

## Notes from Local Interest Group 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019

**Present:** Maureen Lloyd (ML), Dainis & Wendy Ozols (DO & WO), Avryl & Roy Lloyd (AL & RL), Neville Harley, Pauline & Peter Spode, Edwina Griffiths (EG), Margaret & John Price (JPH), Richard Thomas, Tim Francis (TF), Richard Martin, Jenny Francis, Sylvia Illingsworth, Sue & Peter Buckingham, Iris Lloyd, Lisa Lloyd, Victor & Cherry Williams (CW), Evelyn Bally (EB).

**Apologies:** Richard Harris, Carole Gibbs

ML opened the meeting by remembering Deri Jones (Portway), who died recently. Deri was a great supporter of the group and also of the Gossip, as well as being one of our local councillors for very many years and so greatly involved in all aspects of the community. He will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by us all.

ML explained that the evening's talk would be based on some invoices dating from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century which Roy and Avryl Lloyd have collected together. She introduced Wendy Ozols, who, with considerable help from AL, RL and ML, had put together a talk about how RL's family made use of local businesses, both in Painscastle and Hay on Wye.

WO started her talk by thanking RL, AL and their family for so carefully collecting together the invoices, etc, on which the talk was to be based. She also thanked ML for her very important input, JPH for help in finding some old photos, DO for taking modern photos and scanning in the original documents and, most of all, William and Elizabeth Lloyd (RL's grandparents) for keeping all of the invoices in the first place because without them there would be no talk!

WO explained that, as well as the invoices collected by the Lloyds of Pendre, she had used the Kelly's Directories for 1895, 1901, 1910 and 1923 (most of the invoices come from this period) and census data for 1891, 1901 and 1911. In addition, she had found some really good information on the Hay History Group's website and recommended this to everyone as an amazing source of information about properties in Hay. Of particular interest was some work done by Alan Nicholls on each property in a number of Hay's main streets. This can be found at: <http://hayhistorygroup.co.uk/> One last resource that she used was the Bank of England website where there is a conversion tool, which takes values from stated dates and converts them into modern day values. This can be found at: <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetary-policy/inflation/inflation-calculator>

To start with, WO told us a little about William and Elizabeth Lloyd. William was born in 1869 and his family lived at Wernnewydd. Elizabeth (née Price) was born on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1871 and it was her family that lived at Pendre. They married in 1905, when they were both in their 30s. After their marriage, they lived at Pendre; Elizabeth's mother is shown as the farmer here in the Kelly's Directory of 1901. WO showed us photos of William and Elizabeth which the Lloyds have in safe keeping. The couple had two surviving sons. The first was William, who was born in 1907; he went to live and farm in Bromsgrove. Their second son, Allan Lloyd, was born on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1911 and he took over the farm (Pendre) after his father died. Allan married Olwen May Price of Lower Pentre on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1936; they had one son, Roy. William Lloyd Senior was a highly respected member of the local community and he served as a councillor for Radnorshire for some years. He supported the community in many ways. William died on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1941, aged 72, from blood poisoning, although he was already in a weakened state because he had been suffering from pneumonia. The report of his funeral was

very long and most fulsome in its praise for William. Elizabeth died a few years before William, on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1935, aged 64; she had suffered a heart attack.

WO showed us some information about the number of businesses, including farms, in and around Painscastle which she had got from the Kelly's Directories. In 1895 there were two pubs (Radnor Arms & The Maesllwch) and 23 Farmers listed (but not Pendre). By 1901, there was a post office/shop, one pub (Maesllwch) and a blacksmith (in the pub) as well as 22 farmers, including Mrs Price at Pendre. By 1910, the pub/blacksmith was still there, as was the post office, and now a carpenter was listed, at Gate House. There were 26 farmers and by this date William Lloyd had taken over at Pendre, Mrs Price having died in 1909. In 1923, the post office/shop, the pub and the carpenter were still in the village as well as 26 farmers.

