

Church of Saint Michael and All Angels Llanfihangel Tal-y-llyn Memorials Trail

The trail includes a small proportion of the memorial stones in the burial ground and plaques within the church. Some short narratives provide background information to explain why each has been included and also the relevant memorial identification and its inscriptions. The identification material is drawn from the register of monumental inscriptions published by the Powys Family History Society. This information is protected by copyright and the Powys Family History Group has kindly agreed that we can use it in this way.

There is no particular route through the trail but the map on the next page shows where the relevant monuments are located and where the background can be found in this trail guide.

This is not intended to be a comprehensive review of what is available. The subjects chosen don't have any particular historical importance or reflect a particular social standing within the community. They do provide some snap shots of community life in the parish over a period of about 150 years.

In drawing this information together the authors have tried to be factually correct using published documentation wherever possible but if it does contain errors or misleading statements we apologise for any distress this may cause. The use of inconsistent spelling and some archaic grammar is a reflection of the age of the source material.



AWFUL FIRE
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PERROTT FAMILY
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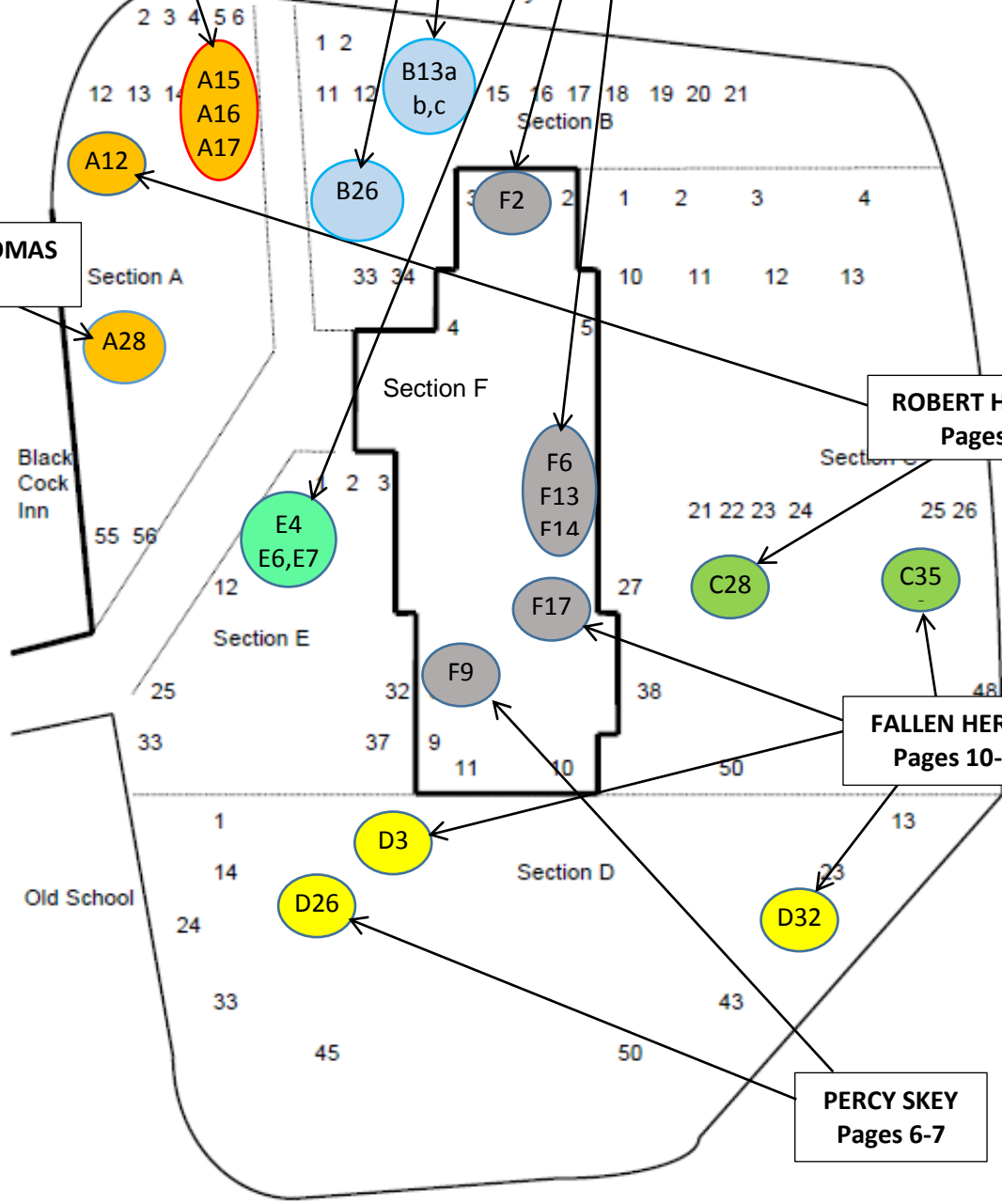
Church of St Michael & All Angels, Llanfihangel Tal-y-llyn
Plan of Churchyard Memorials

