



# TEMPLETON

A VILLAGE THROUGH TIME

BY

Dr. ROBERT DAVIES MBE

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This book is dedicated to Russell Morgan author of  
Jottings of Templeton and District - from 1610-1969  
and to Brian Owen

*Front cover photograph: The view from Mountain Crossroads  
Looking north towards the town of Narberth and the Preseli Hills.*

*Back cover photograph: Grove Manor, Molleston.*

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# Acknowledgements

Throughout this book I often say ‘we’, that is because I have used hundreds of articles and documents to create this local history. In reality I have simply collated all the information and told it in the form of a story. So using ‘we’ is the correct thing to do. There are many people to thank, most of them long gone who perhaps noted facts down never realising someone perhaps far into the future would find them and be able to tell a story from them, that is what I have attempted to do. In many ways all I have done is bring together the information that has been noted, recorded on maps, documents and by word of mouth over the history of ‘Templeton - A village through time’.

The first person I must thank is Brian Owen who has accumulated a vast knowledge of Templeton and its community both past and present. He has collected a wonderful library of old postcards and photographs of Templeton and has freely allowed me to use them. Without Brian and his wife Jean’s enthusiasm and many chats and cups of tea this book would not have been possible. I must also thank his brother Leslie Owen.

I must also thank Michael Morgan for allowing me to quote directly from his late father Russell Morgan’s book ‘Jottings of Templeton’ written in 1969 to whom this book is dedicated.

Thanks must also go to Dinnella Shelton who has meticulously corrected many of my typo and grammatical errors, any that remain are my responsibility. Thank you also to Finley Harrison for continually sorting out many of my computer problems.

I would like to thank the community of Templeton who have provided photographs and information, in particular Sue Lloyd and Basil Foraud for their knowledge of the airfield; to Mrs Mair Davies, Huw Davies and Tegwen Burns (nee Davies) for information about ‘Templeton Farm’ and the village. Mrs Joan Belt, Mr & Mrs Robert Burns, Mr & Mrs Steve Wilkes, Mr & Mrs Mike Riby and Mr & Mrs Phillips.

Local History books like this would not be possible without the resources of the Pembrokeshire Records Office, National Library of Wales and the National Archives, Kew; The Ordnance Survey, Southampton, The Captain Cook Society of New Zealand, Ancestry UK and the many excellent articles in Pembrokeshire Life and in particular Keith Johnson. I would especially like to acknowledge West Wales War Memorial Project for allowing me to use the War Memorial Information and Jon Hudson for granting me permission to quote from his thesis ‘The history and landscape of Narberth Forest’.

Robert Llewellyn Davies

December 2020

# Introduction

Several years ago, I was told that Dr Robert Davies was going to write a book about the history of Templeton and Narberth South. “Never, that would be amazing”, I had read his books about Lawrenny and Landshipping and what an excellent job he had made of them. This was Templeton’s lucky day.

Local lad Russell Morgan had written a ‘Jottings’ about the village in 1969 and had done an excellent job as all of his information had come from personal contacts and reference reading. Today we have all manner of technical help to provide us with information that was impossible to comprehend years ago. But we need someone with the technical ability to access all the records available. Dr. Robert Davies was that man, with both the ability and interest to see it through.

There are only three copies of the Parish Tithe Map in existence, all of which are in very poor condition due to age and with large areas missing. Dr. Rob was able to layer the maps together into one image and fill in on the missing areas, and he was able to name and number all of the fields in the parish. This will be of amazing help to future generations in establishing locations.

Now after many years of frustrating work and dedication, miles of walking, countless soakings, and endless interviews the end may finally be in sight.

As a Templeton boy myself, born and bred, my father and all his 13 siblings were born at Templeton Farm, and my great grandmother at the Barn Farm, with even earlier ancestors in Mabes Mill, Chapel Hill and Black Heath out on the old airfield.

Dr. Rob on behalf of our village, a very big thank you for providing such a wonderful book, I am sure it will be a great asset to future generations

Brian Owen

October 2020

## Author’s Note

This book is written for the community of Templeton and the hamlets of Mounton, Mollleston, Cold Blow, Wood Cross, Allensbank and Peter’s Finger. Back in 1969 Russell Morgan wrote a booklet entitled ‘Jottings of Templeton and District - from 1610-1969’. It was a delightful booklet that is long out of print. In writing this book I have attempted to build on Russell Morgan’s original publication and add further information that is so much easier to access today than it was 50 or more years ago. Throughout the book reference is made to Ordnance Survey Maps (OS), the sheets used have been 1st & 2nd Edition 6 inch to the mile Pembrokeshire XXIX.SW and XXIX.SE sheets.

Templeton has a long and interesting history extending from the Bronze Age through the Middle Ages to the early part of the twenty first century and beyond...



# TEMPLETON - PEMBROKESHIRE



*Templeton map, based on the Ordnance Survey.  
Reproduced from the 1995 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map  
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# 1

## Templeton

**T**empleton is often ignored by the tourists heading south to the beaches of Saundersfoot and Tenby yet it is probably one of the most interesting villages in the county with a long history.

The village of Templeton<sup>1</sup> is in the civil parish of Narberth South and encompasses the hamlets of Cold Blow, Allensbank, Woods Cross, Peters Finger, Molleston and Mounton. The parish occupies some 3,116 acres and the hamlet of Mounton adds a further 339 acres. It developed from part of Narberth in 1863.



*Templeton Farm built in the 1600s and cottages of the late 1700s*

In 1833 Narberth was described<sup>2</sup> “as a newly created borough, market town, and parish, comprising the North and South divisions, each of which separately maintains its own poor, in the hundred of Narberth”. At that time the population of South Narberth was 737.



Templeton, the Welsh name being “Tredemel” has on its East and West side, a small brook, one which commences on the west side from Margaret’s Well and joined by the strong moat spring above the ancient mound at Sentence Castle, that at one time wound its way (now piped) under the village green, the road bridge, and finally under the railway line towards the ‘Old Mills’.



*An extract from the 1820 Map of South Narberth, showing Templeton Village, Main Street. The survey undertaken by Dyfed Archaeological Trust in 2010 is outlined in red. (Courtesy of Dyfed Archaeological Trust)*

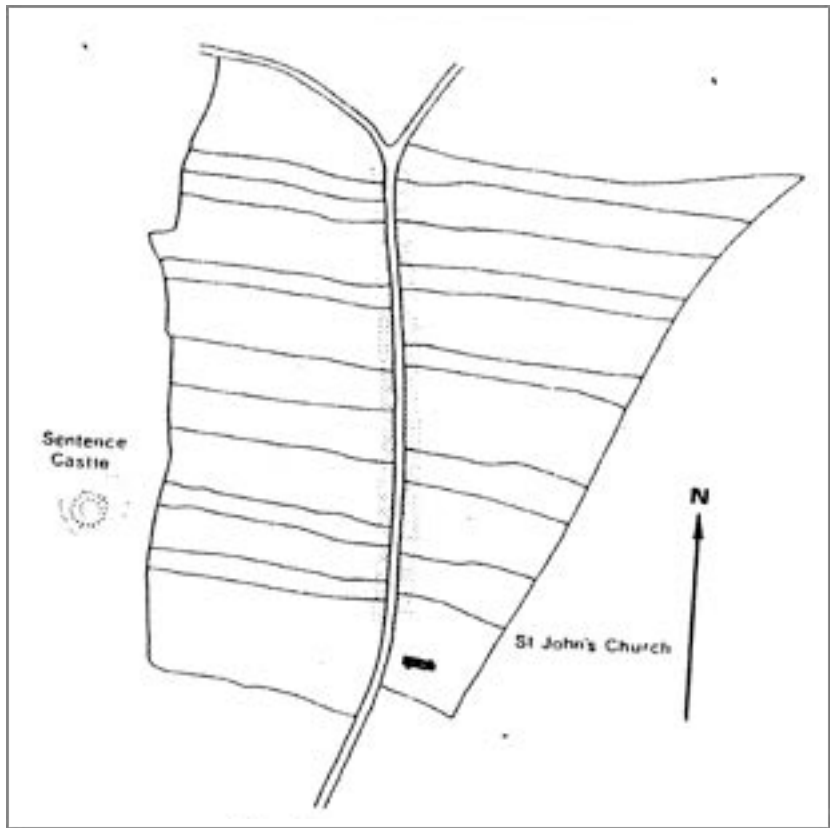
On the Eastern side, the brook commences in 'Merryvale' field bog and Fords Lake woods and runs along the Eastern side of the village, joining the western stream near the Old Mills.

Until the early part of the 20th century there was one main street that ran directly through the village. On each side of the main street through Templeton are examples of early 17th century to mid 19th century buildings. There was to be a change in house building from the mid 19th century that has continued through to the first decade of the 21st century. The village saw significant numbers of housing developments from the 1970s onwards.

The surrounding scenery has been described as "richly varied and beautifully picturesque"<sup>3</sup>. The southern portion of the parish, in the 1800s and through to the mid 1900s produced an abundance of excellent limestone. Great quantities were burnt for the supply of the surrounding neighbourhood for fertilising the land and a considerable portion was quarried for building, some of which was fine polished, to manufacture mantel-pieces.

Mention is often made of Narberth Mountain, Templeton Mountain and Narberth Forest, but where were they? What needs to be appreciated is that the description such as 'forest' when first used had a different meaning to that of today. The word forest used to refer to "an area of rough land on which the King or some other magnate had the right to keep deer". Today the word forest is generally used to refer to areas where trees dominate. Given the common perception that the words "wood" and "forest" have the same meaning and are interchangeable, it is worth noting that a forest, whether royal or private was not necessarily wooded. Most forests did have some woodland but they usually contained a variety of other lands. It is important to make a distinction between the physical and the legal forest. The physical forest was a defined area of uncultivated land that could comprise woodland, wood pasture, wastes and commons, heaths and wetlands, such as found on Narberth and Templeton Mountains. What defined a forest was the fact that it was an area of land where particular rights were reserved for the monarch or other owner

and that its primary purpose was to serve as an area of land set aside for hunting. Templeton was often described as the hunting grounds of the Knights Templar who we know had a settlement here. In the 1600s Narberth Mountain was stocked with red deer. The Knights Hospitallers who had their Commandery at Slebech would also have hunted through the Canaston forest and surrounding areas.



*Layout of burgages in Templeton*

The numerous prehistoric settlements, field systems, burial sites and trackways scattered throughout the county clearly show that this part of Wales has been inhabited and settled from an early date. Evidence of human activity spanning the Neolithic (4500 - 2000 BC) to Roman periods (48 AD to 383 AD) has been

found in the area that was later to become Narberth Forest, indicating that this was not, even at this early stage, continuous woodland. There is a Neolithic site on Templeton Airfield where 'North Hill Farm'<sup>4</sup> once stood, it was discovered in 1921 where Bronze Age items were found. When quarrying a large mound of stone revealed two stone cists<sup>5</sup> and three vessels, and another urn<sup>6</sup> containing a cremation. The burial mound or cairn was of Bronze Age date. Prehistoric settlement sites of probable Iron Age dates are present at Molleston Back Camp, Camp Hill and Narberth Mountain enclosures. Throughout these periods people practised small-scale farming, growing crops such as wheat, rye, oats and barley as well as keeping oxen, sheep, pigs and goats. They also made pottery items and wove cloth, carrying out these practices alongside a hunting and gathering lifestyle.

The foundation of Narberth Mountain could possibly lie in the 10th or 11th centuries<sup>7</sup>, with the ancient Welsh Kings of Dyfed and it is possible that when the Anglo-Normans came to Pembrokeshire, they simply took over and adapted a pre-existing native Welsh forest. Alternatively it may have been established after the Anglo-Norman settlement of Pembrokeshire, by King Henry I (1100-35) who is known to have created numerous forests. Around 100 years after the Normans first arrived here, Gerald of Wales passed through Narberth with the Archbishop of Canterbury, in the year 1188 they came to raise troops for the Crusades and along the way Gerald kept an itinerary of their travels. The Slebech Commandery was one such 'recruiting centre' and had land throughout Templeton.

The village of Templeton is likely to have been founded in the early 12th Century, not long after the Anglo-Normans had arrived. It takes its name from the Knights Templar, a Catholic military order<sup>8</sup>, although not documented in this early period. The village lies on a south facing slope, above a river valley. The village was probably founded to create a buffer zone between the Norman seized lands to the west and the Welsh retained lands to the east. In 1531, the Crown seized much of the land in and around Narberth and Templeton. The

land remained in the Crown's hand for over seventy years and during this period two surveys were carried out. The first in 1532 and the second in 1609 which indicated that the village consisted of 20 Burgage plots.

Owing to the topographical nature of the siting of the village, platforms have been cut into the slope to create level sites for houses either side of the north-south running road. The medieval houses were built adjacent to the road frontage with long plots at right angles to the streets behind them.

Evidence suggests that the population of the village declined in the latter Middle Ages resulting in vacant plots. Modern 20th century development and rebuilding around Templeton village has resulted in the loss of the open frontage.

The Templar buildings lay in the area of what is today St. John's church at the southern end of the village, any remains of their foundation have long since disappeared, and the Order ceased functioning by 1312<sup>9</sup>. The origins of settlement here are vague and there is no record of any charter, although the tenements were regularly regarded as Burgages. The presence of a Templar priory would no doubt have attracted new tenants who could derive comfort from its existence. On the opposite side of the road to St. John's Church, is a mound known as Sentence Castle. We do not know who built it, but this was probably the 'castle that was near Arberth' burnt by Gruffudd ap Rhys in 1116<sup>10</sup> and again attacked by the Welsh in 1215 and 1220<sup>11</sup>. The garrison appears then to have been withdrawn and military attention focussed on the new castle at Narberth, but a small civil population remained at Templeton. The 'villa Templariorum' is mentioned in 1283<sup>12</sup> and in the same year there were 'burgesses of the wind' (de vento') each paying the statutory annual rent of 12d., and total rents of assize amounted to £7 9s. 4d.<sup>13</sup>

### **Narberth Forest**

Narberth Forest has played such an important role in the development of Templeton, that a short<sup>14</sup> history of the landscape of Narberth Forest seems



appropriate. Historically the forest covered a large area of land to the south and west of Narberth, including the modern Canaston Wood and Narberth Mountain, the old parishes of Newton North and Moun-ton, Templeton Common (now Templeton Airfield) as well as lands around Robeston Wathen and Canaston. The parishes of Newton North and Moun-ton were both small; 721 and 330 acres respectively. Both may have been early forest converted into arable land, possibly in the 13th century. First recorded in the early 12th century, Narberth Forest was under royal control and some of its timber was granted to potential settlers of Pembroke with which to make their dwellings.

Throughout medieval times this forest was probably not continuous woodland but an area of land consisting of woods, wood pasture, heathland and farmland. It was however, more heavily wooded in the past than it is today. The only wood that survived is “West Wood”, what we now know as Canaston Wood.

Farm animals were grazed within the forest with rights to feed cattle, pigs and other animals and for the collection of honey. This would have been very important to the population of Templeton at that time. Deer were present in the forest throughout the medieval period and up until the 1600's.

In 1634 it was decreed that the tenants of Narberth, Templeton, Mollleston, Robeston and Canaston, all anciently part of Narberth Forest “*should enjoy common of pasture.... in the wood called East Wood....*” probably where ‘Eastwood’ house is located today. West Wood, the modern Canaston Wood was to have no forester and was to “*remain unto...John Barlow*”. At this point all customary rights in West Wood were extinguished and it effectively became private property.

It was at this time changes were to occur that were to have a devastating effects on the Templeton community. The Slebech estate which included Narberth Forest was purchased from the Barlows of Slebech in 1786 by William Knox, more about them later! That same year, the last surviving fragments of the ancient Forest, Narberth Mountain and the commons of

Templeton, Robeston Wathen and Molleston, were divided and enclosed. Richard Fenton wrote in his “Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire” at the beginning of the 19th century and based on his travels during the 1790’s, described the area. “In my memory an open dreary common, here and there showing patches of stunted oaks, the grim remains of a once very flourishing forest; for even as late as the 1600s (James 1st) it was... stocked with Red Deer and contained 873 acres of woodland.” The woodland was thought to have been grown for the Navy and comprised of 3,071 trees valued at £1 each: 11,025 firewood trees at 10 shillings each (50p) and 21,000 sapling oaks.

It is believed ‘Wood Office’ in the hamlet of Cold Blow derived its name from this woodland. Fenton went on to describe the scene as it was after enclosure. “This immense tract of land so lately remembered as a cheerless waste, is now....in a state of high cultivation and judiciously parcelled out into several large farms interspersed with small portions of copse wood”. In 1794 the agricultural improver, Charles Hassel described the process by which the newly enclosed lands were occupied and improved. The new parcels of land were attached to existing farms or else new farms were built. The tenants were to be bound “to improve, by proper manuring, a judicious succession of crops”. He described this process as it was happening on Narberth Mountain as “tolerable”. The enclosure of the mountain effectively extinguished the last traces of forest customs and with its passing, an ancient landscape and way of life was lost. Today, little remains of the once great forest.

The forest most probably extended eastwards beyond Narberth Castle and a map, dated to the 18th century, shows part of the forest after its enclosure confirms that the areas today known as Narberth Mountain and Bryn Hill were indeed part of the forest. The forest was about 3.7 miles long. In his travels Richard Fenton in the late 18th century had noted that Templeton and Molleston Commons were part of Narberth Forest. At that time the forest extended as far south as Templeton Mountain and assuming that the Gloyn brook formed its northern boundary, the forest would have been, at its widest,

approximately 2 miles. This put the area of around 4160 acres. When the forest was enclosed in 1786, the wastes and commons included in the Enclosure award amounted to 2450 acres made up of Narberth Forest and Mountain 1200 acres, Templeton Mountain 700 acres, Molleston Mountain 500 acres and a large parcel of waste ground called Robeston Grove 50 acres.

Oliver Cromwell in his drive southward, came to Templeton, and it is assumed, stayed there to reorganise his men to make further attacks on Carew and Pembroke forts. Some of his men were posted at 'Jackshill', and others at Narberth Mountain. It is thought that the field adjoining Sentence Camp, now named as "Castles" circa 1648, shown on the Tithe Apportionment and Map as Field Number 477 had in it several small castles. A mound and a moat from Cromwells time can be seen in a field opposite 'Rowland's Park'.

Roger Barlow was a former tenant of the order of St. John at Slebech who, with his brother Thomas, purchased in 1546 the Slebech lands when the order was suppressed. By 1553 he was sole owner of Slebech and began expanding his estate. The lordship and Forest of Narberth was purchased by George Barlow in the early part of the 17th century. In the later 18th century the forest owners were William Knox who finally enclosed the forest and later in 1792, Nathaniel Phillips. The newly parcelled lands passed through numerous owners, becoming part of the modern day agricultural landscape of Templeton and the surrounding area.

### **Knights Hospitallers and Templar History**

To understand the history of Templeton there is need to briefly look at both the Knights Templar and the Knights Hospitallers and how and why they came about.

Devout Christians had awaited with concern the coming of the thousandth anniversary of the Crucifixion of Christ, expecting some great event to occur. They had no idea whether this would be for good or ill, but when this period has passed without any happenings, a great religious enthusiasm rolled over

Europe. The population felt it necessary for them to do something that would involve considerable difficulty, to show how sincere was their faith. At this time pilgrims both men and women of all classes began to flow towards the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem in great numbers.

Between the years 1014 and 1023 some Christian merchants had founded St. John's Church and hospital at Jerusalem for the reception of the small number of pilgrims visiting the Holy Land. The reputation of the hospital came from all quarters of Europe. This was to be the beginning of the mighty order of St John of Jerusalem. In 1093, a pilgrim, Peter the hermit, returned to Europe with news of the barbaric ways which Christian pilgrims visiting Jerusalem were being treated by the infidel rulers or unbeliever. This resulted in the Crusades. The Knights of St. John were known as the White Cross Knights from the colour of the cross they wore on their cloaks and carried on their banners, that of the Templars being red. In the early days of their existence, they were called simply Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem. When they added military duties to those of the hospital, the title changed to that of Knights Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem. The Knights Hospitallers were completely separate from the Knights Templar who had settled in Templeton.

It should be borne in mind that life in the Middle Ages was very hard, the inability of medicine to deal with common illnesses and injuries meant death was a brutal part of most people's everyday experience. The Roman Catholic Church sent a clear message of what Hell looked like and that it could be avoided by being a good Christian and going on pilgrimage. Graphic images of people being captured, tortured and eaten by monsters and demons, were illustrated in stained glass windows and described by the priests.

The wealth of the Hospitallers was rapid, men and women of all classes would give money and land to the church and in Pembrokeshire to the Slebech Commandery. These gifts were made from around 1140 to 1230. In the 10th and 11th centuries the inhabitants of Pembrokeshire were ready to accept a régime of almost hopeless lawlessness. What then, was the state of

Pembrokeshire in the 14th century? And what was the position of the Hospitallers in their Commandery at Slebech? Fortunately, a schedule<sup>15</sup> of the properties attached to the Slebech Commandery of the Knights Hospitallers for 1338 still exists and provides us with valuable information. The Commandery had accumulated over 25,000 acres of land, including land and properties throughout Templeton. Now you can see the Templeton connection!

The Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII between 1536 and 1541 disbanded monasteries, priories, convents and friaries, in England, Wales and Ireland and included the wealthy Slebech Commandery. On the 4 June 1546 the Crown sold the Slebech Commandery and all its land amounting to over 25,000 acres to two brothers, Roger and Thomas Barlow already mentioned. This resulted in the Barlow's owning considerable lands in the Templeton area and a dynasty that was to last for 200 years until 1773.



## 2

# Maps and the Landscape

**M**aps, plans and documents are a good way of untangling Templeton's long and interesting history. The Templeton story must start by looking at the landowners, which will be covered in detail in the next chapter. But, from the 16th century through to the 19th century, there were a handful of landed gentry owning vast estates throughout Pembrokeshire such as the Slebech Estate and Picton Castle Estate who held property in Templeton. Their estate maps and documents provide a detailed understanding of the local landscape. Estate maps were literally just about the estate and although valuable it was the nation wide Tithe Survey in the middle of the 19th century that would show where people were living and who their neighbours were.

The Tithe Survey was to provide valuable information on crop acreages, field names, house occupancy, rights of way and parish boundaries. Tithes were originally a tax which required one tenth of all agricultural produce to be paid annually to support the local church and clergy. After the Reformation in the 16th century much land passed from the Church to lay owners who inherited entitlement to receive tithes, along with the land. This happened in Templeton, we could see who were the landowners and who were their tenants. The survey for Narberth was undertaken in 1843 which included Templeton and its hamlets with the exception of Mounton which was in its own right an ancient Chapelry and as such had its own Tithe Survey. A chapel of ease or chapelry



*This map was drawn by George Owen in 1602 of Pembrokeshire it identifies towns, larger villages, roads and rivers with diagrammatic representation of hills, mountains and woodlands. The lower map is a section of the above showing Templeton and The Grove with Ford's Lake leading down to the sea at Wiseman's Bridge. Courtesy of the National Library of Wales.*

was often built in larger parishes such as Narberth, to allow parishioners to attend worship at a church that was not too far from their homes.

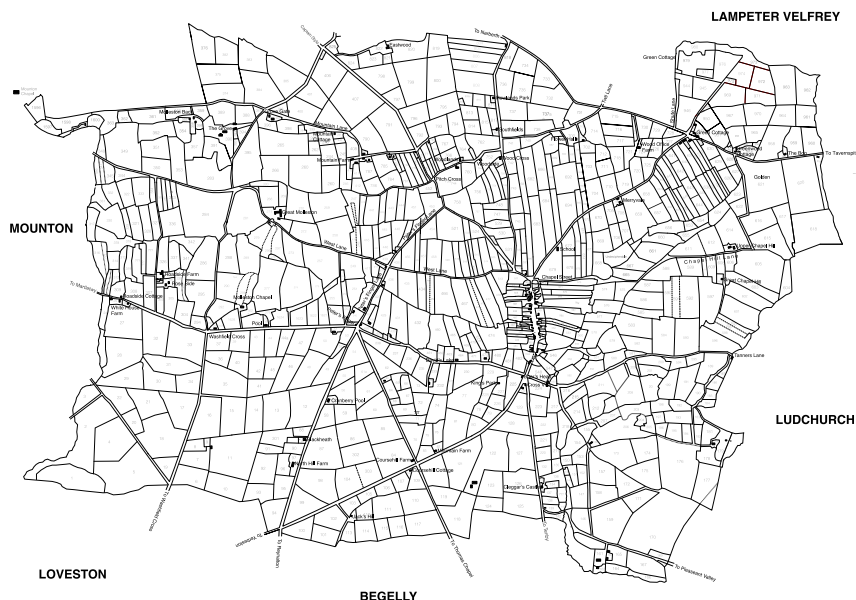
Only three known copies of the Narberth Tithe map exist, held in the National Archives, Pembrokeshire Records Office and National Library of Wales. All three maps show signs of damage making it necessary to re-create from the three maps a useable map of Narberth South.



