

Notes from Local Interest Group Meeting 26th November 2020

Present: Mo Lloyd, Wendy and Dainis Ozols, Janet Russell, Allison Joyce, Elsa Harflett, John and Margaret Price, Helen Barnett Cherry and Victor Williams, Anne and Neil Hitchcox, Ruth Price, Bronwen Jenkins, Eva Morgan, Patricia Hope, Thomas Lloyd, Marilyn Price, Carol and Haydn Millward, Jenny Francis, Graham John Davies, Grace Davies

John Price premiered his film (with input from Maureen Lloyd narrating and drone footage from Dainis Ozols) of the Painscastle area, investigating some long-lost local history, starting with some notable landmarks on the Begwns, as identified by a National Trust Survey undertaken in 2007.

The subjects included:

The Indian Peewit Cairn.

Maesgwyn Round Barrow (SAM RD246) A 1930 excavation by the Monks Pool.

Bailey Bedw Ring Cairn (SAM RD180) Where an iron sword and bronze ring were found in 1930 by Colwyn Vuliamy, Glasbury House, now in the possession of the National Museum of Wales.

The second part of the film, narrated by John, dealt with:

The Dolbedwen Dagger, which was kept by the Griffiths family from Portway for many years.

The Woolhope Club visit to Painscastle in 1911 and army manoeuvres taking place that day.

A story about a besieged Painscastle by Cromwell, the scant evidence was supported by a 1650 Basket Hilt sword and cannon ball found by T.P. Lyke at Rhydlyddan in the early 1900s.

George Price, from the Maesllwch Arms, as a young boy helping to take the last stone from the castle to help build Painscastle School, also found two cannon balls in 1872.

John's second film discussed the history of Pengraig Farm, Llanbadarn y Garreg, taking us from Quaker meetings in the 1700s, to Elizabeth Lloyd, born in 1835, whose family moved to the Cilau. Elizabeth married William Price, Pendre, in 1861, the mayor that Kilvert met when discussing the building of Painscastle School.

In 1884, there was a court case over a Pengraig boundary tree involving the landowner at that time, Rev. W. J. Thomas from Llanthomas, Llanigon (Father of Daisy in Kilvert's Diary), supported in court by his tenant, Richard Whittall and his son Richard Whittall (I) who, in later life, farmed Great Lundy, and became a County Councillor for Painscastle area.

In 1891, John Price and his family moved from Llewetrog, Llanbedr, to Pengraig. His daughter Nina wrote a very interesting diary from 1899 until the death of her father in 1908.

John Price (Narrator) managed to contact Ruth Price, who had come into possession of her relation's diary in 2012. John read out sections of Nina's diary, aided by many photos of the participants. He started with an account of a concert held in honour of John Morris junior, Penbank, who had recently married Sarah Morgan from Penlan, Llanbedr. Both were descended from the Griffiths family from Portway. John described, from Nina's diary, how his own grandfather, plus siblings, plus his Grannie and Grace Davies' Granny took part in the concert at Rhulen School in 1902. Others taking part were Nina, her brother John, (Alice) May Kinsey (Mother of Kinsey Croose, a named subscriber to the rebuilding of Franksbridge Chapel in 1909) and Charlie Evans, blacksmith, who bought Cregrina Mission Hall with John Morris junior in the early 1900s.

Other visually described stories involved a dangerous journey back home from Cregrina Church, in a

thunderstorm and across flooded watercourses, a trip to see Buffalo Bill in Builth (1902) and a 1 hour, 40 minute walk to see a concert in Painscastle School in 1906.

John is very grateful to Ruth Price for providing him with the scans of the diary and letting him bring Nina's diary to life.

John finished the evening off with filmed interviews of locals from Herefordshire, two of whom had family connections to Pengraig.

For anyone who missed this Zoom meeting, a recording is available; please request the link from ML or John.