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AWFUL FIRE – EIGHT LIVES LOST

On the 16th February 1853 The Hereford Journal reported:

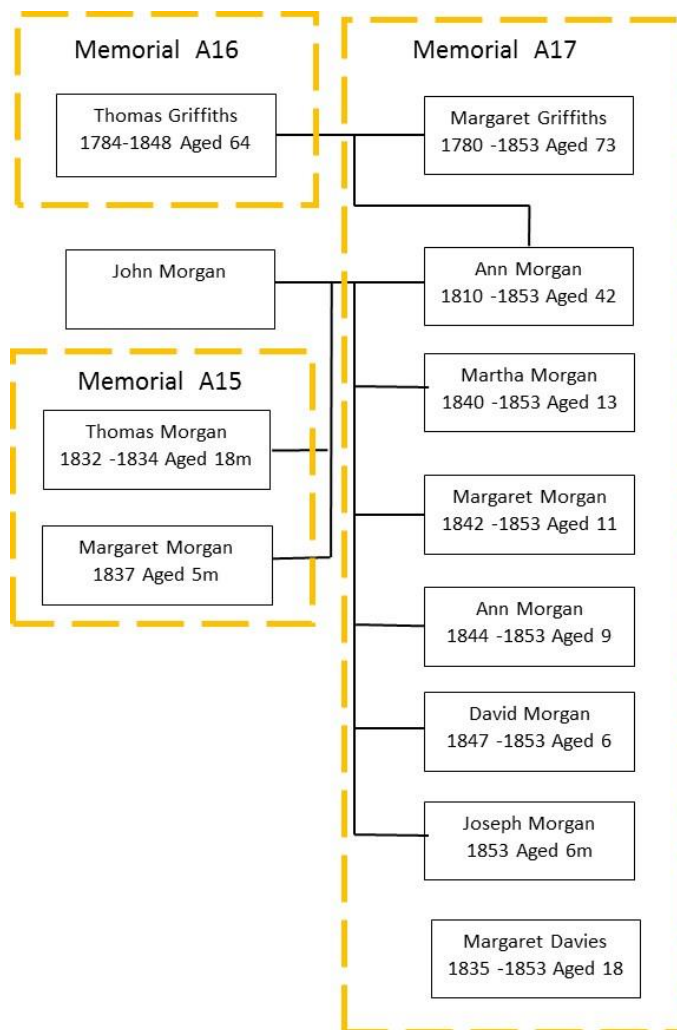
‘The Destruction of life by fire, except in the case of the infant children, is happily an infrequent occurrence in this part of the country. When therefore, such a calamity does befall us, or our neighbours, it can be no wonder that the facts should take a deep hold on the public mind, and that such a sensation of real sorrow should generally prevail. Such feelings have been painfully called forth within the last week. We regret to have to record that no less than eight lives have been sacrificed in a fire which occurred at the village of Llanfihangel Tal-y-llyn, in the night between Tuesday and Wednesday last. Tal-y-llyn is situate about five miles from Brecon, and consists of a number of cottages and farms, with an inn called the “Royal Oak,” connected with which was a well accustomed shop for groceries and general wares, kept by Mr. John Morgan, a respectable man, with a wife and five young children. The names of the unfortunate sufferers are – Margaret Griffiths, widow; Ann Morgan, wife of John Morgan, five children named Martha, Margaret, Ann, David and Joseph, all under the age 16; and Margaret Pritchard, the maid servant.

Mr. Morgan himself is the only individual out of nine who has escaped to tell the tale of woe, and it appears to be a wonder how the poor man could, under the circumstances, retain his intellect, so as to enable him to give the narrative. He says that on Tuesday night last his family retired to rest as happy and comfortable as they could be. He read a chapter in the Bible, after he went upstairs, and then went to bed himself. He was awakened by his wife, who slept in another bed in the same room, between two and three o’clock on Wednesday morning; she told him that the house was on fire, and asked where the child was; he immediately got up, and, at his wife’s desire, got through the window to endeavour to open the door, but before he could do so, or alarm the neighbours, the house was a mass of flames. He ran wildly from house to house to get assistance; and a great number of neighbours were soon on the spot; but alas! It was too late; the flames had done their work, and eight poor sufferers were no more.

The neighbours broke open the shop door; but before they could gain admittance to save any of the property, they were driven back by the fire and compelled to become inactive spectators of the fearful devastation. Superintendent Stephens was soon on the spot with the fire engine and men from Brecon, but could effect nothing due to the conflagration. Their endeavours, aided by the neighbours, were however successful in confining the fire to the house and thus saving a whole range of farm and other buildings, which must otherwise have been sacrificed.’ (The full article is available on request from the History Group.)