*A re-drawn Tithe Map of the Chapelry of Mounton. The original Tithe Map would only have had the Field Numbers. The Field Names would have been in the accompanying Apportionment Document but are shown here. RLD 2020*

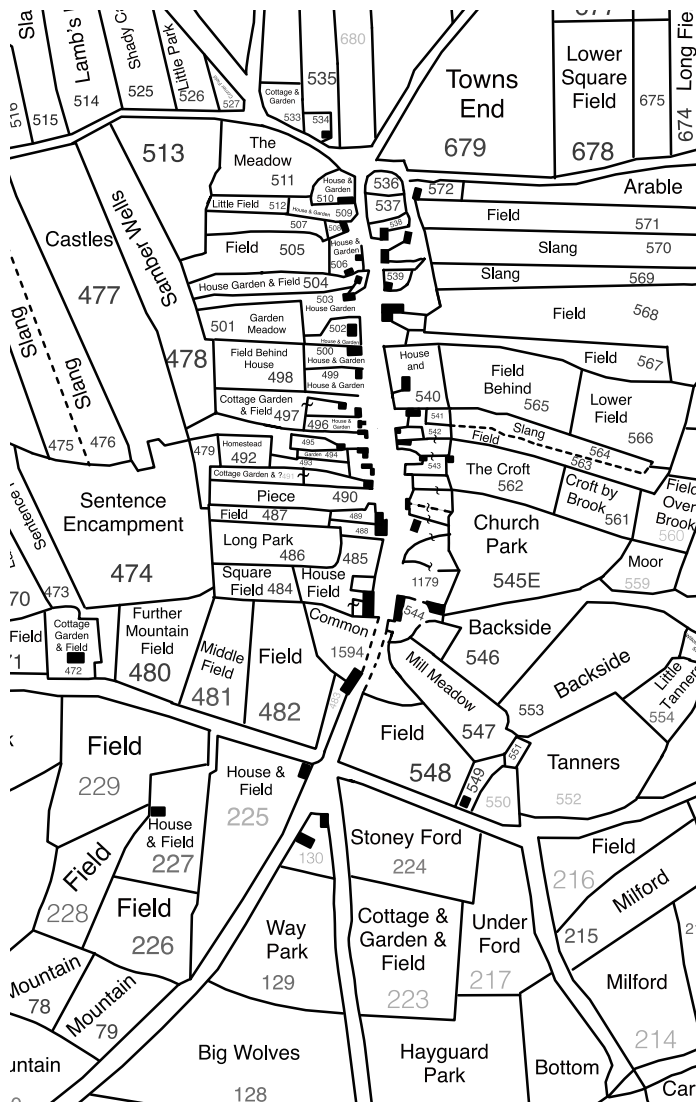
The census is basically a head count of everyone in the country on a given day. Since 1801 a census has been taken every ten years, with the exception of 1941.

The object of the census was to provide information about the population as a whole; listing everyone by name, wherever they happened to be on a single night.



*This section of the original Tithe map of 1843 shows the location of properties, buildings roads and tracks in the Parish of Narberth South. The names have where possible been added to help with orientation. The adjacent parishes are also shown. North of the boundary is Narberth North. Drawn by R. L. Davies 2019.*

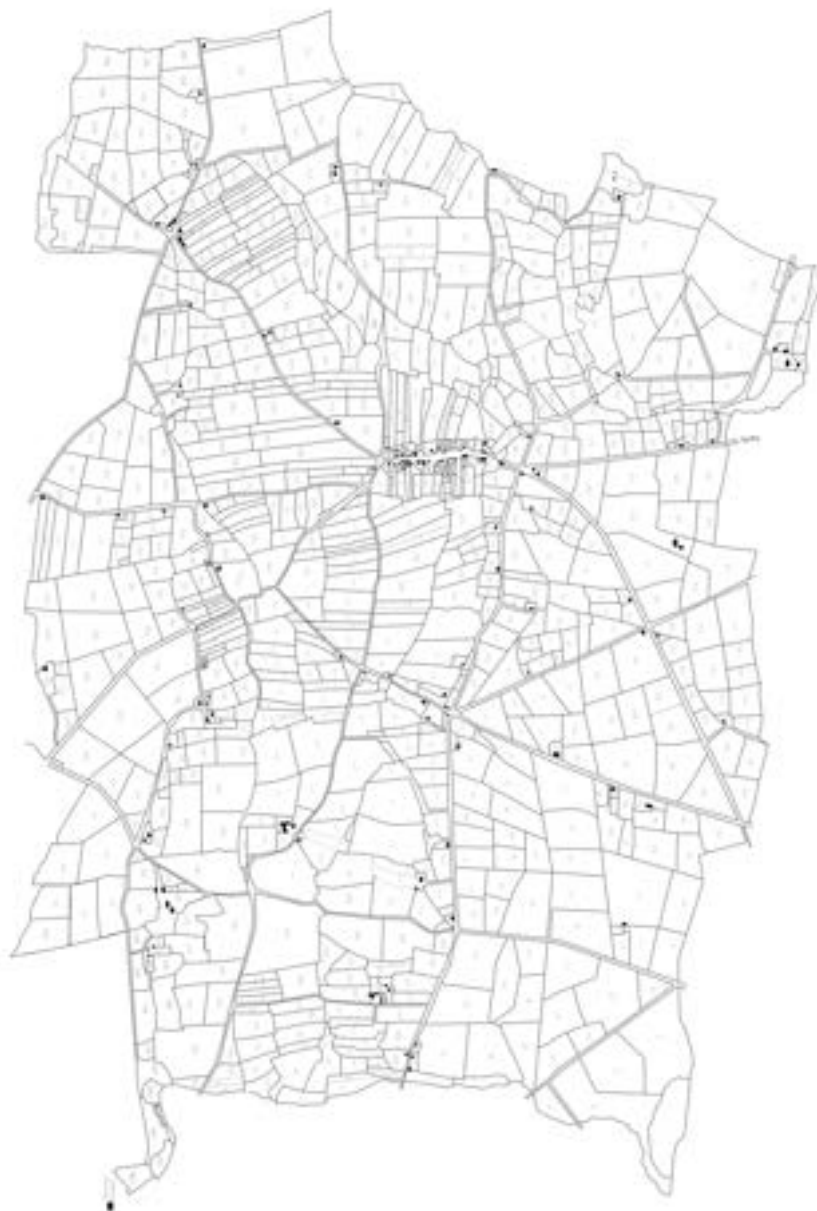
In every census year an enumerator delivered a form to each household in the country for them to complete. The heads of household were instructed to give details of everyone who slept in that dwelling on census night, which was always a Sunday. The forms completed by each household, known as schedules, were collected a few days later by the enumerator. From 1841 to 1901 the information from the schedules was then copied into enumeration books. The 1841 census was the first to list the names of every individual, which makes it the earliest useful census for local and family historians. However, less information was collected in 1841 than in later census years.



*The village of Templeton drawn from the Tithe Map of 1843. The properties are shown along the central main street. Many of the properties were farms, with their fields scattered throughout the parish. The numbers refer to the 'Field Number' that were designated to each field shown on the Tithe. Some of the 'Field Names' date back to the 1500s and perhaps even earlier. The field name 'Slang' is often seen on the tithe map is a local South Pembrokeshire name used to describe "a narrow piece of land running up between other and larger divisions of ground". Drawn by R. L. Davies 2019.*



The Tithe surveys maps are often the earliest large-scale mapping of towns and villages, before published Ordnance Survey maps were available.



*Copy of the Tithe Map of Narberth South, the original map was created in 1843 by Harry Phelps Goode, Haverfordwest, valuer and surveyor. The original Tithe maps have been damaged making it necessary to re-draw the map.  
Drawn by Robert L. Davies in 2019.*

### 3

## The Landowners

Land ownership was largely taken for granted and was mainly in the hands of the 'landed gentry' of the county. No serious threat to the long and established custom of the gentry in county society was noticed for centuries. It was only gradually from the third decade of the nineteenth century that the gentry as a class came in for criticism from radical thinkers. The foundation of this political and social prominence of the gentry was the possession of land and differences in the size of estates determined a hierarchy of importance in the ranks of the gentry families. Those individuals who made their fortunes in trade realised that to enter the "society" of their day they needed to purchase, or gain through marriage, a landed estate. This was very much the case in Templeton as will be seen. Many of the Pembrokeshire gentry families in this period were of long-standing such as the Philipps of Picton; Owen of Orierton; Wogan of Wiston, Boulston and Llanstinan; Barlow of Slebech; Laugharne of St. Bride's; Stepney of Prendergast; Scourfield of Moat; Allen of Cresselly and others. A few like Knox, Phillips and de Rutzen successively of Slebech, were established in the early years of the 19th century. Throughout the 16th to 19th centuries, as for Britain as a whole, there was no great redistribution of land in Pembrokeshire. The tendency in these years was towards the consolidation of large estates at the expense of smaller ones. In Pembrokeshire though, there is no mistaking the growth of large estates like Picton and Slebech and a consequent parallel

decline in certain smaller ones. In Templeton the fields themselves still show the narrow strips of the more recent enclosures from a medieval "open fields" system. This is thought to have been carried out by the Mortimers, the Lords of Narberth, to whom ownership of the village passed from the Templars in 1282. When the Lordship was divided into the "Welshry" and the "Englishry" Templeton was placed in the Englishry with Narberth and Robeston Wathen and after the act of Union in 1536, came under the County of Pembroke in the Hundred of Narberth, although the Lordship remained. From the time of the Norman conquest until well into the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the manorial system provided a framework for the lives of much of the rural population of Wales. A recognisable manorial system certainly existed in Pembrokeshire that generated a valuable record and insight of those who lived on particular manors and tells us much about their everyday lives. The land held by the lord himself is known as demesne land, the manor house a capital messuage. For South Narberth the manors were predominantly Picton Castle and Slebech Hall and from the mid 1500s Grove, with a number of smaller manors and estates holding land and properties in Narberth. The influence of the 'Lord of the Manor' or the 'Landed Gentry' was considerable and there are many examples throughout the county of Pembrokeshire of good and kind 'Lordship's' and several not so good! To put this into context the gentry were the people who were knights, squires, gentlemen and gentlewoman whose fortunes were so great that they did not have to work with their hands for a living. Their numbers grew rapidly, and became the most important class during Elizabethan time. They could start as a knight and through generations and marriages they could gradually build a wealth and title. Most of the important people of this time came from this class. There are a number of good examples of this relating particularly to 'Grove', the family of Poyer marrying into the Callens and then Lewis of Henllan.



*Copy of the 1843 Tithe Map - includes the Field Numbers together with their Field Names as listed in the Tithe Apporportionment Schedule.  
Drawn by Robert L. Davies 2019.*

The Yeomanry were the 'middleclass' of the day. They could live comfortably with the little savings they built up, but at any moment, be it illness or famine, lose everything. While the gentry spent their wealth building large homes, the yeomen used their wealth more simply and instead worked to expand their land and improve it. In Templeton there are many examples of where the lord of the manor would want to raise money and negotiate mortgages for the sale of land to yeoman of the parish. Such as on the 29th September 1686 when John Gibb of Templeton a Yeoman and his wife Jane negotiated "a piece of land in the field called Upper Davids Lake or Castles, a piece upon Pitch, a piece in a close called Molleston Croft and four pieces, all being in the 'townred' and fields of Templeton". The negotiation was between John Gibb and Daniel Poyer of Grove a tanner.

At the bottom were the Poor who for some reason or another found themselves without money, food, or shelter. Because their numbers were increasing, the Poor Laws were passed to assist them. So, what does this have to do with Templeton? Well all the classes just mentioned could be found in Templeton, particularly the yeoman farmer and the poor.

The Slebech Estate had evolved since the early 1100s. and was one of the most important Commandery's of the Knights of the Order of St. John comprising of over 25,000 acres which was sold following the Dissolution of Monasteries in 1546. Two brothers had purchased the whole estate from the Crown, they were Thomas and Roger Barlow, who's family would own the estate for the next 200 hundred years until 1773.

In 1601, George Barlow of Slebech bought part of the Narberth Lordship which included Templeton. They stocked the 873 acres of Narberth Mountain woodland with red deer. Records show that the open fields of Templeton were enclosed mainly for pasture land. This enclosure was not well received by the yeomen and poor of the parish and we know from letters written in 1633 and onwards that this was to create much hardship for the community. In a letter of the 19th July 1787 from Thomas Davies of Haverfordwest, to Mrs Callen of



*Holy Island part of the Slebech Commandery on the upper reaches of the Eastern Cleddau looking north towards Blackpool Mill. Photograph RLD 2019.*

Merrixton<sup>16</sup>, regarding the enclosures of the mountains of Narberth, Templeton, Molleston, and Rose Side. Mrs Callen is asked if she could persuade Isaac Callen a yeoman of Monkton parish, Pembroke, to describe how he remembered “*Rose Side and Templeton mountains as tillage lands belonging to the inhabitants of Rose Side and Templeton ever since he was a*

*little boy, nearly 80 years since*". He went on to say that about 80 years previously Sir George Barlow had his residence at Molleston and that Mr Knox had no right to make any enclosures on these mountains. The letter was dated the 19th July 1778.

*"Oh! my heart does still ach for the oppression that people have suffer'd by the tyranny of an Irish wolf who have not the look-out man nor had he the least sight for such tyrannical barbarous proceedings to set upon needy people at a time when they were brought to the lowest ebb of poverty by unseasonable cold and dry seasons both winters and summers was an extreme. And the hard hearted wretch obliged "em to put away all their sheep from these mountains". As a result many people about 80 have fallen ill so they cannot labour to support themselves. There are about 50 sick in Templeton village having been overcome by grief and some of them have died as a result."*<sup>17</sup>

Such were the problems faced by both land owner and the community.

Gradually the gentry lost their power over the community and a fairer system prevailed. This meant that instead of there being just a handful of landowners in Templeton there was to be a larger number of small landowners, owning their own farms and homesteads.

The Barlows of Slebech were the original large landowners of Templeton and its hamlets. We already have seen how after the Dissolution of Monasteries the Slebech Estate in 1546 became the seat of the Barlows for the next 200 years. It was in 1773 Anne Barlow was to marry her second husband John Symmons of Llanstinan and this marriage was to be the end of Barlow seat. The estate was now, through marriage in the ownership of John Symmons of Llanstinan. The first thing Symmons did was to demolish the St. John Commandery building and built in 1776 the hall we see today. Unfortunately within just 10 years of Symmons ownership of Slebech he was in serious financial difficulties and had to sell the estate to William Knox of Soho, London. This is really where the more recent story of Templeton begins.

## **Knox of Slebech**

The new owner of the estate was Colonel William Knox of Scottish-Irish descent and a relative of the Presbyterian reformer John Knox. William Knox's arrival in Pembrokeshire in 1783 must have been preceded by considerable speculation and gossip. Here was a new squire coming to take over the recently built Georgian Mansion of Slebech and its rolling acres of oak and beech-studded parkland. The new owner was an eminent civil servant retiring from a distinguished Government service in America where he had been Provost Marshall of the State of Georgia and Secretary of State for the Colonies and Under Secretary for America for the British Government between 1770 and 1782. He was an extremely wealthy newcomer to Pembrokeshire who had just paid for his two new properties £90,854 equivalent to around £50 million. He had largely made his fortune from his Savannah plantations, in Georgia where he acquired over 3000 acres of land for growing rice crops. He had a large black slave workforce and failed to treat them as well as he should have done. He worked closely with the neighbouring American Indian tribes and drew up a 'Treaty of Friendship' with the Creek Indian Chiefs and British Government in 1757. Following an encounter in 1761 when he was struck by lightning whilst on his plantation his Calvinistic persuasion saw it as a sign from God and soon after that incident he returned to Britain.

He initially purchased the Llanstinan estate and now regarded himself as a 'Welchman' and wanted to develop deeper roots in his adopted county. It was at this time that "a capital mansion house at Slebech, on the northern extremity of Milford Haven" became available and by 1785 he had purchased the estate. Whatever the speculation about the new squire<sup>18</sup>, however, none of it could have prepared the Pembrokeshire people for his eventful, if comparatively short stay in the county. Although he lived in the area for little more than 15 years, his stay was a constant source of drama, intrigue, scandal, innovation and controversy. It was an eventful period in any case, what with the somewhat



unnerving events in France and America, the abortive invasion at Fishguard in 1797, and the swiftly-flowing tide of agricultural and industrial development. But Knox was the kind of man who made things more eventful. He was very much an innovator and one of his ideas, which probably did nothing to endear him to such progressive farmers as Lord Kensington and Lord Milford, who should have thought of it themselves, was the founding in 1784 of the Society for the Encouragement of Agriculture, Manufactures and Industry. When he purchased his Pembrokeshire estates Knox engaged as his Steward the best-known and most respected local land agent, Charles Hassall of 'Eastwood', Templeton, who was an agricultural expert and it is quite likely the Society was in fact Hassall's brainchild and not Knox's at all. The formation of a society on similar lines to the few already established elsewhere in the country might be just the kind of idea that would be floated by an ambitious land agent seeking to help his employer to establish himself as a progressive country squire. The fact that Hassall was to renew interest in the society after Knox had left the scene, lends acceptance to this belief.

The Society was not the only one of Knox's innovations. He was very much an ideas man and, when he left Pembrokeshire, he left much of value behind him. He introduced the first Post Office and market at Fishguard, and was influential in establishing the Packet Service between Milford and Waterford, the fore-runner of the Fishguard-Ireland ferry service.

Another of Knox's innovations when war came with France in 1793, was the raising at his own expense, of a regiment of Fencible Infantry (British Army regiment), only the second of its kind in the Kingdom. He appointed his son, Thomas, in charge of the regiment at the young age of 24, and he was quickly promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. History shows how unfitted the younger Knox was for this position when it came to a crisis like the French invasion of 1797. It was the recriminations that followed that Fishguard fiasco when the younger Knox was accused of cowardice in the face of the enemy, that shortened his father's stay in the county. William Knox was so frustrated

by poor communications in his efforts to clear his son's name, he returned to London.

His departure from Slebech and Pembrokeshire is still a little confusing, some say it was to try and clear his son's name of cowardice others suggest he was mortgaged to the hilt and virtually bankrupt. We do know he was very depressed and was on opiates.

During his time at Slebech he became a leading figure in promoting enclosure of the Narberth Forest, Templeton Mountain and Molleston Mountain, all having a significant effect on the Templeton population and mineral exploitation locally. Interestingly William Knox is today regarded as an expert in American Colonial affairs and receives attention in virtually every major study of the American Revolution. Unfortunately this is not how the population of Templeton saw him in the late 1700s!

### **Phillips of Slebech**

Knox was to sell the estate to Nathaniel Phillips in 1793. Little is known of the ancestry of Nathaniel Phillips, he was born on 10 June 1730, and grew up to become a planter in Jamaica where he worked on his fathers plantations in the sugar trade and its by-products. Phillips owned four sugar plantations in Jamaica and other valuable properties worked mainly by black slaves.

On 18 June 1761, Nathaniel Phillips married in Jamaica, Anne, daughter of Richard and Anne Swarton who also owned a sugar plantation. Sadly Anne died just 5 years later in 1766 and was buried in the chancel of the church at Kingston. They had a daughter also named Anne, born in 1765 who was for many years heir apparent to her father's vast fortune. In the late 1770s Nathaniel spent some time in England and took a house in Gloucester Place, London. He returned frequently to Jamaica to attend to business. In 1785 he fought a duel and killed his man in a dispute concerning the conviction of one of his slaves, an affair described in detail in the documents that have survived. It was some time after this event that he settled permanently in Britain.

Nathaniel Phillips had taken a house in London shortly before 1779, by now he was a very wealthy man. After he had retired from managing his Jamaican concerns, he had the idea of purchasing an estate in Wales where he would settle down as a country gentleman. He came in contact with William Knox, whom as we have just seen needed to sell the Slebech estate. By 1795 Nathaniel had purchased the Slebech estate and was living there.

Slebech was not his only acquisition in Pembrokeshire, as we will see. He was now 66 years of age and had been a widower for 30 years. Marriage was in the air and he fell in love with the daughter of a Pembrokeshire parson, Mary Dorothea Philipps, just 19 years old. They were married, by licence, at St. Mary's, Islington, in February 1796. The great difference in their ages proved in no way a problem to what turned out to be a happy and successful marriage. The marriage introduced him to the older landed families in West Wales and no doubt contributed to the ease with which Nathaniel Phillips fitted into local society. In the same year as his marriage he was chosen as High Sheriff and Justice of Peace for the county. He was described as an amiable and kindly man and preferred to be called Nat. He settled down as to the manor born and became a popular and active member of the community. Mary Dorothea's father was the Revd. Edward Philipps, who was a younger son of Thomas and Dorothy Philipps of Lampeter Velfrey, whose family was a minor branch of the ancient and influential house of Philipps of Picton Castle, whose head at that time was Lord Milford, Lord Lieutenant of the county. It is easy to see where confusion has occurred with the names as the Phillips married into the Philipps, and often given names were the same!

The couple went on to have four children, Mary Dorethea; Nathaniel; Louisa Catherine and Edward Augustus. Sadly both sons died without issue, Louisa married Thomas Anson who later became the 1st Earl of Lichfield and Mary Dorothea (Jnr) married in 1822 the Baron de Rutzen .

## **Baron de Rutzen of Slebech**

Who was Baron Charles Frederick de Rutzen? Who was this man of mystery? The de Rutzen's were regarded in the early part of the 19th century as the 'Baltic Barons'. The name by which the Nobility of Latvia and Estonia was known, they held prominent positions in local government and administration. The Baron Charles Frederick de Rutzen held a post in the Russian embassy in Rome in 1821. He had a fair amount of leisure and moved in fashionable circles in Rome. Shortly after his arrival in Rome, he was invited as a guest by the Russian Minister and Count Paul Medem to a party at Mrs Phillips. She was described as 'a remarkable handsome English woman, without much English nonsense. She speaks very good French, knows every body and has a charming daughter who, moreover, is considered the best pianist in the whole of Rome'. The Count persuaded the Baron to attend as he would meet the cream of the fashionable society in Rome. Soon after arriving Miss Phillips was to play the piano. The Baron wrote the 'instant she touched the piano, there was a breathless silence, yet no ostentatious prelude, only the favourite Waltz of the day at once; but with such a band like power and precision and a truly soul stirring expression'. He was smitten and within a year of meeting Mary Dorethea Phillips (Junior) of Slebech they were married and went on to have seven children. The Baroness continued to charm her family and friends with her musical talent. They lived first at Brighton until 1829 when they moved to Bedford Square, London. With the death of her brother, Edward Augustus Phillips, in 1830, the Baroness and her sister, Lady Anson, became coheiresses to the rich estates in Jamaica and Slebech.

In 1830 the de Rutzens came to live at Slebech, to fit into a way of life that differed greatly from that of fashionable European capitals. The Baron de Rutzen now had to undertake the duties and responsibilities of a country gentleman. The Slebech estate which had become the property of Mary Dorothea and her husband, comprised over 3,700 acres lying in the parishes of Slebech, Minwear, Newton, Martletwy, Robeston Wathan, Narberth and

Lampeter Velfrey. It produced a rental of £5,300 per annum (equivalent to about £4 million in 2010). The estimated value of the extensive woodlands alone amounted to over £70,000 (equivalent to about £61 million in 2010). The demesne land, nearly 1300 acres in extent, was park-like in character, laid out with trees and plantations, while the river Cleddau, about 275 metres wide, flowed nearby. The river was navigable as far as Blackpool bridge (built by the de Rutzens about 1830) and all craft entering within the bounds of the estate had to pay toll to the owner and to load or discharge cargoes at Blackpool Quay. The fishery on the river also belonged to him. The tolls and fishery were let for £40 per annum (equivalent to about £35,000 in 2010). Owing to its seclusion the area abounded in wild fowl of all description, and a very large heronry in the wood near the mansion was the only one on the Milford Haven estuary at that time.

The Baron de Rutzen and his wife were Lords of the Manors of Slebech, Minwear, Newton, Narberth and Robeston Wathen and of the Manors or Reeveships of Lampeter Velfrey and Llandewi Velfrey. The manorial dues and renders were small, but the mineral rights always had a potential value, while the sporting rights were extremely valuable and immediately available.

The family continued to make visits to London where they had many friends, some in high places. Among these were Queen Adelaide (wife of William IV), the Duke and Duchess of Kent and their daughter 'the young Victoria', who ascended the Throne in 1837. Among her possessions was a piece of jewellery described as 'Queen Victoria's hair set in a Diamond Brooch, graciously presented by Her Majesty to Baroness de Rutzen. She was also friendly with the Baroness Lehzen, Queen Victoria's companion and confidante and with the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough. In 1860 the Baroness fell ill and on 14 June she died and was buried privately in the vault in Slebech new church.

