

The

OWEN

families of

Pembrokeshire

and

Glamorgan

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Introduction

Tracing records of a family in Wales named OWEN is not an especially easy task and lack of firm evidence means that it has not been possible to trace the family conclusively. In particular, information from my aunt indicates that later generations of the family were ‘Chapel’ rather than ‘Church’, which may account for the difficulty I have had in finding baptisms.

Wherever possible I have presented the available evidence in the hope that later generations may be able to prove what I have merely surmised.

My starting point was being able to trace Evan OWEN, one of my great-grandfathers on this branch of the family, in each census return from 1861 to 1911. These gave his birthplace as Wiston, in Pembrokeshire, and from there a search of the parish registers enabled me to find his parents and grandparents.

The maps overleaf give some idea of the locations of various places mentioned in the text.

Addresses mentioned in the text

Parish records

Town or parish	Dates	Name
Robesten Wathen	1810	Owen
Camrose	1825	Sarah ?? m
Wiston	1830	Owen / Brown
Newcastle Emlyn	1875	Bass / Elias
Llandilo / Llandissilio	1850	Owen

Addresses

Town	Address	Dates	Names
Aberaman	Albion Street	June 1874	Joshua Elias
Aberaman	Gwawr Chapel	December 1881	marriage of Evan and Mary Ann
Aberdare	Black Lion Hotel	December 1881	Mary Ann Thomas
Aberdare	Brook Street, 23	1881 census	Owen family (James)
Aberdare	Capcock (?)	1861 census	Owen family
Aberdare	Cardiff Road, 279	1871 – 1881	Owen family
Aberdare	Cardiff Street, 43 ('Black Horse')	1871 census	Owen family (James)
Boulston	Bed Houses	1871 census	Owen family (Edward)
Cardiff	Ruthin Gardens, 27	1891 census	Owen family
Cardiff	Ruthin Gardens, 30 (Llwyn On)	1901 census	Owen family
Crymmych		c1860	Mary Ann Thomas born
Eglwysilan	High Street, 27	1901 census	012KA William Owen
Glyn Neath		c1850	Elizabeth Watkins or Williams born
Haverfordwest	Grove Place, 9	1901 census	012JC Isaac Owen
Lampeter Velfrey	Bryn Heffryd	1891 census	012KE Evan Owen
Llansamlet	Drunima Cottage	1861 census	024N James Owen

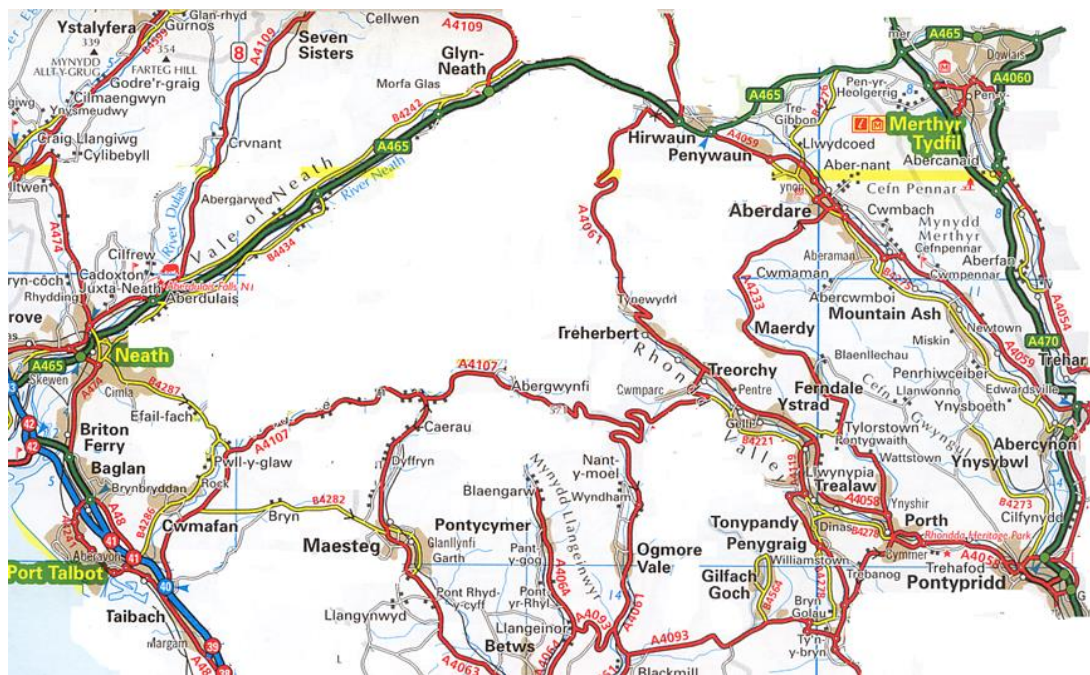
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Llawhaden		c1835	Esther ?? born
Llawhaden		c1835	Anne ?? born
Llawhaden	Bethesda Cross	1881 census	012J John Owen
Llawhaden	Cottage	1871 census	012J John Owen
Llawhaden	Holgan or Holgan Cottage	1881 – 1901 census	Owen family (Edward)
Llawhaden	Rhosgoch	1891 census	012J John Owens
Martletwy	Burnett's Hill	1891 census	012JC Isaac Owens
Narberth North	Woodfield Lodge	1901 census	012J John Owens
Rudbaxton	Hay Hrog	1881 census	012KA William Owen
Tenby	Park Terrace, 10	1901 census	012KE Evan Owen
Wiston	Churchill Cottage	1861 census	012J John Owens
Wiston	Clover Hill	May 1840	Evan Owen
Wiston	Collymoor	1861 census	012K Edward Owen
Wiston	East Hook	May 1840	Martha Brown
Wiston	East Hook	1841, 1851 census	Owen family
Ystradyfodwg	Britannia Close, 2	1901 census	012MB Evan Owens
Ystradyfodwg	Duffryn Street, 65	1891 & 1901 census	Elias family (Elizabeth Owen)
Ystradyfodwg	Llewellyn Street, 22	1901 census	Owen family (James's widow Elizabeth)
Ystradyfodwg	Llewellyn Street, 74	1891 census	Owen family (James)
Ystradyfodwg	Regent Street, 54	1901 census	012NA Martha Jones
Ystradyfodwg	Union Street, 2	1901 census	012NB Mary George

Areas and corresponding registration districts

Aberdare	GLA	Merthyr Tydfil	to 1945; thereafter Pontypridd
Bedwelty	MON	Abergavenny	until 1861; thereafter Bedwelty
Boulston	PEM	Haverfordwest	
Cardiff	GLA	Cardiff	
Lampeter Velfrey	PEM	Narberth	
Llandilofawr	CMN	Llandilofawr	
Llansamlet	GLA	Neath	until 1876; thereafter Swansea
Llantrisant	GLA	Cardiff	until 1863; thereafter Pontypridd (1934)
Llawhaden	PEM	Narberth	
Robesten Wathen	PEM	Narberth	
Wiston	PEM	Haverfordwest	
Ystradyfodwg	GLA	Merthyr Tydfil	until 1863; thereafter Pontypridd

The OWEN families: introduction



G5 – OWEN family

I am confident that my great-great-grandparents on the OWEN line were William OWEN and Hannah LEWIS. The names were obtained by working backwards, in time-honoured fashion, from the baptism of Evan on 25 DEC 1816; the baptism record gives the names of his parents as William and Hannah¹. The baptism of James, Evan's elder brother, on 02 JAN 1814 is also recorded with the same parents' names. Census returns (see later) also show a daughter Mary born about 1809.

Lawrence OWEN, a distant cousin, has found the marriage of William OWEN and Hannah LEWIS on 10 JUN 1805, at Walton East². It seems likely that this is the correct marriage; and almost certain that other children would have been born, and perhaps baptised, between 1809 and 1814.

From the ages given in the census returns and burial records (see later) William was born about 1778, and Hannah about 1785. The marriage register shows that both were 'of this parish', and so they were both probably born there.

The IGI lists 23 baptisms of a William OWEN in Pembrokeshire between 1765 and 1785, and 35 of Hannah LEWIS between 1770 and 1790, but none from the Walton East area.

The three children found so far were all born at Robeston Wathen (about nine miles south-east of Walton East), showing that William and Hannah moved there some time between 1805 and 1809. They remained there for the rest of their lives.

The 1841 census return lists William and Hannah, living at Woodford, Robeston Wathen³.

Hannah died and was buried on 04 OCT 1845 aged 60⁴.

William is shown in the 1851 census return⁵, living at Robeston Wathen, and in the following one⁶, still at the same address. He died and was buried on 14 JUL 1862⁷.