The Maesllwch Arms was also a blacksmiths shop and, not surprisingly, the Lloyds conducted a great deal of business with the smith. The bills are long and each one lists all of the purchases for a year. The writing is quite difficult to read, but the bills include items such as new shoes, a new lever for a plough, cutting, closing and putting on of a wheel band, repairing a horse rake, sharpening, and repair of a bridle, etc. The 1901 census shows that the blacksmith was Benjamin Price, and the first Lloyd bills are due to him. By 1911, Edwin Davies is listed as the blacksmith and the bills dated 1910 and later are due to him. The pub was on the left of the building and the blacksmiths on the right. By 1923, Thomas Morgan had taken over both the pub and the blacksmiths and WO showed us a photo of the Morgans outside the pub.



In this photo, Mr and Mrs Morgan are seated, with sons George (left), Alwyn (centre) and Huw (right). RL and CW told us that Alwyn was the last blacksmith to practise from the pub, up until the 1960s.

The Post Office was another business that the Lloyds used regularly; it was also a village shop. In 1907, William Davies was the postmaster. ML said that the first record of a postmistress was in the 1881 census – Mary Ann Davies, probably William's mother. Most of the Lloyds' bills date from Mr Davies' tenure and include items such as flour, corn, swede seed, linseed, stamps, turps, sugar, Blue (an agent which made your washing whiter) and candles. There was also something called "sharps", but no-one at the meeting knew what this might be. By 1936, the Post Office was owned by the Morris family

and WO showed us an old photo with the whole family standing outside. RL pointed out the Shell sign on the wall and there was a petrol pump at the premises; in fact, all of the items on the one bill dating from this period are petrol. The post office closed in the early 1970s when it moved to Cae Mawr and was run by Iris Lloyd.



The last Painscastle business used by the Lloyds was David Jones, the carpenter, from Gate House. In fact, David was a builder as well and the services he offered were very diverse. The Lloyds' bills include items for a cart, a ladder, bowls for a turnip drill, repairs to a wheel, a manger, wheelbarrow, the hanging of a gate and a window light and glass, amongst many others. David Jones was 29 in the 1901 census and he was still in residence by 1911. His eldest son, Garnett, was born in 1897, and he took over the business from his father. He lived in Gate House with his sister, Phyllis. Garnett was also an undertaker. Both RL and CW remember Garnett well; he was quite a character by all accounts, in fact CW said that Garnett had offered to saw a bit off her horse's nose – he was quite a large animal! CW also said that Phyllis had cooked the lunches for the children in the village school. When Garnett died in 1975, Phyllis went to live with her sister, Pearl, in the Bredwardine Road in Hay. There was another sister, Connie, but RL was not sure what had happened to her.

Two more items of interest which WO showed us were a carriage licence and an exemption from dog duty certificate. The carriage licence cost 15 shillings and had to be bought annually. The exemption from dog duty allowed the farm to keep two dogs, as long as they were used for tending sheep and cattle; they could not be dogs used for rabbiting.

WO then moved on to look at some of the businesses in Hay on Wye which had been used by the family. Hay was a busy town with very many services on offer. Amongst those used by the Lloyds were a number of tailors/drapers, including Williams the Outfitters. This was located at 3 Castle Street, in Manchester House. In the 1911 census, the head of house is listed as Mary Ann Williams; it says that she had been married for 26 years but there is no husband listed, so he must have left or died. She had five children, three of whom were living in the house (two adults and one aged 11). One of her sons, Garnet Oswald, is listed as a cutter. There were two boarders, Henry Cousins and John Bennington (both tailors), and a domestic servant, aged 15. Williams advertised itself as offering

“high class tailoring” and a bill dated January 1917 was for a suit costing 12s 6d; in today’s value that would be about £45.