The de Rutzens had settled well into the life of the landed gentry and had made quite a name for themselves. Their estate stretched as far as Templeton where they owned land until the early 20th century.

## **Sir Richard Bulkeley Philipps Philipps**

The Tithe Enumeration Schedule of 1843 shows Sir Richard Bulkeley Philipps Philipps as a substantial owner of land and property in Templeton. But who was Sir Richard? To answer that question we have to look at the family history of the Philipps of Picton Castle. They have an ancestry going back to Richard I and the Crusades of 1190. The first bearer of the surname was Sir Thomas Philipps, who died 1520, of Clisant, Carmarthenshire. He was the son of Philip ap Maredudd who through the male line was a descendant of Sir Aron ap Rhys. With such a long family history it is not surprising that it is also a very complex one.

The Templeton connection begins with Richard Philipps, 1st Baron Milford (1744–1823), known as Sir Richard Philipps from 1764 to 1776, he was a landowner and politician who sat in the House of Commons between 1765 and 1812. He was the son of Sir John Philipps, 6th Baronet, of Picton Castle who succeeded to the baronetcy in 1764. He held the position of Lord-Lieutenant of Haverfordwest and Lord Lieutenant of Pembrokeshire.

Lord Milford married Elizabeth, daughter of James Philipps, of Pentypark, Wiston in 1764. His only son with his first wife, Mary Grant, John Philipps, was taken for dead after the Battle of Trafalgar. Lord Milford died in November 1823 and the baronetcy went to a distant relation, and Picton Castle and the estates to a descendant of Bulkeley Philipps, youngest son of “the good Sir John”. He bequeathed his estates, including the family seat of Picton Castle, to his cousin Richard Bulkeley Philipps Grant, who assumed the surname of Philipps to become Richard Bulkeley Philipps Philipps, 1st Baron Milford (1801-1857). He was created a Baronet in 1828 and made Baron Milford in 1847. This line of the family ended on the death of the latter's son, the tenth Baronet, in 1857.

At one time the Philipps family owned nearly a third of the county of Pembroke, besides lands in Cardiganshire and Carmarthenshire. In the 19th century they owned over twenty-two parishes.

## **4th Baron Kensington**

In order to understand William Edwardes involvement with land ownership in Templeton it is necessary to look at how he inherited the land and title of 4th Baron Kensington. An obvious starting place is with the 1st Baron Kensington, William Edwardes, born around 1711 of Johnston Hall, Pembrokeshire, he was a substantial landowner and a long-standing Member of Parliament. Edwardes was the second surviving son of Francis Edwardes, Member of Parliament for Haverfordwest, and Lady Elizabeth Rich, only daughter of Robert Rich, 5th Earl of Warwick and heiress of her nephew Edward Henry Rich, 7th Earl of Warwick. The Edwardes family owned extensive lands in Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire and on the death of his cousin the 7th Earl in 1721 and his elder brother in 1738, William inherited the additional estates of the Rich family, which included the impressive Holland House in Kensington. In 1776 William Edwardes was created Baron Kensington in the Peerage of Ireland. This was a revival of the barony held by the Earls of Warwick and Holland which had become extinct on the death of the eighth and last Earl in 1759.

Edwardes was elected to his father's old seat of Haverfordwest in 1747 a seat he held until 1801. His tenure as Member of Parliament for Haverfordwest was based on an arrangement with Lord Milford, the member for the Pembrokeshire county constituency, whose family treated Haverfordwest like a pocket borough.

Lord Kensington, the 1st Baron died in 1801. His first marriage was to his cousin Rachel, the daughter of Owen Edwardes of Treffgarne but after her death in 1760 he had married Elizabeth Warren in 1762. He was succeeded in the barony by their only son also known as William, who succeeded him as the 2nd Baron Kensington and Member of Parliament for Haverfordwest.

He succeeded his father as 3rd Baron Kensington in 1852 but as this was an Irish peerage it did not entitle him to a seat in the House of Lords. Kensington served in the Royal Navy and achieved the rank of Captain. He was also Lord

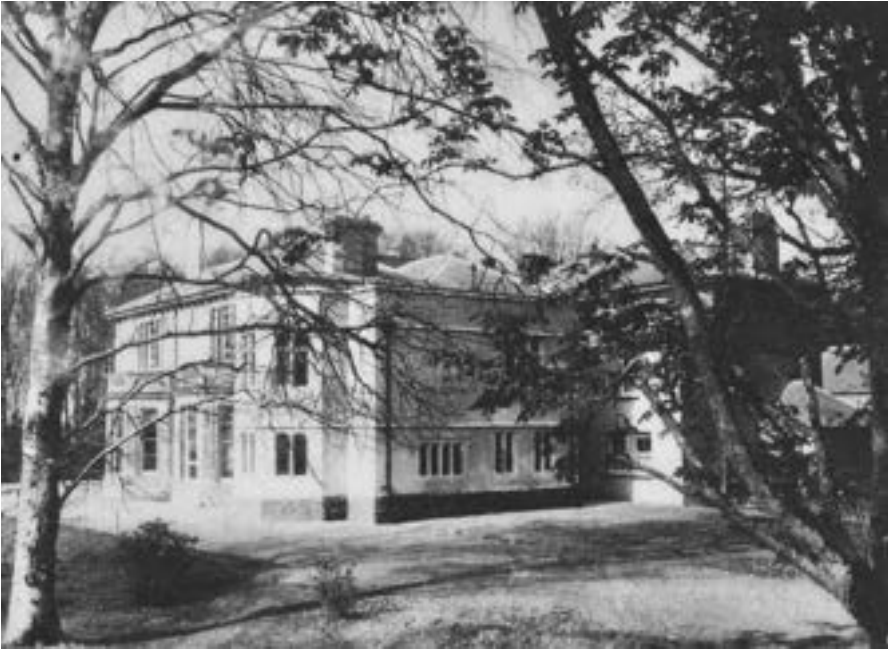
Lieutenant of Pembrokeshire. Lord Kensington married Laura Jane Ellison, daughter of Cuthbert Ellison, in 1833. He died in January 1872, aged 70, and was succeeded in the barony by his son William, who became William Edwardes 4th Baron Kensington born 11 May 1835. He gained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel between 1867 and 1870 in the Coldstream Guards and held the office of Liberal Member of Parliament for Haverfordwest between 1868 and 1885. He also held the office of Lord-Lieutenant of Pembrokeshire between 1872 and 1896.

It was the 4th Baron Kensington who owned land in Templeton and Kensington House and then Kensington Close was named after him. He held the office of Groom-in-Waiting to HM Queen Victoria between 1873 and 1874. He was appointed Privy Counsellor (PC) in 1880 and held the office of Comptroller of the Household between 1880 and 1885. He held the office of Lord-in-Waiting between February 1886 and July 1886. He was created 1st Baron Kensington of Kensington, Middlesex on 23 March 1886 in his own right which created a new baronetcy. He was Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard. He was educated at Eton College. Apart from his political career he also held the honorary post of Lord Lieutenant of Pembrokeshire between 1872 and 1896. Kensington was elected to Pembrokeshire County Council at the first county elections in 1889. He presided at the first meeting of the council and was immediately elected an alderman.

Lord Kensington married Grace Elizabeth Johnstone-Douglas, daughter of Robert Johnstone-Douglas, in 1867. They had four sons and five daughters. He died in October 1896, aged 61, and was succeeded in the barony by his eldest son, William Edwardes who became the 5th Baron Kensington 1868-1900 and Hugh Edwardes became the 6th Baron Kensington 1873-1938. Lord Kensington died suddenly on 7 October 1896 while taking part in a shooting expedition at Floors Castle, Roxburghshire, Scotland.

It was the 5th Baron Kensington who acquired St. Brides Castle in 1899 and enlarged it between 1905 and 1913 for his brother the 6th Baron Kensington,





*Henllan Mansion photographed c. 1900.  
Courtesy of Mr Jamie Lewis, Henllan Estate.*

who eventually sold it in 1920. In 1923 it then became a TB sanatorium, known as Kensington Hospital.

The end of the 'Kensington dynasty' in Templeton came with the death of the 4th Baron Kensington in 1896. The properties and lands were largely sold off to the tenants.

### **The Henllan Estate**

To finish this chapter of Templeton landownership it is necessary to look at the Henllan Estate and the Lewis family who have owned Henllan, and other properties in the Llanddewi Velfrey area, Pembrokeshire, since at least 1637 and even in the 2000s still own land and property in the Templeton area.

The Henllan estate is inexorably tied up with 'The Grove' and the Poyer family. The estate descended in the male line, John Lennox Griffith Poyer Lewis (1819-1886) married Katherine, youngest daughter of Daniel Poyer

Callen of Molleston, Pembrokeshire, in 1857, who brought the Grove property to her husband. The Callen family had also owned Penblewin and Trenichol. On John Lennox Griffith Poyer Lewis's death without issue, the estate passed to his brother, the Rev. Richard Lewis (1821-1905). The estate descended in the male line thereafter. Caermaenau Fawr came into the hands of the Lewis family after the Second World War, when it became the home of Richard Wilfrid Arthur Poyer Lewis.

### **The Grove**

The Grove is a heritage listed building of historical importance located south of Narberth. It was built by Daniel Poyer in the 1680s shortly after he inherited the property from his father Henry Poyer a wealthy tanner from Canaston who died in 1677.

Grove has a long history with records dating back to at least 1419. In 1670 reference in public records was made to “the grove” in the Lewis of Henllan collection, various other references were made in 1609 and in 1672.

Henry Poyer owned a large tanning factory and in 1670 he purchased a house assessed as having four hearths where ‘The Grove’ now stands from Richard Hitching. It is most likely that Daniel built his new house ‘The Grove’ when he married Priscilla Allen the daughter of William Allen of Gelliswick, Hubberston in 1686.

Daniel died in 1703 and the property was passed to his eldest son. Daniel’s Will listed five children – three sons and two daughters. The property remained in the Poyer family until it was inherited by John Poyer who died in 1787, although the house remained in the family until 1808. Anne Poyer, married William Callan of Merrixton in the parish of Ambleston, she was the ultimate heiress, ‘The Grove’ being left to her eldest son John Callen when she died in 1808. This brought to an end two centuries of Poyer ownership and brought the house into the Callen family.

John Callen lived at the Grove for about fifteen years but appears to have remained unmarried. He died intestate in 1823 and his younger brother Charles Callen was granted his estates as the next of kin. Charles Callen died in 1825 leaving his property to his wife Eliza (née Davies). She lived at 'The Grove' and when she died in 1840 she left the house to her eldest son Charles Poyer Callen.



*Main Gates leading to 'The Grove'. The house has spectacular views over the Preseli Hills and the surrounding Narberth landscape. Photographed 2019 RLD*

Charles was born in 1797, in 1822 he married Anne Mansel but the couple appear to have had no children so when he made his Will in 1848 he left all of his estates to her. He died in 1854 and as she had predeceased him they were granted successively to his nephews. The first nephew to inherit was John Poyer Hugh Charles Callen (1836-1866) who was the son of Charles's brother Daniel Poyer Callen. He was a Captain of the 71st Highlanders but he did not marry and so when he died in 1866 the Grove was inherited by Charles's other

nephew John Lennox Griffith Poyer Lewis. The house was then brought over to the Lewis family.

John Lennox Griffith Poyer Lewis was born in 1819. His father was John Lewis of Henllan in Pembrokeshire and his mother was Eliza Callen sister of Charles Poyer Callen. He was educated at Bromsgrove School and became a barrister. His father died in 1834 and when he came of age he inherited Henllan. In 1857 he married his cousin Katherine Callen but they had no



*The Grove, Molleston. Photographed by Robert L. Davies 2019*

children. In 1874 he commissioned the notable architect John Pollard Seddon to make alterations to the house. This work extended the original Jacobean L-shaped house to provide a large hallway, new staircase, lounge, master bedroom and a library on the first floor landing.

When he died in 1886 his brother Bishop Richard Lewis (1821-1905) inherited his estates including 'The Grove'. The properties then descended down the male line until they came to Sir Wilfrid Lewis of Henllan who died in 1950.

## 4

# A Physical Description of Templeton

**T**he story of our village, its charm and fascination, is incomplete without an account of its geology, roads, tracks and streams, “if you wish to read aright the history of a district, of a city, or of a village, you must begin by learning the alphabet of its roads,” wisely observes a writer in *Blackwood’s Magazine*. These are the oldest of all ancient landmarks. The position of the village, its plan and boundaries, the story of earthworks, burying grounds, church and castle, all depend upon the roads. How was their course originally determined? Who first planned them? Perhaps our earliest ancestors followed the cross-tracks by which the wild animals descended from the high ground to the water. Where hard dry roads now run along the river valleys by the beds of streams there was in ancient times marsh or far-spreading overflowing sheets of water. Hence our ancestors followed the natural features of the gentle rolling Preseli hills. The building materials for our churches, houses, cottages, farm buildings and the many miles of ‘Pembrokeshire walls’, were all constructed from locally quarried stone. The OS Map surveyed in 1887 showed 14 quarries, 2 gravel pits and a clay pit within the Templeton boundary. Transport was difficult and limited so using local material was essential.

Although two mountains are associated with Templeton, they are really no more than low very gently rolling hills, the highest location ‘Narberth

Mountain', is in the hamlet of Woodcross at about 471 feet (143 meters) above sea level. As you approach Templeton from Narberth looking to the south of the village at its lowest point it falls to about 317 feet (97 meters), a difference of just 154 feet (47 meters). The now demolished 'Coursehill Farm' on Templeton Airfield which was built on 'Templeton Mountain' is just 372 feet high (113 meters). Mounton Hill is 356 feet (108 meters) high, Peter's Finger 371 feet (113 meters), Molleston Cross 413 feet (126 meters) and Mabes Mill in the valley at about 250 feet (76 meters) above sea level. I am sure you would agree Templeton is a gentle rolling landscape.

Amongst our first roads were those that ran along the highest ridges of the hills in Pembrokeshire, such as 'The Ridgeway'; subsequently more sheltered ways were sought by the hill-sides. The shallowest parts of the rivers were sought where they could find suitable crossing points, such as where 'Ford's Lake' crosses Tanners Lane. Trails through the woods became pack-horse roads and then widened into wagon-tracks such as Chapel Street, that at one time would have allowed you to travel to the village of Ludchurch or the hamlet of Princes Gate from Templeton village. Eventually they developed into fine smooth roads such as the road through Templeton before it was metalled.



*Examples of dressed stone found throughout Templeton, the stones were used for buildings and walls over many centuries. The stone on the right was from 'The Grove' and has the typical Cross of the Knights Templars carved into it.*



Some of the roads by which we travel to-day have been traversed by an infinite variety of passengers. Our forefathers, their Roman conquerors, Saxon hosts, Norman knights, medieval merchants and pilgrims to the shrine of St. David's.

We know the Cavaliers and the buff-coated troopers of Cromwell passed through the village, all followed each other in a strange procession along these country roads and in the past old stage coaches would be heard with the sound of post-horn as it approached 'Windsor Castle Inn' at Cold Blow. You can see on Templeton and Narberth Mountains earthworks and camps and relics of early British tribes and prehistoric races which flourished here long before the Romans came to conquer our island. Throughout Templeton are scattered disused limestone quarries and gravel pits, many of our stone built structures were quarried from local stone, our roads were built and repaired with locally excavated stone. It seems only right that to understand our village we need to understand something of its geology which has played such an important role in its development.



*This is probably what Templeton would have looked like 415 million years ago!*

I am very grateful to Andrew Crossley a local geologist who has provided me with a greater understanding of the geology of Templeton. The geology of the area around Templeton is a real delight and tells a fascinating ‘geological’ story of late middle aged rocks, through to recent deposits left by glaciers. When Andrew talks about ‘recent’ he means at least 10,000 years ago! The village itself is on the margin of the two predominant rock groupings of the area, the first one, the *Old Red Sandstone formation* (ORS) was laid down during the final stages of the late (or upper) Silurian and early (lower) Devonian Periods, between some 408 to 427 million years or so ago... At this time, the crust that Templeton sits on was on a latitude close to where Namibia in Southwest Africa is now...a hot and dry environment with ancient mountains close by which were being eroded. Temperatures here might have varied by as much as 40°C between day and night which causes rock to shatter, producing lots of debris, varying in size: sands, gravels, pebbles. This was then moved around by rivers until depositing, for example as those rivers dry out, or change their course or speed of flow. As a result, the ORS is formed of coarse bands of pebbly strata, finer sand based outcrops, through to quite fine particle deposits, in conjunction with bands of more sandy material: all are the product of weathered rock. Sometimes the water flowed, with speed and force, rolling sands, gravels and sometimes pebbles in the river bed, other times standing as a temporary lake leaving mud behind as water evaporated. Over time this mud transformed into the finer “rab”, that is subsoil of weathered rock often found locally.

Sandstone is not always this dark red to brown colour, but as it was forming, in the hot days and dry climate, water was drawn up through the crust to the surface by transpiration. As this happened, iron bearing minerals in the crust were also drawn upwards, carried by or dissolved in the water. Eventually, as they dried or precipitated out, this stained the rocks to this brown/red colouring we so often see in our local landscape.



The second grouping is the *Carboniferous Limestone*, where part of the Pembrokeshire outcrop reaches Templeton, meeting the ORS. The limestone is younger, only around 329-359 million years old... The world was warming, the ice caps melting causing the seas to expand and warm up as Templeton entered the tropics.... At the same time, life in the seas was multiplying and more creatures were being found with skeletons and shells as well as corals. As they died, their bodies settled on the sea floor, their skeletons and shells giving calcium rich sediments which eventually became the limestone.



*Blaencilgoed Quarry, Ludchurch, where an outcrop of ORS is overlaid by Carboniferous Limestone (seen in the background of the photo). The circular markings are collapsed tunnels burrowed by Trilobites, infilled by finer deposits as tunnels collapsed.*

Around 300 million years ago, all these rocks were folded, twisted and uplifted as continents collided. This affected the rocks forming Pembrokeshire and as a result of this form Narberth, where we are on Silurian rocks to Saundersfoot

where we have reached the Coal Measures, we see a journey of around 150 million years (and 3 geological periods...) from the older to younger rocks. The rocks are now tilted at around 45°-50° forming the remains of a now eroded anticline (up-fold) which was formed by this collision.

More recently (the last 3 million years or so) we have seen the advance and retreat of glaciers across the Pembrokeshire, grinding and smoothing the landscape. The most recent glaciers only finally retreated about 12-15000 years ago. As they retreated and the climate warmed they dumped much of the rock debris they were carrying to produce an unsorted and soft material, (glacial) till.



*Looking at another quarry face very close to the site above, a better view of the Carboniferous Limestone is seen overlying the ORS. Interestingly, the Strata of the ORS are at a different angle to the limestone above (an unconformity) pointing towards the sandstone*

This was dumped at random but as more warming happened, this material, with a consistency of a thick porridge, would slump and slide filling depressions and covering both the ORS and limestone in places. As a result around Templeton, there are surface deposits of unsorted debris from clays, through sands and gravels to boulders, covering the bedrock. Amongst this,

though, we often find something unusual: pieces of rock which don't relate to the bedrock: bits of shale and mudstone from north of the county or pieces of dolerite. These are *glacial erratics*, pieces of debris not from the locality but carried by the glacier, before being dumped in an alien geology.

There are a number of interesting geological features to see when walking around the Templeton area. One such place is as you walk up the 'Old Red Sandstone' lane which leads from 'Upper Moun-ton Farm' to Canaston Wood, you suddenly reach the brow of a hill and there below is stretched one of the most beautiful panoramic views the eye could wish to see. So not only do you have an incredible view but the track is gouged out of the Old Red Sandstone for you to explore. There is also an interesting outcrop at G D Harries & Sons Ltd between Narberth and Templeton. Around their offices and car park was a face of over a hundred square metres of Old Red Sandstone. Spread throughout Templeton there are good examples of Limestone quarries.

## 5

# The Early History

**D**uring the Middle Ages, especially between the 12th and 14th centuries, many 'new towns' were established on previously unsettled land. The towns were intended to become centres of commerce and locations for markets and fairs. In general ancient town-planning used a combination of the straight line and the right angle. The shape of a village was typically laid out as a single central thoroughfare, widening in the middle or at one end to form a green or market place, with long narrow strips, known as 'burgage plots' extending at right-angles, many good examples exist in Templeton. Each plot had its frontage to the main street so that the potential inhabitant (merchants and traders) of each building had access to the main street where business could be carried out. In Templeton many of the farms along the main street had their own slaughter houses and butcher shops. The strip of land behind the property could be used for a variety of purposes, including stores, workshops, kitchen gardens and land for grazing livestock.

The basic unit of measurement at the time was the perch which was 5.5 yards or 5m and the plots can be identified nowadays because they are in multiples of perches. As populations grew 'burgage plots' could be split into smaller plots or extended to incorporate neighbouring plots.

The way from the street to the back of the burgage plot without going through the building was the passage or the local South Pembrokeshire name a 'drang'. The drang was a narrow passage between two walls, or hedges of undeveloped land between each plot. In Templeton, the drangs or passage ways are now closed to the public and have no public right of way. An example of

such a drang could have been the passage between 'Laburnum Cottage' and 'Elm House'.

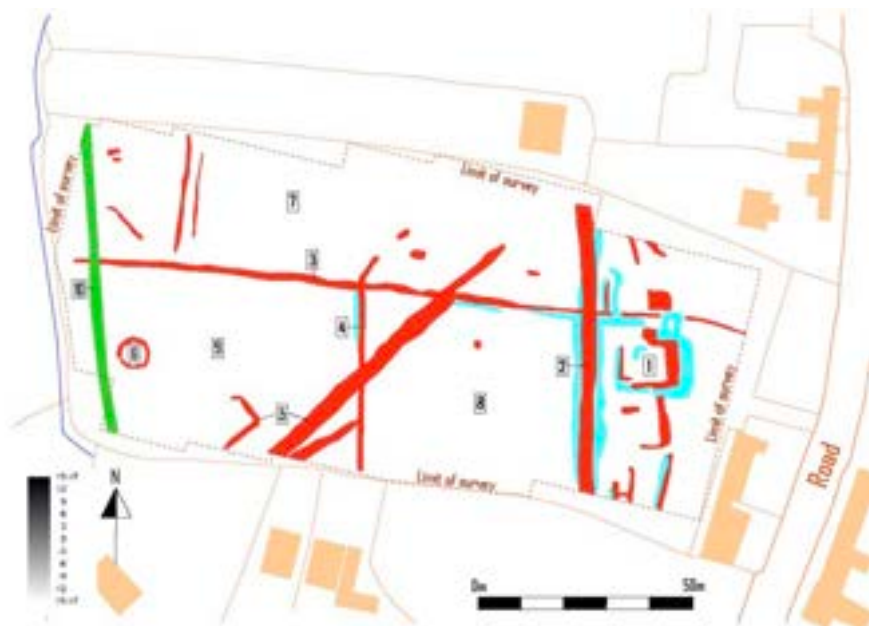
Templeton is by no means unique in having burgage plots in Pembrokeshire. The list of places is extensive, including for example, Pembroke<sup>19</sup> and Newport<sup>20</sup>.

In 1532-3 and 1545-6<sup>21</sup> there were 17 burgages at Templeton, so there is no reason to suppose that the early town occupied a greater area than that of the existing village. Templeton village still shows its medieval roots with a long single street being fronted by small farms and houses. It is not possible to tell the Templeton story without reference to Burgage Plots<sup>22</sup>. Templeton can be described as a planned town, as distinct from having evolved around a topographical feature, such as a river. The OS map shows these plots are remarkable for their length, being four to five times longer than the average burgage. Within the outer boundary, though, it is possible to detect another line on both sides of the road running some 50m behind each property which appears to delineate the house plots and perhaps the remainder represents the arable lands attached to each burgage.

An archaeological survey carried out by Dyfed Archaeological Trust in 2010 identified a number of archaeological features across the area of what is today Knights Court, to the north of Templeton Village Green (Shown in red on the Geophysical Interpretation page 46). The survey helped to confirm the long history of Templeton and its Medieval origins.

The survey showed a variety of archaeological activity across the area. I can do no better than quote the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Survey Report. "Boundary banks and ditches (Nos.2-4) appear to demarcate the survey area into at least three separate fields (Nos.7-9), within which are evidence of agricultural activity and other, possibly more domestic activity. These boundaries are shown on the map of 1820 (page 2), but they also align with a series of boundaries emanating from the main road throughout Templeton that are likely to have been established during the medieval layout of the town

in front of Sentence Castle. By the later 19th century some of these boundaries had begun to disappear, being amalgamated into a single field by the end of the 19th century.



*Interpretation of the geophysical survey of where Knights Court, Templeton was built in 2019. Numbers relate to the main text, red highlights the main positive magnetic anomalies, blue highlights the main negative anomalies and green the bipolar anomalies. Courtesy of Dyfed Archaeological Trust.*

The agricultural activity initially appears to extend as far as a wide ditch running north-south shown as No.2. this ditch also aligns with boundaries visible on 19th century map sources forming the rear of properties fronting the main street, also likely to be medieval in origin. Such boundary ditches to the rear of street front properties would collect rubbish and general detritus from the settlement activity, and as such are often rich in archaeological evidence.