It is unlikely that further progress will be made into this branch.

Mary OWEN (c1809 – 1852)

024L

No baptism for Mary has been found, but she appears with William and Hannah in the 1841 census return, aged 30. The household also has a 5-year-old Maria NUN.

The following census return, that of 1851, also shows both Mary and Maria (whose surname was on this occasion given as OWENS). Mary was a pauper and Maria, by now aged 15, was shown as a grand-daughter to William. Both had been born at Robeston Wathen.

Mary died and was buried on 04 OCT 1852 aged 43⁸, apparently never having married.

No further information has been found for Maria. The possibility exists that she was the illegitimate daughter of Mary; it is even possible that the 1841 enumerator, when referring to

¹ baptism register at Robesten Wathen church, PEM

² marriage register at Walton East

³ 1841 census return for Woodford, Robeston Wathen, PEM, HO107/1448 f24 p5

⁴ burial register at Robesten Wathen church

⁵ 1851 census return for Athustan Green, Robeston Wathen, PEM, HO107/2475 f580

⁶ 1861 census return for Woodford, Robeston Wathen, PEM, HO108/4150 f38 p11

⁷ burial register at Robeston Wathen

⁸ burial register at Robeston Wathen

Maria, asked “What’s her surname?” and was given the answer “None”, which was written down as ‘Nun’.

James OWEN (1814 – ?)¹

024M

James was baptised on *02 JAN 1814* at Robesten Wathen. He married twice and had several children, but his death has not been found.

Evan OWEN (1816 – 1862)

024

Evan was baptised on *Christmas Day 1816*, again at Robesten Wathen²; William and Hannah are shown as his parents. Evan was one of my great-great-grandfathers and his line is followed on the next page.

¹ see Appendix 024M

² IGI reference for baptism of Evan OWEN, 25 DEC 1816, Robesten Wathen, parents William and Hannah

G4 – OWEN family

The information found in the census returns described below, plus details on a birth certificate, show beyond reasonable doubt that my great-grandfather Evan's parents were Evan OWEN and Martha BROWN (both born in 1816); they had at least six children. Two of the returns show an Ann Brown living with the family, who in one is identified as niece, indicating that Martha's maiden name was BROWN.

Evan OWENS and Martha BROWN were married at Wiston (which is roughly halfway between Walton East and Robeston Wathen) on 05 MAY 1840¹. Both were 'of full age'. Evan, a labourer, was from Clover Hill and Martha from East Hook². Their respective fathers were William, a labourer, and Edward, a farmer. Incidentally, although the name on the certificate is written as 'Owens' Evan's signature is clearly 'Owen'. Both Clover Hill and East Hook are still (in 2008) working farms.

They had six children, all born at Wiston, between 1840 and 1856.

The earliest useful census return, that of 1841³, indicates that Evan and Martha were living with a Margaret BROWN; this was almost certainly her mother although this cannot be established for certain as relationships were not given. Margaret, aged 64, was shown as a farmer, and presumably carrying on her late husband's occupation. The address was 'East Hook, Wiston'. Edward, her husband, had almost certainly died a few years earlier, in 1835 (see page 14).

By the time of the next census⁴, ten years later, Evan and Martha were living apart – though, as they were together in subsequent years, this was through necessity rather than because of any matrimonial strife. Martha was still at East Hook, a labourer's wife, with the eldest four children. The only likely Evan Owen was living in Aberdare (Glamorgan), lodging with William and Mary Matthews; he was a 'stoker' (William was a collier). His place of birth was given as 'Robeston', confirmation that this was the correct Evan. It seems that he went to Aberdare, a mining area, to find work. If he had done this only quite recently he would almost certainly have had to lodge with another family, while his own would have remained behind.

If he was indeed a stoker why should his wife describe herself as a labourer's wife? The thought that occurs to me is that if opportunities for communication between husband and wife were few and far between she may have been unaware of exactly what he was doing 80 miles to the east, especially if he had not been there for very long; if he had become a stoker following his move, then she might well still believe him to be a labourer. As the two youngest children were born in 1854 and 1856 – both, according to census returns, at Wiston – Evan must have been able to return home from time to time.

The census return for 1861⁵ shows Evan and Martha back together again, but now living in Aberdare where, presumably, Evan had found steady employment in one of the many mines in the area. He was an 'engine worker', and the four youngest children were living with them; so too was Ann BROWN, aged 28, shown as a niece, the daughter of Martha's brother John.

¹ Wiston marriage register, page 8

² I am grateful to Bill Griffiths, of the Dyfed Family History Society, for information on these two names

³ 1841 census return for East Hook, Wiston, Pembrokeshire, HO107/1445/21 f6 p10

⁴ 1851 census returns for Abergwawr, Aberdare, HO107/2460 f296 and East Hook, Wiston, HO107/2478 f305

⁵ 1861 census return for Capcock(?), Aberdare, Glamorgan, RG9/4071 f23 p46

Evan died the following year¹. By April 1871, the date of the census, Martha, together with Evan and Elizabeth, were living in Cardiff Road, Aberdare², a house (still there to this day) that they were sharing with John and Ruth PRICE and their daughter. Evan, aged 19, was a collier – all the other sons had left home. Elizabeth was a laundress.

Her brother-in-law James was also living in Aberdare at this time, with his second wife Martha, at Daniel Street, a couple of miles to the east.

Martha and Evan were still there ten years later³, but Martha died the following year⁴. Her death was registered in the Pontypridd area.

John OWEN (1840 – 1904)⁵ **012J**

John never moved far from Wiston. He married twice, and had four children although there may have been others.

Edward OWEN (1842 – 1914) **012K**

Edward married Anne DAVIES in 1863⁶. They had ten children.

William OWEN (1844 – ?) **012L**

William was born, at Wiston, in about 1844. He became a coalminer, like most of the male members of his family, and in 1861⁷ was still living at home in Aberdare with his parents. The census of 1871⁸ contains a possible reference to him, as a visitor to the household of James and Sarah JONES in Llantrisant, but no conclusive references have been found.

James OWEN (1849 – 1894) **012M**

Like others in his family, James became a coalminer. He married Elizabeth and they had nine children. He died in 1894 aged only 45.

Evan OWEN (1852 – 1923) **012**

Evan was born on 27 FEB 1852⁹ at East Hook. He was one of my great-grandfathers and his story is continued on the next page.

Elizabeth OWEN (1856 – 1899) **012N**

The youngest of the children, Elizabeth married Joshua ELIAS and they had three children. She died in 1899.

¹ ONS death reference for Evan OWEN, Merthyr T., either Q1/1862, 11a 216 or Q2/1862, 11a 187

² 1871 census return for 279 Cardiff Road, Aberdare, RG10/5392 f140 p23

³ 1881 census return for 279 Cardiff Road, Aberdare, RG11/5353 f115 p34

⁴ ONS death reference for Martha OWEN aged 68, Q4/1886, Pontypridd, 11a 271

⁵ see Appendices for further details of these children

⁶ ONS marriage reference for Edward OWENS and Anne DAVIES, Q1/1863, Narberth, 11a 753

⁷ 1861 census return for Capcock, Aberdare, GLA, RG9/4071 f23 p46

⁸ 1871 census return for Tonyrefail, Llantrisant, GLA, RG10/5381 f96 p14

⁹ birth certificate

G3 – OWEN family

Evan OWEN was one of my great-grandparents, the fifth child of Evan and Martha.

His birth certificate (showing OWENS) states that he was born on 27 FEB 1852¹, at East Hook, with parents Evan (a labourer) and Martha (nee BROWN). He has been found in five census returns (1861 – 1901): of these four show his place of birth as Wiston, in Pembrokeshire, while the fifth shows Castle Cross, in the same county. A long-term inhabitant of the village and warden of Wiston Castle, which is now a national monument in the care of CADW², did not know of a ‘Castle Cross’ but remembers a cottage between the church and the castle, by the crossroads³. Although this was abandoned shortly after she arrived in the village in 1949, and subsequently demolished, she remembers that the family living there were the OWENS –this is possibly the long arm of coincidence as my researches haven’t yet shown any part of the family living in Wiston at that time.

Obituary notices⁴ in local newspapers indicate that the family moved to Aberdare when Evan was a child and indeed he is recorded there in the 1861 census⁵ at the age of eight. His two eldest brothers had left home; both they and the boys’ father were miners.

When Evan left school – perhaps four years later, perhaps less – it was perhaps inevitable that he would follow his father and brothers’ example and become a miner. He initially worked underground at the Aberaman mine⁶ (the 1871 census return shows him simply as a ‘collier’). The same census⁷ shows that his father had died (see the previous section) and he was living, with his mother and sister Elizabeth, at 279 Cardiff Road, in Aberdare; he was 19.

