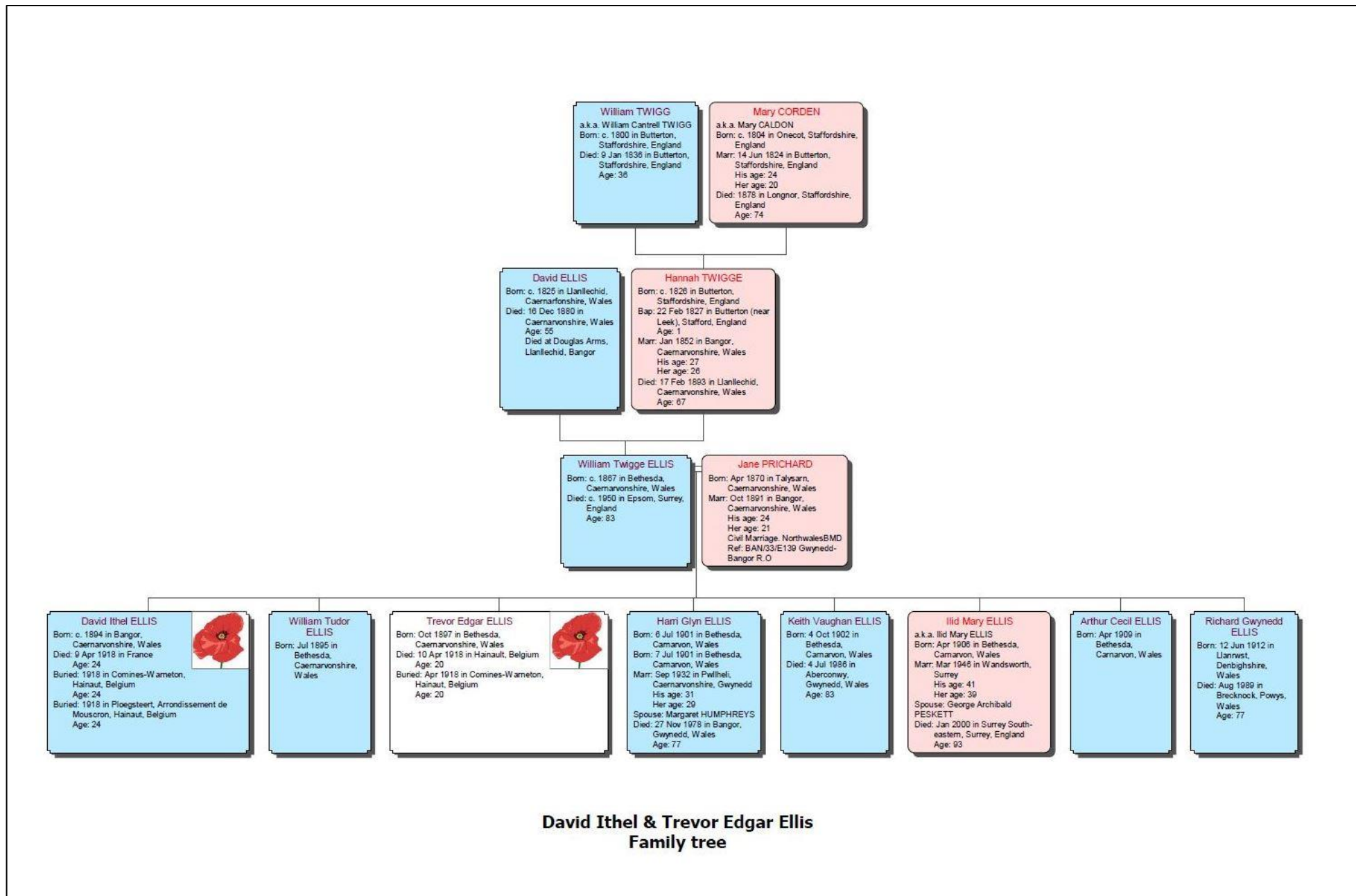
20/5/1498

(6 34 46) W3138—RP433 50,000 12/17 HWV(P798) K608  
1264—RP2020 60,000 5/18

[OVER.]



**Mill Bank, former home of David Ithel & Trevor Edgar Ellis**



**David Ithel & Trevor Edgar Ellis  
Family tree**