To the east of this north-south boundary ditch, the geophysical results suggests a series of structures and archaeological activity (No.1), possibly divided by a continuation of the main east-west field boundary bank and ditch (No.3). These structures lie in an area set back from the road frontage,

however, it would be expected to find the main domestic structures fronting the street, as can be seen on the 1820 map (page 2). This may suggest these structures are outbuildings or workshops behind the main street frontage, although they appear unusually large for outbuildings and the magnetic responses do not suggest industrial activity. These structures do not appear on 19th century map sources, and they also appear to be on a different alignment to the current buildings fronting the street in this area, known to date from at least the early 19th century. These structures therefore appear to predate the current buildings, suggesting an earlier post-medieval, or possibly even medieval date given their location within supposed medieval boundaries. Their occurrence and location also suggests further street frontage properties may exist in the un-surveyed area of dense scrub at the north-eastern corner of the proposed development site. Their location opposite St John's church, the site of a supposed hospice belonging to the Knights Templar may also suggest a more unusual function to these structures.

To the west lie several features that do not necessarily appear contemporary with this possible medieval or post-medieval settlement and agricultural activity. A wide ditch or trackway runs across the site that does not appear to respect the regular layout of field boundaries associated with the medieval or post-medieval activity. There is also the suggestion of an associated rectangular structure on its west side. The date and function of these features are unclear.

To the west lies a circular ditched feature, also of unknown date and function (No.6). Such ditched circular features are often typical of prehistoric sites, such as Bronze Age burial mounds or Iron Age houses, although it appears to be in an isolated location and no internal features have been revealed through the geophysical survey. Such circular features could however have a variety of other explanations, for example a circular dovecote, tree-guards, or even remains of a circular cattle feeding station". I think it would be reasonable to assume the Trust's findings reflects what exists hidden in the earth throughout Templeton. Who knows what you will find when ploughing a meadow or digging in your

garden. As a simple example musket balls from the Civil War and other artefacts were found when excavating the footings to build 'Haul Y Bore', Kensington Close.

### **Moving Through The Years**

Under the terms of the Act of Union, Wales was granted permission to be represented in Parliament. Under the Act of Union between 1536 and 1543 Templeton came under the county of Pembroke in the Hundred of Narberth. The Principality and the land controlled by the Marcher Lords were now joined together to form a united Wales. However, the 'lords' remained and in 1601-2 George Barlow of Slebech bought the part of Narberth lordship which included Templeton. We read earlier about the Barlow of Slebech dynasty that lasted for more than 200 years, when we looked at the landowners. Changes were about to take place that would have a profound impact on the community of Templeton.

Another Act of Parliament in 1771 saw the formation of 'The Turnpike Trusts' with a tollgate being installed at Catershook to the south of Templeton and at Coldblowgate to the north.

### **The Enclosures**

We read earlier how the Barlow family died out and the Slebech Estate, which included Templeton went to Symmons of Llanstinian for just 10 years before being purchased in 1786 by William Knox. This resulted in the landscape changing with woodland disappearing and farming starting to dominate the landscape on both Templeton and Narberth mountains. Two enclosures by the Act occurred in the late 18th century resulting in Narberth Mountain and Molleston Common being enclosed.

During the 18th and early 19th century some of the land around Templeton was also owned by the Callan family who owned both 'The Grove' and 'Molleston Estates'. It is claimed that the Callan's actually won 'Molleston





*Elm Cottage when it was last sold in 1984 was in need of refurbishment.*



*Elm Cottage following major refurbishment in 2018. All the walls have been traditionally lime-washed. To the left is 'Laburnum Cottage and the right is 'Pendre' with its 1970s extension. Photographed 2020 RLD.*

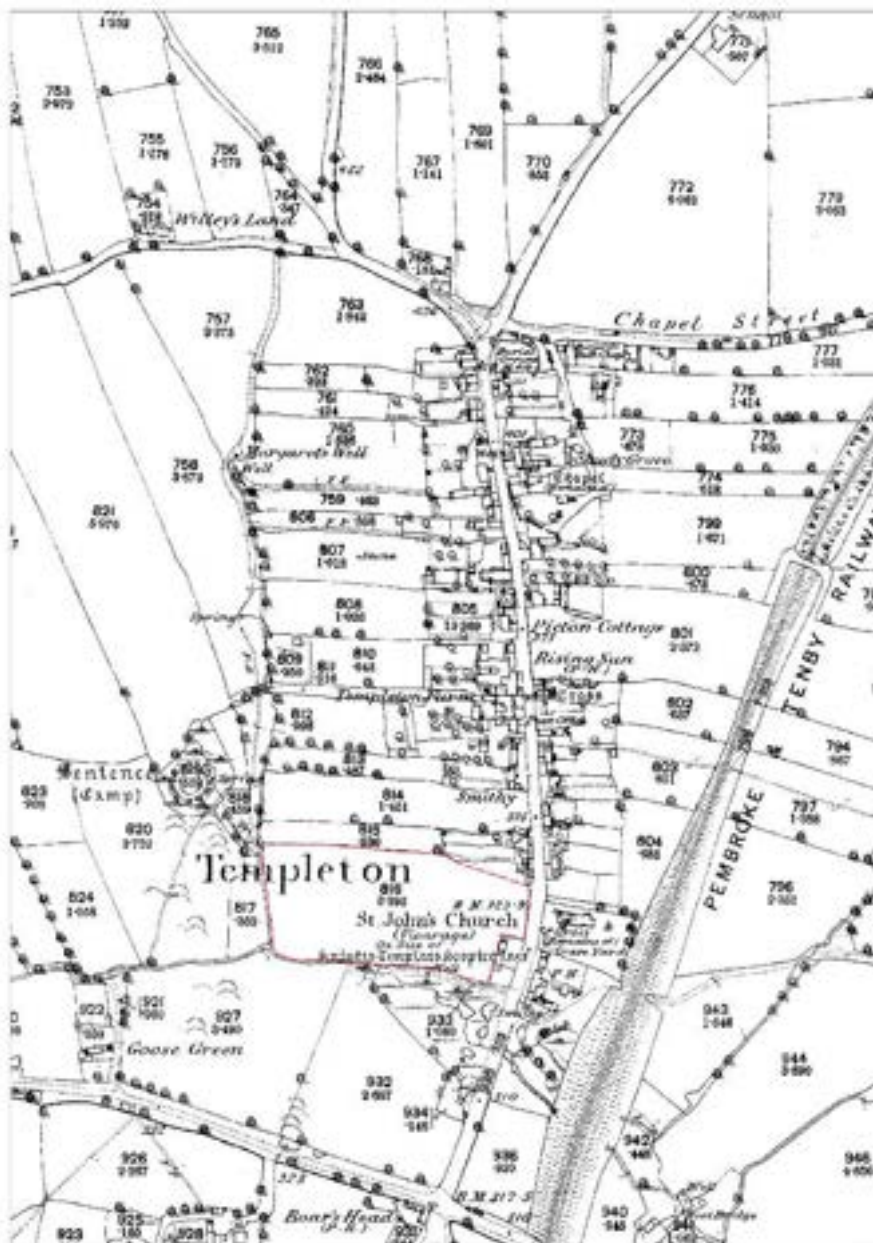
Estate' gambling! The Callan family were descendants of Colonel Poyer who is famous for his defence of Pembroke Castle against Oliver Cromwell in the 16th century. In 1818 all the Callan's land passed to the Lewis's of Henllan. Today<sup>23</sup> the families of the estates of Henllan and Picton still own land and property around Templeton.

## 6

# Time Moves On

In the mid 20th century the village layout was one of the best surviving examples in West Wales of a Medieval Age Village, having a single main street with each dwelling having its own plot extending to the rear of the property as previously described. From Medieval times little had changed in the village until the mid 1600's when there were a number of 'new' properties built, such as 'Templeton Farm' 1640, 'Poyers Arms' 1642, 'Kings Park' 1706, 'Martin's Farm' 1783 and 'Ogmore Cottage' the original Welsh long house built in 1755. These changes continued through the 19th century and into the 20th century. Templeton continues to develop at least in the first two decades of the 21st century. Until the early part of the 20th century many of the cottages would have been thatched and treated with lime wash often with a red or pink tint. The names of the properties just mentioned have most likely been named since the 1800's.

In the past when visiting someone in perhaps a town or village you would know them, for example as 'Isaac the Miller' and you would be directed to Isaac Lewis at 'Mabes Mill'. The naming of a property began mainly with the gentry who would name the properties on their estates and was based on who the property belonged to or where it was located. For example, Col. Poyer or Lord Milford could have properties named "Poyer's Arms, Picton Castle, Picton House and Picton Lodge". Property naming then became popular with others, tradesmen would often name their properties based on their occupation. For example, "The Forge, The Dairy, The Bakery and Mabes Mill". This was very much the case in Templeton, villagers would know their neighbours by name and occupation, there was little need to have 'formal names' to properties. This



An extract from the 1888 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map, showing Templeton. This map could be regarded as the 'village' of Templeton, starting in the north with the Chapel Street junction and south to the Boar's Head crossroads. Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.

became a problem when Postal Services started and for Council officials and the difficulties are often seen in census returns, particularly in Templeton's main street and the hamlet of Cold Blow. In both of these examples, as you will see in Chapter 7 most of the properties on the main street of the village were only recorded as 'Templeton' and 'Cold Blow' similarly displayed. Even today a property without a house name displayed causes problems for delivery van drivers and for local historians!



*Ogmores Cottage built in 1755 as a Welsh long house where both 'people and beasts were housed together under the same roof.' A family lived at one end and at the other the animals. Photograph c.1960.*

The practice of naming a property became more desirable within the general population from the mid 19th century, with property owners naming their homes based on the most prominent and cherished features of their home and land. Some examples based on these features are Rose Villa, Elm House, Picton House, Kensington House, Slade Acre, Corner House and David's Lake. We know how some of the properties in the village obtained their names, 'Elm House' from the large elm tree that was once in the back garden and was felled

due to Dutch Elm disease in the 1960s; 'Kensington House' named after the land owner Lord Kensington; 'Corner House' was obvious.

The 19th century saw 'the Victorian era', one of rapid development and changing far more quickly than in previous centuries. Strictly speaking, the Victorian era began in 1837 and ended with Queen Victoria's death in 1901, but the period can be stretched to include the years both before and after these dates, roughly from the Napoleonic Wars (1803-1815) until the outbreak of World War I in 1914. Although the Victorian era was a period of extreme social inequality, industrialisation brought about rapid changes in everyday life that affected all classes. Family life, epitomised by the young Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and their nine children, was enthusiastically idealised.

Luxuries were not readily available to the working poor, who toiled for long hours on the land and quarries of Templeton and in the drift mines of the Pembrokeshire coalfields. The dreadful working and living conditions of the early 19th century persisted in many areas until the end of the Victorian age and beyond.

At that time families in Templeton will remember the 14th February 1844, when news would have been brought to the village of the terrible 'Garden Pit Mining Disaster' when 40 men and boys lost their lives as the river floods the drift mine beneath the Cleddau River at Landshipping. A number of Templeton residents had family living in Martletwy and Landshipping who were drowned in the disaster. Altogether 14 men and 26 children drowned that day, the youngest just 4 years old. The whole county would have been affected by the disaster particularly those in the village who lost relatives such as the Scourfield family. The dark shadow of the Allensbank workhouse loomed over the unemployed, destitute and disabled.

However, by the mid 1800s and into the early 1900s, most people were benefiting from cheaper imported food and other goods. New houses for the more prosperous working classes were being built on the burgages between the earlier properties in Templeton. Houses such as 'Townsend Bank House' at the

north end of the village and coming through the village on the east side was 'Corner House', 'Pendre', 'Laburnum Cottage', 'Ivy Cottage', 'Penygraig', 'Brownslade', 'Myrtle Villa', 'Brynteg Cottages', 'Melrose', 'Bank House', 'Rose Villa', 'Chestnut Cottage' next came the Church Hall and the 'Boars Head'. Crossing the road and returning up the hill on the west side of the village we have St. John's Church, 'Rose Cottage', 'Heather Dene', 'Picton House', 'Kensington House', 'Leamington House', 'Binghampton', 'Shady Grove', 'Glen View', 'Laurel Bank' and the 'Old School Room'. In the Back Lane was 'Park House' and on Chapel Street was No. 1 Chapel Street 'Crossways Cottage', the Congregational Church and No. 2 Chapel Street 'Hawthorn Rise Cottage' and No. 3 Chapel Street 'The Cottage'. Opposite Templeton CP School built in 1927 was 'The Manse'. To the far south of the village on the junction of the Crosshand Road, Pembroke Road and Tenby Road was 'Cross Villa' and on the Tenby Road a short distance south was 'Ashgrove' and on Tanners Lane was 'Fairview'. On the east side of the road was 'The Barn' or 'Barn Court' dating from around 1817 when it was first mentioned in the Bishop's Transcript. Built in the late 1800s was 'Bancyfelin Cottage', 'Glynawel' and 'Belverdere' a terrace of three houses; Templeton Railway Station. 'Oaklands' was built circa 1910 and was a village shop, attached on the side lane leading to the station built some years later, was 'Hermel House'. The house was named after the son of Ann Lewis who was killed in the Somme Offensive in 1916 and was buried at Hamel Military Cemetery in France. The last house that could really be described as a village property was 'Cleggars Castle' which is shown on the Tithe Map of 1843. On the south west end, off the Crosshands Road was 'Kings Park'.

Moving into the 20th century, increasingly properties were being modernised and improved and more importantly connected to clean running water, drains and electricity, many changes were happening in the village. It should be remembered that in the first quarter of the 20th century Templeton still had open gutters running through the main street as they had done since Mediaeval

times. But the population had by now increased considerably since those times. It is difficult to appreciate the stench that would have been present in the village, particularly in the hot summer weather. The cottages, farms and butchers who had their properties lining the main street would have discharged all their sewage and household waste directly into the open gutters, at this time they had no choice.

The road was not metalled as it is today and would have been difficult to keep clean. The aroma of freshly slaughtered cattle, sheep, pigs, rabbits and chickens mingled with the reek of blood that was washed away in the open gutters would have been quite overpowering. But the residents at the time had become used to it and it would have been the same in most villages and perhaps even worse in towns. Poultry and rabbits would have dangled from hooks outside the village shops, butchers would be selling the meats and the hardware shop would have sold their goods, such as tin baths and brooms.

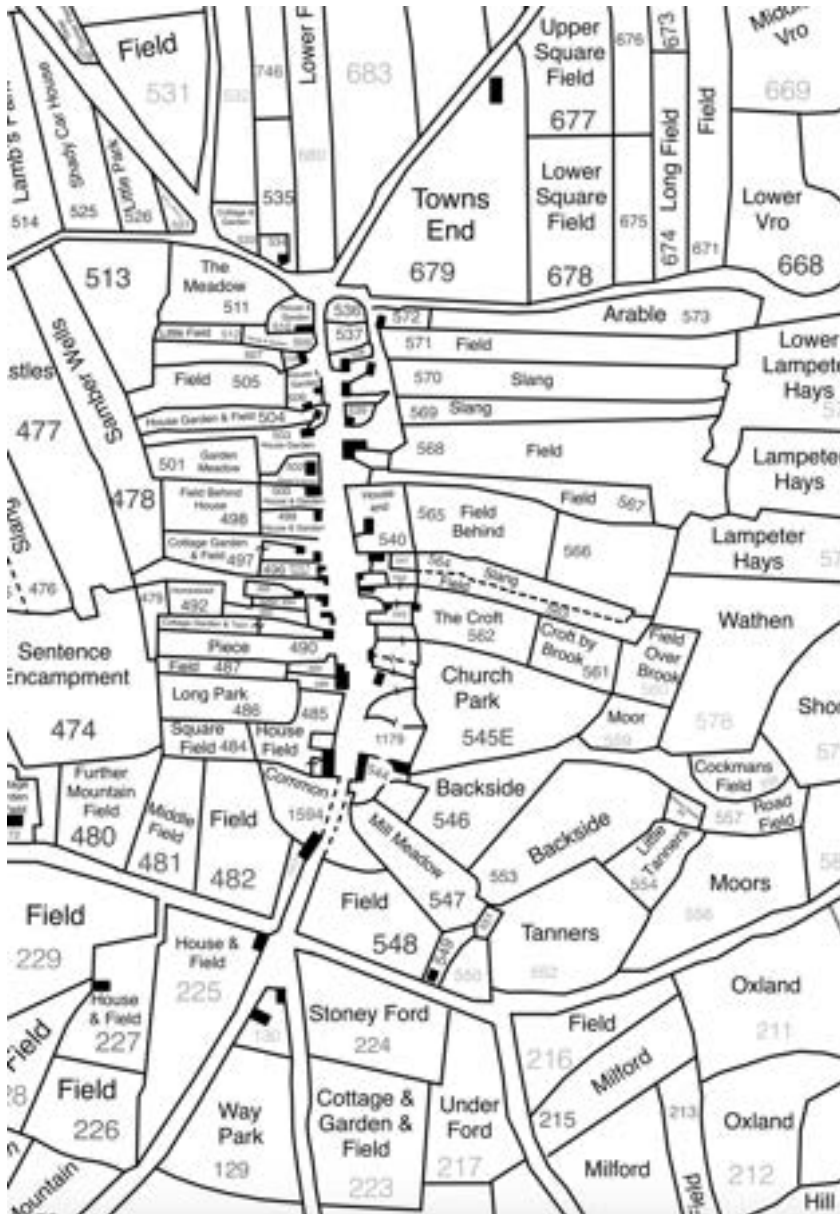
These conditions were all about to change when Pembrokeshire County Council piped the open gutters in 1927-8, the main road through the village was made level, the road now having natural drainage.

Electricity was to come to the village in 1934 and of the first houses to have electricity as an integral part of the home were the few properties built in that year and included 'Brooklands', 'Chestnut House' and 'Sunnymead'. From about 1905 the main street was lit by oil lamps, to be replaced with electric street lighting in 1946-47. Templeton had always had an ample supply of clean water drawn from the many 'wells' that surround the area. Wells such as Margaret's Well, Sammries well, Penygraig Well, Old Mills Well, Village Green Well, Fords Lake Well, Merryvale Well and Cold Blow Well, they were all hundreds of years old. In later years pumps were fixed to the wells, as for example in the far north west of the Village Green. Cold Blow Well was opened in September 1899, prior to that Cold Blow residents had to collect their water from the well in Shute Lane.





2nd Ed. OS Map 1913 showing the village of Templeton with the newly constructed railway embankment carrying the Pembroke and Tenby branch line. Compare the village layout with the Tith map. Most of the properties on the main street were recorded as 'Templeton' but everyone new the names of the occupants so it was not a problem for locals. It would present a problem for visitors!  
 (Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland)



*Extract of the Narberth Tithe Map re-drawn from three original Tithe Maps. The names and descriptions have been added from the apportionment. Local Historians place great emphasis on the value of the Tithe, it was the first detailed description of land use and ownership. Drawn by Robert Davies 2019.*

The wells were not without their problems. It was reported to the parish council and even made the local newspapers in 1908, that on several occasions people were collecting water from the wells in “dirty water vessels” and dipping these into the well. Farmers were warned by the parish council not to fetch water from the well at the village green with their horse and cart. Many of the villagers used small hand carts made to hold two or three water cans, an easier way to bring the water to their homes. It was known that children attending the village school who lived at remote farms such as ‘Rosedown’ would bring with them their water vessels, leave them at the village pump and collect them on their way home from school.

In the 1960s local resident Russell Morgan wrote “Today the strong springs in the wells still fill them to overflowing, but the only drinkers of this cold, refreshing water are now the dehorned Friesian and Hereford cattle belonging to local farms. Several farmers in the village had to fetch water in their horse drawn water carts from the old mill stream in the summer to water their cattle.” As recently as May 2020 the cap on the well in the garden of ‘Penygraig’ was lifted and the well exposed, it was about 3 metres deep with about a metre of water visible.

Piped water first came to the village around 1926 when five or six ‘standards’ were fitted throughout the village and many of the village properties had outside taps fitted. In 1937 piped water was installed in the village properties and the reservoir dug near the school. The Rosebush reservoir’s dam had to be raised by 10 feet to service the area. The village water supply provided from local wells was replaced with mains water in 1937. Today Templeton water comes from Llys Y Fran Reservoir, Clarbeston Road, our local reservoir almost opposite the village school supplies the village of Tavernspite.

Piped sewerage for Templeton was installed in the 1951 and a water treatment plant built off Tanners Lane near what would have been the ford crossing Fords Lake.

The village was a close community, proud of their homes and hard working and despite the war the annual spring cleaning still took place, usually around Whitsuntide, when villagers lime-washed their houses and walls. The village and the surrounding area had numerous hedges enclosing many small parcels of land or burgages. The small-holders who worked these fields, “now well mown and lush meadows, must have had industrious agricultural inclinations”, but as one moves away from the village, the fields become larger.

A refreshing mountain breeze blows through the village from the Preseli Hills in the north and from the south the sea air from Amroth and Saundersfoot, which comes first across the furze blossomed mountains of Westerton, Rosedown (or Mountain Bach) and Mables Mill.



*Penygraig Farm in the 1900s. The map shows its location in the village.*

Up to the 1950's, when approaching Templeton from the south and reaching Windberry Top, the village was clearly visible by its smoking chimneys, housewives or their servants, making up their culm fires, which once made up, had an impressive appearance, especially in the cottages where the occupier took great pride in 'whiting' around the fireplace and clean charked hearths.



*North end of village main street around 1910. The house on the right is 'Shady Grove Farm' beyond it is 'Narrowways'. The main road went to the left and to the right was Chapel Street. Coming down the hill on the left is 'Corner House' and 'Pendre', out of view is 'Elm Cottage', 'Dourigan' and 'Ivy Cottage' and 'Rock Cottage attached to 'Penygraig'. The road surface was typical of its day, with open gutters running both sides of the road. Note 'Penygraig' and attached to it just behind the tree is 'Rock Cottage'.*



*Middle of Templeton Main Street c. 1910. The building on the right with the curved roof was Thomas Brothers Builders Yard, who were local builders. On the right were the 'Church Cottages', St. John's Church and 'The Poyers Farm. Note the old street gas light in front of the cottages.*





*Templeton Farm dates back to the 1600s, note the Flemish style chimney. Brynteg Villas the first house became Anderson's Grocery & Drapery Shop c. 1910.*



Looking north through the village in c. 1910, on the left is Brownslade, Trogan Cottage, Laburnum Cottage, out of view is Elm Cottage, Pendre and Corner House. Coming down the road on the top right is Narrowways, Glenview, Shady Grove and Leamington House. The shrub in the foreground was the track to Kensington farm buildings, long before Kensington Close was built.



*The lower end of the village's main street, the first building on the right behind the hedge was Poyers Cottage and the blacksmiths workshop, the Poyers Arms and stables, behind all the trees is St. John's Church and two thatched cottages known as Church Cottages. C. 1890.*



*Looking north through Templeton main street in the early 1900s. On the left is Chestnut Cottage, Rose Villa. On the right by the girls was 'Laura's Cottage'. It is worth noting the steepness of the road and the 'slabs' going over the open gutters. The slabs were often old slate gravestones.*

Whitening (or whiting), a term rarely heard today, was “a chalk freed of any sand so as to render it scratch free”. It should be remembered that many modest households had at least one servant, who often lived in.

The home would have had a cosy and inviting appearance to the work weary husband or son, who farmed the land or lost much sweat at the brickworks, Cleggars Castle Quarry, or elsewhere, wherever his daily work was carried out, he would undoubtedly strip to the waist, removing no doubt, his Welsh flannel shirt, a brisk wash, possibly change his corduroy trousers for his “second best,” and enjoy his evening meal with the family gathered round the table, the room light being an oil lamp. There was no such thing as running hot and cold water. Cold water would have come from one of the village wells and water for the old tin bath would have been heated on the fire.

Looking at the census between 1841 and 1881, most of the inhabitants of the village came from the somewhere within the county or from Narberth itself. Many of the inhabitants were related by blood or marriage which often resulted in what was sometimes seen by outsiders to the village as cliquish, but I am sure it was welcoming village!



# 7

## ‘Townred’ Village

The village of Templeton was often referred to as ‘Townred’ in documents dating back to at least the 1600’s, probably to indicate the main village as opposed to the surrounding farmsteads and properties. In more recent times



*A group of villagers pose for a rare photograph outside ‘Melrose’ the stone house on the right also on the right with the white washed wall is ‘Templeton Farm’ the bicycle leans against the wall of ‘Brynteg’ lower down the village is the end wall of ‘Rose Villa Farm’. The whitewashed cottage on the left is ‘Ogmore Cottage’ just peeking through are the ‘Church Cottages and at the bottom of the village is the ‘Poyers Arms’. Photograph taken around 1905. (Collection of Brian Owen)*

local villagers claim a different reason for the name ‘Townred’. Their thinking was that with so many cattle slaughtered in the village farms the blood was used to tint the lime wash, used to paint the cottages, that the village became

known as the 'Red Village' or could it have been that the red colour of the walls was thought to protect the house against evil spirits!