279 Cardiff Road still stands⁸. It is a small terraced house, one of many similar houses along the road. Now they have been given individuality, in the form of external cladding or new windows, but they were clearly all constructed around the same time, presumably to serve as accommodation for workers in the local colliery. What was number 280, next door, is now a Pentecostal Church; a Methodist chapel, dated 1876, is in Lewis Street, only a few hundred yards from the house. This would have been built while the family were living in Cardiff Road.

At the age of 20 Evan was appointed ‘checkweigher’⁹ and, at about the same time, his sister Elizabeth married¹⁰.

Under the heading “Monmouthshire & South Wales Coal Trade” the *Western Mail* published an article on 04 AUG 1880 describing a meeting held at Aberdare called to discuss ‘better protection of check-weighers’ following a colliery explosion. At what seems to be a separate, but related, meeting of ‘Steam Coal Colliers’ Evan Owen, of Aberaman, was appointed vice-chairman.

¹ op cit

² the Welsh equivalent of the National Trust

³ personal conversation in August 2006

⁴ Appendix A

⁵ 1861 census return for (address undecipherable), Aberdare, Merthyr Tydfil, RG9/4071 f23 p46

⁶ information from obituary (Appendix A)

⁷ 1871 census return for 279 Cardiff Road, Aberdare, RG10/5392 f140 p23

⁸ personal visit in April 2007

⁹ information from obituary (Appendix A)

¹⁰ see Appendix 012N

At the time of the next census, in 1881, Evan, now aged 28, was still living with his mother at the same address¹, although by now they had the house to themselves. He was now a ‘colliery weigher (miner)’ which was, I believe, a job above ground weighing the laden skips of coal lifted to the surface. He held this position at the Aberaman colliery until later the same year when he was elected General Secretary to the Miners’ Permanent Provident Society, which was formed that year, and he remained the General Secretary until the end of his life².

The *Western Mail* reported, on 18 OCT 1881, the visit to Plymouth of ‘the secretary [of the Miners’ Permanent Fund], Mr Evan Owen, Cardiff’. This indicates that Evan moved to Cardiff between the date of the census (April) and October. Several newspaper reports of later date confirm that he was indeed the Secretary of the Miners’ Permanent Provident Society. A report in the *Western Mail*, dated June 1894, states that ‘Mr Evan Owen JP appeared on behalf of [the] Miners Provident Society’.

This is also implied in his obituary. It was the year in which he was married: on 06 DEC 1881³ he married Mary Ann, the daughter of Thomas THOMAS. They were married at the Gwawr Chapel, a Baptist chapel in Aberaman, Merthyr Tydfil. The address shown on the marriage certificate is Cardiff Road, Aberaman; it seems fairly certain that he was married from the family home at number 279. At the time he was an accountant, but later he became the chairman of the International Coal Company Ltd.

Mary Ann’s address was given as The Black Lion Hotel, Aberdare. This implies, perhaps, that her home, or that of her parents, was not local and in order to be married in Aberaman she had had to find lodgings nearby.

As noted (in the THOMAS booklet (*qv*), she had also been born in Pembrokeshire, not far from where Evan had spent his early years, and her family had also moved to Glamorgan, to Merthyr Tydfil.

Evan and Mary Ann had five children, four boys and a girl. The story continues in the *Recent Generations* booklet.

¹ 1881 census return for 279 Cardiff Road, Aberdare, RG11/5353 f78 p43

² information from obituary (Appendix A)

³ marriage certificate

G5 – BROWN family

Edward BROWN married Margaret, probably before 1816, although neither the date nor the place of the marriage has yet been found.

Neither Wiston parish records nor the IGI lists any marriage of an Edward BROWN in Pembrokeshire between 1780 and 1820; the IGI records no baptism between 1770 and 1810.

Only one child, Martha, has been found from this marriage; she was baptised on *20 FEB 1816*¹, although it is very likely that there was also a son John (see following paragraphs).

The census return of 1841² shows that Edward had died. Wiston records include the burial of an Edward BROWNE on *29 DEC 1835*³, at the age of 65; the address given is 'East Hook' so it is almost certain that this refers to Martha's father, Margaret's husband. Margaret was sharing a house with Martha and Evan OWEN, almost certainly her daughter and son-in-law, and their baby son John. Also part of the household was Ann BROWN, a child of ten. She had been baptised on *21 NOV 1830*⁴, and was the daughter of John BROWN and Sarah.

The following census return, that of 1851⁵, shows Margaret living alone. She was still described as a farmer (of 18 acres) but her age was 69, giving a YoB of 1782.

A later census return (1861 – see below) confirms that Ann was a niece of Martha, and it is reasonable to assume that John, the father of Ann BROWN, was Martha's brother, although this has not been proven. John was a carpenter: as well as Ann they had an older daughter Martha, baptised on *05 MAR 1826*⁶ while the family were living at 'part of Fenton', probably an area to the west of Wiston. At the time of Ann's baptism (1830) they were living in West Dairy Lane, on the western outskirts of the village.

The ONS shows two possibilities for Margaret's death, both registered in Haverfordwest: one, towards the end of 1850, can be ruled out because of her appearance in the 1851 census; so it seems that the other, towards the end of 1855⁷, is the correct one.

Martha BROWN (1816 – 1882)

Martha was baptised on *20 FEB 1816* at Wiston⁸ – she appears to have been the only child from this marriage baptised there although baptism entries prior to 1816 have still to be checked. The address given in the register was 'East Hook'; father Edward was a farmer. She was one of my great-great-grandmothers and her story continues on page 12 above.

John BROWN (1784 – ?)⁹

025M

It is likely that John was the brother of Martha – and her only sibling found so far.

¹ Wiston baptism register (page 6) for Martha BROWN shows parents Edward (farmer) and Margaret: although the date appears to be 'February' it is between entries for March. The address is 'East Hook'

² 1841 census return for East Hook, Wiston, HO107/1445/21 f6 p10

³ Wiston burial register (entry 25)

⁴ Wiston baptism register (page 34) for Anne BROWN shows parents John (carpenter) and Sarah; address is 'West Dairy Lane'

⁵ 1851 census return for Little East Hook, Wiston, HO107/2478 f306 p10

⁶ Wiston baptism register (entry 206) shows parents John (carpenter) and Sarah

⁷ ONS death reference for Margaret BROWN, Q4/1855, Haverfordwest, 11a 382

⁸ Wiston register of baptisms – see note 1 above

⁹ see Appendix 025M

Appendix 012J: John OWENS (1840 – 1904)

John was the eldest son of Evan and Martha, and he first appears in the 1841 census return¹, when the family was living at Wiston. His age was given as 1 and on this basis the most likely registration of his birth was in the second quarter of 1840² (which may have prompted his parents' marriage!). The following census return³ shows his age as 10.

Towards the end of 1860 he married Hester (sometimes Esther) WOOLCOCK⁴; she was five or six years older than John and came from Llawhaden, three miles east of Wiston. The census taken in the following year⁵ shows them in Churchill Cottage, Wiston, but within a matter of months they had moved to Llawhaden, where the family remained for at least twenty years⁶. John was an 'ag lab'. They had three children⁷ before Esther died towards the beginning of 1880⁸, although the gap between Mary (1862) and Elizabeth (1870) indicates that there were probably others who did not survive.

The 1881 census return⁹ shows John, aged 40, as a widower.

Some time later John married again, to a Mary¹⁰; several possibilities are shown in the footnotes but without further information it is not possible to say which of these is the right one. She was about five years his junior.

John and Mary had one child of their own, Owen, born towards the beginning of 1885¹¹.

The family (just John, Mary and Owen) are shown in the 1891 census¹², still living at Llawhaden. Within ten years¹³ they had moved to Narberth, where Owen was a chemist's assistant at age 16.

John died in 1904¹⁴, and the 1911 census return shows his widow Mary, together with a five-year-old grandson Idris Morlais¹⁵ living in a two-bedroom apartment in Narberth. From the information so far collected it seems reasonable to assume that he was Owen's son. His birth was registered at Bedwelty, which is in Monmouthshire; no further information about him has been found.

