

Notes from Local Interest Group 24th February 2022

Present in Hall: Maureen Lloyd (ML), Wendy Ozols, John Price, Roy & Avryl Lloyd, Cherry & Victor Williams, Iris Lloyd, David & Anwyn Price, Grace Davies, James & Jenny Martin

On Zoom: Dainis Ozols, Eva Morgan, Bryan Powell-Tuck, Jennifer Lewis, Diana Lloyd, Sylvia Illingsworth, Elsa Harflett, Richard Thomas, Lisa Lloyd

Apologies: Joan Lloyd, Helen Barnett

ML began the evening by welcoming everyone, both in the Hall and on Zoom. She introduced our speaker for the evening, Cherry Williams.

The Tuck Family of Llanbedr Parish, and what became of them.

Cherry began her talk by telling us a bit about the name, Tuck. The most feasible origin that she has found is that it is from Old Norse. Records of the name in the UK date back to the 14th century and over the years there have been many variations, such as Toke and Tuke. There is a motto for the family name that means: "My warfare is manifold", quite appropriate it would appear! Cherry also told us that she has a family link to the Tuck family, as we would see later in her talk.

The earliest Tuck that Cherry has found locally can be traced back to a marriage by licence on 13th February 1779, at Llanbedr Church, Painscastle. John Tuck, yeoman of Glasbury, married Elizabeth Powell of Llanbedr, Painscastle. Prior to this wedding, she has been unable to find out any more about John Tuck; the name does not appear in Glasbury records. However, she has discovered that, in January 1778, John Tuck of Glasbury was mentioned in the Radnorshire Quarter Sessions Order Book 1 (1771-1789). He was appointed, by Walter Wilkins (Lord of the Manor of Lower Elfael) as gamekeeper to the manor, just before his marriage to Elizabeth. This could be how he met his wife because Elizabeth was a local woman, from an established local family. Her father was Thomas Powell (1714-1794), who had married Ann Penry (1710-1776), the daughter of Benjamin Penry, at Llanbedr Church in 1740. Just outside the main door at Llanbedr Church there is a flat-topped tomb which commemorates the death of Thomas Powell (December 21st 1794, aged 80), describing him as a "gent"; his wife, Ann, who died in 1776, aged 64, is also commemorated here. John Tuck and his wife, Elizabeth, are also commemorated on the same stone, along with other unreadable inscriptions. Cherry recorded these inscriptions around 1975 but today the inscriptions are illegible.



The tomb of John Tuck, his wife Elizabeth and her parents.

In December 2021, completely out of the blue, Cherry discovered more about John Tuck's background. He was born in 1750 in Little Snoring, Norfolk, the third son (of five) of John and Ann Tuck. His father, John Tuck Snr, was the son of Thomas Tuck, b 1717, also of Little Snoring. This gentleman was a wig and peruke maker/barber. However, Cherry has been unable to find out how or why John Tuck Jnr came to Wales.

It was as a result of the union between John Tuck and Elizabeth Powell that the name Powell Tuck emerged. It seems that, because Elizabeth had been an only child, her family were keen to have the Powell name passed down through the generations. The couple had three daughters and one son. Two of the daughters died in their teens, Elizabeth in 1797, aged 17, and Catherine in 1799, aged 16, and there is a plaque commemorating the two girls on the chancel wall in Llanbedr Church, with their father being described as an Inn Holder. A story about John Tuck pinned beneath the plaque reads: "He charged a William Davies at Presteigne with assaulting him and robbing him of 5s 6d at the home of Mary Jenkins, widow, in Presteigne on August 7th 1790. Three years later at the quarter sessions, April 24th 1793, he withdrew the charge and the verdict on William Davies was Not Guilty." Cherry understands that this story was taken from some research done by the Powys Family History Society in the 1980s.

There are further records regarding John Tuck in the Radnorshire Quarter Sessions: July 11th 1787, he was assaulted by Henry Prosser of Llanbedr, Painscastle – no outcome mentioned; and, October 6th 1790, James Pugh and John Tuck appeared regarding "Maintenance of Children born of out lawful wedlock". Another piece of evidence regarding him comes from The Hereford Journal, June 3rd, 1795, which mentions that he was the Justice of the Peace for Painscastle Hundred, presiding at a meeting to find men to serve in the navy.

John was also an Inn Holder and it is well known that Painscastle had several inns in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, being on a drovers' route. One of these was Castle Farm. Evidence for this is that he featured in the Alehouse Recognizances of the Radnorshire Quarter Sessions Files for the years 1795, 1797 and 1798, for the Painscastle Hundred. Cherry also found John Tuck's "Land Tax Redemption" payment record in 1798; tax was charged on land with a value of 20 shillings or more. It would have been paid as part of his rental agreement as he rented the land from Walter Wilkins. The record shows that John had land in both Llanbedr and Llandewi Fach parishes.