In Chapter 2 was mentioned the importance of Tithe Maps in helping to understand a time and place. Tithes were payments made from early times for the support of the parish church and its clergy. Originally these payments were made in kind (crops, wool, milk, young stock, etc.) and usually represented a tenth of the yearly production of cultivation or stock rearing. The Tithe map tells us a great deal about our village, unfortunately the map has become fragile over the years and damaged. The numbers on the Tithe Map refer to unique field numbers, that cross references with an accompanying apportionment that tells us who the landowner was, the occupier, the name and description of land and premises, the state of cultivation, quantities in statute measures (acres, rows and perches) and two further columns of amount payable. In other words a great deal of practical information was available. Many of the field names continue to be used and would often be seen in legal transactions to show ownership of particular plots of land. The village was once the home to 16 or so small-holdings and farms, stretching north to south through the village starting with 'Slade Acre' on West Lane; 'Dourigan'; 'Shady Grove'; 'Penygraig'; 'Brownslade'; 'Martin's Farm'; 'Picton House'; 'Rising Sun'; 'Templeton Farm'; 'Ogmore House'; 'Rose Villa'; 'Stockwell Farm'; 'Chestnut House'; 'Poyer's Arms'; with 'Kings Park' off the Crosshands Road and 'Barn Court' and 'Cleggar's Castle' both off the Tenby Road. Nearly all the farms and small-holdings had their land spread out across the parish. As can be seen from the Tithe Map the west side of the village had, between the two cross-roads around 15 buildings, some of these were cottages, farm buildings and homesteads.

The number of houses in the village, as already mentioned had been reasonably stable, probably for centuries. But between 1920 and 1939 four private houses and four council houses were built. They were 'The Manse', 'Brooklands', 'Chestnut House' and 'Sunnymead' on West Lane, they were all

built by Thomas Bros. 'Builders of Templeton'. The four council houses were built as two semi-detached properties on the bank opposite 'Rose Villa', they were completed in 1937. They replaced two cottages which were on the roadside, almost in front of these newly-built houses. Only one bungalow had been built for a private residence during this period. At the time bungalows were becoming popular, particularly in the Templeton, Kilgetty, Saundersfoot and Tenby areas.

House building obviously came to a standstill during the second world war. After the war houses were desperately needed and the then Narberth Rural District Council purchased 'Church Cottage', a garden and burgage between the cottage and St. John's Church. 'Church Cottage' was once a small thatched cottage towards the lower end of the village opposite 'Chestnut Cottage'. On this site, five houses were completed in 1952, six completed in 1954 and the two bungalows in 1958. This development was to become 'Hillside Terrace'. Another small cottage was 'Stockwell Farm' dating back to at least 1724. The cottage is known today as 'Homeleigh' it started life as possibly a thatched cottage with a 'loft bedroom' of c. 1700. There is only one mention in the census of Stockwell Farm that was in 1911 when Mary Phillips, born in 1866 was the farmer, nobody else was mentioned on the census other than a visitor 9 year old Barrett Davies. The Electoral Roll of 1925 show Daniel and Mary Evans living at the farm with widow Mary the sole occupier and retired farmer still occupying the farm. The name 'Homeleigh' was first mentioned in the 1940s when Griff and Winifred John made it their home and they were still there in the 1970s, although the house name 'Cefn Gallod' also crept in. It underwent several alterations from the 1970s to what it is today. In 1961, two council houses were built, 'Trojan House' on the original site of 'Trojan Cottage'. So twenty-four years after the second world war, only one private house was built in the village and seven bungalows, plus the two on the council estate. If we look at the hamlets of Templeton there are four bungalows built at Woods Cross, two in the Molleston area and one in Mounton Parish. Five

bungalows in Cold Blow were built and 'Windsor Inn' also called 'Cold Blow House' was demolished and 'Windsor Gardens' developed. Most of the bungalows in Cold Blow were built from around 1964.

Since the 1970s there have been a number of developments in the south of the village starting with 'Larkspur Close' the first of the 'new' bungalow estate developments in 1970, followed soon after by 'Sentence Gardens' built in 1972, and 'Greenfields Close' which started life as a static caravan site, developing into holiday chalets and then bungalows in the 1980s. As we move north through the village we have 'Poyer's Grove' a development of 10 houses built in 2010, 'Maple Court' a small development of just three gated houses built in 2003. Carrying on through the village is 'Picton Close' with its 18 bungalows built in the 1980s, 'Kensington Close' a block of four council flats constructed circa 1970, Kensington Bungalow built in 1984, 'Brambles' built in the 1990s a large detached contemporary house. On the west side is the newly developed 'Knights Court' with 19 houses and three terraced houses off the main road completed in 2020. In 2007 on the site of 'Belt Haulage Yard' were built two houses behind 'Brynteg' named 'Brynteg 3 and 4' and the 'Rising Sun'. 'Penygraig Close' originally called 'Southways Park' was developed in 1976. At the north east end of the village is 'Chapel Lane', which was made up of the 'Old School Room', No. 1 Chapel Lane 'Crossways', the 'Congregational Chapel', and Nos. 2 'Hawthorns' and 3 'The Cottage' Chapel Lane. In the 1980s six large bungalows were built along the lane. On the north-eastern edge of the village is 'Jubilee Gardens' with 16 bungalows built in and around 1977 by Eric Webb, four bungalows were built around the same time next to the school. The 'Maes Yr Ysgol' development was built in two phases, the first phase at the north end comprised of two houses and 12 bungalows built by F. J. Chalcroft Builders in circa 2000 and in the second phase 24 bungalows were constructed by Millbay Builders in 2014-2015. On the north west of the village on 'West Lane' a number of individual houses were built throughout the late 1980s and 'Temple View' built in circa 2000. Throughout the village from the

1990s many single houses or bungalows have been built and 'old' houses fully modernised. In 2020 at the south end of the village a small housing development 'Potters Grove', of 14 properties is being built by W. B. Griffiths Construction of Haverfordwest on a meadow known as 'Way Park'.

Having set the scene, I would now like to take you on a more detailed walk through the village. The property known as 'Townsend Bank' is perhaps a good place to start our village exploration. The Tithe Map of 1840 shows the house where it is today occupying field number 534 in the land ownership of Sir Richard Bulkeley Philipps Phillips and occupied by Revd. William Lloyd. The current house was built around 1848 and the tenant was Charles Ford. But this is where it gets interesting, as the property was most likely known as 'Townsend' in 1609 shown in the 'public records' and in the 1793 Land Tax Assessment. In Manorial Records dating back to 1685 'Townsend Backs' and 'Townsend Park' names were being used.

Further information is not available for the property until 1881 when it appears in the census as 'Town End' occupied by John Owen his wife Esther and their daughters Mary aged 2 and Lilian, they had a live-in servant, 15 year old Emily Rowe. John worked as a butcher. Another property in 1881 known as 'Town End Back' was occupied by stone quarry labourer 70 year old David Salmon, his wife Ann, daughter Martha a dressmaker and 17 year old grandson Morris Salmon a general labourer and granddaughter Martha Salmon still at school. By the time of the 1891 census John Salmon was shown as head of household with his wife Lizzie and children Elizabeth and William. We do know from a conveyance document between Lady Marion P. Philipps and Mr John Salmon dated 2nd December 1902 that John had formerly taken over the property and was living there with his wife and son William aged 20, John was employed as a quarryman at a limestone quarry in Templeton. Staying with them was Sarah John their niece working as a dressmaker.



*Extract of original parchment conveyance document showing the property 'Townsend'. The plan defines the property on plot 768 and includes field 767 1 acre 22 perches and field 659 1 acre 1 rood 33 perches. These were Imperial Measures in use at the time 4 rood equals 1 acre, 40 perches equals 1 rood and 1 perch equals 30.25 square yards. A total of around 2.25 acres, just under 1 hectare. The plot shown in red runs along West Lane on the old Narberth road out of the village. West Lane continues to the left at the 'Y' junction. The plan also show 'Pitch Lane' known today as 'Knight's Way', the road on the immediate right is Chapel Street with the Old School house shown and the other road is to Cold Blow.*

On the edge of the village in the north west is 'Slade Acre' on West lane, the original cottage dates back to at least 1792 when it was named 'Sladiker' and by the early 1800s 'Sladecar'. The dwelling has also be known as 'Willey's Land' and that is how it appeared on the Ordnance Survey map of 1889. The Land Tax Assessment has an entry in 1801 for "Mr. Richard Willey" who was the proprietor of of several tenements; "Crowland" in the occupation of James Prothro and three tenements named "Chisley's Land" in the occupations of James Salmon, David Lewis and William Phillip Rees. The tenements appear again in the 1831 assessments with "John Wiley Esq." being the proprietor still with Protheroe at "Crowland", Mr B R Thomas at "Ashridge", Griffith Rees and Walter Howell sharing one of the "Chisley's Land" plots, the writer of the assessment has added "Cold Blow", is this suggesting that "Chisley's Land" is in the Cold Blow area? Two further entries for Chisley's Land occupied by Mrs.

Robert Pernall and Thomas Mabe. What this means is questionable and we may never have the answer! What we can confirm is the house we know as 'Slade Acre' was built on field number 525 on the Tithe Apportionment of 1843. The landowner was Thomas Thomas and the tenant was Walter Hall, the field name was 'Shady Car House' no building was shown on the Tithe map, suggesting the house was possibly under construction. Probably what we see today was built between 1840 to 1850, a cow shed was at the far west end of the house. The census of 1851 through to 1871 did not have any listings, the first listing with the name 'Slade Acre' was in 1881 when two separate families were listed under that address. The first family was Henry Hitchins a farm labourer and his wife was Ruth they had four children Martha the eldest was 10, then Margaret, Mary and Daniel. The second family was George and Ruth Merriman, George worked as a general labourer, their children were 15 year old George employed as a farm servant, Frances and John.

The 1891 census has at 'Slade Acre' Mary Ann Thomas aged 47, her son George age 14, Mira Maud and David Sidney. Mary Ann's younger sister Sarah Jones was also living with them at the house. The 1901 census has James Thomas as head of the household with his wife Sarah Thomas, possibly Sarah Jones from the 1891 census as the age matches. There was a second entry for 'Slade Acre' in 1901 being occupied by John and Gertrude Evans, and young daughter Minnie. John was employed in the local brickworks as a labourer. We then come to the 1911 census with two families at 'Slade Acre 1' John and Elizabeth Page and children Cathleen Elsie, Idris and Gertrude aged 2. In 'Slade Acre 2' as listed by the census enumerator was William Salmon aged 30 who came from Roath, Cardiff and was working as a 'Crusher Man' in the Brickworks, married to Elizabeth a local girl from Yerboston and children W. James John Salmon age 2 and baby Elizabeth Irene.

The Electoral Roll show Thomas Scourfield and William Evans there in 1925. In 1945 David, Florence and George Lewis were living at the house, whether they were the Lewis family from 1935 is not known. The house became the



*This photograph taken in the early 1980s outside Elm House shows cows being moved for milking from the meadows at the top of the village down the main road to the milking sheds of 'Rising Sun Farm' and 'Templeton Farm'.*



*Photograph c.1900 showing on the immediate right the drive into 'Martin's Farm', followed by 'Myrtle Villas', 'Hillside', 'Rising Sun' and 'Bryn Teg'.*



home to a Royal Navy Dental Surgeon, Mr Joseph T. P. Cullingford by 1949, he had been a Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and held the rank of Lieutenant Surgeon. He built on the existing porch as a waiting room, inside the house one room still has the tell tale sign of an early dentists chair with lead pipes leading to the outside. When he sold the property it was to another Dental Surgeon who had a Dental Practice in Narberth.

Before moving to the village main street we need to go across the road to Chapel Street which used to be a pilgrims and drovers way along Chapel Hill Lane past 'Upper Chapel Hill' and south to 'Great Chapel Hill', now named Lower Chapel Hill which lead to Tanners Lane, or you could carry on along Chapel Hill Lane past Upper Chapel Hill Farm where you had the choice of following a footpath to Little Chapel Hill Farm or Wells Cottage or taking the main lane over Golden Bridge past 'Golden' to exit near 'Greenwood Cottage' in Cold Blow. At one time there were tracks and footpaths that would have enabled you to walk cross country to Ludchurch via Hill Farm.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1890 1:10,560 shows Chapel Street leading to Ford's Lake and then becoming a footpath leading to Chapel Hill Lane but the lane has not been designated as a public right of way. The registration of public rights of way occurred during the 1950's and these routes were not put forward for registration. The process was claimed to be very thorough, the omission of the routes suggests that the routes were not considered to be public. There has been confusion over the name of Chapel Street which appears to be the original name shown on OS maps with Chapel Hill Lane starting at Ford's Lake. The adopted name is now Chapel Lane for the entire length.

On the Tithe Map the lanes are all indicated but the only properties on the lane at that time were 'Upper Chapel Hill' farm, 'Great Chapel Hill' farm and Wells Cottage in the parish of Ludchurch.

For the purpose of clarity, 'Ford's Lake' will be regarded as part of the village, moving east along Chapel Lane and Street, the first reference to 'Ford's Lake' in

any census was in 1861 when it was occupied by Benjamin Lewis his wife Hester and children William aged 9, George and Arthur.

Five other households were listed as being on Chapel Street, David Rees a carpenter, his wife Anne and daughter Mary Ann aged 1. There was also an apprentice carpenter and joiner living with them at the house Thomas Davies aged 15. Next door was John Davies a 50 year old labourer with his wife Mary and children Eliza, James and 5 year old Mary. The next Chapel Street household was George Davies a farm labourer, Ann his wife, son William age 25 a lime-burner and daughters Jane and Mary. The census for 1871 lists the Independent Chapel on the census schedule as Number 48, 49 possibly 'Crossways', could this have been '1 Chapel Street' or '3 Chapel Street' but either way it is shown as in the occupation of John Davies a 57 year old farmer of 80 acres with his wife Mary and 14 year old daughter also named Mary. The enumerator then shows the 'End of Templeton' with schedule number 50 being 'Ford's Lake' with a young woman of 23, Martha Lewis as head of the household, her husband worked as a mason and was in America at the time the census was taken. They had three children Thomas, Annie Jane and 5 month old Mary Ann. Her neighbours, schedule number 51 '2 Chapel Street' the 'Hawthorns' was still the Rees family which had increased in size with daughter Beatrice and John aged 6. By the time of the 1881 census the enumerator approached from the east leaving 'Lower Chapel Hill' to 'Ford's Lake' home of Jobe Evans and his wife Mary. Jobe was listed as a railway repairer. The next property 'Hawthorns' was in the tenancy of David Merriman a railway repairer, wife Jane, daughters Elizabeth and Martha and sons James, William and baby David. Next on Chapel Street most likely 'Crossways' had John Davies still farming but now only 35 acres with his wife Mary both in their late 60s helped by their grandson 16 year old Thomas Lewis. Martha Evans was employed as a farm servant. John Evans an agricultural worker his wife Elizabeth and daughters Margaret Ann and Elizabeth just 2 years old was born at 'Golden' Cold Blow. They were living in 1891 at 'Ford's Lake' and still there in the late

1940s. John Evans became a plate-layer on the Great Western Railway. They went on to have four children Liza, Olive, Gwendoline and Benjamin. John also became the village water diviner and was often called upon to find water using his 'Y' shaped twig.

Further along Chapel Street lived William Lewis and his family. William was working on the railway as a plate-layer. His wife was Sophia and children Anne Jane, Thomas, William and 6 month old Elizabeth. 'Hawthorns' was the home of the Page family, William a farmer his wife Mary and a large family of 23 children, but while they were living at 'Hawthorns' it was a modest 9 children and a mother-in-law and parents all living in the four roomed house. Mary Davies was the mother-in-law and the children were James aged 12, Mary Ann, John, Eliza, William and Margaret they were born one year apart from each other then came 2 years later Beatrice, Thomas a year later and 7 month old Phoebe. The family later moved to 'Brownslade' in the village. Another address was 3 Chapel Street 'Crossways' occupied by Benjamin John an apprentice carpenter and his older sister Sarah Jane. The next building shown on the schedule was the Independent Chapel.

Just off Chapel Street was 'Park House', probably built sometime during the 1850s in what has become known as 'Back Lane'. The house was not shown on the 1840 Tithe map or the 1841 census suggesting construction sometime after 1841 but before 1851. The house was built in Field No. 571 which at the time was in the ownership of William Thomas Reyson and George Davies was his tenant. Looking at the census for 1851 'Park House' was in the occupation of John and Elizabeth Lewis and their young family, Thomas age 4, William and George. Sarah Jenkins, mother of Elizabeth Lewis (nee Jenkins) age 77 a former midwife and Heather Jenkins age 11 shown as a House Servant was living with them at their home. The census was somewhat confusing in 1861 as the Census Enumerator started at 'Ford's Lake' Schedule Number 165 the next number is 166 'Chapel Street' through to 170, it is most likely that Schedule 169 was 'Park House' in the occupation of Isaac and Annah Lewis, their daughter

Hannah and son John age 8. A relative was living in the same property although the Census Enumerator listed it as a separate household, she was Elizabeth Davies born in 1786 in Carmarthenshire. The Lewis family were still living at Park House in 1911.

In 1881 a property referred to as 'Back Lane' was occupied by Henry and Mary Merriman, their three daughters Grace, Ann, Mary and two sons George and 3 year old Robert. I am not sure whether this was 'Park House' or a separate property in the village. Henry worked as a farmer and labourer, 7 year old daughter Mary was dumb according to the census.

We continue our exploration through the 'village main street' and this is where difficulties can arise, particularly using the Census data to identify families living in properties along the main street. Most of the census information, from the first census of 1841 to the 1911 census refers to the 'main street' properties as 'Templeton' or 'Templeton Village' and if for example we look at the 1861 census 44 properties are listed as 'Templeton Village'. In the early part of the 1800s a dozen or so buildings were on the east side of the main street that runs through Templeton.

It is believed that originally 'Penygraig' cottage was a 'Tŷ unnos' or one night house, an old Welsh tradition. It was thought by some that "if a person could build a house on common land in one night, the land then belonged to them as a freehold". 'Penygraig' had been a working farm from the late 19th to the early mid 20th century. The Killa family were farming 'Penygraig' in the early part of the 1900s. The head of the household James Killa was a farmer and dealer working the farm with his wife Lydia and step children John and Florence Perkins who worked as a dairy maid. Their children Bronwen and Ynyd Eira were both in school. Lydia Killa now 62 years old was still living at the farm in 1925. But, by 1929 Lydia and Ynyd Eira were residing at 'Merryvale', Lydia was still there in 1935.

A cottage known as 'Ivy Cottage', was also thought to have been a Tŷ unnos which was attached to 'Dourigan'. The original 'Ivy Cottage' was demolished



*The south of the village looking north towards the village hall and bridge, the entrance to the village green is just visible. The council houses now replace the 'Church Cottages' on the right hand side. The photograph shows a far more exposed village hall with a rendered wall. Photo c. 1950.*

and a bungalow built in its place 'Pipers Cottage', when Penygraig Close, originally known as Southways Park was developed in 1976 by local builder Eric Webb. He also built Jubilee Gardens and Sentence Gardens. 'Laburnum Cottage' was previously known as 'Dourigan' and in 2018 returned to its original name of 'Laburnum Cottage'. Dourigan did not appear in any census under that name but was absorbed in 'Templeton'. It did show up on the Electoral Roll in 1925 with James and Martha Davies living there and in 1935 Martha, Gwyneth and Miriam were there. They were followed in 1960s and 70s by John and Miriam Jones. There was however an entry in 1911 for 'Laburnum Cottage'. It was then the home of George Thomas a farm labourer age 53 and his 24 year old daughter Martha. In 1925 William Griffiths had made it his home at 'Ivy Cottage' and in the 1960 and 70s it was home to Richard and Nellie Hare.

'Elm House' is a property set back off the road often seen behind a white washed garden wall. It is a good example of a well preserved late 18th century house. It has kept the scale and proportion of the original plan, built of local stone from near-by quarries, the walls being over 60 cms thick with a slate roof. The front of the house has five twelve-pane small sash windows with their original blown glass panes. The cottage was built around 1786 and dates from the Narberth enclosure period. The rear part of the cottage is probably mid 19th century and until mid 20th century was part of the Henllan Estate. Today the garden is now half its original length. Like many of the older houses in the Main Street it was built in a burgage plot.



*Rev. Phillips and family at the side of Elm Cottage. Opposite is 'Narrowway' cottage, now known as 'Laurel Bank' c. 1905.*

The cottage became the home of the minister of Templeton Congregational Chapel. In 1911 'Elm Cottage' now known as 'Elm House' was the home of John and Esther Owen and their family Nellie, Herbert, Ernest and granddaughter Blodwen. John was a butcher running his own business from the

house, he was born in 1859 at East Close, Cold Blow and married Esther Davies of 'Barn Farm', Templeton.

At the top of the road was 'Pendre' and 'Corner House' now re-named 'Apple Cottage'. Both of these adjoining houses were shown on the map of 1820 (p.2) and Tithe Map of the 1840s. Little is known of these properties other than they probably pre-date the 1820s. On the Tithe Apportionment William Reyson was the landowner and Alunder Thomas was occupying the 'House and



*'Pendre' cottage c. 1920. The family of Mr & Mrs. Howell and their mother-in law Mrs Merriman. The baby in arms eventually emigrated to America and frequently returned to Templeton and is buried in the churchyard.*

Garden' in Field Number 510. The 'Pendre' we see today was totally refurbished and extended in the 1970s. A small shop was set up in the room next to the road and was in use in the 1980s. Coming down the road on the

east side is the white washed cottage 'Narrowways', re-named 'Laurel Bank'. Just behind the house was a carpentry and undertakers workshop. A number of the village properties have interesting stories to reveal such as 'Narrowways' which in 1844 was owned by John Lewis Phillips Esq. and leased for 99 years to William and Martha Thomas previously of Redcliffe Cottage, Narberth, and their 2 year old daughter Elizabeth. There appears to be a family connection with other Templeton families, Mabe and Phillips, the 1841 census shows James Phillips an Inn Keeper and his family with Robert Mabe and his family all living at 'Back Lane', Narberth.

Included here is an extract from a purchase document for 'Narrowways' that provides useful background information about the house and its family. *"This indenture made the first day of March in the sixth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria the first by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen Defender of the faith and in the year of our Lord 1844 between John Lewis Phillips esquire of Her Majesty's 32nd Regiment of foot eldest son and heir at law of the late George Phillips esquire of Narberth deceased of the one part and William Thomas of Redcliffe Cottage in the parish of Narberth Carpenter and Joiner of the other part that in consideration of the rent sharing after by these present and all of the covenants clauses and agreements during after contained on the part on behalf of the said William Thomas his executor administrators and assigns to be observed and performed the said John Lewis Phillips hath demised and leased into a parcel of ground sometimes call Narrowway situate lying and being in the village of a Templeton in the parish of Narberth in the county of Pembroke and butted on the north by a certain burial-ground on the east by a narrow road leading to the outbuildings of Abraham Couzens and Arthur Lewis on the south by a garden the property of Sir Richard Bulkeley Phillips Phillips Baronet of Picton Castle and on the west by the turnpike road leading from Narberth to Tenby and containing by measurement 125 feet from east to west and 98 feet from north to south and now in the occupation of the said John Lewis Phillips on his under tenants together with all ways water water courses privileges and appurtenances whatsoever to the said spot of ground in any way appertaining on there with hold used occupied and enjoyed all as part and parcel..."*



In the land tax assessment of 1786 Sir Hugh Owen is shown as the proprietor of a property in Templeton most probably known as 'Narrow Way' in the occupation of Stephen Mabe, little appeared to change for the next decade or so. By 1831 the Land Tax Assessment shows George Phillips Esq. as the proprietor with the occupier being Thomas Lewis.



*Laurel Bank photographed in 2018 following a major refurbishment. Previously known as Narrowways, it is possible to just make out a doorway that was originally the entrance to the undertakers.*

In a note in the archives of the Pembrokeshire Records Office is a mention of Alban Richards born 28th August 1853, Templeton, Pembrokeshire. Second child of Henry Richards, of 'Narrowway', Templeton and his wife Mary, nee Lewis, a nephew of David Richards, stonemason and builder of Templeton parish church.