All of the souls lost in this tragedy, together with Thomas Griffiths the husband of Margaret Griffiths and father of Ann Thomas and also two other children from John and Ann Morgan’s family are all resting closely together.

Memorials



Inscriptions

A15 In memory of Thomas son of John MORGAN (plastrer) (sic) by Ann his wife and grandson of Thomas and Margaret GRIFFITHS of Royal Oak in this village who died May 1 1834 aged 18 months. "Our blessed Lord so full of love, An angel bright did send, To take away our dear child, To joys that never end." Also of Margaret daughter of the above named she died Jan 1 1837 aged 5 months.

A16 To the memory of Thomas GRIFFITHS of the Royal Oak Inn in this village who died December 5th 1848 aged 64 years. "Watch therefore for ye know neither the day nor the hour when the son of man cometh"

A17 Beneath this stone lieth the remains of 8 dear ones who lost their lives by fire in the still hours of the night at the Royal Oak Inn in this village on Tuesday the 13th of February 1853. Margaret wife of Thomas GRIFFITHS aged 73 years. Ann wife of John MORGAN daughter of the said Thomas and Margaret GRIFFITHS aged 42. Martha MORGAN their daughter aged 13. Margaret 11, Ann 9, David 6, and Joseph 6 months. Margaret DAVIES the servant aged 18. Reader! "Prepare to meet thy God"

Eleanor Thomas 1814 – 1915

Eleanor 'Nellie' Parry was born in Merthyr Cynog and married in Llangorse to David Thomas in 1844 who was then working at Tynewydd. They moved to Llanfihangel where by 1861 David had become the Farm Bailiff at Penypentre. David died in 1900 aged 87 when the family were living at No 1 Chapel Street (now Bwthyn Bach). In her later years Nellie became blind and bedridden but was looked after in the family home by her daughter Joan Arrowsmith.

In its edition of March 12 1914 the Brecon County Times reported that 'An event, which will long be remembered in the parish of Llanfihangel-talyllyn, took place in the village on Thursday, when the inhabitants of the parishes of Llanfihangel-talyllyn and Llanwern joined in celebrating the 100th birthday of Mrs Nellie Thomas, Chapel Street. It was a red letter day in the annals of Llanfihangel, and practically the whole of the inhabitants joined in the festival.....the festival proved a great success, notwithstanding the wet weather. The proceedings commenced at 1.30 p.m., when the children assembled at the school, and were marched in procession, under the charge of Mr C A Snell (the headmaster) and the other teachers (Miss Gwilym and Miss Williams), to the old lady's house....

After forming in line outside the door at the old lady's house, the children sang Hon Wiadfy Nhadau with enthusiasm, and twelve of them (six boys and six girls), by special request, went up to the old lady's bedroom and sang "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," to the tune of the "Old Hundredth" Owing to the inclemency of the weather, the children's sports, which had been arranged to take place in a field, had to be curtailed, and as many of the events as possible were held in the school room, while a few took place on the road between the heavy showers. Tea was served from three o'clock until after five for the whole of the inhabitants of the parishes of Llanfihangel talyllyn and Llanwern, the expense being borne by Mr and Mrs Ashworth, Brynderwen, who also subscribed towards the prizes for the children's sports.' (The full article is available on request from the History Society)



Memorial and inscription. Note – unfortunately very little of this inscription remains legible.

A28 In loving memory of (?) David THOMAS, of this village who died June 2nd 1900 aged ... Also of Eleanor his wife [who died 1915 aged 100].

Percival John Henry Skey 1886 - 1956

Percy Skey was born in Talyllyn to parents William and Elizabeth Skey originally from Hereford. The family came to the area with the railway as William Skey was a Railway Guard. Their eldest son William Robert died soon after they arrived.

For most of Percy's early life the family lived in the row of Talyllyn cottages called Cobbs Town and he went to school (probably in Llangasty). William, his father, died when Percy was 14. In 1901 five children were living at home supporting their widowed mother then aged 46. Percy was still at school, William (his elder brother) was a Railway Clerk and Rose (his elder sister) was a Dressmaker. By 1911 Percy was the only child still living at home supporting his widowed mother. They now lived in The Firs in Talyllyn as Percy had already become the Station Master at age 24. His mother died in 1932 when she was 78.

On the 11th July 1919 the Brecon County Times reported that 'The wedding of Mr Percy Skey, stationmaster, Talyllyn Junction, with Miss S. J. Havard, daughter of the late Mr David Havard and Mrs Havard, Pendre, took place at the Llangorse Parish Church on 7th inst. On the return of Mr Percy Skey and his bride, they were met at Talyllyn station by a crowd of railway employees and residents, who gave them a hearty "welcome home." Both bride and bridegroom were the recipients of a very large number of presents'.