¹ 1841 census return for East Hook, Wiston, HO107/1445/21 f6 p10

² ONS birth reference for John OWEN, Q2/1840, Haverfordwest, 26 605: other possibilities are Q3/1840, 26 571 and Q4/1840, 26 544

³ 1851 census return for East Hook, Wiston, HO107/2478 f305

⁴ ONS marriage reference for John OWENS and Hester WOOLCOCK, Q4/1860, Haverfordwest, 11a 1183

⁵ 1861 census return for Churchill Cottage, Wiston, RG9/4165 f52 p10

⁶ 1871 census return for Cottage, Llawhaden, RG10/5500 f54 p3

⁷ Mary: Q2/1862, 11a 700; Elizabeth: Q4/1870 11a 705 or Q3/1870 11a 713; Isaac: Q2/1872 11a 797 (all Narberth)

⁸ ONS death reference for Esther OWEN aged 45, Q1/1880, Narberth, 11a 569

⁹ 1881 census return for Bethesda Cross, Llawhaden, RG11/5406 f51 p3

¹⁰ Mary EVANS, Q4/1881, 11a 1362; Mary GRIFFITHS, Q1/1882, 11a 1001; Mary MORRIS, Q4/1882, 11a 1413

¹¹ ONS birth reference for Owen OWENS; Q1/1885, Narberth, 11a 957

¹² 1891 census return for Rhosgoch, Llawhaden, RG11/4525 f44 p9

¹³ 1901 census return for Woodfield Lodge, Narberth North, RG12/5118 f35 p9

¹⁴ ONS death reference for John OWENS aged 63, Q4/1904, Narberth, 11a 667

¹⁵ ONS birth reference for Idris Morlais OWEN, Q4/1905, Bedwelty, 11a 78

Isaac OWEN (1872 – 1911)

012JC

Isaac was the third child and the first son of John and Esther.

By the time he was 19, in 1891, he had left home. The census of that year¹ shows him as a domestic servant in the home of Fredrick JOHN and his family in Martletwy, about six miles south of Llawhaden. A few years later, in 1894, he married Letitia Emma EDMONDS², from Tenby. He became a police constable, and on census night in 1901³ was by himself – perhaps on duty – at Grove Place, St Martin's (part of Haverfordwest). Letitia, meanwhile, was living (or staying) with her parents in Tenby⁴. Present in the house were both her parents, four brothers and a sister and her own two children, Hester⁵ and George⁶.

The census return for 1911 shows the family living together in Pembroke⁷: Isaac and Letitia, with five children⁸. Isaac died towards the end of the same year, at the young age of 39⁹; his death was registered in Pembroke district. A Letitia OWENS (this may not have been his widow, but it is not a common name) married Henry SAMUEL the following year in Carmarthenshire¹⁰.

Owen OWENS (1885 – ?)

012JD

Owen, the only son of John and Mary (John's second wife), was Isaac's half-brother. He lived with his parents in Narberth until he was at least 16, at which time he was a chemist's assistant. The evidence above appears to indicate that he had a five-year-old son, Idris, in 1911; as the birth had been registered in Monmouthshire it was likely that he had married in the same county. The only marriage of an Owen OWEN(S) in Monmouthshire between 1901 and 1908 took place in 1905¹¹, which sounds likely to have produced a child in 1906. The bride was either Martha JAMES or Elizabeth WILLIAMS but no record of the family has been found in the 1911 census return.

¹ 1891 census return for Burnett's Hill, Martletwy, Pembrokeshire, RG12/4525 f68 p2

² ONS marriage reference for Isaac OWEN and Letitia Emma EDMONDS, Q1/1894, Pembroke, 11a 1409

³ 1901 census return for 9 Grove Place, St Martin's, RG13/5130 f17 p4

⁴ 1901 census return for 26 Lower Norton, Tenby, PEM, RG13/5121 f57 p23

⁵ ONS birth reference for Hester Jane OWEN, Q1/1895, Pembroke, 11a 1221

⁶ ONS birth reference for George James OWEN, Q1/1897, Haverfordwest, 11a 1247

⁷ 1911 census return for 5 Froyne Terrace, Pembroke, RG14/33140 ED15 SN116

⁸ ONS birth references for Margaret E, Q4/1901, Haverfordwest, 11a 1195; Nellie Letitia, Q2/1905, Haverfordwest, 11a 1354; Isaac Charles F, Q2/1910, Pembroke, 11a 1454

⁹ ONS death reference for Isaac OWEN aged 39, Q4/1911, Pembroke, 11a 1251

¹⁰ ONS marriage reference for Henry SAMUEL and Letitia OWENS, Q3/1912, Llandilofawr, 11a 2345

¹¹ ONS marriage reference for Owen OWEN and either Martha Emily JAMES or Elizabeth WILLIAMS, Bedwelty, 11a 167

Appendix 012K: Edward OWEN (1842 – 1914)

Edward was the second son of Evan and Martha and he, like his elder brother John, never strayed far from his place of birth apart from a few years when he followed his father to the Aberdare mines. His birth was registered in the first quarter of 1842¹.

By the time of the 1861 census² he was employed as a carter and one of four servants working for Thomas GRIFFITH, a farmer of 232 acres at Collymoor, in Wiston.

He married Anne DAVIES in 1863³. She was roughly the same age as Edward and came from Llawhaden, the same village as his sister-in-law Hester (see Appendix 012J on page 15). It seems that they started married life in or around Wiston, as the birth of their first son William was registered at Narberth⁴, but the family then moved to Aberdare (Glamorgan), as the births of the next two children, Mary and Owen, were registered in Merthyr Tydfil⁵. The 1871 census return⁶, which shows the family living back in Pembrokeshire at Boulston (some nine miles south-west of Llawhaden), records that Mary and Owen had indeed been born at Aberdare but that the youngest child, Sophia, had been born in Boulston (her birth was registered at Haverfordwest⁷). At the time they were also providing a home for Mary DAVIES, presumably Ann's mother. Edward was a ploughman.

By 1881 the family, now increased in size by a further three children⁸, had moved back to Anne's village of Llawhaden⁹; Edward was a 'labourer'.

In 1891 they were still living at the same address¹⁰, Edward was a 'road labourer', and only John, James and Sarah¹¹ were still living with their parents. Rather oddly, John was shown as a 'schoolteacher', although he was only 11 years old. The household also included a grandson Edward aged five¹² and a three-year-old granddaughter Martha¹³. It hasn't yet been established with certainty whose children these were – but Evan, John and James were each too young to have had children of those ages, and Owen D was married towards the end of 1886 (see next section). This leaves the probability that they were children of the eldest son, William (see further in the next section), although it is possible that they could have been illegitimate children of his sister Mary. Ten years later Martha was living or staying with (her uncle) Evan, who had recently married.

¹ ONS birth reference for Edward OWEN, Q1/1842, Haverfordwest, 26 583

² 1861 census return for Collymoor, Wiston, RG9/4165 f42 p8

³ ONS marriage reference for Edward OWENS and Anne DAVIES, Q1/1863, Narberth, 11a 753

⁴ ONS birth reference for William OWENS, Q2/1863, Narberth, 11a 729

⁵ several possibilities, probably Mary Ann OWENS, Q4/1864, 11a 382; Owen D OWENS, Q3/1866, 11a 430; both Merthyr Tydfil

⁶ 1871 census return for Bed Houses, Boulston, PEM, RG10/5528 f43 p3

⁷ ONS birth reference for Sophia OWENS, Q2/1871, Haverfordwest, 11a 849

⁸ ONS references (all at Narberth) for Evan OWENS, Q3/1873, 11a 834; Elizabeth OWENS, Q3/1875, 11a 876; John OWENS, Q3/1877, 11a 850

⁹ 1881 census return for Holgan Cottage, Llawhaden, Pembrokeshire, RG11/5406 f66 p16

¹⁰ 1891 census return for Holgan, Llawhaden, Pembrokeshire, RG12/4525 f55 p13

¹¹ ONS birth references for James OWENS, Q1/1881, 11a 845; Sarah Anne OWEN, Q1/1884, 11a 880 (both Narberth)

¹² ONS birth reference for Edward OWENS, Q3/1885, Narberth, 11a 951

¹³ ONS birth reference for Martha Ann OWENS, Q1/1888, Narberth, 11a 979

In 1901 Edward, by now aged 59, was described as a ‘farmer’; the family was still at the same address¹. Grandson Edward was still with Edward and Anne; Martha, the granddaughter, was living or staying with her uncle Evan (see 012KE below).

Although they were still at Llawhaden in 1911, the census return² shows that they had moved to a different house; this one had six rooms. As well as Edward and Anne, son James was at home, together with Sarah Jane (whose birth had been registered as Sarah Anne) and Martha Ann. Charles Edward HILL, a 17-year-old grandson, was also in the house. This census return also shows that ten children had been born to the couple, but one had died. This poses a problem, as nine children (William to Sarah) have been found, with Mary Ann having died in 1886; the question of whose children Edward and Martha were has still not been answered satisfactorily.