Alban grew up and had his schooling in Templeton and was apprenticed to a carpenter and wheelwright. In 1872, his elder brother, John finished his apprenticeship and moved to Ton Pentre, Rhondda, Glamorgan. In order to accompany him Alban broke his apprenticeship. Then on the 4th April 1876 he married Mary Cecilia Gould whose farming parents had moved from Devonshire and opened a grocery shop in the Rhondda. Mary ('Polly') was barely 17 years old when she married. Alban started a small building firm and

also ran an undertakers business. He and Polly eventually had 15 children, 13 of whom grew up. It became a family business and steadily expanded. Alban Richards and Sons went on to build miners houses in the Rhondda and houses, schools and hotels in Barry. The firm became government contractors during the First World War and built army camps and munitions factories.

He died in 1929 in Cyncoed an affluent area, on the northern outskirts of the city of Cardiff at a house he aptly named 'Templeton', no doubt to remind him of his humble beginnings in his home village.

Back to our village Main Street, the next house to the south of 'Narroway' is known as 'Shady Grove', buildings are shown on the map of 1820 (page 2) and although a household appears in the Tithe Assessment of the 1840s, it is not the same 'Shady Grove'. The land where not only 'Shady Grove' was built but also 'Big Hampton' or 'Binghampton', 'Leamington House' and 'Glen View' was owned by Sir Richard Bulkeley Philipps Philipps of the Picton Castle Estate, the field where the houses were built was in the Tithe Apportionment number 538. The tenant, of around 26 fields including a house near 'Flower Hall' was Abraham Couzins, most likely to be the original 'Shady Grove'. He appears to have been a farmer of around 70 acres in 1841 and into 1851, living at a property 'Templeton' with his wife Louisa and children Mary age 6, Michael, Maria, Hannah and six-month old Sarah. In the 1840s 'Shady Grove' was home to John and Jane Scourfield, son George and daughters Anne, Hannah, Eliza and baby Mary. It seems they had moved to Llandewi Velfry by 1851. Although a property known as 'Shady Grove' is mentioned in the 1861 census in the occupation of Margaret Howells age 79, it is most probable that it was not the house on the main street as on the census this Shady Grove appears well out of the village between 'Flower Hall' and 'Robbins Hootes' near Cold Blow. William and Phoebe Griffiths were there by 1871, he was employed as a labourer and had 5 acres of land. They lived at 'Shady Grove', Cold Blow with their young family Thomas age 6, John and Jane. It is more than probable that the 'Shady Grove' and 'Binghampton' on the main street

was built around 1893. The census confirms that in 1901 'Shady Grove' was being farmed by Annie Mabe aged 40, she was shown as 'head of the household' and the 'condition' of the marriage suggested she was married but there is no mention of her husband. Her children were Albert Evans 12 and Gertrude Evans 10 followed two years later by Annette Mabe and Malba Mabe 5. By 1911 her son Albert was assisting her on the farm and daughter Netty worked as a dairy maid. Her eldest daughter Gertrude Evans, whom I am sure helped on the farm was described on the census as a Dressmaker, her youngest daughter Malba 15 was still at school. The second 'Shady Grove' as described on the census was most likely to be 'Binghampton', living there in 1911 was another farmer John Griffiths and his wife May Griffiths.

As we continue south through the village we come to a semi-detached property 'Brynteg' numbers 1 and 2 built in the mid 1800s, the first house was occupied by Robert and Eliza Anderson who were quite probably the first tenants. In 1861 they lived there with their young family starting with William aged 7, Julia 5 and Jane 3, Agnes was born at the house in 1870. Robert was born in Lockerbie, Dumfries-shire, Scotland in 1832, the rest of the family were all born in Pembrokeshire. By 1881 the Anderson were running a successful drapery and grocery shop, that also sold hardware items such as buckets, brushes, paraffin oil, candles and they also baked their own bread which they sold. Robert Anderson now aged 79 and Eliza 84 were still running the shop in 1911 assisted by their spinster daughters Julia and Jane. It was the sisters that were to take over the running of the shop for many more years. The shop at 'Brynteg' later became the village Post Office that was taken over by Mrs. William Belt for two years who previously had lived at 'Ashgrove'. The Post Office was then run by her daughter Winifred (Winne) Belt who was the village sub-postmistress for 21 years. Her niece, Monica Belt, took over when Winne Belt married. Monica became the sub-postmistress for the next seven years until she married in 1959, before moving the Post Office to 'Rose Villa'. Templeton had previously had a Post Office run by Mr. & Mrs. David Richards,

known as the 'Olde Post Office' now named 'Melrose' that was before moving to 'Brynteg'.

Like all rural areas the village once had its own postman who would deliver the mail and the gossip daily! The last village Postman was Mr. Billie Evans of 'Glen View'. Unfortunately this ceased in 1966 and now all the post is delivered from Narberth.

Continuing our journey through the village we arrive at the white washed garden wall of 'Templeton Farm' sited at the head of a former burgage plot and is one of several in the village of pre-enclosure date. Building in the late 16th century<sup>24</sup> was still largely mediaeval in character and the houses are often described as pre-mediaeval regional houses such as Templeton farm. The plan of the house was very popular in its day on the basis of two small rooms, parlour and service room behind the dais and one large room beyond the passage, can be traced in many later houses. It may be that its popularity arose from the fact that additional accommodation upstairs made it possible to dispense with a third room and shorten the dwelling. The ground floor plan of a two-unit house then consisted of a hall and alongside a service room and a parlour. Much of interest in the plan lies in the circumstances which determine whether the two secondary unit's should be at the entry end of the the hall which ever was decided, ground floor accommodation was augmented by two rooms on the first floor. Five rooms provided both the living space and the domestic storage space of large numbers of families from the middle of the 16th century. In the pre-mediaeval phase the house may be found either as a freestanding building or joined to its farm buildings. The relationship between house, byre and other farm buildings is extremely complex and many different evolutionary patterns are evident. The chimney on the front of the house is a significant feature. The house is thought to have its origins in the 1600s.

The farmhouse has three windows and two storeys, facing onto the village street. It would most probably have been lime-washed in its day with a slated

roof and tile ridge. Left of centre is the main door, opening into a cross-passage, with a corresponding door on the rear elevation.

The room to the north has a very large lateral chimney projecting nearly 1 m from the front wall, and the room on the south has a lesser projection with a second lateral chimney. The farmhouse has undergone a total refurbishment completed in 2020, retaining all the original features of the Farmhouse. There is a heavy capping at eaves level, and above that a diagonally set large shaft rises for about another three metres. The projection which of the second chimney to the south room was at some time in its history straight sided and fronted and is curtailed at eaves level with a small projection of the main roof.

Whereas it now has been returned to its original design. The sash windows are of four panes, the lower windows being larger than the upper ones. At the rear of the house the small windows face the farmyard. There is a boarded rear door that led to a cross passage. To the left of the rear elevation is a 2-storey wing containing the kitchen, including a large end-chimney with stack over a metre square. In the angle of this wing and the main block there is a gabled stairs turret with a small upper window. There is a single storey attached shed to the right with another boarded door.

The house had two rooms 'down-stairs' with a cross passage. The passage separated a smaller one-window room from a larger two-window room, the latter served by the large lateral chimney. To the rear of this room lies the staircase, of the 1600s, with three flights surrounding a large square masonry pier. It is a Grade II listed building of a well preserved vernacular farmhouse of lateral-chimney type retaining plan form and some early detail, including the staircase.

The lateral chimney<sup>25</sup> appeared first in houses on the highest social status and in those over a wide area of Wales. In time it descended the social ladder, reaching the houses of the Yeoman such as seen in 'Templeton Farm'.



Templeton Farm photographed in 2020 following a total refurbishment to its original appearance. Note the 'Flemish' style lateral chimneys.



*The watercolour painted in 1990 by L. R. Dawson shows in the immediate foreground the wall of 'Templeton Farm,' looking across the road to the 'Poyers Arms'. The cows are being herded along the main road back to the meadows after milking. (Courtesy of Mrs Mair Davies)*



Aerial view of and around 'Templeton Farm' in 1970.

Starting at 1 bottom left is 'Bank House' note the original form of the house and sloping drive to the house; 2 cow-shed belonging to 'Templeton Farm' now converted into cottage 'Y Beudy'; 3 'Melrose', once the village poor house then the village post office. We then come to 4 'Templeton Farm' note how the second external chimney had been blocked up; 5 'Brynteg' at the time this photograph was taken it was home of Bernard and Nancy Belt and children Billie, Monica and David; 6 'Brynteg' home of the Killa family; 7 'Rising Sun' had been a working farm and Inn; 8 'Templeton Farm' barn now converted into cottage. Number 9 was the yard of 'Belt Haulage' started by William Belt who was the last manager at Templeton Brickworks and created Belt Transport, hauling coal from Templeton Station by horse & cart to homes, farms & businesses in the parish. By 1939 Bernard Belt had taken over the business and sons Billy and David took the business in 1961 to become 'Belt Bros.' 10 was the chicken house; 11 the lane to (Sentence) 'Castle meadows', near here was also the 'Ty Bach' for the farm; 12 Templeton Farm hay barn; 13 part of the burgage of 'Templeton Farm' known as 'Hop Field'; 14 the well cared for garden of Mair Davies, 'Melrose'. On the opposite side of the road 15 was the original 'Ogmore Cottage' now the extended 'Ogmore House'; 16 the original site of 'Stockwell Farm' now re-named 'Homeleigh'; 17 a 'new' house 'Hill Park'. Number 18 was the Coal Store run by Eddie Nicholas in the yard of 'Belt Bros.'

Trying to find out who owned and originally built the house has proved difficult, so we have to come forward about a century to the 1786 the Land Tax Assessment that lists just two properties that could possibly be Templeton Farm, both are paying a similar tax of £1 2s. 8d. and in the ownership of Lord Milford. The first property was in the occupancy of David Griffiths and the other Thomas Phelps paying an additional ½ d. tax.

The information we have about the families who occupied the farm start with the Tithe Apportionment entry for 1840 when the farm was owned by Charles

#### Tithe Apportionment Entry 1840

Field Number	Name & Description of Lands & Tenements	State of Cultivation
500	House and Garden	Myrtle Villa
418	Field	Pasture
420	Not named	Pasture
421	Close	Pasture
429	Shear Walls	Pasture
430	Field	Pasture
430a	Cottage and Garden	
431	Crocker's Pool	Pasture
432	Long Pits	Arable
434	Long Park	Arable
435	Square Park	Pasture
439	Cottage Field	Arable
466	The Five Acres	Pasture
477	Castles	Meadow
478	Samber Wells	Meadow
479	Blank	Blank
492	Homestead	Bank House
495	Homestead	<b>Templeton Farm</b>



Callen Poyer and Miles John was the tenant farmer of the lands and tenements listed on the table on page 88.

What we are not able to confirm was whether John Miles ever occupied any of the properties above or was he a sub-landlord, leasing the land and living



*Postcard circa 1910 looking north through the village. The cottages on the right 'Church Cottage' were pulled down to build the council houses at Hillside. Behind the children is the Church Hall and the white roof to the right was the old blacksmith shop. The original blacksmith shop was attached to the 'Poyers Arms'.*

elsewhere in the village. He was not on the census of 1840, in fact the only census where the farm appears by name is the Census of 1911 where Richard and Margaret Lewis were shown as the farmer on "Own account - at home" helped by their 32 year old son Henry. Also listed under 'Templeton Farm' with a different schedule number was farmer John and Ruth Phillips and their son Albert age 14. Ruth was farming there in 1925 and Albert Phillips was still there in 1939. In 1942 Ivor and Esther (Hettie) Davies had taken on the farm. They had moved from 'Martins Hill', Martletwy with their family Rowland, Huw and William. In January 1968 William was to take over the farm with his wife Mair. William and Mair Davies had been living at 'Melrose' since 1955.

The farm is still in the ownership of the Davies family, the old farmhouse having been fully renovated and one of the outbuildings converted into a cottage for Mair Davies.

Next to ‘Templeton Farm’ was the ‘Ye Old Post Office’, mentioned earlier which was once the Poorhouse for Templeton and then became a house named



*Church Cottages known locally as Laura's Cottage c. 1890. A rather idyllic rural scene of children dressed in Sunday best posing for a photograph. The photographer was looking north through Templeton Village main street from just beyond the Poyer's Arms. On the left hand side, the hedgerow of small bushes and trees, opposite the group of village children is where Sidney Tucker had his carpenters workshop. This is an enlargement of an earlier photograph showing the construction of the Church Hall.*

‘Melrose’. There is a “Lease of The Old Poor House and Garden in Templeton village” dated 10th August 1843 between Charles Poyer Callen of ‘Underdown’, Pembroke, esquire and David Richards, mason, of Templeton.

Little was recorded or is known about 'Melrose' we do know William and Mair Davies occupied the house from 1955 to 2018.

Lower down the village was the red-lime washed original Welsh long house of circa 1755 named 'Ogmore Cottage'. The original thatched cottage still retains its original features, it was only altered in the 1980s, the roof being replaced with corrugated metal sheets and extensively extended and modernised in 1994 and re-named 'Ogmore House'.



*Farm Survey Map of 1910 showing all the properties on the main street through the village. Courtesy of Pembrokeshire Records Office.*

Next to Ogmore House was 'Church Cottage' the home of Laura Lewis, the cottage often being referred to as 'Laura's Cottage'. These two cottages were demolished in the 1950s to build the council houses on Hillside Terrace. Laura Lewis had to move as a result of the demolition and went a short distance down the road to 'Poyer's Cottage', occupying basically a single room with a 'cupboard bed' as her bedroom.

Towards the bottom of the village on the west side was the 'Village Forge' where the blacksmith Ernie Owen and later his son Brian Owen worked as the village blacksmiths. In the early days of the motor car a petrol pump was installed next to the 'Village Blacksmith' shop. During and for some time after the end of World War II petrol was rationed, customers requiring petrol would purchase as little as half a gallon which would be measured out using an official measure approved by the 'Weights and Measure Department' of the local Pembrokeshire County Council.

Another interesting village farm is 'Martin's Farm', interesting because of how it obtained its name. Over the door of Martins Farm a tablet bears the following - "Built by H.H. in the year 1783". The initials probably stood for Henry Howells who in the 1786 Land Tax Assessment is shown as owning a property in Templeton.

Martin's Farm was to become the home of Templeton's most famous inhabitant and family. During the time of Captain James Cook, John Henry Martin<sup>26</sup> was living at the farm and was to accompany Captain Cook on his 'Third Voyage of Discovery'. Cook was tasked by the Admiralty 'to search for a Northwest Passage from the western coast of North America'. He took two ships HMS Resolution and HMS Discovery, with 182 men, including Able Seaman John Martin on this 'Voyage of Discovery' between 1776–1780. Sadly, Captain Cook was killed discovering the Hawaiian Islands. But, he was the first to chart Alaska's southern coastline, and reached farther north than any previous Pacific mariner (70°44' N) and Templeton's John Martin was on that voyage. We know John Martin was born around 1753, most probably in Manorbier, Pembrokeshire. Martin went to sea and had nearly five and a half years' service on Royal Navy vessels before joining Cook. He began in Peggy, an 8-gun sloop, serving for a year as a midshipman. This year probably began in 1765 under Commander James O'Hara. It was followed by three months in Yarmouth under Captain James Gambier, which at the beginning of 1767 was acting as a guard-ship at Sheerness. Martin joined her as a midshipman and

together they sailed to North America in May 1767. Romney flew the pennant of Samuel Hood. Martin served for two and a half years in Romney in American waters. Captain Hyde Parker was briefly in command. Martin then spent a year and a half on Bonetta, a 10 gun sloop under Commander James Wallace, again as a midshipman. Martin re-joined James O'Hara (now a captain) on HMS Alderney for three months as an able-seaman in about 1772. He appears to then have had a break of several years from active service before he joined Cook's expedition on 6 March 1776 as an able-seaman on Discovery.

Shortly after the ship sailed, Captain Charles Clerke had him rated as a midshipman. He remained on HMS Discovery as such until late October 1777.

On the 30th at Huahine Island, French Polynesia a local who had been in custody escaped, and William Harvey who had been on watch was disgraced to midshipman. As a result, Martin was promoted in his place and transferred to HMS Resolution.<sup>27</sup>

Martin was involved on 1 March 1779 at Kauai Island in Hawaii when James King and two other men were scrambling to reach a pinnace or small boat and reach the ships. Martin was in charge of the pinnace and fired muskets, killing one Hawaiian. During the voyage, Martin kept a journal<sup>28</sup> and John Beaglehole a New Zealand historian described it thus: "Martin's entries are not long, even at their longest; but he seems to have looked at life for himself."

After the voyage, Martin sat his lieutenant's examination on 19 October 1780 and received his commission on 11 December. He was immediately posted to HMS Union, captained by John Dalrymple operating as part of the western squadron. Other details of his naval career are sketchy. He probably served in 1795 on HMS Syren and in 1797 on HMS Melampus, both times under Captain Graham Moore. Martin was made a commander on 17 February 1800.

He was given command of HMS Xenophon for operations in the North Sea in 1800. However, he was relieved of this position when that ship was selected for use on Matthew Flinders' expedition to Australia. Flinders wrote, "On the 19th of January 1801, a commission was signed by the Admiralty appointing

me lieutenant of his Majesty's sloop Investigator, to which the name of the ship, previously known as Xenophon, was changed by this commission; and captain John Henry Martin having received orders to consider himself superseded, I took command at Sheerness on the 25th."

Instead Martin was given command of HMS Explosion, a bomb ship, in Admiral Nelson's squadron. He took part in the Battle of Copenhagen in April 1801 and also in the unsuccessful attack on Boulogne in August 1801. Martin married, and he and his wife had a son, Henry Owen Martin, born about 1805. However, his wife must have died as Martin was married to a much younger woman called Margaret when he died. The 1851 census for Templeton, records Margaret Martin as aged 61 and "widow of a commander". That age means she was born about 1790 and so was appreciably younger than her husband (by about 37 years). Henry Owen Martin was recorded as son-in-law, or stepson, to Margaret in the 1851 census. Margaret was born in Cilymaenllwyd in Carmarthen, about 10 kilometres north of Narberth, and died in early 1862. John Henry and Margaret Martin had a son, John, baptised in December 1817 but the child probably died in infancy as there are no further records for him.

Henry Owen Martin, who never married, became a solicitor and lived with his stepmother in Templeton, until he died in 1883.

John Henry Martin<sup>29</sup> died on 10 May 1823 and was buried at St. Elidyr's Church, in Ludchurch, Pembrokeshire. A memorial in the churchyard reads, in part, "*at the time of his death he was supposed to be the last surviving officer who accompanied Captain Cook on his third voyage round the world.*" Martin left a will proven on 11 October 1823.<sup>30</sup>

Continuing our exploration of the village, where there is no shortage of interesting buildings or families, we come to a house known as 'Brownslade' sometimes known as 'Brownsland' built in the 1850s on the footprint of an original farm building probably Medieval. A house and garden was shown on the Tithe Map of 1840, apportionment number 503 the house was occupied by

David Phillips who was tenant to Lord Kensington. In 1870 David and Elinor Morgans were farming and living at 'Brownslade', and by 1881 their granddaughter Naomi Morgans was living and working on the farm with them as by now they were both in their 70's. A new family were living and farming 'Brownslade' by 1891, they were the Page family who had moved just around the corner from where they were living at 'Hawthorns' in 2 Chapel Street. They were a young growing family who other than William who was born at Llandewi Velfry, all came from Templeton. William's wife was Mary born in 1856 their eldest son was James aged 12 and going down in age there was Mary Ann, John, Eliza, William, Margaret, Beatrice, Thomas and Phoebe just 7 months old. After their move to 'Brownslade' they had more children to add to the 9 they currently had, they were Alfred born in 1892, Maude, Edwin and Arnold born in 1897. Twins Herbert and Julia were born in 1902. They nearly all worked on the family farm assisting their father, Thomas was a cowman, Phoebe a dairymaid and Maud a general farm assistant. They had 14 children all living in the four bedroomed farmhouse, possibly a little crowded!

By 1935 we still see Thomas Page living at 'Brownslade', Eliza had married Emrys Lewis and they also appeared to be staying at the farm. The 1970's saw the home in the occupation of James, Audrey and Margaret Francis.

Before leaving the village we need to visit a few of the properties at the south end. On reaching the village boundary by the 'old blacksmiths shop' on the west side of the main street just beyond the bridge was a cottage appropriately named 'Bridgend' occupied by Martha Harry and her family, 15 people were living in the small cottage and the little lean-to alongside it. The cottage had a simple 'clom' or earthen floor that became rock hard from all the footsteps walking over it, a freshwater spring would often appear on the floor of crystal clear water. The house was semi-demolished in 1926 when it was converted into a 'Blacksmith Shop and Forge' built on the foundations of the cottage.

Poyers Farm was built in c. 1642 making it probably one of the oldest building in the village. The date was engraved on a beam which was destroyed

during repairs before World War I. The name is thought to have come from Colonel Poyer of 'The Grove' who was supposed to have been a frequent visitor to the inn. The farm was also known as "Loweringtown" and was a public house until the 1930s. Perhaps originally built as a farm it also developed into a public house known as the Poyers Arms.

Trying to identify 'Poyers Arms' on Land Tax Assessments has been difficult but we do know the 'Poyers Farm' was also known as 'Loweringtown'. When we look at the Land Tax return of 1786 there is a reference to 'Lower end of the town', the proprietor is shown as Louisa Oliver and the occupier as Erasmus Protheroe. The tax was assessed at 18 shillings (about 90p today) one of the highest amounts payable in Templeton. When we then look at the Tax Assessment for 1801 we see 18 shillings payable for 'Lowerend Town', the same amount as 1786 and in the same families ownership. In this case Mrs Ann Callen part of the Poyer family was the landowner and Mr Thomas Bowen was her tenant. Staying with the Land Tax in 1831 we see Charles Poyer Callen Esq. as the proprietor of 'Lowerendtown' still paying the same tax with his tenant as John Morgan. We then have access to the census of 1841 which did not mention by name the 'Poyers Arms', it was entered as many of the village properties as 'Templeton'. It was the home of John Morgan aged about 60 born c. 1781 who gave his occupation as a farmer. His wife Rebecca was 10 years his junior born c. 1791, they had a daughter Elizabeth 19 and son Lewis 16. They employed a servant Anne Thomas aged about 30 and possibly her son David Thomas 11. John Morgan<sup>31</sup> was licensee from 1827 until about 1850. By the 1850s, John Morgans son Lewis Morgan was running the farm and pub. He was fined £5 for selling beer out of hours in 1863 probably not his first offence. No doubt the building of the railway almost alongside the pub meant some wild nights as the navvies slaked their mighty thirsts, and 'in Consequence of this house not having been conducted in a satisfactory manner', the Poyers Arms lost its licence in 1865. The beginning of the 1880s still had John Morgan now aged about 75 living at a property referred to on the



census as ‘Templeton’ but it almost certainly was the ‘Poyers Arms’. As his occupation was ‘inn keeper and farmer’ of 60 acres. It would seem most likely that John and Rebecca Morgan were in semi-retirement and his son Lewis Morgan 27 and his wife Eliza 25 were running the Inn. The census of 1851 has recorded Lewis’ occupation as an agricultural labourer and his wife Eliza as a huckster. Although shown as living as a separate household Lewis, Eliza and their 2 year old son were in a property if not attached or part of the Inn were next to it. In between the two households was Elizabeth Gwyther a 47 year old spinster schoolmistress and now a pauper. The Morgan family continued to grow Mary was born in 1851, Thomas 1854, William 1858 and Ann 6 months old in 1860.



The ‘Poyers Arms’ c. 1900. The ‘Poyers Cottage’ on the right was once the home and workshop of the village blacksmith. In 1911 the two roomed cottage was the home of George and Margaret John and adopted son Hugh John aged 5. George was from Cold Blow, Margaret and Hugh were both from Treorchy. George worked as a labourer at the Templeton brickworks.

Lewis Morgan died in 1866 his widow Eliza carried on running the business as a beer-house. For the first time the census of 1871 names the ‘Poyer Arms

Public House' Eliza Morgans is running a 59 acres farm helped by her daughter Mary 19, son Thomas 16 and the other children were still in school William 13, Annie 10 born 1861 and George 7 born 1864. Two lodgers were living at the house Evan Hughes aged 35 from Kidwelly and William Lloyd aged 30 also from Kidwelly. She remarried, and her husband was the lodger William Lloyd a



*Date tablet on front of 'Martin's Farm', built by HH in 1783.*

brick moulder. Following the marriage he became the landlord of the 'Poyers Arms' between 1874 and 1884. By this time the public house had a full licence again and the 'True Briton Friendly Society' used the 'Poyers Arms' as its registered office in the 1880s. Eliza's son George became a house builder and with his sister Anne they continued to live at the family home with their mother and new husband William. George Morgans son of Eliza and Lewis Morgan was the landlord between 1891 and 1918. The 1891 census shows us that George married a girl from Cold Blow, Elizabeth born c. 1856 they had three children Edgar born 1887, Eliza born a year later followed by Stanley. Twins Mary and Gladys Morgan were born in c.1892 and son Howard born 1894. The 'Poyers Arms' continued to be farmed at the turn of the 20th century by George and 'Bessie' Morgan and their family. George Morgan was always

recorded on the census as a 'farmer' and 1911 was no exception working on the farm with him was son Edgar. Eliza had become a county council school-teacher, Stanley a journeyman cabinet maker, one of the twins Louisa (Mary) was a dress maker to a draper. The other twin Gladys worked on the farm in dairy work and her younger brother Howard assisted on the farm. Elizabeth Morgan managed the public house followed by son Edgar Morgan, a farmer and butcher, who was there between 1923 and 1933. The pub was forced to close in April of that year when the local magistrates refused to renew the licence, compensation of £120 was paid out under the redundancy ruling. The Morgans were unlucky, the police admitted that the 'Poyers Arms' was well managed but they felt that three pubs, the 'Rising Sun' and 'Boars Head' were too many for such a small village, and that as the 'Poyers Arms' was the one in the middle it should be the one to go. It was by now the property of Sir Wilfrid Lewis of Henllan and contained two large rooms on the ground floor for business and five substantial bedrooms. The 'Poyers Arms' remained a ruin for many years until renovated as part of a housing association development now known as 'Poyers Grove'.