From the invoices, it appears that the Lloyds used two doctors, but RL has no idea why this was. Hincks and Hincks practised from Tinto House in Broad Street, and also from Oxford Road. The 1895 Kelly’s lists Thomas Samuel Hawkesford Hincks and by 1901 he had been joined by his son, Thomas Ernest. They are still both shown as practising medicine from here in the 1923 Kelly’s. They were doctors to the workhouse, the Poor Law Institution and the public vaccinators to Hereford District. The 1901 Kelly’s mentions that Hincks senior was the medical officer to Painscastle District Council. WO showed us a bill dating from 1913 for £10 and this would be well over £1000 today. We should certainly be appreciating the NHS! The bill also shows us that the Lloyds paid this amount off in instalments, unsurprisingly. WO showed an old picture of Tinto House, alongside one taken recently and there is hardly any difference in the two views. RL said that he remembers going to see a Dr Wilson at the same premises in the 1950s. (Photo below - Tinto House as it is today)



The other doctor used by the family was Lewis Daniel Heather; his name appears in the 1910 Kelly’s and he practised from Pemberton House (now Kilvert’s). The bills due to L D Heather are for £1 and 12s 6d; £1 is the equivalent of about £110 today. Pemberton House was originally two properties and seems to have had a long association with doctors. The 1895 Kelly’s lists a Dr Robert Shepherd and the 1901 Kelly’s a Dr Featherstone as being in the same premises.

T C Morgan was a seedsman and corn factor with a shop in Lion Street, where Addyman’s Bookshop is today. Various seeds are listed in the Lloyds’ bills, including oats, vetches and something called “Super”, which RL believes is superphosphate, a fertiliser. The Morgan family had this shop from 1861-1910. Thomas Morgan was the first proprietor; then in 1881 Thomas Cyrus Morgan took over. As well as being a seed merchant, he was also an aerated water manufacturer. By the 1923 Kelly’s, a Thomas Price had taken over the premises; he was also a seed merchant and the Lloyds continued to use the shop under his ownership.

Robert Williams Ltd traded from 6 High Town and many present at the meeting could remember this shop. It seemed to sell just about anything and the list of items purchased by the Lloyds is very diverse – turnip cutter, glass, washboard, coal, oil, dinner set, nails, cement and churn, amongst numerous other things. WO showed pictures of the old shop and the building as it is today and, as in many cases in Hay, there is hardly any difference. JPH and TF thought that this shop closed in around 1981, in fact JPH could remember buying something in the closing-down sale.

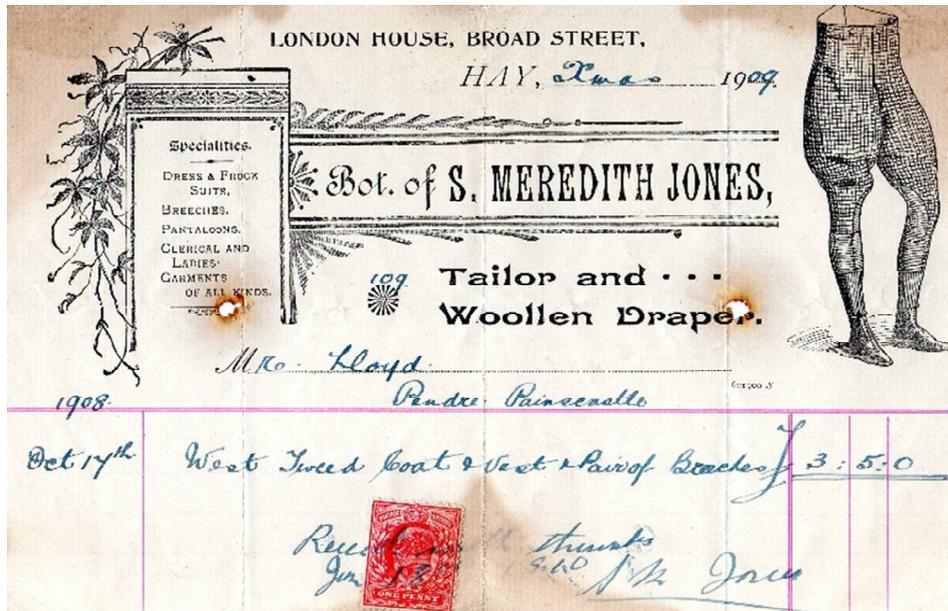
Elizabeth Lloyd bought many items from J Gwilliam, draper. This was a haberdashery that, once again, people present at the meeting could remember well and fondly. It was run by Mrs Jessie Gwilliam from Paris House, now occupied by the Red Cross shop. The haberdashery closed in the early 1990s. Elizabeth's bills include items such as lace, ruches and hats. In 1916, she bought a hat for 9s 5d (over £40 in today's value, so this was a good hat), and she also purchased corsets, an umbrella, scarf, hose and items for curtains. Some present at the meeting could remember that, in the 1990s, there was a bit of a scandal when a counterfeiting ring was discovered being run from Paris House by the "Desmond Boys".

