

JOHN family of Cowbridge.

I have designated this branch as "of Cowbridge." But there is no difference really. Llanblethian is the parish church of Cowbridge and the registers are kept there. During my pleasant afternoon and evening with Sir William at his house in St. John's Wood when I was a curate in London, he gave me all the information he had about the origin of the family. This was very little for of course he had never made a study of the subject being too busy with other and more important works. I am not going to give a list of those works, or any account of his distinguished career. Those interested in such matters can easily find them by consulting such authorities as the Ency. Brit., or other like books. My object is to record information easily lost or becomes inaccessible. The earliest items he knew were the following:—

- I. William John, b.,c.1760, m. Jennett?, and had,
Jennett John, b.Nov. 21st, 1787, m. James Jervis,
of Llantrithyd.
Susanna John, b.May 20, 1789, m. —. Thompson,
and had,
1 son—Blue Coat School—Buenos Aires—South
America.
William John, b.17th June, 1792, m. Mary Miller of
Wenvoe.

"The two Wm. Johns above named were respectively my great-grandfather, and my grandfather. The former died in the Royal Navy and was buried at sea. The latter died in 1858 and was buried at Llantrithyd. The latter Wm. John was in the 43rd Regiment (now Oxford Light Infantry) and was at the siege of New Orleans 1814-15, and returned with his regiment to England. They were then sent on to Belgium, reaching Waterloo the day after the battle, afterwards going on to Paris."

From the book in Sir William's possession entitled: "Wm. John his book June 4th, 1823" I was allowed to copy the following items:—

- "Noah John first Born of William & Mary John was born Feb. 15, 1824. Died March 8th, 1824. Aged 3 weeks."
- "Noah John Second Son of William & Mary John born Jan. 4th, 1826. Registered at Llantrithyd."
- "Daniel John, son of Mary and William John born Dec. 6th 1827. Registered at Cowbridge Methodist Chapel."
- "William John Son of William John & Mary John born Aug. 20th 1829. Registered at Llancarvan."
- "Alice John Daughter of William & Mary John was born Aug. 30. 1831. Died an Infant."
- "Thomas John Son of Wm. & Mary John was Born June 28th 1834. Registered at Llantrithyd."

- "Thomas John, 1834, a carpenter, m. Elizabeth, dau. of John & Sarah (born Goscombe) Smith, b. Feb. 16. 1832, at Randwick, Glos., died Cardiff, 1915. Both buried at Llandaff." They had,
 - "William John, b. Nov. 13, 1858, died at Canton April 29. 1859."
 - "William John, b. Feb. 21, 1860. (Sir William Goscombe John, R.A.)."
 - "Thomas John, b. March 25, 1862. A carpenter."
 - "James John, b. Feb. 23, 1865. A carpenter."
 - "Mary Susanna John, b. March 29, 1869."
- (Sir Wm. Goscombe John's father and Sir Lewis Lougher were 2nd cousins).

JOHN of Cowbridge.

Inscription on the gravestone of Sir William Goscombe John's grandfather in Llantrithyd.

William John of this Parish
Born June 17, 1792, Died Aug. 15, 1858.
Mary John, born March 13, 1791.
Died June 21, 1871.

William John, 3rd surviving son of William John & Mary (Miller), became a tailor, living in Ebury Street, London, and when my parents were living in London, my oldest sister Annie visited him. He then told her that her grandmother Catherine Branch (John) belonged to the same family. Unfortunately my sister was too young to remember particulars.

In addition to the items above, Sir William gave me a small Bible. This Bible measures $6\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3\frac{1}{2}''$, and contains a few names. He could not tell me about its origin. It was printed in 1728. Underneath the crossing out are these words:—

The Gift of Mr. Thos. Davies
to Mrs. Margate Williams
Augst 2d. 1733

Overleaf is written and crossed out:
Margate William
her Book and she
was born november
the 5th Day 1721

Back to the first page and Margate writes again. This also is crossed out.