We are now heading south, leaving the main street through Templeton and in front of us is 'Cross Cottage', simply called 'Cross' in the 1793 land tax assessments and earlier still it was 'Cross Carrolls' in 1726 and 'Cross and Carols Tenement' on the 1724 Picton Map. In the late 1800s it was generally 'Cross Cottage' now named 'Crossvilla' this substantial building from a small cottage in the mid 1700s. The land belonged to Baron de Rutzen in the 1800s and was shown on the Tithe Schedule as Field Number 130 occupied of Margaret Francis who was living in a cottage on the field. In fact two buildings were on the field in the early 1800s, it is most likely that 'Crossvilla' was built on the footprint of the original cottage or building. The surrounding garden wall was the site of one of the village water pumps. 'Crossvilla' has a prominent position for those travelling south through the village, the house being situated between the main route to Tenby and the back-road to

Pembroke. In the 1920s the house was the home of Elizabeth Hughes a grocer born in 1892 and her younger spinster sister Doris Davies who was a grocery assistant. Between them they ran a 'Grocery Shop' from the house. We would probably call it today a convenience store, it was basically one room of the house used for selling items such as flour, sugar, dried peas, these all came in 1 cwt (50kg) sacks and would be sold to the customer in bags of perhaps 8 ounces (225g), it is very likely that the flour came from the local Mables Mill. Cooking salt came in blocks, eggs from the local farms, dried fruit such as prunes also came in large sacks and would be weighed out for each customer. Items like vinegar came in gallon containers and would be decanted in small volumes as required and loose tea initially came in large sacks and eventually was sold in small bags as well as items such as sweets and so on. Both Elizabeth and Doris were still living at the house after World War II.

By the 1960s Ivor and Lavinia Powell, their sons Trevor and Eunice were living at Cross Villa, they moved from the South Wales Valleys and not only owned Crossvilla but the 'Ashgrove Villas' and were still there in the late 1970s. The '1 Ashgrove Villa' was the home in the 1930s of the Powells, probably living at Ashgrove and running the shop from Crossvilla. Also listed in "1 Ashgrove Villa" was Frederick and Gwendoline Cole and family, Frederick was working as a builders labourer. In '2 Ashgrove Villa' were living in the 1930s William and Josephine Lewis and Arthur Lewis. The Villas had been built on land owned by Baron de Rutzen, around the 1900s on a field known as 'Stoney Ford'. In more recent years Cross Villa has been a smart Guest House with a tea room and wine bar.

A little to the west of 'Cross Villa' is the 'Boars Head' originally named the 'Bear's Head' an engraved date tablet once stood above the door informing us it was built in 1831. Built on land owned by Baron de Rutzen with Priscilla Williams the Inn Keeper as his tenant. The original Inn was a two storey stone building with just two rooms downstairs, one of which was only used on 'quarter days' by Picton and Henllan Estate for the collection of rents. "The



*Postcard of Templeton circa 1900. On the right is the end elevation of the Boar's Head when it was a simple stone built Inn with just one room being used to serve drinks. In the centre is the 'Cross Villa' when it would have been the local shop and dwelling. Behind the shrubbery on the immediate right of the photos was 'Bridgend Cottage'*

quarter days were the four dates in each year on which servants were hired, school terms started, and rents were due. They fell on four religious festivals; Lady Day 25<sup>th</sup> March; Midsummer Day 24<sup>th</sup> June; Michaelmas 29<sup>th</sup> September and Christmas 25<sup>th</sup> December, roughly three months apart and close to the two solstices around 21<sup>st</sup> June and 21<sup>st</sup> December and two equinoxes around 20<sup>th</sup> March and 23<sup>rd</sup> September. The quarter days have been observed at least since the Middle Ages, and they ensured that debts and unresolved lawsuits were not allowed to linger on. Accounts had to be settled, a reckoning had to be made and publicly recorded on the quarter days.” Some of the more senior residents can remember in the 1930s rents being collected in this way.

The Inn Keeper from the 1830s through to the 1850s was Priscilla Williams who was born in Narberth around 1776, her daughter also named Priscilla, born in 1821. Living at the Inn with them were Henry Rowe described as a

butcher who was around 20 years of age in 1841, his wife Margaret and three month old son William Rowe. Stephen Davies, Priscilla's son-in-law took over as the Inn Keeper. He had married Priscilla Williams and they all lived at the Inn with Stephen and Priscilla's family, Eliza age 9, Mary Anne, James and Stephen. It would appear that Priscilla had re-married by the time of the 1861 census and was now married to James Jones living with their family Thomas age 7, Margareta, Sarah, David and three month old Mira. Priscilla's daughters Eliza, Mary Ann and son Stephen were now all part of the family. By the 1870s Priscilla was head of the household and the Inn Keeper helped by her daughter Eliza. Mary Ann, Thomas, Margareta, Sarah, David, Mira and grandchildren James Davies and Sarah Priscilla Davies age 4 also resided there. A 100 acre farm in the 1880s had now been attached to the 'Boar's Head' or at least land in the locality was being farmed by Priscilla Jones as head of the house, who was still the Inn Keeper, her son Thomas Jones was the Farmer, assisted on the farm by Sarah and David. The census of 1891 has a totally new family at the Boar's Head, John and Margaret Eynon, daughter Elizabeth and son Benjamin aged 19 were now running the Inn. John was the Publican and was also described as a Butcher. They were not there for long as by the 1900s Frederick and Jane Lewis were the Publicans living at the Inn with their children Ernest aged 14, Isabel and Albert age 1. The Inn Keeper had changed once again by 1911 it was now Howard Davies his wife Hannah who assisted with the business and now they had a 10 day old child, Mary Ann to look after. Boarding with them was the Manager of the Brickworks, Louis Hawkes from Oxford. Howard was still the Inn Keeper in 1939 but was described in the England Wales Register as Farmer and Hotel Keeper, he was now a widower, helped by Alice Davies as Barmaid and House Keeper who was assisted by Margaret Davies. In the 1960s the Kelly family were the Inn Keepers and living at the pub. Gwyn Jenkins became the landlord in the 1970's he extended the pub and created 'Greenfields' Caravan Park. He built a number of holiday chalets which later developed into Greenfield Close.



*Road widening in progress during the 1980s. The cottage being renovated was 'Homleigh', possibly dating back to at least 1724 when it was known as 'Stockwell Farm'. Courtesy of Joan Belt.*

Templeton as a parish and the village in particular was virtually self sufficient, with butchers, general store, bakeries, draper, hardware and so on. Already mentioned have been the 'General Stores' that started at the north end with a shop at 'Townsend Bank' and went down the village to 'Pendre', 'Rock Cottage', 'Brynteg', 'Rose Villa' and 'Cross Villa'.

In the 1980s the new road through the village was constructed resulting in a road widening and the addition of a pavement on the east side of the main road. Several of the roadside properties lost part of their front gardens. A number of houses have been built in more recent years and many have been modernised, otherwise little has really changed in the village for centuries.

## Outside the Village Boundary

I have reached the point where I have largely covered the history of the village and now I want to look at the surrounding farms and buildings that make up Templeton. To the north of the village on the Cold Blow Road I pass a few newly built bungalows on both sides of the road and Jubilee Gardens. Then on the left hand side I reach ‘The Manse’ built in 1927 at a cost of £890 on what was described as “on a beautiful site—the best in the area possibly—a comfortable stroll from the chapel”. It stands in its own ground on about ¼ acre of land with a “nice garden, a front lawn, garage and out house”. When the house was built it had panoramic views across the south of the county and the coast. The house is now a private dwelling. A little further on is the track built by Welsh Water leading to a reservoir that supplies water to the village of Tavernspite. On the opposite side of the road is the village school. Just beyond the school in Maes Yr Ysgol, then I cross the road to ‘Ty Coed Farm’ built in 1980.

### Merryvale

Continuing walking north along the winding road to Cold Blow I arrive at ‘Merryvale’ which dates back to 1588. Like so many house names its spelling has altered over the years. In 1684 it was ‘Merivale’ but as far back as 1390 there was a mention of ‘Mery Vale’. On entering the grounds of the property ‘Merryvale’ has an inscription on the outside wall that was originally on the chimney “*T. L. Davies who caused this house to be replaced and rebuilt with the small*



*remaining part of the stone of old 'Merryvale' house, in honour to the ancient house of 'Merryvale' and her stones raised up her wall, henceforth call me the house of 'Merryvale'. 2nd September 1782*". The land tax assessment of 1786 has Thomas Davies as the 'Proprietor' and the tenant David Lewis paying 3s. 8½d. of 'Merry Vale Tanpit'. Moving forward to 1831 the land tax assessment has the proprietor as Mr R. B. Thomas and Joseph Davies the tenant of 'Merry Vale' but added underneath were the names Thomas Jones occupying what looks like "Carns Pits" and the next full entry has Thomas Mendis as the tenant of "Tanpit Park".



*OS Map showing location of Merryvale on the Cold Blow Road and the source of 'Ford's Lake'.*

The Tithe Map of 1840 has 'Merryvale' in field number 709 "homestead" with both the landowner and occupier as William Thomas Rayson, who had been a 'Tea Dealer' of Narberth. He had several adjoining fields '573 Arable; 705 White Field; 706 Lower White Field and 708 Field Below House'. The marshy area to the south west of the house is a spring that is the source of the Ford's Lake stream. The stream is piped under the railway embankment just a little

west of 'Merryvale Bridge' where it meanders gently through the woods to a house known as 'Ford's Lake'.

The house had several interesting occupants over the years, perhaps the most notable was Benjamin Thomas Williams in 1841. He was born in Pembrokeshire in 1832, the eldest son of Rev. Thomas Rayson Williams, the first Minister of Templeton's Congregational Chapel, living at 'Merryvale' with his wife Mira. Their other children were Nester aged 6, Ada and Herber. Living with the family was Mary Thomas born in 1786 and two 15 year old children Simon and Jenkin John. Sadly, Mira was widowed by 1851, just 39 years old and now farming 50 acres of 'Merryvale' land, she employed two labourers to help with the farm. Her son Heber was 12 and at school as was her 14 year old daughter Ada. The family had four servants, two were farm servants and two were house servants, one was just 11 years old.

From 1846 to 1851 Benjamin Thomas Williams was a student at the Presbyterian College, Carmarthen. Benjamin obtained a scholarship to Glasgow University in 1851 where he graduated B.A. in 1853 and M.A. in 1854 and entered Gray's Inn on 7th April 1856. He was called to the Bar 26th January 1859. He joined the South Wales Circuit and became its leader and he was admitted a barrister of the Middle Temple 22nd April 1875 and was appointed Queen's Counsel 25 June 1875. Benjamin was elected recorder of Carmarthen in October 1872 until May 1878 when he was elected Member of Parliament for Carmarthen boroughs; he sat for this constituency until his appointment as judge of county courts for the counties of Glamorgan and Brecon. Benjamin Thomas Williams JP., QC.<sup>32</sup> retired from the bench in June 1885 because of ill-health. He was also Justice of the Peace for the counties of Brecon, Glamorgan, and Pembroke, council-member of the University Colleges of Aberystwyth and Cardiff, and one of the two honorary secretaries of Aberystwyth College till he resigned in May 1885. For some time he edited 'The Law Magazine' and 'The Commercial Compendium'. He died 21 March 1890 at the Joint Counties Lunatic Asylum, Carmarthen. A very influential

man who with his family did a great deal for the social life and wellbeing of Templeton.

Benjamin Thomas Williams Esq. by 1851 had married Margaret, Ben as he was generally known was 8 years older than his wife, he was now a Justice of the Peace and a Barrister in Law. Ben was born at Merryvale and his wife was born at Dolmen, Maenachlogddu, their children Oliver John Williams aged 2 and 6 month old Thomas John were both born at Merryvale. The family had a cook, house servant and message boy living with them. A number of changes had taken place by the time of the 1871 census, the baby, Thomas was now 10 years old and living with his grandmother Mira Davies a widow of a farmer living at 'Lower Chapel Hill' which was just across the valley from Merryvale. Thomas's aunt Ada Williams and uncle Heber an 'Independent Minister at Longstone Chapel, Ludchurch and his aunt Julia Davies were all living at 'Lower Chapel Hill'. The census of 1871 does not have an entry for 'Merryvale' but I have found out where Benjamin and Margaret Williams were residing, probably in his position as 'Queens Counsel' (Queen Victoria) and MP he found it necessary to live part time in London and the rest of the time at 'Merryvale'. The 1881 census was taken when the family were at their London address, "65 Hildrop Crescent, Islington, London", the family were all with them. Oliver was training for the Bar and was a solicitors clerk, Thomas G. was a student at the University of London and Ada Mira was at school. Mira Davies born around 1812 was a widower living at 'Merryvale' with her daughters Ada Williams aged 44 and Julia Davies aged 29 in 1881. The family would have been fairly comfortably off and were listed as 'Landowners'. The year of 1891 saw Margaret Williams reappear at 'Merryvale' as head of the house, now a woman of 50 years of age, her daughter Ada Mira May Williams aged 22 born at St. Pancras, London in 1869, Ada Williams and Julia Davies, Margaret's sisters-in-law were with her at Merryvale. At the start of the 1900s, Ada Williams was running the house, she was 64, her stepsister Julia Williams, niece Ada Mira Williams and brother Neaton R Williams aged 66 were with her

at 'Merryvale'. The 1911 census saw little change in the household but now Ada Mira May Williams had taken over as head of the family and Nestor Rayson Williams a retired Unitarian Minister who was a pastor from 1860-1894 at Twynrodyn, Merthyr Tydfil, died at Merryvale in 1915. You may remember from earlier Nestor was the second son of Rev. Thomas Williams who was now boarding with Ada Mira. Her aunt Ada Williams and step aunt Julia Davies were all living on 'private means' at 'Merryvale'. The Williams family remained at the house until the 1920s. In 1925 William Morris was living at 'Merryvale', Lydia Killa and Florence Howells were there in 1935 followed by William and Tabitha Lawrence in the 1940s. The 1960s it was the home of Benjamin and Celine Evans, John and Anne Merriman were the next occupants. The current family, John and Megan Williams who have made 'Merryvale' their home have no connection with the Williams previously discussed but have a connection since the Merriman family lived there. They have modernised the original house and made good use of the old cow shed which is now a converted cottage 'Wild Acres' and the barn conversions is now 'Windy Willows'.

I am now going to the south end of the village to those dwellings that take us out of the village heading towards Tenby. For the villager travelling south in the mid 1800s to the mid 1900s, they would have first passed what we know today as 'Barn Court' in the past it was 'Barn', 'The Barn', and 'Barn Farm' they are all the same place its name changing very slightly over the years. The original farm buildings on this site 'Stoneleys' had become deserted and the new House 'Barn' was built. It pre-dates 1817 when it appeared in the Bishop's Transcript, the census of 1841 shows John and Mary Lewis farming 'Barn' of about 50 acres. They had six children varying in age from 17 year old Angie then came Robert, Henry, Sarah, Mary down to 1 year old John. By the next decade John and Mary were still farming assisted by their daughter Mary. Her other daughter, Sarah was working as a dressmaker. By 1861 Sarah had married Thomas Bowen and they were living and working on the 40 acre farm with



*David Davies and his wife Mira Davies nee Lewis with family members outside "The Barn". Mira Lewis was the daughter of Issac Lewis of 'Mabes Mill'. Several of the Davies and Collins families in Templeton originated from this family. One of the Collins from 'Ramshorn' was the Land Agent of Cresselly House. The census of 1851 lists Mira Lewis as a 'straw milliner' possibly holding one of her hats. The photograph is courtesy of Brian Owen whose grandmother was Esther Davies born in 1860.*

John and Mary Lewis. In 1871 David and Mira Davies both in their thirties were living at 'Barn' farming 17 acres with their growing family, starting with 11 year old Esther followed by Thomas 6, Priscilla 5, William 4, George 1 and 2 week old David. They were now farming 40 acres which by 1881 had increased to 100 acres a fair size farm. Son Thomas Davies was an apprentice carpenter, the family had increased in size, son James was born in 1878. They were still farming in 1911, Mira was head of the house helped by her sons John now 49 and David age 36 and her grandson John Owens age 18. John was brought up

at the Barn, his village nick-name was 'John the Barn'. He was seriously injured in World War I but despite his injuries he went on to marry Nada Cole, from Carn Mountain, Begelly and they made their home at 'Glenview'.

There was on the edge of the village another bakery at 'Glynawel', near the old railway station on the Tenby Road, run by Violet 'Villey' Jones and husband Arthur. Over the years the house name changed from the 'Railway Cottages' to 'Nos. 1 to 3 'The Buildings', then 'Parc Y Felin', 'Glynawel' and 'Belvedere'. And now, a local Templeton family who have lived at 'Rose Villa', 'King's Park' and 'Cleggars Castle' have converted 'Parc Y Felin' and 'Glynawel' into one property named 'Kingsway'. One thing they all have in common they all were built on land belonging to Baron de Rutzen and leased to John Lewis, the field number was 223 simply referred to as "Cottage and Garden and Field" between 'Stoney Ford' and 'Hayguard Park'. Also occupying the same field was 'The Barn'. The original railway cottages were built around the 1880's and are shown on the OS Map of 1890 as 'Railway Cottages'. The only neighbours to the south along the Tenby Road were the 'Brick Works' and 'Cleggars Castle' and to the north 'Barn Court'. Living at 'Belvedere' in 1939 was John Lewis an Auxiliary Postman and Rating Officer, his wife Lilian, Mary the Caretaker of Templeton CP School, Leslie Davies a Builder's Labourer and Oliver a Station Porter with Great Western Railways. At 'Glynawel' were farmers Charles and Laura Davies and their daughter Eunice who was still at school. And at '1 Buildings' was retired farmer Mr Evans and his wife Emily.

The other houses on this stretch of road are 'Oakland' and 'Hermel House' both built in the early 1900s. To end the south of Templeton is 'Cleggars Castle', this house is shown on the 1840 Tithe Map as 'Homestead' in field 133 owned by Sir Richard Buckeley Philipps Philipps, William John was his tenant. His tenancy included thirteen parcels of land running along what is today the main Tenby Road and railway line. In fact, there was another cottage 'Cleggars Castle Hill' on the land of field 140. The fields appeared to be largely marsh land that led down to the Ford's Lake river almost directly opposite 'Cleggars



*Extract of 1st Edition OS Map Pembrokeshire XXIX.SW Published 1888. Old Mills is clearly shown on the map, but no buildings appear to be associated with it.*

Castle' due east was the junction of Ford's Lake with the man made 'mill race' that fed 'Mabes Mill'. To the east of Cleggars Castle was Cleggars Quarry a large active quarry in the late 1800s. In the 1840s William and Phoeby John and 2 year old Thomas lived at Cleggars Castle, William was employed as a mason. The next occupants were 'spinners and weavers of wool', they were Enoch and Mary Phillips and children Ada age 18 who was working as a 'huckster', Harriet and Thomas age 8, that was in 1851 but by 1861 a new family, the Hitchens had made Cleggars Castle their home. Charles Hitchins aged 44 was a labourer, he was married to Margaret and they had a young daughter 10 year old Ann. This was to change again by the next census when in 1871 we see William and Elizabeth Mathias both in their 60s, they had their granddaughter 16 year old Mary Mathias staying with them. Elizabeth was a local girl, having been born at Peters Finger, this helps further in confirming the date Peters Finger was built at least pre 1807. We then jump a decade to 1891. When the property was home to William and Elizabeth Davies their 11

year old son Thomas, then William followed by Susannah, Elizabeth Ann, Miriam John Llewellyn and baby Benjamin. All the children were born in Ludchurch, Elizabeth and William were originally from Robeston Wathen and Templeton most likely from the north end of the village. The family were still living at Cleggars Castle at the beginning of the 1900s, William was employed as a 'Brick Moulder' and the sons Thomas a 'Brick Setter and William as 'Brick Burner' all working at the Brickworks. In 1893 they had another daughter, Gwendoline and in 1896 another son Ivor. By 1911 Ann Davies was widowed and head of the house she was born in Slebech in 1861, her daughter Elizabeth was farming Cleggars Castle and her son John was a 'Teamster at the corn mill', most probably Mabes Mill.

The cottage known as 'Cleggars Castle Hill' understandably took its name from its location on the hill, the small cottage to the south and east of 'Cleggars Castle' was the home of Charles Hitchins aged 32 working as an agricultural labourer, he had a son and daughter, Henry age 8 and Anne age 3. Charles was listed as unmarried on the 1851 census, living with him was his 'housekeeper' aged 33 Margaret Morgan her occupation described as 'Carries sand and chalk'. It is most likely he was the last occupant of the cottage before it was demolished to build the railway embankment. That would have been the last property to the south of Templeton.

As I leave the south end of the village I retrace my steps to the crossroads and head east along Tanners Lane, most probably it took its name from the 'tannery' that would once have been off the lane, most likely in the meadow on the north side almost opposite 'Rosedown' lane. Shown on the 1843 Tithe Map as field number 552 known as 'Tanners'. Tanner Lane has linked the villages of Templeton and Ludchurch for centuries. The only dwellings off this lane had been 'Rosedown' in Templeton, 'Hill Farm' dating from 1538 and 'Westerton Farm' from just a few year later, both in Ludchurch. For the villagers of Templeton, until the mid 1800s it would have been their direct route to St. Elidyr the parish church of Ludchurch which Templeton jointly



shared. The railway bridge over Tanners Lane was built in 1865 from local stone and was the highest bridge in Pembrokeshire. The first cottage on the lane in the early 1800s was known as 'Old Mills', built on land owned by Baron de Rutzen in a field numbered on the Tithe schedule as 549 and was home to Francis Lewis. A little to the north of the house was one of the village wells and the five properties making up 'Old Mills'.

Carrying on east along Tanners Lane from under what is today the railway bridge were the cottages that made up 'Old Mills' listed in the 1841 census, interestingly no buildings appear to be shown on the OS Map of 1888. It would appear that the buildings had been ruined at some time after 1841 but before 1887 when the map was surveyed. The census for 1841 listed five families living in separate buildings, three dwellings were shown on the census of 1891 and in 1901 a cottage referred to as 'Old Mills Cottage' appears to be the only one remaining. My intuition suggests this might well be a property known today as 'Fairview' see Templeton School chapter 10.

Who were the families living in this lost part of Templeton? What were their occupations? Were they 'locals' or where did they come from? I will start with where they came from, as that is easy to answer as without exception all the families from 1841 through to 1901 came from within the County. Let us now look at who they were, we do know they lived in a dwelling or dwellings all named 'Old Mills'. The 1841 census reveals that five separate families lived in the immediate area shown on the OS Map as 'Old Mill' (p. 111) and as Russell Morgan described the location in the 1960s "... *Fords Lake woods runs along the Eastern side of the village, joining the western stream near the old mills. A plank can span these rippling brooks anywhere; as the brooks idle their way through the rich pasture land unmolested by mill wheel or fisherman's hook towards the sea...*". The first family were the Jones's. James the head of the family was born in 1771 he was married to Anne, three of their children were living with them Martha and William both aged 30 and Jane Jones aged 8 who was most likely their granddaughter. James continued to work as an agricultural labourer. The family were still there in

1861 with son William now head of the family he had married Eliza and they had three sons, James, Thomas and baby William and two daughters Ann and Eliza aged 10; by 1871 Elizabeth Jones was head of the family living with her three sons, James aged about 20, George and William. Elizabeth and George continued to make their home at 'Old Mills' through the 1880s and 1890s, George was a 'Quarry Worker' most probably at Cleggars Quarry.

The next family at 'Old Mills' in 1841 was John and Phoebe Harries, John aged 30 was an agricultural worker, their children were Hester aged 6, Daniel and Thomas aged 1. By the 1860s Phoebe was widowed and living with her son Daniel working as a labourer her 13 year old daughter Martha and grandson James Harries aged 2.