Frank Cadman operated as a seedsman and miller in Broad Street and the Lloyds used his services. One of their bills states that they bought mangolds and "Super" from his shop at a cost of £5 19s, or over £300 in today's value. His mill was at Millbank (now the site of a new housing development of the same name) further down Broad Street from his shop; in fact, he was the last miller to work the mill. In 1926, he is listed as a JP and so he was obviously an influential man. Although this premises (12 Broad St) is no longer a shop, there is almost no difference in the actual structure of the building today, apart from the lack of hoardings. (Photo below)



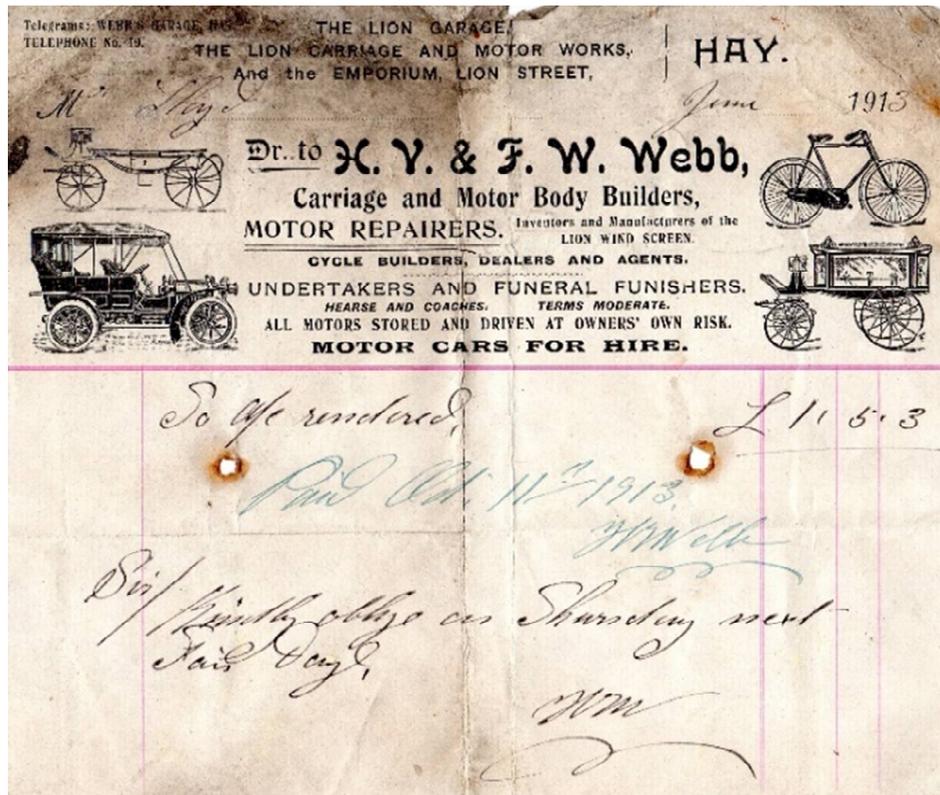
S Meredith Jones was yet another tailors shop used by the Lloyds. In 1901, this shop was located in The Pavement, but by the 1910 Kelly's it had moved to what is now the lower part of Golesworthy's. They had particularly nice-looking bills. The bill on the next page is for a tweed coat and a pair of breeches and comes to £3 5s, well over £300 in today's value; this was good quality clothing, as befits

a man of William's standing in the community. Not only would he have wanted to be smart, he would also have wanted clothes that would last. The 1911 census shows that Stephen Meredith Jones, aged 43, was the tailor and head of household; his two sons, Ivor (18) and Arnold (15) are also listed as tailors. It is possible that they specialised in men's clothing as all of the Lloyds' purchases here were for a man or boy.