When Percy retired on 4th June 1945 aged 58 he had been the Station Master at Talyllyn for more than 34 years.

The Retirement of Station Master Mr. Skey - 4th June 1945



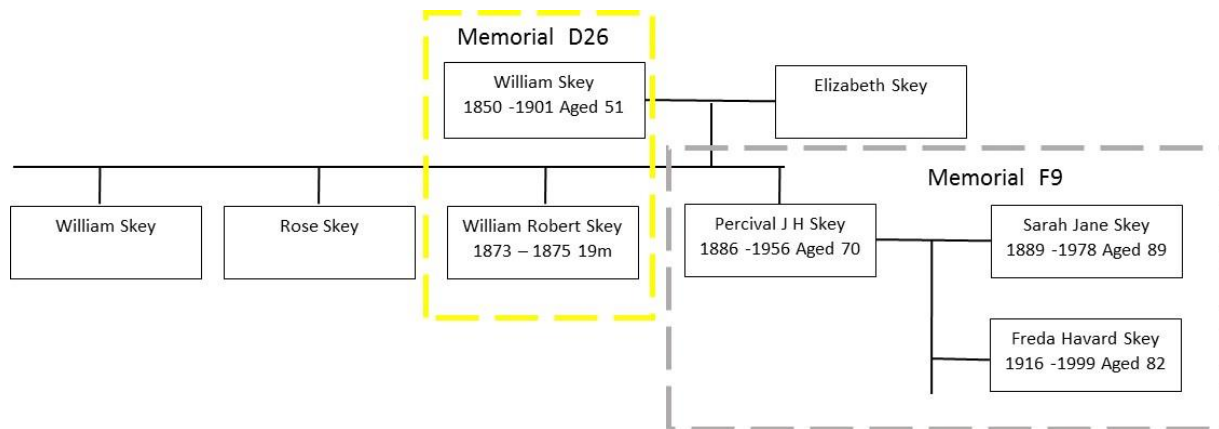
Back Row Jones (plate Layer) Tom Powell Ted Davies Val James Harold Williams Bill lloyd (Ganger)

3rd Row Washington Williams Arthur Jones George Nichollson J. williams Dia Jones (Guard) Billy Davies (porter) John James

2nd Row Tom Hughes John Murry Mrs Kathleen Jones Fred Thomas **Percy Skey** D. Price Mrs Tudor Powell (Clerk) Jack Price Tom Phillips

1st Row Bill Parry Bill Taylor Gwyn Evans John Hamer

Memorials

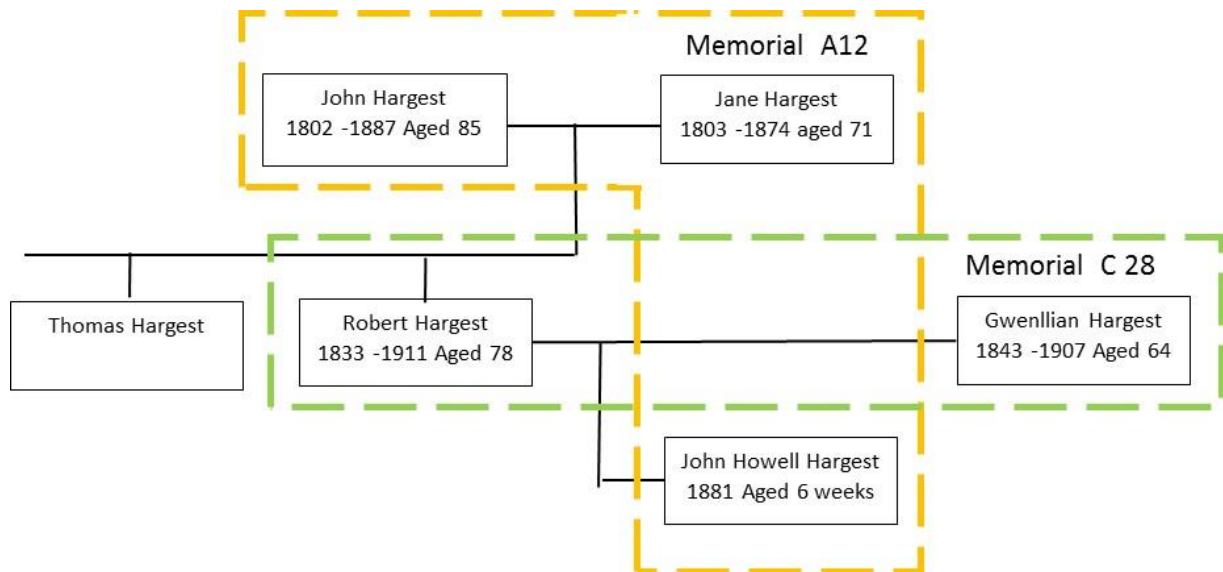


Inscriptions

D26 In loving memory of William Robert son of William and Elizth SKEY who departed this life 17 May 1875 aged 1 year and 7 months. "He has gone the Lord has received him, It was Jesus that called him away, He is gone to the Lord who redeemed him, From night to the splendour of day" Also of William SKEY who died Feb 7th 1901 aged 51 years.