Edward died on 09 JUL 1914³ at the age of 72⁴. His address at the time was Dingstopple, Llawhaden. Anne survived him by less than a year, dying in 1915⁵.

William OWEN (1863 – ?1918)

012KA

William, the eldest child of Edward and Anne, was born while the family was living in Llawhaden⁶. The family – and presumably he with it – then moved to Aberdare for a few years before moving westwards again to Boulston. Ten years later, in 1881, William was living as a servant with George Llewellyn and his family in Rudbaxton, about seven miles north of Boulston.

It is possible that sometime after 1881 William married, that he and his wife had two children – Edward (1886) and Martha (1888) – but his wife then died. Certainly two children thus named, both born at Llawhaden, were cared for by William’s parents, possibly while he travelled to Glamorgan to seek work in Aberdare, where other relatives had gone. One marriage that fits is that of a William OWENS to Martha OWENS in 1884⁷; a possible death is that of Martha OWENS, aged 28, in 1890⁸. This would make her roughly the same age as William, but the marriage was registered in Pembroke district and the death in Narberth, so they are by no means certain.

Whether or not this is so we may never know, but certainly by April 1891, at the time of the census, he was lodging with Daniel LEWIS and his family in Aberdare – William was by now a coalminer, as was Daniel. He was also shown as ‘unmarried’, rather than ‘widower’; which, if correct, would rule out the theory outlined in the previous paragraph. They were living in Chapel Street, a road off Cardiff Road and only a few hundred yards from where William’s uncle Evan and Martha, his grandmother, had lived until she died in 1882.

The following year, 1892, William married Mary POAR⁹, who was some seven years younger than he and a native of Aberaman. By 1901 they were living in Eglwysilan, Caerphilly, and

¹ 1901 census return for Holgan, Pembrokeshire, RG13/5119 f38 p2

² 1911 census return for Dingstopple, Llawhaden, PEM, RG14/33115 ED4 SN63

³ National Probate Calendar

⁴ ONS death reference for Edward OWEN, Q3/1914, Narberth, 11a 1203

⁵ ONS death reference for Anne OWEN aged 69, Q1/1915, Narberth, 11a 1817

⁶ ONS birth reference for William OWENS, Q2/1863, Narberth, 11a 729

⁷ ONS marriage reference for William OWENS and Martha OWENS, Q1/1884, Pembroke, 11a 1077

⁸ ONS death reference for Martha OWENS aged 28, Q4/1890, Narberth, 11a 623

⁹ ONS marriage reference for William OWEN and Mary Emma POAR, Q3/1892, Merthyr Tydfil, 11a 833

had three children, the youngest of which had been born in Senghenydd, a district of Caerphilly to the north. William was still a coalminer.

Ten years later, the 1911 census return¹ shows that the family had moved to Abertridwr, a village about nine miles north-west of Cardiff and less than a mile south of Senghenydd. There were now five children, as well as a 31-year-old lodger, Charles GODDARD; the return shows that William and Mary had been married for 18 years, and had produced seven children, which indicates that two had died. There is a ten-year gap between Thomas and Ivor and it is likely that they were born, and died, during this decade.

William was not amongst the mourners at the funeral of his brother Owen (see later) in 1946 and it is likely that he had died by that date.

Mary Ann OWEN (1864 – 1886)

012KB

There are many references for the birth of a Mary OWEN(S) but the most likely was towards the end of 1864². Mary appears in only two census returns; in 1871 she was aged 6³, and living with her family; in 1881 she was a servant in the household of Frances LEWIS in Wiston⁴. She died, aged only 22, in 1886⁵.

Owen David OWEN (1866 – 1946)

012KC

Owen was born in Glamorgan⁶, whilst the family was living in Aberdare.

In 1886, still in his 21st year, he married Hannah JOHN⁷. She was from Llanfallteg, in Carmarthenshire, and was about three years older than he. She had been born Hannah LEWIS and married John JOHN, with whom she had one daughter, Mary Anne⁸, before John died after only a year of marriage.

The 1891 census return shows Owen and Hannah living at Llawhaden, in a place called Toch Bridge. With them were Mary Anne and three children of their own – daughter Sophia and twins William and Elizabeth⁹. They had a further five children, of whom one died. Owen is shown as a ‘road labourer’.

By 1901 they were living in Croft Cottage, where they stayed for some years. Owen was by now a ‘carter’ and living with him and Hannah were four children – twins William and Elizabeth had been joined by Emily and Thomas¹⁰.

Ten years later they were still at the same address, a house with three rooms. Owen was a ‘road labourer’ – like his father before him – and sons James and Oliver had been born¹¹.

¹ 1911 census return for 56 High Street, Abertridwr, Glamorgan, RG14/32242 ED32 SN15

² ONS birth reference for Mary Ann OWENS, Q4/1864, Merthyr T, 11a 382

³ 1871 census return for Bed Houses, Boulston, PEM, RG10/5528 f43 p3

⁴ 1881 census return for West Dairy, Wiston, PEM, RG11/5420 f4 p1

⁵ ONS death reference for Mary Ann OWEN aged 22, Q1/1886, Pembroke, 11a 761

⁶ ONS birth reference for Owen D OWENS, Q3/1866, Merthyr Tydfil, 11a 430

⁷ ONS marriage reference for Owen OWENS and Hannah JOHN, Q4/1886, Narberth, 11a 1406

⁸ ONS birth reference for Mary Anne JOHN, Q1/1883, Narberth, 11a 880

⁹ ONS birth references: Sophia OWENS, Q2/1887, Haverfordwest, 11a 1032; William Edward OWENS, Q4/1890, Narberth, 11a 921; Elizabeth OWENS, Q4/1890, Narberth, 11a 921

¹⁰ ONS birth references: Emily Diana OWEN, Q4/1891, Narberth, 11a 1073; Thomas John OWEN, Q4/1894, Narberth, 11a 1101

¹¹ ONS birth references: James Ivor OWEN, Q3/1901, Narberth, 11a 1238; George Oliver OWEN, Q4/1906, Narberth, 11a 1231

Hannah died in 1931¹. Owen survived her by some 15 years, and died on 15 JUL 1946², a few weeks before his 80th birthday. His address was Toch Bridge, Llawhaden³. Probate was awarded to his daughter Elizabeth – or Lizzie – who had nursed him through a long illness and had remained unmarried. His funeral was held at Bethesda Congregational Chapel, and a large circle of friends and relatives attended.

Martha OWEN (? – ?)

012KD

Sophia OWEN (1871 – 1957)

012KE

Sophia's birth was registered, at Haverfordwest, in 1871⁴. In 1890, at the age of 19 she married Malyn HILL⁵; he was a railway porter, born in Southampton, and four years older than Sophia. The census taken the following year⁶ shows them living with Malyn's parents in Cardiff. He died, aged just 32, in 1899⁷ and the 1901 census return shows Sophia still living with her parents-in-law, but at a different address⁸. She had four children: Ellen (1891), Charles Edward (1893), Mary A (1896), and Lilian (1898). Charles had been born in Nafferton, a small village a mile or so to the north-east of Driffield, in Yorkshire; there is no explanation of why the family should have been living there. Mary was born in Pembrokeshire but the other two had been born in Cardiff.

By 1911 Sophia had returned to Pembrokeshire and was living once more in Llawhaden⁹ with Lilian, her youngest daughter, in a two-room house. Charles, her second child, was living (or staying) with his grandparents Edward and Ann and his uncle James, also in Llawhaden.

Her death was registered at Narberth, Pembrokeshire, in 1957¹⁰.

Evan OWEN (1874 – ?)

012KF

Evan was the sixth child and third son of Edward and Anne. Like his elder brother William, he was born in Llawhaden¹¹. By the time he was 17 he was employed as a spinner¹² and was living, as a servant, in the household of David HUMPHREYS in Lampeter Velfrey, a village about eight miles east of Llawhaden.