John Tuck died in June 1800, aged 50 – he was buried on 9th June. His wife, Elizabeth, died in 1813 and they are both buried in Llanbedr Church graveyard.

Cherry then went back to tell us more about John and Elizabeth's family. Having lost two of their daughters (as noted earlier), their middle daughter, Mary (1781-1824), married Evan Williams in 1815, at Llanbedr Church. Cherry has found records of three of their children having been baptised at Llanbedr, two daughters and a son. They were: Elizabeth Tuck Powell Williams on October 23rd 1815; Catherine Tuck Williams on August 25th 1816; and, John Williams on December 5th 1820. When Elizabeth was born Evan was a farmer at Trewyrlod and by the time John arrived the family were farming Lower Pengarth. Mary died in December 1824, aged 42, and is buried at Llanbedr Church, but her husband Evan is not on the Llanbedr burial register.

John and Elizabeth's only son, Thomas Powell Tuck, married Elizabeth Gough, daughter of John and Martha Gough of Peterchurch, in December 1817. Castle Farm, Painscastle, became their home and thus the ancestral home of the Powell Tucks. Cherry showed us an article from the Hereford Journal of October 4th 1837 which showed that Thomas was trusted enough within the community to have been given the responsibility of showing prospective buyers around three local properties –

“Blaengodu,” “Llewedrog” and “Cwm.” Thomas and Elizabeth had eight children, three girls and five boys, and, in 1841, all eight were still living at The Castle. At this time, Thomas was 55 and described as a farmer. Also listed on this census were eight drovers, confirming that The Castle was indeed an inn. In the 1841 census, there were only ten people in the whole of Radnorshire with the name Tuck and all of them lived in Painscastle. All of the children were baptised at Llanbedr Church between the years 1818 and 1833. Thomas Powell Tuck died on July 9th 1844, aged 57, of “hepatitis terminating in fever”; he was buried at Llanbedr on July 13th. His widow continued to live at The Castle, a farm of around 160 acres, as the head of the household until she died in 1881; she was buried with her husband on October 5th 1881.



The grave of Thomas (d 1844) and Elizabeth (d 1881) Powell Tuck

For the next part of her talk, Cherry told us about the lives of Thomas and Elizabeth’s children, in birth order. She noted that it was only the sons that were given the name Powell Tuck; the daughters were simply Tuck.

1. Elizabeth Tuck (1818-1891) was the oldest daughter and so was given her mother’s name. She married Joseph Lewis (born in Llanstephan) on August 31st 1841, at Llanbedr Church. He was working as a manservant at Upper House, Painscastle, right next door to The Castle. From 1851, they lived at Middle Pentre, Llandewi Fach. They had five children recorded on the 1851 census, Anne, Elizabeth, Thomas, Mary and John, but Cherry has found evidence of two others (baby John d 1851 aged seven weeks, and baby Catherine d 1854 aged 5 months). The second daughter, Elizabeth, married Thomas Davies at Llandewi Fach Church in 1869 and went on to live at The Sun Inn, Colva. Their son, Thomas Davies, appears to have lived with his Grandmother. Elizabeth and Thomas’ eldest son was Richard Davies (born Llandewi Fach), a noted singing teacher and founder of the Vale of Arrow Choir. He was known as Dick O’ Colva. Joseph died in November 1878, aged 62, and Elizabeth in May 1891, aged 72. Both are buried at St David’s Church, Llandewi Fach. Their son, Thomas

Lewis, continued farming at Middle Pentre and was still living there in 1925 when he died. Both he and his wife, Eliza, are also buried at St David's, Llandewi Fach.