F9 The altar in this church is in loving memory of Percival John Henry SKEY 1886-1956. And of his wife Sarah Jane 1889-1978 of Tal-y-llyn And Freda Havard Skey 1916-1999.

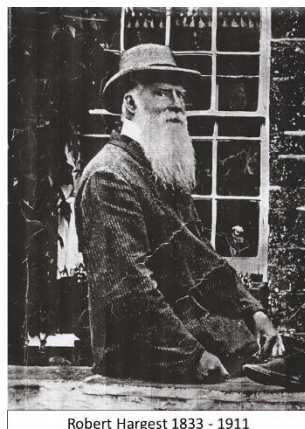
Memorials



Inscriptions

A12 In most affectionate remembrance of Jane, the beloved wife of John HARGEST of Glantawel Cottage in this parish who died June 25 1874 aged 71 years. "Thy will be done" In memory of John Howell HARGEST of Glantawel Cottage in this parish who died June 11 1881 aged 6 weeks and 2 days. "For what is your life it is even a vapour that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away" Also in memory of John HARGEST of Glantawel who died

C28 In memory of Robert HARGEST, Glantawel, Llanfihangel Tal-y-llyn who died 19th May 1911 aged 78 years. Thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" Also Gwenllian his wife who died 3rd May 1907 aged 64 years. "Blessed is he that considereth the poor"



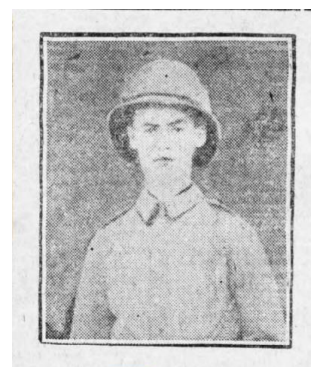
Robert Hargest 1833 - 1911

Fallen Heroes

Several members of Her Majesty's Services are remembered with a plaque inside the church and three graveside memorials. The trail features three from the First World War although the inscriptions for three from the Second World War are also included in this guide.

Edward Ernest Karn 1896 - 1915

Private Edward (Ted) Karn's parents James and Mary came to the area to work on the railway when initially they lived in Llangasty but later moved to Gladys Villa in Tallyllyn. Having started work as a Railway Porter Ted joined the 1st Brecknockshire Territorials Battalion as a volunteer. His elder brother Private William Karn also volunteered for active service in the Great War joining the 6th Battalion of the South Wales Borderers.



Unfortunately Ted didn't enjoy good health and when serving with the 'Brecknocks' in Aden (some reports say India), his health broke down and he was invalided home. He died in Tallyllyn and his grave is in the churchyard in Llangasty.

The Karn family continued to have bad luck as 12 months later in 1916 their eldest daughter Isabel died suddenly in London after a few days illness. Her body was returned home and the funeral at Llangasty was very well attended.

However, a worse tragedy was to come in 1918 when their youngest son 6 years old Baden Karn was killed on the railway crossing close to Tallyllyn Station. This caused great sadness throughout the community and particularly to all of Baden's classmates at Llangasty School.

Jeffrey Price 1884-1916

Sergeant Jeffrey (Jeff) Price's parents (Jeffrey and Margaret) were farmers originally from Llanfihangel Nant Bran but later from Upper Drostre in Llanywern. Jeff didn't stay on the family farm but had a number of different jobs in the Brecon area where he was an active member of the Bethel Chapel. He volunteered joining the 1st Brecknockshire Battalion of the South Wales Borderers serving in Aden and India where he rose quickly through the ranks to become a Colour Sergeant.

His death was reported in the Brecon County Times with the following article on October 18th 1916. 'We are informed that sergeant Jeffrey Price of the Brecknocks has died of fever on active service. Sergt Price, who was an old volunteer and went out with the Brecknocks at the outset of the war. He was the son of Mr and Mrs Price, Drostre farm, and was well known in the agricultural community, having been Messrs Nott and Co's agent for a number of years. He was about 27 years of age'.