F W Golesworthy's has been run by the family since 1891. It was started by Frank Woodland Golesworthy and the company bears his initials to this day. Interestingly, the advert for the shop shows that they also had a branch in Cheltenham. (JPH said that there was also a shop in Llandrindod Wells.) All of the Lloyds' bills are very fragile and some are extremely difficult to read; the earliest dates from 1907 and they go up to 1934. In 1915, they purchased a raincoat for 32s 6d, about £150 today. Other items bought include suits, boots, underwear, jacket, shirts and trousers.

H V & F W Webb traded from Lion St, where Davies' newsagents is today. Their shop had a brilliant display of cycle wheels outside. The business was established in 1870 on different premises; the 1910 Kelly's shows the Lion St location. This bill does not say what the Lloyds bought from them, but it does have a gentle reminder at the bottom – "kindly oblige on Thursday next, Fair Day". It seems that, in the past, bills were often settled some time after purchases had been made, often up to a year later, and that occasionally part of the bill was settled "on account". This is not surprising when you consider the seasonal nature of farmers' incomes.



G J Hartwell, saddler, was located at 14 High Town. In the 1891 census, the house is shown as unoccupied, but by 1901 George Hartwell and his family were living here. The business is also listed in the 1901 Kelly's. The Lloyds made purchases here in 1906 (bridle rein), 1907, 1910, 1912 and 1915 (all unspecified items). These premises are now occupied by part of Hay-on-Wye Booksellers.

Most of those present at the meeting could remember Grants the stationers in Castle Street. Before Grants moved here, it had been Horden's Stationers; Horden is shown as living here in the 1871, 1881 and 1891 censuses. The 1895 Kelly's shows that Grants had taken over by that date. The building, which is shown on the 1847 Tithe Map, included a former flannel mill to the rear, which was owned by Thomas Howells in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This mill closed in 1868. The bill from Grants that is in the Lloyd collection is actually for Painscastle Congregational Chapel and so RL believes that this might be for the books that were given, by the chapel, to children at Christmas or the Anniversaries. EG also suggested that it could be a bill for printing for the Eisteddfods which took place regularly. Grants closed in the 1980s when husband and wife died within a short time of one another. JPH said that they printed books and most of those present could remember owning their Guide to Hay, Talgarth and the Black Mountains.

The last tailors for which the Lloyds had bills was E Cater, another business run by a woman, Mrs Eliza Cater (draper and milliner). In the 1911 census, her daughter, Effie, is also listed as a draper. The Lloyds bought elastic, hats, socks and collars from Mrs Cater. Her shop is now occupied by the Poetry Bookshop in Cranborne House, The Pavement.

The final bills that we looked at were from the Hay & District Co-operative Society, which was located in Brook St and 1 Bridge St. The Lloyds' bills are very fragile and very hard to read, but one dating from 1923 is for £23 9s, or £1425 in today's value. Purchases included flour, round and flat maize, Aberdeen

turnip, "Super", Albion feed cake, Suttons' Champion swede, biscuit meal and sharps(?). The whole of the Hwl y Dwr end of Brook St has been rebuilt/renovated, but many present could remember the Co-operative Society well. The offices were on one side of the road (right in the photo below) and the warehouse/mill on the other. EB remembered that there was a hoist on the large building on the left of the photo to bring bags of grain up to the top floor. RL and JPH thought that it probably closed in about 1978.



At the end, there was a short discussion about why there were no bills from food shops in Hay – after all, the Lloyds must have bought food from somewhere. In the file, there are bills from food shops in Kington. Obviously, they would have visited the Thursday market in Hay and probably paid cash to the stall holders. RL and CW remembered that J & P Turner of Kington used to deliver twice a week and they would leave bags of food at the post office for collection. RL said that Turners took corn for grinding to Rhosgoch Mill and so this would not have been much further for them to go to make regular deliveries.

As usual, the evening ended with refreshments, kindly made by Avryl Lloyd and Edwina Griffiths, and an opportunity for people to chat and reminisce about local shops and characters. RL was also happy for people to look at the folder containing all of the invoices, etc, that he has collected, including ones from companies located in Brecon, Kington, Talgarth and further afield.