He married Mary Anne RICHARDS in 1900¹³ and the following year they were living in Tenby¹⁴, where Evan was an 'assistant superintendent', with their first child John. Also in the

¹ ONS death reference for Hannah OWEN aged 67, Q2/1931, Narberth, 11a 1231

² this date and much information in this section from Owen's obituary in the *Western Telegraph* of 25th July 1946, supplied by Lawrence OWEN, a descendant

³ National Probate Calendar

⁴ OSN birth reference for Sophia OWENS, Q2/1871, Haverfordwest, 11a 849

⁵ ONS marriage reference for Malyn HILL and Sophia OWEN, Q3/1890, Cardiff, 11a 532

⁶ 1891 census return for 159 Craddock Street, Cardiff, RG12/4397 f128 p81

⁷ ONS death reference for Malyn HILL aged 32, Q3/1899, Cardiff, 11 253

⁸ 1901 census return for 14 Cardigan Street, Canton, Cardiff, RG13/4986 f14 p20

⁹ 1911 census return for Cotland Mill, Clarboston Road, Llawhaden, PEM, RG14/33115 ED4 SN68

¹⁰ ONS death reference for Sophia HILL aged 86, Q3/1957, Narberth, 8c 311

¹¹ ONS birth reference for Evan OWENS, Q3/1873, Narberth, 11a 834

¹² 1891 census return for Bryn Heffryd, Lampeter Velfrey, RG12/4524 f70 p17

¹³ ONS marriage reference for Evan OWEN and Mary Anne RICHARDS, Q1/1900, Pembroke, 11a 1435

¹⁴ 1901 census return for 10 Park Terrace, Tenby, RG13/5121 f37 p32

house was Evan's niece Martha aged 13. For reasons given in preceding sections, she was probably the daughter of William.

The census return of 1911¹ shows Evan and Mary still living in Tenby, although at a different address; just two children are shown, with Gladys Mary as a sister to John.

Elizabeth OWEN (1875 – ?)

012KG

By the age of 15² Elizabeth was working as a servant for another Elizabeth OWEN, a 39-year-old widow, in Wiston. Ten years later, still a servant, she was working for a Church of England clergyman William Jenkins and his family in Lawrenny, in the centre of what is now the Pembrokeshire National Park.

She married John BOWEN in 1902³; he was a shipwright, a couple of years younger than she. He came from Lawrenny, and presumably she had met him whilst working for Revd Jenkins. By the time of the following census they had moved to Pembroke Dock, where he was working in H. M, Dockyard. They had two children: Linda Mary (1903) and William Owen (1910) but a third child had died. Elizabeth was one of those present at her brother Owen's funeral in 1946.

John OWEN (1878 – ?)

012KH

John was born in Llawhaden. In 1891, when he was 13, he was described in the census return⁴ as a 'school teacher'. Even though this may seem rather young to have embarked on a career, he appears to have settled into it as ten years later, in 1901⁵, he was shown as a 'teacher (certificated)' and he was living in Brownhills, in Staffordshire. The following entry in the census return records a Charles and Sarah THACKER, aged 65 and 68 respectively; Charles was a cattle salesman.

Three years later he married Ellen THACKER⁶, who was local and, almost certainly, a daughter of Charles and Sarah. She was three years older than John.

Soon after the marriage they moved to Stoke Newington (north London, between Finsbury Park and Hackney), where their first three children were born – Dorothy (1906), Hilda (1908), Edward (1910) – and they then moved some twelve miles east to Romford, in Essex, where two more children Eleanor (1911) and Evan were born⁷.

Some time after 1911 John bought a poultry farm at Stock, in Essex, just north of Billericay and about 15 miles from Romford. The name of his business was J Owen & Son (the 'Son' being Edward, who bought the farm from his father). Edward, the fourth child, married Florence NORTH at York in 1939⁸.

A possible death was in 1944, at the age of 66⁹.

¹ 1911 census return for 4 Jubilee Cottages, Tenby, PEM, RG14/34133 ED18 SN 210

² 1891 census return for Croft House, Gongland Hill, Wiston, RG12/4537 f67 p6

³ ONS marriage reference for John Anthony BOWEN and Elizabeth OWEN, Q2/1902, Narberth, 11a 1715

⁴ 1891 census return for Holgan. Llawhaden, Pembrokeshire, RG12/4525 f55 p13

⁵ 1901 census return for Midland House, Pelsall Road, Brownhills, Staffordshire, RG13/2666 f52 p28

⁶ ONS marriage reference for John OWEN and Ellen THACKER, Q3/1904, Lichfield, 6b 805

⁷ 1911 census return for Holgan, Mawney Road, Romford, ESS, RG14/9830 ED6 SN 9999

⁸ ONS marriage of Edward C OWEN and Florence M NORTH, Q2/1939, York, 9c 2585

⁹ ONS death reference for John OWEN aged 66, Q1/1944, Haverfordwest, 11a 1349

James OWEN (1882 – ?)

012KI

The date of his birth has not been confirmed but it was probably in the second quarter of 1882¹. The 1901 census return² shows him as a grocer's assistant in Narberth, working for Thomas LEWIS. Ten years later he was still unmarried, but he was back in Llawhaden living with his parents Edward and Ann.

There is no further confirmed record of James, although the obituary of his brother Owen (see above) records that he was unable to attend because of illness but was living at Milford Haven (in 1946).

Sarah Jane OWEN (1884 – ?)

012KJ

Sarah lived with her parents until at least until 1911, in which year she was 26, as shown by the census return of that year³ and of 1901. In 1918 she married John HANCOCK⁴. No further information has been found, although Sarah and John did attend the funeral of her brother Owen.

¹ ONS birth reference for James OWENS, Q2/1882, Narberth, 11a 923

² 1901 census return for High Street, Narberth, PEM, RG13/5118 f23 p11

³ 1911 census return for Dingstopple, Llawhaden, PEM, RG14/33115 f4 p63

⁴ ONS marriage reference for John W HANCOCK and Sarah J OWEN, Q3/1918, Narberth, 11a 2143

Appendix 012M: James (1849 – 1894)

James was also born at Wiston¹, although later census entries (those from 1891 onwards) show his place of birth as Aberdare, GLA. Like others in his family, he became a coalminer; he was shown as such in the 1861 census return², when he was only 11.

Towards the end of 1867 he married Elizabeth (either WATKINS or WILLIAMS)³ although he was only about 18; she was a year or two younger⁴ and came from Glyn Neath, in the next valley but one to the west of Aberdare. By 1871⁵ they had two children, Mary Jane (3)⁶ and Evan (1)⁷. The address shown was the 'Black Horse' in Aberdare, presumably a local pub.

Ten years later, in 1881⁸, the family had moved a little under a mile south, to Brook Street, and had a further five children: Martha, Elizabeth, John, William, and Bethuel⁹.

By 1891 they were at Llewellyn Street in Ystradyfodwg¹⁰, at which time James was a 'colliery fireman'. By this time there were nine children.

James died towards the end of 1894¹¹ at the early age of 45.

Perhaps his death prompted – or forced – Elizabeth to move to a smaller house, for by 1901 she had moved from no. 74 to no. 22¹². She survived a further 16 years, dying in 1917 aged 67¹³.

Evan OWEN (1870 – ?)

012MB

Evan was the first son but the second child of James and Elizabeth. He seems to have been born in Aberdare but, in common with his elder sister, his place of birth is shown as Glyn Neath, or Glynneath, in the 1881 census return¹⁴. This confusion may have arisen because the family was living in Aberdare whereas Elizabeth had been born in Glyn Neath, some ten miles to the west. In 1891 Evan, now aged 21, was still living with his parents in Ystradyfodwg; he was a miner, as were his younger brothers. Ystradyfodwg is the area now known as the Rhondda.

Towards the end of 1894 he married Leah SAMUEL¹⁵ and by 1901 they were living in a house of their own, still in Ystradyfodwg¹⁶, with three children. To add to the confusion, in this

¹ there are several possible births registered at Haverfordwest at the relevant time

² 1861 census return for Capcock, Aberdare, GLA, RG9/4071 f23 p46

³ ONS marriage reference for James OWEN and Elizabeth WATKINS or WILLIAMS, Q4/1867, Merthyr T, 11a 561

⁴ there are too many possibilities to choose the right reference without further information

⁵ 1871 census return for 43 Cardiff Street ('Black Horse'), Aberdare, GLA, RG10/5409, f1 p15

⁶ ONS birth reference for Mary Jane OWEN, Q4/1867, Merthyr T, 11a 421

⁷ ONS birth reference for Evan OWEN, Q3/1869, Merthyr T, 11a 422

⁸ 1881 census return for 23 Brook Street, Aberdare, Glamorgan, RG11/5323 f81 p8

⁹ ONS birth references (all Merthyr T): Martha Ann, Q3/1870, 11a 343; Elizabeth Ann, Q3/1873, 11a 471; John, Q3/1875, 11a 502; Bethuel: Q4/1879, 11a 469. There are several possibilities for William

¹⁰ 1891 census return for 74 Llewellyn Street, Ystradyfodwg, Glamorgan, RG12/4428 f141 p53

¹¹ ONS death reference for James OWEN aged 45, Q4/1894, Pontypridd, ref 11a 247

¹² 1901 census return for 22 Llewellyn Street, Ystradyfodwg, Glamorgan, RG13/5019 f34 p4

¹³ ONS death reference for Elizabeth OWEN aged 67, Q4/1917, Pontypridd, 11a 497

¹⁴ 1881 census return for 23 Brook Street, Aberdare, Glamorgan, RG11/5323 f81 p8

¹⁵ ONS marriage reference for Evan OWENS and Leah SAMUEL, Q4/1894, Merthyr T., 11a 1145

¹⁶ 1901 census return for 2 Britannia Close, Ystradyfodwg, Glamorgan, RG13/5020 f72 p39

census Evan's place of birth was shown as Hirwaun, about halfway between Aberdare and Glynneath; moreover, although the age of both their two eldest sons was shown as five, their places of birth was different – John had been born in Aberdare and William in Porth. The youngest child, David, had also been born in Porth. This is some 12 miles south of Aberdare and so it seems that between 1891 and 1901 Evan had moved from Ystradyfodwg to Aberdare to Porth and back to Ystradyfodwg. He was shown as a 'coal hewer below ground' so perhaps the family had had to move around to find work.

