

Memories of Canon Bill Davies

His grandfather was William J Davies, painter and decorator. Excellent at graining work. Amongst his clients were the local gentry, like the Homfrays. Was where Quills/Farthings is, then moved to where Lloyds chemist is in 1925-6. Moved to Eastgate – Adpar House.

Bill's father was born here – Arthur Jenkin Davies, and brother Ernest. Attended the Grammar School. Arthur became an analytical chemist; Ernest became a farmer at Rose Cottage, Penllyn, remarried Elsie Robert, daughter of Village Farm. Sister Nancy devoted her life to her parents – was a music teacher, and organist at the Wesleyan chapel.

Charlie (the Bun) Davies was Bill's great uncle – Charles Morgan Davies. He was mayor five times and given the freedom of the borough. He worked for the YMCA and the Institute. Moved to the first bungalow to be built in Westgate, Shortlands.

Bill's uncle Mathias Davies was also in Westgate.

Bob (the Bus) Davies was a bus inspector, and he was also mayor. Had a 'little Hitler' moustache. Amiable character, chubby.

In the Bear was Williams of Great House, Penllyn. His sons were Evan (now in Ireland), Glyn (in Cowbridge – Hopyard Meadow) and Owen (in Penarth). They had piano lessons from Bill's Aunt Nancy.

Mr Rowsell in Eastgate came from the West Country (1925-30). Very tall, toothbrush moustache, retired postman, sold tea to supplement his pension round the farms in the Vale. Cycle – large frame, bolt upright. Trilby hat turned up all round. Quite distinctive, highly coloured complexion. Pillar of the Wesleyan chapel.

Bill had to blow the organ there one day – very hard work. He sneaked out in the sermon via no 55, at the back, and missed the final hymn.

He played cricket once for Cowbridge. JC Clay played County Cricket, Essex.

Cowbridge Grammar School in the 1890s – the day started with morning service at Holy Cross, not only the boarders but the whole school. Bill used to dive into the bushes, hide till the service ended and rejoin. He remembered Dr Price from Llantrisant on market days, pelted by boys.

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11 July 2000

Dear Sir or Madam,

I was recently looking at a variety of pages referring to Cowbridge and came across an item about "Cowbridge - Buildings and People". I see that the people behind the publication are the Cowbridge Record Society and wondered if any of you might be able to shed some light on some personal research I am doing.

Some time ago a relative purchased a pine "carpenters tool" chest for me at an auction in Hampshire. Having cleaned up the chest some writing was revealed under the lid in pencil. To be honest I was suspicious that some "Lovejoy" type antique dealer had added the writing to give the chest a degree of authenticity but having done some research I believe the writing to be genuine and have subsequently tried to find out more about the owner.

The writing refers to Morgan Davies, carpenter, passenger from Glamorgan to Melbourne on board the Monarch of the Sea which left from Liverpool July 1857.

I have established that there was a Morgan Davies on the passenger list for the Monarch of the Sea which arrived in Australia in November 1857.

Fortunately my work took me to Australia and I was able to do some research at the Melbourne records office and although I found an entry for Morgan Davies I could find little else out about him.

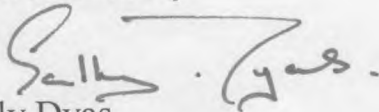

So I started trawling the local record office in Bridgend and eventually found a listing for Morgan Davies in Cowbridge. In the 1851 census a Morgan Davies is listed as a carpenter living at Butts Row aged 24 and again in 1881 MD is listed, now married to Mary, as living in Church Street. There are a variety of listings within Church records of baptisms etc and a grave at Holy Cross Church of a Morgan Davies who was married to Mary and died in 1909 aged 86.

So there are the questions: Is the Morgan Davies on the Monarch of the Sea one in the same as the records referred to in Cowbridge and buried at Holy Cross....but there are discrepancies in the age. If he did go to Australia it appears it was only for a few years as he fathered children again in the early 1860's?

Lots of questions and still no definite trace. Can anyone shed any more light on this and have you come across any records which may prove that the same Morgan Davies who owned this box lived in Cowbridge and for some reason (possibly a Government contract) went to Australia temporarily???

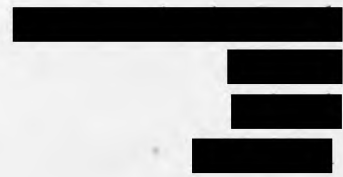
Any help or suggestions would be much appreciated.

Yours faithfully


Sally Dyas


Ans 17/7/00

DAVIES



31st July 2000

Dear Mr Alden,

Many thanks for taking the time and trouble to respond to my request for information about Morgan Davies and apologies for not enclosing an SAE.

If you do hear anymore from Canon Bill Davies I would be most interested. I will also check out some information on the other Morgan Davies you found in the 1881 census in case this is "my" MD.

Many thanks again and I am enclosing a few stamps to cover any further correspondence or anyone else like me who forgets!

Kind regards

Sally Dyas