Memorial and inscription

*F17 In loving memory of those from this parish who gave their lives for their country in the two World Wars. 1914-1918 Edward KARN. Geoffrey PRICE. 1939-1945 Wm John BAGLEY. Trevor PRICE. "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends"
[War Memorial - Nave North]*

Pryce Francis 1892 - 1917

On the 29 September 1917 the Brecon and Radnor Express published the following:

FORMER LLANFILLO MAN KILLED IN ACTION – OFFICER’S TRIBUTE

News has just been received of the death in action of Pte Pryce Francis of the Canadian Scottish, formerly of the Lower Trostre, Llanfillo. The late Pte Francis, who was 25 years of age, had emigrated to Canada, and enlisted at Winnipeg in February 1916, and left England for France in the following December. He had twice previously been wounded. The following letter has been received by his mother, who lives at Nantgarw from the Major of his regiment. "The commanding officer wishes to convey to you his sincere sympathy on the death of your son who was killed in action on the 8th November. He was a good soldier and showed splendid devotion to duty whilst with his battalion (the Canadian Scottish). His loss is keenly felt by all ranks of his company and especially his platoon comrades with whom he was deservedly most popular. He is buried near where he fell on the battle-field, and, when it is possible, a cross will be erected to his memory. Assuring you of deep sympathy."

Pte Pryce Francis' death is recorded on the Menin Gate memorial and his grave is in one of the many war cemeteries around Ypres.

Memorial and inscription

*C35 In memory of James FRANCIS, Lower Trostre, Llanfillo who died 16 June 1910 aged 58. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord" Also Pryce the beloved son of James FRANCIS killed in action in France 8 November 1917 aged 25. "For me to live in Christ and to die is gain. Until the reveille"
Also William eldest son of the above James FRANCIS who fell asleep in Jesus 1 March 1919. "Peace perfect peace"*

D3 In loving memory of Ernest Clifford Thomas TAYLOR late of Wembley who died 14th October 1944 while serving in HM Forces. "Safe in God's keeping till we meet again" Clifford TAYLOR aged 32 years.

D32 40777833 Corporal TD PRICE, Brecknockshire Battn, South Wales Borderers, 4th March 1942 aged 21. "Heaviness may endure for a night, But joy cometh in the morning"

The Perrott family

In 1809, Brecknock historian Theophilus Jones wrote: 'The PERROTT family came into Breconshire from Herefordshire in the reign of Henry the Eighth. The first we find of the name in our county is Perrot Evan David of Llanigon, who died in 1578, possessed of Brychan's lands in that parish, leaving a son, DAVID PERROTT; from thence they spread into Llanelieu, Llangorse, Cathedine, and lastly Llanvihangel tal-y-llyn, where they still have property.' An obituary written in 1918 described them as 'an old Breconshire family whose name appears in the records of the civil wars between Charles 1st and Cromwell'

The Perrott name is prominent in a number of places in the burial ground and within the church itself with many individual names featuring more than once. The following gives an idea of the relationship between the most prominent members of the family with a little background information for some of them. It is not intended to represent a comprehensive review of the family history or describe all aspects of its significant contribution to the local community.



Walter Perrott 1742 - 1820

Walter was a Gentleman of Pen-y-pentre who died on 24th August 1820 aged 78. He married his second wife Margaret Crumpton in 1776.

William Perrott 1768-1838

William married Elizabeth but sadly she died in 1820 aged only 44. Three of their children were Mary Elizabeth born in 1804, William born in 1806 and Rees born in 1808. The tithe allotment 132 indicates that in 1837 William was the owner and occupier of Penypentre but after his death the 1841 census shows the occupier to be George Griffiths later identified as a farm bailiff.

Mary Elizabeth Bevan 1804-1836

Mary Elizabeth Perrott married John Bevan moving away to the Tredegar Iron Works before she died aged only 32. Several of their children died at an early age.

William Perrott JP 1807 - 1869

In 1841 William was the occupant of Tynewydd Farm in Llangorse with his wife Rebecca nee Denston and two sons William, 5 years and Joseph Denston, 4 years. They had another three children William Denston who lived for only 6 weeks in 1834, Walter who lived two years and died in 1839 and Thomas Denston who lived for only 13 months and died in 1845. William and Rebecca were both very active members of the local community with William becoming a justice of the peace presiding over the Brecon Petty Sessions for many years. They occupied Tynewydd until their deaths and by 1871 the census shows that their unmarried son William has become the farmer head of household at Tynewydd.

Rees Perrott 1808 - 1842

Rees married Gladys Jones and they farmed Tymawr in Llangasty. They had 4 children before Rees' untimely death aged only 33. Gladys remarried David Davies moving away to Herefordshire but after her death in aged 78 in 1888 she was buried with her first husband. Their daughter Elizabeth also died early in 1854 aged 18 years.

William Perrott JP 1835-1906

William married Sarah Bridgewater in 1875 having at least one daughter, Mary, whilst they lived in Llangorse. They had moved back to Penypentre by 1891 and then into Arrah Lodge where William died in 1906. His widow Sarah continued to live in Arrah Lodge but with her daughter and son-in-law, Joseph and Mary Powell with one of their children, William Perrott Powell, keeping the family name alive. Sarah outlived her husband reaching 97 years before she died in 1935.