John OWEN (1876 – ?)

012ME

John was still living at home with his parents until at least the age of 25¹; he too was a coalminer.

¹ 1901 census return for 2 Britannia Close, Ystradyfodwg, Glamorgan, RG13/5020 f72 p39

Appendix 012N: Elizabeth (1856 – 1899)

Elizabeth is listed in the 1871 census as a laundress, aged 15¹, living with her widowed mother and elder brother Evan; sharing the house were John and Ruth PRICE and their baby daughter Elizabeth.

On 01 JUN 1874², at the age of 18, she married Joshua ELIAS. He had been born in Newcastle Emlyn, Carmarthenshire, but at the time of the marriage he was living in Albion Street, Aberaman. He was a coal miner, a year older than Elizabeth, and his father Joshua, like Elizabeth's father Evan, had died by this time.

They had three children.

In 1881 the family was sharing the house (albeit apparently living as a separate household) in Cardiff Road, Aberdare³ with her mother Martha and brother Evan – naming their first daughter Martha and their first son Evan was possibly a diplomatic move!

Ten years later they had moved to Ystradyfodwg,⁴ the same village as Elizabeth's elder brother James (Ystradyfodwg is today known as Rhondda). Although Joshua appears to have been a miner in 1881, by 1891 he was a confectioner. Living with Joshua and Elizabeth and the three children were Daniel (listed as a boarder) and Rachel (a 'relative') ELIAS.

Elizabeth died, aged only 42, in 1899⁵. Two years later Joshua and son Evan were still living at the same address⁶; living with them were Joshua's widowed grandmother, Sarah ELIAS, and two cousins.

Martha ELIAS (1876 – ?)

012NA

Martha was born in Aberdare and for the first few years of her life lived with her parents and grandmother. Her parents then moved to Ystradyfodwg (Rhondda); her mother died when she was 23. The following year, 1900, she married David JONES⁷, a miner, and they were living in another part of Ystradyfodwg. By the time of the census in 1901⁸ their first child, David, had been born.

Mary Ann ELIAS (1879 – ?)

012NB

Like her elder sister, Mary lived with her parents until she married David George towards the end of 1900⁹. He, too, was a miner; and they, too, continued to live in Ystradyfodwg¹⁰.

Evan ELIAS (1881 – ?)

012NC

By the time he was 20, Evan had become a baker like his father.

¹ 1871 census return for 279 Cardiff Road, Aberdare, RG10/5392 f140 p23

² marriage certificate

³ 1881 census for 279 Cardiff Road, Aberdare, RG11/5353 f78 p43

⁴ 1891 census for 65 Duffryn Street, Ystradyfodwg, Glamorgan, RG12/4429 f78 p43

⁵ Pontypridd, 2nd quarter 1899, 11a 289

⁶ 1901 census for 65 Duffryn Street, Ystradyfodwg, RG13/5019 f169 p17

⁷ ONS marriage reference for Martha ELIAS and David JONES, Q3/1900, Pontypridd, 11a 820

⁸ 1901 census return for 54 Regent Street, Ystradyfodwg, RG13/5020 f12 p16

⁹ ONS marriage reference for Mary Ann ELIAS and David George, Q4/1900, Pontypridd, 11a 931

¹⁰ 1901 census return for 2 Union Street, Ystradyfodwg, RG13/5019 f183 p1

Appendix 024M: James OWEN (1814 – ?)

James was baptised on *02 JAN 1814* at Robesten Wathen¹. It is likely that he married a Sarah – both the 1851² and the 1861³ census returns show a James of the right age, birthplace Robeston ('Robston' in 1861), living in Llansamlet, Glamorgan (a few miles north of Swansea) with wife Sarah, who was about the same age. The former census gives Sarah's birthplace as Robeston, and lists three daughters; the latter shows Camrose (about 12 miles west of Robeston Wathen) as her birthplace.

Sarah, the eldest daughter, was born in Robeston Wathen, according to the census return although the most likely birth was registered at Haverfordwest⁴. This does not include Robeston Wathen but does include Camrose; perhaps Sarah returned to her mother's for the first child.

The younger two daughters (Ann and Mary) were both born in Llansamlet, Glamorgan⁵, indicating that the family moved between about 1846 and 1849. In the 1861 census return James is listed as a 'coal haulier'.

The ONS records the death of a Sarah OWENS in 1863⁶; the death was registered at Neath, which is the registration area for Llansamlet.

It seems that James then returned to Pembrokeshire, where he was married again towards the end of 1863, this time to Martha DAVIES⁷. James and Martha are shown in the 1871 census return⁸ living once more in Glamorganshire – this time at Aberdare – with a 26-year-old daughter Ann DAVIES (thus presumably from Martha's first marriage) and three young sons, Thomas, William and James. The family was living in Aberdare, about 25 miles east of Llansamlet. James was once again a labourer.

None of the family has been found in any later census return.

¹ IGI reference for baptism of James OWEN, *02 JAN 1814*, Robesten Wathen, parents William and Hannah

² 1851 census return for Pontymoch, Llansamlet, Glamorgan, HO107/2464 f601 p16

³ 1861 census return for Drunima Cottage, Llansamlet, Glamorgan, RG9/4094 f85 p13

⁴ ONS birth reference for Sarah OWENS, Q2/1845, Haverfordwest, 26 631

⁵ ONS birth references (both Neath) for Ann OWENS, Q1/1849, 26 482; Mary OWENS, Q2/1850, 26 528

⁶ ONS death reference for Sarah OWENS, Q1/1863, Neath, 11a 334

⁷ ONS marriage reference for James OWENS and Martha DAVIES, Q4/1863, Haverfordwest, 11a 1271

⁸ 1871 census return for 12 Daniel Street, Aberdare, Glamorgan, RG10/5411, f11 p17

Appendix 025M: John BROWN (1800 – ?1833)

The evidence for John is that the 1861 census¹ shows Ann BROWN, aged 28, living with her aunt and uncle Martha and Evan OWENS. Her parents were John and Sarah BROWN², and it is assumed that John was Martha's brother.

Wiston parish registers record the marriage of John BROWN, of East Hook, to Sarah PHILLIPS, of Valley (?), on 22 MAR 1825³. This clearly ties in with the baptisms of Martha in 1826 and Ann in 1830, although the 1861 census evidence (see previous paragraph) indicates that Ann had been born in 1833.

There are, unsurprisingly, several records of a John BROWN born in Pembrokeshire in the 1851 census returns but only two born between 1785 and 1810; one of those was unmarried. The other was born in Wiston⁴, and is shown as a widower with a daughter Phoebe (1833). They were living in Wiston although Phoebe had been born at Uzmaston (about five miles south-west of Wiston). This John has been found in the 1841 census return, living in Uzmaston and married to Phoebe, with daughter Phoebe and also son Thomas (1826), so this would seem to indicate that this is another John altogether. There are two other indications that this is so; in 1851 he was 67, giving a birth year of about 1784; and he was shown as a farmer, which is an unlikely change of career from carpenter. There is a possibility that he was a younger brother of Edward.

The Wiston register records the burial of John BROWN aged 33 on 08 JAN 1833 and this is a distinct possibility, although this would give a 16-year gap between John and his sister Martha – unlikely, but possible. Inspection of the Wiston baptism registers between 1800 and 1816 might give some further BROWN baptisms.

The 1841 census contains no instance of a likely Sarah BROWN, but no deaths of a Sarah BROWN between 1837 and 1841 were registered at Haverfordwest (the area covering Wiston), so it is likely that she died earlier than 1837.