2. Mary Tuck (1820-1891) married Moses Herbert at Llanbedr Church on March 30th 1855. These are Cherry's Great Great Grandparents. Mary and Moses farmed at Danyfron, Colva and had two children, Mary (1858) and John (1861). Mary became Mary Lloyd on marriage and she was Cherry's Great Grandmother – she had eight children. (Mary's diaries were the subject of a LIG meeting in January 2019 – the notes of which can be found on the community's website.) Mary and Moses were buried at Colva Church, Moses in November 1881, aged 55, and Mary in November 1891, aged 71.
3. Thomas Powell Tuck (1822-1880) was Thomas and Elizabeth's first son and was therefore named after his father. He married Catherine Sheen in March 1850 at Llanfared; she was the daughter of John Sheen of Church House, Llanfared, a farmer. By 1851, Thomas and Catherine were farming 186 acres at Penwern, Glasbury, but by 1861 they had moved to The Noyadd, Llanstephan, a farm of 100 acres. They shared this with their five children, Catherine's brother and five servants. Sadly, Catherine died in October 1861; she was only 41 and her youngest child was just three years old. She is buried at Maesyronnen Chapel, Glasbury, where there is a plaque on the wall commemorating her death with a poignant verse. Thomas was not a widower for long as he remarried five months later. Cherry told us that it is said that he and his wife eloped and were married in February 1862, at St Dunstan's West in London, giving their residence at the time as Fleet Street. His second wife was Mary Davies, born in Bryngwyn, who was only 23 years old; she was the daughter of Thomas Davies, a farmer. They returned to live at The Noyadd and they had four children in the next five years. The family then moved to Pertycolley, Llowes, where they had five more children – making nine children in total over fourteen years. This meant that Thomas was father to fourteen children in total! It seems that they farmed both The Noyadd and Pertycolley, with some of the older children staying at The Noyadd. Thomas Powell Tuck died in 1880, aged 58, from a chronic gastric ulcer and he was buried with his first wife, Catherine, at Maesyronnen. In his will, he left his half share of Bryntegan, Bryngwyn, to the children from his first marriage; he did not own the other farms where he had lived. One of his sons from his second marriage, James, was left crops and farming implements from The Noyadd and one daughter (Mary) inherited some household goods, furniture, brewing and dairy utensils. The rest of his property was divided between his surviving children and his widow, providing she did not remarry. His estate was worth £77-13s-10d, so not much to lose! When the father died, his son Thomas was ordered to live with his brother, James, at The Noyadd if he wanted his inheritance. At that time, Thomas was 30 and James 22; by the 1881 census, James was farming at The Noyadd and Thomas was described as a general servant – this must have been hard for Thomas to bear! Second wife, Mary, went to live at Belmont Road in Hay-on-Wye with her two youngest sons, Allen who was an ironmonger's clerk and Percy who was a clerk. By the 1911 census, she was still living there and she is described as a private boarding house housekeeper. Mary died in 1926, aged 89, in Mitchel Troy, Monmouthshire, the home of her son Gratten (who had been a butcher in Cardiff). Members of this family worked and lived far and wide, in the UK and beyond (Canada and USA). They also had many and varied occupations. One of the daughters from the second marriage, Rosa Linda Powell Tuck, became a nurse and worked in Yorkshire, before marrying Evan David Davies, a gent's outfitter of Broad Street, Hay. Their only child became Mrs J V Like. On her marriage certificate, Rosa's father (Thomas Powell Tuck) was recorded as a minister of religion.

4. John Powell Tuck (1823-1854) – little is known about John. In 1851, he was a visitor at Duffryn Row, Painscastle, which was the home of Henry Griffiths, a drover, and his widowed mother. In March 1853, he married Elizabeth Price (née Edwards), a widow ten years older than him, at Llanbedr Church. On their marriage certificate, both are shown as living at The Radnor Arms, Painscastle, with John listed as a farmer's son and Elizabeth as a grocer; her father, James Edwards, was a carpenter. John was buried at Llanbedr Church in January 1854 – he was only 30 – and his place of residence is listed as Painscastle.
5. Catherine Tuck (1826-1904) married Thomas Price, New Buildings, Llandeilo Graban in November 1856, at Llanbedr Church. They went on to farm Lower Pentre, Llandewi Fach, and they had five children; the farm was part of the Maesllwch Estate. Catherine was widowed by 1891. In the 1911 census, Edith M Lloyd was working at Lower Pentre as a domestic; this lady was Cherry's Grandmother, and Edith's Grandmother was Catherine's sister, so Edith was working for a member of her family. Catherine died in March 1904 and was buried a few days later at Llanbedr Church. Her son, James, married Eliza Morton and they are Roy Lloyd's (Pendre, Painscastle) Grandparents. When Lower Pentre was sold by the Maesllwch Estate in 1903, the tenant was a Mrs Price and Lower Pentre has remained in Roy Lloyd's family ever since.



Castle Farm (The Castle); ancestral home of the Powell Tuck Family

6. William Powell Tuck (1829-1900) lived and farmed at The Castle for the whole of his life; this farm was also part of the Maesllwch Estate. In 1861, the farm was around 150 acres. By 1881 it was 281 acres but, when it was sold in 1919, it was probably only just over 76 acres because lots had been sold off it, for example Noyadd Grisley. William married Margaret Taylor at Colva Church in March 1859. She was the daughter of Peter Taylor of Knwch,

Colva. The couple had four children. Margaret died in October 1899, aged 68, and William in November 1900, aged 71; they are buried at Llanbedr Church. Their son, also William, continued to farm at The Castle and in 1905 he married Florence Maud Pritchard, daughter of Henry David Pritchard of Clyro. They are both recorded as living at Castle Farm and so she might have been a servant there. Sadly, Florence died in November 1906, aged just 23, just a few months after her baby son. William died in 1909, aged 45, and he was buried in August, at Llanbedr Church. Cherry showed us a photo of a row of graves near the main door of the church – three generations of this family, all called William; William Snr in 1900, son William in 1909 and baby grandson in 1906, just 10 months old. At this time, another of William Snr's sons, Thomas Powell Tuck, came to live at The Castle with his family, and they appear on the 1911 census, with five children. Previously, they had been farming at Tydu, Llanlieu, above Talgarth. A son of this family, Herbert, was involved in a fracas in Painscastle in January 1916, and was fined £1 11s for an assault and battery on Thomas Lewis of New House. (Cherry reminded us of the family motto!) When the Maesllwch Estate was sold in 1919, this marked the end of the tenancy of Castle Farm by the Tuck family.