Margate William
her hand and pen
god save king georg
1740 aged 19th year

V. JOHN family, of Llanblethian.

William John, of Llanblethian, a Carpenter, b. 1780, d. 1865, buried in Cowbridge; m. 1st Alice Richards, and had,

- (1) Thomas, b. 1809, at Cowbridge, m. Elizabeth Lewis, of Henllan (said to be related to Bishop Lewis of Llandaff): Emigrated to Australia. (S).
- (2) William, went to Bristol.
- (3) Evan.
- (4) Catherine, m. Edward Pranch & Branch, of St. Nicholas.
- (5) Margaret, m. William Edwards, of Merthyr, and had, Rev. John Edwards, C.M. minister, m. and had, Rev. Morgan Henry Edwards, M.A. for 25 years C.M. minister of New Falmouth Road chapel, London.

2ndly—Richards, and had,

- (1) David, m. —. Beavan, of St. Brides-Major.
- (2) Abraham, —., a carpenter.
- (3) Isaac, —., a carpenter.
- (4) Ann, m. Peter Thomas, Village Farm, St. Nicholas
- (5) Jane.
- (6) Elizabeth, remained in Llanblethian.

William John's second wife was a Baptist. This probably accounts for the Biblical names. He also used to preach in Ramah Baptist chapel, Cowbridge, and I believe he is buried there. At the age of 80 he walked from Cowbridge to St. Nicholas to visit his two daughters, Catherine, my grandmother, who remained a churchwoman like her mother, and Ann, her half-sister, who was a Baptist like her mother.

- (1) Thomas John, just before he left Cowbridge with his wife and family for South Australia, gave his sister Catherine a grandfather clock which he had bought at a sale at Beaupre (castle). He brought this clock from Cowbridge to St. Nicholas placed before him on his horse. There was no traffic in those days to disturb the horse or the clock. He was educated at the Eagle School, Cowbridge, which, for practical purposes, was superior to the Grammar School at that time. The Grammar School taught only the Classics and kindred subjects. The boys had to attend the Eagle School for arithmetic and other mathematics. The chief product of the Grammar School must have been parsons. From the Eagle School emerged the famous General Nott of Kandahar, whose very interesting history appear in the Weekly Mail a few years ago. His father kept a public house in Carmarthen.

This is the obituary notice of Thomas John published in the Australian newspapers :—

“The Late Mr. Thomas Jones, J.P.” (1893).

“Another life of usefulness is closed and another old colonist has joined the great majority. We allude to Mr. Thomas Jones, J.P., whose death at the advanced age of eighty-four is announced. Mr. Jones, who was born at Cowbridge in Glamorganshire, Wales, on December 5, 1809, came to South Australia on July 7, 1840. In those early days he was identified as architect and builder with the principal buildings in the city, and he had to do with some of the principal public and private buildings. The first bridge across the Torrens on the King William road was erected under his supervision. In June, 1852, Mr. Jones was appointed by the Government to survey, design, and construct the railway from Goolwa to Port Elliot. He afterwards remained in the district, and superintended the construction of the Port Elliot breakwater. When the tramway line was completed in 1854 he was appointed Traffic Manager, and remained at Port Elliot for a number of years. In course of time, however, the Government control was determined by the tramway being leased, and Mr. Jones consequently vacating the position of Superintendent he was entertained by the people of the district, with whom he had been very popular, and received a public testimonial. In 1872 he removed to York's Peninsular as Engineer for the Peninsular Road Board and Town Surveyor of Moonta. He remained there until two years ago, when his health failed, and he came to Adelaide. Mr. Jones was the founder of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows in South Australia.

Mr. Jones leaves behind two sons—Messrs. J. W. Jones (Conservator of Water), and T. Jones (Surveyor of Moonta), and three daughters—Mesdames L. L. Furner, J. Allen, and A. Robinson.”

William John, the father, was a carpenter. Likewise his two sons Abraham and Isaac. My father, also a carpenter, was trained first under these two uncles before he went up to London and there, after attending the Technical Schools and acquiring certificates and extra skill in his craft, qualified as Clerk of Works. He supervised the erection of the “Coffee Tavern” in St. Nicholas while living in the village. According to John Ruskin the carpenter craft is one of the innocent vocations. As I have noted elsewhere, this skill in woodwork is common to both branches of the John family reaching its highest in Sir William Goscombe John, R.A., who worked in wood and stone, marble and bronze.