¹ 1861 census return for Capcock, Aberdare, GLA, RG9/4071 f23 p46

² from her baptism on 21 NOV 1830

³ *op cit*, page 23

⁴ 1851 census return for Crundale, Wiston, PEM, HO109/2478 f324 p2

Appendix A – newspaper obituaries and cuttings

***Western Mail*, Cardiff, Saturday 30th August 1919 (page 1)**

DEATHS

OWEN – On August 29th, suddenly, at Llwyn On, Ruthin Gardens, Cardiff, Mary Anne, the beloved wife of Councillor Evan Owen, JP, in her 59th year. Funeral 3 p.m., Tuesday, for Cardiff cemetery.

and additionally, on 1st September

... Service at 3 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, Miskin Street.

***Weekly Mail*, Cardiff, Saturday 6th September 1919 (p4)**

DEATHS

OWEN – On August 29th, suddenly, at Llwyn On, Ruthin Gardens, Cardiff, Mary Anne, the beloved wife of Councillor Evan Owen, JP, in her 59th year.

***Weekly Mail*, Cardiff, Saturday 6th September 1919 (p4) +photo**

OBITUARY – Mrs Evan Owen, Cardiff

The death took place suddenly on Friday morning at her residence, Llwyn On, Ruthin Gardens, Cardiff, of Mrs Evan Owen, wife of Councillor Evan Owen, JP. Mrs Owen, who was in her 59th year, was the daughter of the late Mr T. H. Thomas, a retired grocer of Merthyr, and in 1881 she was married to Councillor Evan Owen, and they had lived in Cardiff ever since. Mrs Owen had been a member of the Cardiff Union Board of Guardians for about 15 years, and all through her life she took a keen and active interest in the Welsh Baptist Union, having been the Treasurer of the Zenana section of that movement for 13 years, during which period nearly £ 25,000 passed through her hands. She leaves 4 sons and a daughter. Two of the sons are in West Africa, one being the manager of the Elder Dempster Agency there, and another is a bank inspector. Another son is a barrister in Canada, and the fourth is an electrical engineer at Wigan. Mrs Owen was a member of the Board of Management of King Edward VII Hospital. It was only recently that Councillor and Mrs Owen returned from a holiday at Bath, and the deepest sympathy is felt with Councillor Owen and family in their bereavement.

The funeral took place at the Cardiff Cemetery on Tuesday. In the heavy downpour of rain, many hundreds of friends of Mrs Owen joined the relatives in paying respect to one who had endeared herself to the poor of the district. After leaving the house the cortege halted at the Miskin Street United Methodist Church, where the Revd Charles Davies, the Tabernacle, assisted by Principal Edwards and the Revd H. M. Hughes conducted an impressive service. “She lived for Cathays”, remarked Principal Edwards during the course of the service.

***Western Mail*, Cardiff, Monday 12th February 1923 (p9) + photo**

OBITUARY (as carried by the *Weekly Mail*, plus the following)

Mr Evan Owen acted as secretary to the South Wales and Monmouthshire Clerks' Association, established for the purpose of providing benefit to clerks whilst out of employment, during sickness, and at death, and medical attendance and medicine, and the society has branches at Swansea, Newport, Pontypridd, and Llanelly. This position he resigned some time ago. He was a life vice-president of the King Edward VII hospital, Cardiff, and from time to time had rendered valuable assistance in furnishing information

with a view to appealing for financial aid to workmen and others employed in the coalfields. He was a JP for the county of Glamorgan, and for upwards of twenty years had been a member of the council of Cardiff University College.

An active member of the Baptist denomination, he was a deacon of the Tabernacle Welsh Baptist Church at Cardiff; for many years treasurer of the East Glamorgan Baptist Association; chairman of the Welsh Baptist Association Trust; a trustee of the Baptist Building Trust Fund for Wales; financial secretary of the Cardiff Baptist College; and a member of the Haverfordwest Baptist College Trust. He was an ex-president of the Welsh Baptist Union.

He was a prominent Freemason, Oddfellow, and Ivorite, and filled the office of Provincial Grand Master in each of the two latter orders, and his life's activities also extended in several other directions. He organised a great musical festival in the National Eisteddfod Pavilion, in the year of that event at Pontypridd, at which 20,000 people assembled to sing selections of sacred music. For several years he acted as secretary of the Cardiff Cymmrodorion Society, and was president of that society in 1912-13. During his membership of the Cardiff City Council he paid particular attention to the works of the free libraries committee, of which he was chairman for several years. He was a gifted speaker in Welsh and English, and always allied himself with Welsh nationalist movements.

There are four sons and one daughter, one of the former being Councillor Arthur Owen, who represents the Central Ward on the Cardiff Corporation.

The funeral will take place at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, the service to be held at Miskin Street Chapel.

Weekly Mail, Cardiff, Saturday February 17th 1923 (p3) + photo

OBITUARY – Mr Evan Owen, Cardiff

Mr Evan Owen, JP, of Llwyn On, Ruthin Gardens, Cardiff, died at his residence on Saturday night after a long illness. He had been a prominent figure in the life of the city, but he resigned his seat as Cathays representative on the Cardiff City Council a few years ago, and ever since the death of his wife, in 1919, who was a Poor-law guardian, he had relinquished most of his public work, with the exception of his membership of the council of the Union College of South Wales and Monmouthshire with which he had been associated for many years.

Mr Owen was a native of Pembrokeshire, where he was born in 1854, but his parents removed to Aberdare when he was a child, and in his boyhood days he earned his living by working underground at the Aberaman Colliery.

At the age of 20 he was appointed checkweigher, which position he filled until his election in 1881 to the office of general secretary to the Miners' Permanent Provident Society, which he continued to hold for the remainder of his life. During his residence at Aberaman he took an active part in co-operation and Friendly Society work and other social movements, and acted as secretary of the Oddfellows (Manchester Unity) and Ivorites until compelled to resign those offices on his removal to Cardiff, to take up the position of chief officer of the Miners' Provident Society, the success of which was largely due to his managerial capacity. The society, as mentioned, was formed in 1881 and gradually increased to such important proportions that it has probably dealt with about 400,000 cases and disbursed about a million and a quarter in funeral allowances, weekly payments to widows, children, and injured workmen, and in old age pensions. He had also been closely identified with the relief work in connection with all the colliery

explosions and disasters since the society came into existence, and had rendered useful aid in appealing for and collecting funds for the relief of the sufferers. In this capacity he served on the administrative committees of Llanerch, Morfa, Park Slip, Great Wester, Tylorstown, Albion, and National colliery explosions relief funds. In 1903 his services to the Miners' Provident Society were recognised by a testimonial exceeding £ 600, subscribed to by members of the society and friends.

Weekly Mail, Cardiff, Saturday 17th February 1923 (p6)

DEATHS

OWEN – On Saturday 10th February, at Llwyn On, Ruthin Gardens, Cardiff, Evan Owen JP (Chairman International Coal Company and Secretary of the Miners' Provident Society), aged 69.

Unknown newspaper, unknown date (found in loft)

Mr Evan Owen, JP, of Llywn On, 30 Ruthin Gardens, chairman of International Coal Company Ltd., died on February 10th aged 68.

Gross value of estate £17,571 Net value £13,824

Probate of will dated January 30th:

Executors, his sons

Mr Arthur Llewellyn Owen, shipbroker of same address

Mr William Emlyn Owen, electrical engineer, of 1 Senghenydd Road, Cardiff.

Legacies:

£50 to his maid Miriam Richards

£4,000 in trust to his daughter Beatrice Annie Owen and issue

£1,000 to his son Ivor Stanley

£200 to each executor

his residence 30 Ruthin Gardens, his motorcar and household effects to his son Arthur

the remainder to be equally divided between his three sons

Thomas Evan

Arthur Llewellyn

William Emlyn

Newspaper cutting (unknown) related by Joan PEARCE¹:

“We congratulate Mr W. Emlyn Owen, an electrician at the International Collieries, Blaengarw, upon his appointment as engineer to the Northampton Electrical Tramway Power Station. Prior to his appointment at the International Collieries he worked as an electrician for eight years under Messrs North's Navigation Company, Maesteg, and he is very popular throughout the district. During his stay at Maesteg he conducted the electrical Evening Technical Classes at Plasnewydd Schools under the Glamorgan County Council. Mr Owen is a member of the Association of Mining Electrical Engineers by examination, and a graduate member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers. He is the son of Mr Evan Owen, of Cardiff, who is a director of the International Coal Company, Blaengarw.”

¹ Joan PEARCE née OWEN is my aunt, my mother's younger sister