7. James Powell Tuck (1830-1889) was one of the original trustees of the Adullam Chapel in Painscastle. He married Mary Price from Bryngwyn and, to start with, they farmed and lived at Bryntegan, Bryngwyn. Two of their children were born there. They had left Bryntegan by 1881 and, by then, James was an agricultural worker living at Birdsnest, Clyro; there were now five children. By 1891, James had died and his widow Mary had moved to Sunnybank, Clyro. Cherry was intrigued to find that James, who died in December 1889, was buried at Llanigon Church and that his headstone reads "of this parish". It appears that he had been living at the Union Workhouse, Hay, when he died from "heart disease, chronic bronchitis and debility". After a good deal of research, Cherry is no closer to finding out why James had ended up in the workhouse, nor why he was living in Llanigon – a family mystery yet to be solved! Mary continued to live at Sunnybank, and her daughter Mary (also known as Polly) lived there after her. Cherry remembers Polly and her husband, Thomas Williams, living there. James and Mary's son, Thomas, was a roadman and he lived at Chapel House in Clyro. Their daughter, Matilda, was recorded as a servant working for a chaplain and governor and his wife in Sheffield, Yorkshire in 1891. By 1901, Matilda had returned to Clyro and was a cook for Emma Crichton at Wyecliffe. She married in her 40s and lived in Llanigon. Her name is recorded on her father's headstone. Mother, Mary, died in January 1927, aged 77, and is buried at Clyro Church.
8. Samuel Powell Tuck (1833-1917) married Mary R Price, who was born at Llandewi Fach, at the church there on November 8th 1859; she was the daughter of John Price, a farmer. In 1871 and 1881, Cherry found that they were living at Upper Lloyney, Colva, where Samuel was the farm bailiff. His older sister, Mary, farmed the adjoining estate farm, Danyfron. Samuel and Mary had eight children. By 1891, the census shows that Samuel was a farm bailiff at Hayle, Woolhope, Herefordshire. He is recorded on the 1895 Electoral Register in Lydney, Forest of Dean, so they must have moved again. By the 1911 census, he was listed as a widower and living at Hinton Farm, Peterchurch. Also living there was his daughter, Catherine P James, a widow. Samuel died in Hereford on April 18th 1917. One of his and Mary's daughters, Annie, was a cook in the large household of a Lt Colonel in Chelsea. A son, Frank, had enlisted in 1895 in the Buffs East Kent Regiment and he later worked for the Great Western Railway in the Bridgend/Maesteg area. A further son, John, went to Illinois where he was a farm bailiff and another daughter, Catherine, farmed in Herefordshire.

Cherry concluded by saying that from John Tuck onwards, all Tuck family members born at Castle Farm married and lived fairly locally, whilst their offspring were more adventurous and travelled further afield. She ended her talk by showing us a black shawl that has been in the family for many generations. It is around 200 years old and was worn by Elizabeth Powell Tuck of Castle Farm.

Once again, Cherry had given us a wonderful talk, delivered in her own inimitable style. An incredible amount of research had gone into the presentation – the level of detail about each of the family members was astonishing. Cherry always keeps us enthralled and this talk was no exception. One of the best things was that there were people in the audience, both in the Hall and on Zoom, with family connections to the people she talked about, and who therefore had a genuine connection to the subject matter. We all joined together to thank her for her most engaging and fascinating presentation about this local family.

The evening ended with a reminder from ML about forthcoming LIG meetings, which are held on the **last Thursday** of the month.

March: A presentation from two couples who have moved into the area about their lives before they came here – Mike and Val Head, and Lucy Trench and Robert Collingwood.

April: Jennifer Lewis from Powys Family History Society will talk about the history of Llanbadarn Fawr since the mid 19th century and especially how she carried out her research.

May: This will be our first visit of the year, to Newchurch.

June: A visit to Lower Pengarth.

July: TBA

August: A visit to Huntington Castle and village.

To conclude, huge thanks are due to John Price. Without his expertise and hard work, we would not be able to hold our hybrid meetings and everyone (particularly the Zoom audience) is very grateful to him for making this possible.

Thank you also to Avryl Lloyd, who very kindly provided the refreshments in the Hall.