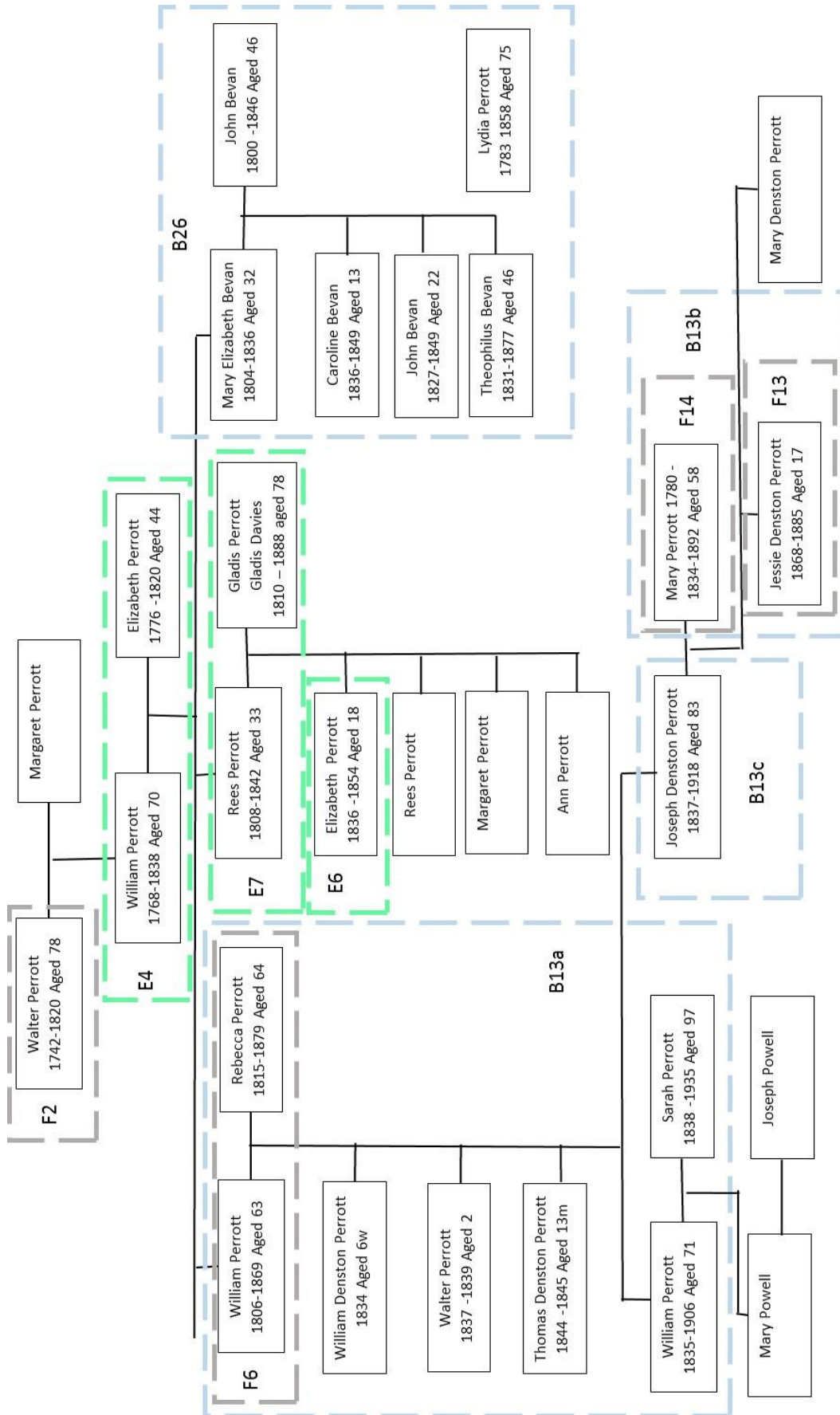
On November 4th 1906 the Evening Express Mail included the following report. 'The death occurred on Friday of Mr William Perrott, J. P., after a short illness, at his residence Penypentre, Llanfihangel, Taly-llyn. The deceased gentleman, who was one of the best-known agriculturalists in the country, had for a great many years been identified with the Breconshire Agricultural Society. He became a county magistrate in 1900 and was a member of the County Council for Llangorse from 1889 to 1904. He was a brother to Mr J D Perrott of Aberystwyth'.

Joseph Denton Perrott JP 1837-1918

Joseph became a Bank Accountant and married Mary Webb whilst the couple lived with his parents at Tynewydd. They moved away from the area and their daughter Jessie Elizabeth died in 1885. Mary died in 1892.

On the 4th October 1918 the Cambrian News and Merioneth Standard reported: 'The death took place at 6 Marine Terrace, Aberystwyth, of Mr J Denton Perrott, after a long period of invalidity. He had attained his eighty-third birthday the day before his death.... He entered the banking profession and was at one time manager of the National Bank at Conway. After having been at the Head Office in London he was appointed to succeed Mr David Jones as manager of the Aberystwyth branch. He retired about 5 years afterward and lived in retirement in Aberystwyth. For many years he held the responsible position of county treasurer and was a justice of the peace for the county and a prominent freemason. His wife predeceased him many years ago and he is survived by his daughter with whom sympathy is felt. The body was removed on Wednesday morning to Llanfihangel, Breconshire, for interment in the family burial ground'.

Memorials



Inscriptions

F2 Underneath lie the remains of Walter PERROTT of Pen-y-pentre in this parish, Gent., who died August the 13th 1820 aged 78 years. "Great God I won thy sentence just, And nature must decay, I yield my body to the dust, To dwell with fellow clay." [Tower-west wall]

F6 In memory of William PERROTT JP, of pen-y-pentre in this parish died October 18th 1869 aged 63 years. Also of his wife Rebecca PERROTT who died October 14th 1870 aged 64 years. [North wall]

F13 To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Jessie Elisabeth Denston Perrott youngest daughter of Joseph Denston and Mary Perrott who died suddenly of Diphtheria while in school at Anerly London on the second day of April AD 1885 in her 17th year. PERROTT died 9th March 1892. [Window Nave North 1 - see B13]

F14 To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Mary wife of Joseph Denston PERROTT died 9th March 1892. [Window Nave North 2 - see B13]

E4 Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth wife of William PERROTT of Pen-y-pentre in this parish, Gent., who died Janry 28th 1820 aged 44 years. Also in memory of the abovenamed William PERROTT. He died Decbr 5th 1838 aged 70 years. "Go home dear friends and shed no tears, Here we must lie till Christ appears; And when He comes we hope to have, A joyful rising from the grave." Phillips, Talgarth.

E6 Underneath lie the remains of Elizabeth daughter of Rees and Gladis PERROTT of the parish of Tal-y-llyn who died April the 23 1854 aged 18 years. "This tender plant nursed by parental care, Has been transported to a purer air, And blooms afresh beneath the Saviour's eye, No more to fade or languish or to die."

E7 Underneath lie the remains of Rees PERROTT of Tymawr in the parish of Llangasty Tal-y-llyn who died April 19th 1842 aged 33 years. "Farewell dear wife my life is past, My love to you so long did last; But as for me no sorrow take, but love my children for my sake." Also of Gladis DAVIES late Tymawr Tal-y-llyn who died May 18 1888 aged 78 years. "Thy will be done"

B13 Note – some of the individual inscriptions can be difficult to decipher.

B13a Sacred to the memory of William Denston PERROTT son of William PERROTT of the parish of Langors, Gent, and Rebecca his wife who died July 28th 1834 aged 6 weeks. Walter son of the above named died November 2nd 1839 aged 2 years. "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away: blessed be the name of the Lord" William PERROTT JP Penpentre

in this parish died October 18 1869 aged 63 years. And of his wife Rebecca PERROTT who died October 14 1879 aged 64 years. Thomas Denston PERROTT their son died April 10 1845 aged 13 months. Also William PERROTT JP son of the aforesaid who died at Arrah Lodge Nov 23 1906 aged 71 years. Also of Sarah his wife died April 24 1935 aged 97 years.

B13b In loving memory of Mary PERROTT wife of Joseph Denston PERROTT of Aberystwyth, bank manager. Born 25 August 1834, died 9th March 1892. In loving memory of Jessie Elizabeth Denston PERROTT youngest daughter of Joseph Denston and Mary PERROTT. Born 4th August 1868, died 2 April 1885.

B13c In loving memory of Joseph Denston PERROTT who entered into rest September 28th 1918. "Requiescat in pace"

B26 Underneath are deposited the remains of Elizabeth wife of John BEVAN of Tredegar Iron Works and daughter of William and Elizabeth PERROTT of Pen-y-pentre in this parish who departed this life the 26th day of August 1836 in the 32nd year of her life. "View every age the present and the past, To this the great the wisest come at last; None can protract one hour our fleeting breath, Nor save us from the icy gasps of death" Also the aforesaid John BEVAN died July 25 1846 aged 46 years. Also Caroline BEVAN his daughter died March 28 1849 aged 13 years. Also John BEVAN his son died July 11 1849 aged 22 years. Also of Theophilus BEVAN his son who died at The Grove, Caldicot, near Chepstow March 9(?) 1877 aged 46 years. Also in memory of Lydia PERROTT who died at Ash Vale, Tredegar Iron Works May 25 1858 aged 75 years.