An elderly couple, both born in 1761 were occupying the next dwelling, they were John and Hester Llewellyn. John had worked and was possibly still working as an agricultural labourer, bearing in mind he was 80 year of age and not shown on the census as retired! The fourth family, the Evans was shown to be of 'Independent' means, is it likely that this was the same family of John Evans the schoolmaster at 'Fairview'? What I can confirm from the 1841 census was the head of the house was Jane Evans aged 50 born in 1791 living with Mary aged 20 and John Evans born 1767 making him 74 year of age. The final family was William and Anne Davies, William was born in 1796 and Anne ten years earlier, their children were Sarah aged 20, John, Hannah and 1 year old William. William and his son John both were employed as agricultural workers.

Only four properties were listed in 1861, one had disappeared. This could well have been around the time the railway embankment was being constructed and the house needed demolishing! We know William Jones and Phoebe Harries with their families were still in their homes. The two new dwellers were Elizabeth Gwither aged 57 living on her own and in the next property was Lewis Gwither aged 55, his sisters Martha and Jane aged 50 and 40 respectively together with two relatives Thomas aged 10 and James aged 5. The Gwither

12

The enumerated House or houses within the Parish of the

House No. or No. of the Street	Name of the Head of the Family	Sex	Age	Profession, Trade, or Occupation	Religion	Value of the Property	Value of the Furniture
11	John Gwither	M	45	Schoolmistress	Anglican	£100	£50
12	Jane Gwither	F	35	Foul-dealer	Anglican	£100	£50
13	Lewis Gwither	M	30	Labourer	Anglican	£100	£50
14	John Gwither	M	25	Road labourer	Anglican	£100	£50
15	Thomas Gwither	M	20		Anglican	£100	£50
16	James Gwither	M	15		Anglican	£100	£50
17	Martha Harts	F	40		Anglican	£100	£50
18	Jones	M	35		Anglican	£100	£50
19	Evans	M	30		Anglican	£100	£50
20	Hester Thomas	F	25		Anglican	£100	£50
21	Martha Anne	F	16		Anglican	£100	£50
Total of Houses				Total of Males and Females			

\* Show the year through which the census was taken.

*An extract of the 1871 Census showing the details of two of the Old Mills households. The \\  
sign indicates a separate dwelling.*

family were still there in 1871, Elizabeth Gwither was born at ‘Rosedown’ and recorded her occupation as a ‘schoolmistress’ she was unmarried and living on her own and next door was Jane Gwither, her brother Lewis and three relatives John, Thomas and James were all born at ‘Rosedown’. Jane worked as a ‘foul-dealer’ and Lewis a labourer, both were unmarried. Only three properties existed by the 1880s the only change was John and Martha Harts had taken over one of the properties. John was employed as a ‘road labourer’. The 1890s still had three families, the Jones and Evans and a new family Hester Thomas and her 16 year old daughter Martha Anne. There was no further mention of ‘Old Mills’ after the 1890s.

Leaving Old Mills behind, I am continuing east along Tanners Lane to arrive at ‘Colsick’, an unassuming house about 1km from the village but with a long history. Colsigge was its original name and dates back to 1588, by 1602 the name had become Colsigg with an alias of Colsicke by 1617. The Picton Map shows Colsick in 1767 and in the Great Sessions of 1665 it is referred to as Cohwick. It is thought possibly to have derived its name from the surname Cole and sic ‘small stream or gully. It is quite probable that ‘Ashridge’ also has

a long history dating from at least 1602. The building is now sadly lost. It was on the 1831 Land Tax Assessment, owned by John Willy Esq. and occupied by Mrs B. R. Thomas. Mrs Thomas herself owned a number of properties, 'Merryvale' and 'Tanpit Park'. (We know from the assessments that 'Ashridge' was near 'Rosedown').

On the 1801 Tax Assessment returns 'Colsick' is in the ownership of Lord Milford and occupied by David Williams and in the 1831 Sir Richard Buckley Philipps Philipps has succeeded Lord Milford as landowner and the property is in the occupancy of Isaac Lewis who leased many properties and land in the area including 'Rosedown'. The property is not shown on the Tithe Map, the field number is 200 and the land described as 'moor', pasture land. Isaac Lewis is the tenant of a number of fields and was living at 'Mabes Mill'. What is confusing is that the census of 1841 has two families living at 'Colsick', the first family was James and Hannah Watkins both in their 50s and Thomas Watkins age 85 and their son John age 10. The other family was David and Sophia Scourfield, their children Mary age 4, Nestor and Anne just 5 months old, they also had a servant 10 year old Hester Reynolds. The 1851 census has four households at 'Colsick', William and Anne Davies in the first property, Jonah and Sarah Morgan, their stepson 11 year old William Davies and son John Morgan and the baby Elizabeth Morgan in the second. The third property was occupied by retired farmer Daniel and Mary Lewis both in their late 70s and the final property was occupied by Rees and Margaret Morris in their 50s retired farmers and their daughter Frances and sons Rees and Evan. Isaac and Martha Griffiths were occupying one of two properties in 1861 with Isaac Thomas Lewis and his brother John Lewis farming 26 acres in the second property. By the time of the 1871 census (Isaac) Thomas Lewis born at Mabes Mill in 1834 had married Sarah who was from 'Blackaldern', Narberth, they had their children 6 year old Sarah Ann, William Isaac, George Alfred, Mary Elizabeth and 7 week old Margaret Jane all at 'Colesick'. Only one household existed by the time of the 1881 census, occupied by Thomas and Sarah Lewis,

Thomas worked as a carpenter and farmer, his 15 year old son William was an apprentice carpenter. Their seven other children were all at school Mary age 12 followed by Margaret, Anne, John, Miren, Elizabeth and 1 year old Edith Mariah, the family kept growing in 1882 Emert was born, Bertie David in 1884, Violet May in 1887 and Sidney Albert in 1890. Isaac Thomas Lewis died around 1900 and his wife Sarah became the head of the household and continued to farm 'Colsick' helped by Ernest now 19, Bertie who had followed in his fathers footsteps and became a carpenter and builder, Violet and Sidney where still both at school but helped on their mother on the farm. Sarah's 6 year old granddaughter Maud T Lewis lived with the family. By 1911 Sarah and son Sidney Albert Lewis were running the farm assisted by Maud, most likely Sidney's daughter. At the time of the England and Wales Register in 1939 'Colsick' now a dairy farm was being farmed by Tudor Bowen.

On another day walking along Tanners Lane I see a small cluster of houses and bungalows, a footbridge over Ford's Lake stream where it becomes piped under the road to emerge on the south side as a 'ford'. The stream meanders along the east side of the now concrete lane that leads to the Welsh Water Treatment Plant as well as to the old farmhouse of 'Rosedown', with its commanding view from South Mountain looking north through Templeton. A building originally known as Rosfaucon has stood on or close to this site since 1357, its name like so many others in the area has been corrupted over the centuries. The 1650s saw its name Roseffalcon or Roseffawcon alias Rosedowne from 1553. Rosfawcon was now called Rosdoune in 1586, Rosedown 1595 and Rosdowne around 1620 and that is how it has been known ever since. In the 1786 Land Tax Assessment it shows us that Lord Milford was the 'proprietor' of Rosedown and his tenant was Thomas Walters paying a tax to the government of the day of 3s. 10d. According to Charles<sup>33</sup> the name 'Rosedown' is from the Welsh rhos 'moor' and Middle Welsh ffawcwn, ffawlclwn, recorded from c.1480 and a borrowing possibly again from Middle Welsh faukun, faucoun, faucon, or Old French faucon 'falcon'. The second

element was in time dropped and English dun 'down, hill' was added in its place. It should be noted that a John Faucon' is recorded as a witness to a Slebech deed in 1383 and it is possible that the meaning of the original persons name was 'Faucon's moor' and not 'falcon moor'. I am sure you will agree it has an interesting name! In more recent years locals have referred to Rosedown as 'Mountain Bach'.

The proprietor was still Lord Milford in 1801 but the occupier had changed to John Crum Esq whom like his predecessor also held the tenancy of South Mountain. There was to be a complete change by 1831 with the new proprietor being Sir Richard Philipps Philipps and the tenant of Rosedown and South Mountain was George Protheroe. The Tithe Map shows Rosedown occupying field number 156, to the east were clay pits and 'old quarries' and a little to the north west were the Templeton Quarries. The farmhouse stood about 100 metres above sea level providing it with good views. The census taken in 1841 has two separate properties listed under the name Rosedown, James and Maria Gwyther with their family Lewis age 30, Martha, Harriet and Jane and in the second property Henry and Jane Rowe and 25 year old Stephen Rowe. Both families occupied their respective properties in the 1850s. It would appear that James had died and Maria now 66 years old was working as a broom maker as were her daughters Martha, Harriet and Jane her son Lewis Gwyther age 46 was an agricultural labourer. Three of Maria's grandchildren lived with them 7 year old John Gwyther, Sarah Gwyther and 1 month old Thomas Gwyther. Henry Rowe was in the second property, which most probably was 'Rosedown Farmhouse' as he was farming 150 acres of "Mountain", he was now 80 year of age. He employed his son Stephen Rowe on the farm, his wife was Caroline and they had two children Thomas born in 1849 and 2 years later Jane Rowe. Rather surprisingly the 1851 census lists a third property with the name 'Rosedown', schedule number 116 on the census return whereas the previous mention were numbers 107 and 108. That puts the property between Mabe's Mill and Church Cottage and the other reference

to 'Rosedown' would have been between Park House and Chapel Hill, the property being occupied by an agricultural labourer, Thomas Morgan his wife Katurah (*sic*) and sons William and John 1 year old.

The farm had lost some land by 1861 and was now 70 acres being farmed by Daniel and Frances Williams and assisted by their eldest son 15 year old John. The rest of the children were still in school, Daniel, Rees and Frances and their youngest 2 year old William Williams. The other house was home to labourer David Salmon and his wife Ann and family Daniel age 20, Joseph 14, John 11 and Martha 6. The Salmon family still occupied their home in the 1870s together with their daughter 14 year old Martha, grandson Morris Salmon 8 and granddaughter Martha 5. The family moved to the village in the 1880s.

The farm had become even smaller by 1881 just 37 acres being farmed by William and Sophia Evans, daughter Sarah and baby son William. No other properties were listed. The family were to live at 'Rosedown' for the next 30 years, by 1911 Sofia was running the farm on her own, daughter Sarah now 32 was a dairymaid at the farm and son William assisted on the farm. William by 1925 was managing the farm. Within just a few years a new family had made 'Rosedown' their home they were William (Stanley) and Amy James they were still running a dairy farm in 1939. They had two sons Austin and John and daughter Vera who were at Templeton School. Today the farmhouse has been substantially modernised but still retains many of its original features and a large orchard has been planted on the long drive to the house.

### **Chapel Hill Lane Farms**

The parish of Templeton had within its boundary 'Upper Chapel Hill' and a little to the south was 'Great Chapel Hill'. These farms can date their origins back to 1569 when three farms were known about, Chapel Hill possibly 'Little Chapel Hill', 'Upper Capelhill' and 'Lower Capelhill' when they are mentioned in the Land Revenue books. 'Chappell Hill' is again sited in documents dated 1745, Lower and Upper Chapelhill are listed in the 1793 Land Tax

Assessments. In 1609 there was also a reference made “Chaple hill well” in the *Calendar of Public Records*. The proprietor of ‘Chapelhill’ in 1786 was Thomas Mansel paying a tax of £1 4s. Which was at the time the highest tax of any property in Templeton. Thomas Mansel was the proprietor or landowner of quite a number of pieces of land or tenements in Templeton, but Roger Jermin was listed as the occupier. We can be fairly sure that we are referring to ‘Upper Chapel Hill’ as in 1801 Mr Roger Jermin is both occupying and owning ‘Upper Chapel Hill’ and one of his tenements was occupied by Lewis John and James Salmon. ‘Lower Chapel Hill’ is both owned and occupied by Mrs Ann Callen who also owned ‘Grove’ and is shown as occupier this was again in 1831. The tax remained the same at £1 4s. Whereas ‘Upper Chapel Hill’ did not appear to have any tax levied against it. Still taxed at £1 4s. in 1831 was ‘Lower Chapel Hill’ owned by Charles Poyer Callen Esq. who owned 20 of the 88 properties in Templeton with the farm occupied by Daniel Owen, it continued to be the highest taxed property in Templeton. The proprietor and owner of ‘Upper Chapel Hill’ in 1831 was John Crunn Esq. who also owned ‘Jermins land’ which he also occupied jointly with John Wilkins.

The Tithe Map shows ‘Upper Chapel Hill’ with two distinct buildings in field number 613 described as ‘Homestead’, farmed by James and Anne Kelly and home to their children, Richard age 6, James and Ada. They were assisted by two servants Hannah Thomas and John Francis in the early 1840s.

Lower Chapel Hill’, at some time between 1841 and 1880 changed its name to ‘Great Chapel Hill’ occupying field number 607 where the ‘Homestead’ stood. The farm has pastures and meadows with names such as ‘Little Wolfs’, ‘Mountain Lake’, ‘Crook Walls’ Lampeter’s Way’ and so on. All being farmed by George and Martha Lewis with their land extending along Tanners Lane. They were a young farming family, their children Hannah was 9 years old, Arthur and Thomas. They had two servants William Phillips and Hester Thomas. Also, in the same household was Daniel and Hannah Owen, daughter Mary age 18, Benjamin and Mira age 7. The farm now 153 acres in 1851 was



being farmed by widower John Noott age 60, assisted by his son David, the rest of the family were Caroline, Thomas and Elizabeth. Two servants were employed on the farm Anne John and Lettice Perkins. The farm had lost some land by 1861 and was now down to 100 acres farmed by Mr James and Mira Davies and his step-daughter Ada Williams aged 24, their daughter age 9 Julia was at Templeton School. They employed John Griffiths as a plough boy, Elizabeth Scourfield as a dairy maid and Sarah Griffiths undertaking general work.

The next part of my journey takes me over ‘Templeton Mountain’ from Tanners Lane, skirting ‘Spring Gardens’, just within the boundary of Templeton, taking the old footpath past ‘Rowson’ to a new property ‘Rosehill’ built in the early 2000s, thought to be on the site of a previous dwelling also named ‘Rosehill’, unfortunately I have been unable to find any evidence of any building previously occupying this site. After admiring the view to the west of Templeton Village and to the south of ‘Catershook’ and ‘Windberry Top’, I make my way down the track to meet the road. A left turn takes me to the last house in Templeton on this road ‘Church Cottage’ which is nestled on a leafy country lane.

### **Spring Gardens**

An interesting little area, literally on the western boundary of Templeton. The land was owned in the early 1800s by Sir Richard Buckeley Philipps Philipps and his tenant was Rees Morris. If you were to walk over the moors of Templeton Mountain in a northerly direction picking up the main track to ‘Rowson’, as you start to descend the track you pass on the western side, fields named ‘Moor’, ‘Lower House Lane’, ‘Middle House Lane’ and ‘Upper House Lane’. These names tell us quite a lot about the area, we know its moorland and the narrow strips of land between the lane and boundary had a number of dwellings on them, we know fields 185 and 186 ‘Lower and Upper House Lane’



*2nd Edition OS Map 1913. The map indicates the many quarries in the area and the position of Rosedown, Colsick, Spring Gardens, Mountain Lake, the now derelict Park House and Rowson.*

had at least one property 'Park House' on it and field 188 described as 'Cottage and Garden', now known as 'Spring Gardens'.

We do know Rees Morris was living with his family at 'Rowson' in 1841, what we do not know is who his tenants were in the 'Spring Gardens' properties. The census of 1851 indicates that John and Anna Parry their five daughters Mary aged 18, Anne, Martha, Amelia, Caroline and son William aged 13 were all living in a property on 'Tanners Lane'. John was born in Lampeter Velfry, and Anna in Llandewi Velfry, all the children were born in 'Ludchurch' a second son was born in 1853. The property was positioned between 'Colsick' and 'Park House' on the Tithe Apportionment Schedule, this would suggest it was 'Spring Gardens'. The same family appears in the 1861 census listed as 'Green Garden'. Now into their 60s John and Anna Parry had very much made the cottage the family home and were still living there in 1871 with one of their daughters Caroline aged 22 and son Elias born 1852 at 'Moun-ton Lake,

Narberth South'. On this census the house was called 'Mountain Lake', which is of course the property just north west of it, in the parish of Ludchurch. The first accurate confirmation comes in 1881 when the census enumerator provides the "street address" as 'Spring Gardens', still in the occupation of John Parry a retired mason and now a widower living with his married daughter Caroline Beynon, son-in-law William Beynon and granddaughter Anna Beynon. Visiting the family at the time of the census was John's son Elias daughter-in-law Martha and granddaughter Margaret Ann, like his father Elias had become a stone mason. Elias and Martha were to make 'Spring Gardens' their family home by the 1890s, living there with their daughter Margaret and sons William, Howard and David aged 3. Another son Ivor was born at 'Spring Gardens' in 1893, in 1911 Elias, Martha and son still lived at the cottage, Elias was now a 'house builder' and employer and son Ivor was a 'drapers assistant'. Ivor and Alice Parry were still occupying 'Spring Garden' in the 1960s. The cottage continues to remain in the ownership of the Parry family in 2020, the brother and sister who own the property lives in Japan and Bristol respectively. They have a tenant who has lived at the cottage since around 2002. Due to a clause in the Will the property cannot be sold but must remain in the ownership of the Parry family.

### **Park House**

After leaving Tanners Lane, heading south west along 'Rowson Lane' we arrive at 'Park House' which was part of the Picton Castle estate, as with the property previously mentioned was part of the tenancy of Rees Morris in the 1840s although no building was shown on the Tithe Apportionment. We have to assume that a dwelling existed as the field names all had 'house' in their description. The house does not appear in the census of 1841 but is clearly shown on the census of 1851 in the occupation of agricultural labourer, John and Elizabeth Lewis. John was born in Amroth in 1816 and his wife Elizabeth Jenkins was born in Ludchurch in 1818, her mother Sarah Jenkins was born in

Lampeter Velfry in 1774 and had been the local midwife. They had a son in 1847 Thomas and William a year later both born in Ludchurch their third son, George was born in 1850. They had a daughter, Martha born at 'Park House' in 1853 and 5 years later David was born. By 1891 John and Elizabeth had the cottage to themselves, the children had all left the family home. The start of a new century saw David Lewis, his wife Annie and daughters Elizabeth born 1888, Ethel in 1895 and son William born 1893 now living as a family once again at 'Park House'. David was working for Great Western Railways as a 'Plate Layer' and continued to live and work for GWR into 1911. The cottage fell into disrepair some years ago and is now boarded up and used as a storage area. The stream continues to flow past 'Spring Gardens' and 'Park House', the source from springs above 'Hill' and 'Wells Cottage', Ludchurch meandering through pastureland and woodland before merging with the 'Ludd Stream' itself merging with 'Fords Lake on its journey to the sea at Wiseman's Bridge.

### **Rowson**

Before going further let me tell you something of the history of 'Rowson', which is accessed by a meandering track off Tanners Lane, across a ford and gently rising to the farm, which like most of the ancient buildings in Templeton has changed its name over time. In 1634 it was named 'Rowston' and on the Picton Map of 1773 that is how it was shown. In some estate papers of 1688 it was 'Rows Tenement' and 1745 'Row's farm'. Farm being 'tun' or 'ton'. Hence 'Rowston' could also be associated with John Row in 1688.

Rowson is on the western boundary of Templeton and the quarry associated with 'Rowson' was in the next village of Ludchurch. The quarry and 'homestead Kiln Park' field number 180 was in 1840 in the ownership of Sir Richard Buckeley Philipps Philipps and the tenancy of Rees Morris who was the tenant of most of the land surrounding 'Rowson' including a pasture known as 'Rees's Mountain' field number 176. The area is riddled with 'old quarries', footpaths and tracks that linked many of the quarries from the large

'Templeton Quarries' south of 'Colsick'. Access to 'Rowson' is shown on the OS 6" Map of 1888 as a farm track from Tanners Lane, between 'Spring Gardens' and 'Mountain Lake' heading south westerly past 'Park House' to a small ford crossing the streams and up Templeton Mountain to the farm itself. There was a footpath that went from 'Rowson' over the mountain to drop down on to the lane between 'Church Cottage' and Mabes Mill.

The census of 1841 has listed 'Rowston' in the parish of Ludchurch occupied by farmers Rees and Margaret Morris both born in 1811 and children Mary aged 10, Frances, George, Rees and Evan aged 3. The next confirmed entry for 'Rowson' was in 1871 when Thomas and Hester Evans were farming the 70 acres with their 24 year old son David. Their granddaughter Hester J Evans was born in 1877 and was living with them at the farm in the 1880s. The next to farm 'Rowson' were Stephen and Sarah Davies and their family who farmed the land well into the 1960s. In 1891 Stephen and Sarah had two children James aged 15 was an apprentice carpenter, their other son was Charles just 2 years old. In 1892 Priscilla was born. By 1911 Stephen and Sarah had been married for 35 years and continued to farm 'Rowson' with their children Charles and Priscilla. Today, the lane is still accessible as it now leads to 'Rosehill'. The track to 'Rowson' is difficult to negotiate and very rutted but the farm still exists.

### **Mabes Mill**

On leaving the village heading south on the main Tenby road I turn east along 'Kilgetty Lane', under the railway bridge, over Fords Lake and then over the leat and on the south side of the lane I find 'Mabes Mill'. A short distance

further along the lane I reach 'Church Cottage', closely associated with the 'mill land', more about that shortly.

Most people associate water-powered mills with rural peaceful landscapes of the 18th and 19th centuries and 'Mabes Mill' will not disappoint. It is just that. These ruins tend to remain on the same site for centuries, perhaps that is part of their allure, however, they are often rebuilt and 'our' mill in Templeton is no exception. So a mill that now looks 18th or 19th-century could be concealing a much longer history. Many of the Pembrokeshire mills continue to be mentioned in documents in succeeding centuries and eventually appear on estate maps and OS maps. This is very much the case with 'Templeton Mill', 'Rosedown Mill', Mabs Mill, Mabes Mill mentioned in Picton estate document of 1777 and the Land Tax Assessment of 1793, 'Mabsmill' 1789, all these names refer to the same mill which since the late 1700s was know as 'Mabes Mill'. All these names make it more interesting to research at the same time it is easy to see why confusion has arisen.

The hundred of Narberth to which Templeton belongs had many working water corn mills in the early part of the 19th century. In Templeton there appears to have been, besides 'Mabes Mill', 'Old Mill' just off Tanners Lane, which appears to have stopped functioning before 1841. There was also 'Herons Mill' just on the outskirts of Templeton in the Parish of St. Issles. The one common factor with these mills is they were supplied with water from the 'Ford's Lake' stream, I think to refer to it as a river is rather ambitious. We must also not forget there were a number of mills to the north of 'Cold Blow' and 'Carn Mill' on the west border of Templeton in the Parish of Loveston, this mill was recorded in 1571 when it was known as Carnes Myll. This mill was not far from the property known as 'The Forge' previously known as 'Mountain Hill'. By 1891 only handful were operating and the number would decline steadily until there were only one or two by the 1930's.



*This lovely old stone 'Over-shot Water Mill' of 'Mabes Mill', sadly now in a semi-ruined state, still has most of its features photographed in 2020.*

Most of the corn mills were quite small and ran only two sets of working millstones - one set for grinding flour for human consumption and one set for animal feed stuffs.

I am only able to tell you about our 'village' mill and particular 'Mabes Mill'. I can give some idea of the life of a miller late in the 19th century. Some millers worked on their own and others employed a son or a journeyman miller to assist them and as you will read shortly this was very much the case of 'Mabes Mill' and its milling families.

Some mills with a big enough trade might have had a labourer and/or an odd job boy who later might become an apprentice. Was this the case for 'Mabes Mill'?

David Lloyd in 1786 was a tenant of Lord Milford with property and land described as "Mill, Part of the Mountain", most probably our mill. And by 1801 'Mill and Mill Park' and 'Colsick' were in the tenancy of David Williams.

He was born about 1731, aged around 50 he married by special license in circa 1780. Anne was about 16 years old born around 1796, we do not have of her surname. It was a short marriage as William died leaving Anne and a young son also David born circa 1821. Anne re-married Isaac Lewis born in 1801 who in 1841 we know from the census and other records was the Miller and living at 'Mabes Mill' with his wife Anne and children Elizabeth 15, Anne, Margaret, George, Isaac, Mira and John age 1 and step-son David aged 20 working as a carpenter. At the time the mill had just over 95 acres of land with it consisting of 20 separate fields, quite a lot to look after, remember there was little or no mechanisation at that time, everything was done by hand. To help with all the work Isaac employed four farm and mill servants. Living at the mill was Margaret Beynon of 'independent means' born in 1776 and another Margaret Beynon born 1835 possibly a granddaughter. Were they just there when the census was recorded or is there a family connection, work in progress! If it is not confusing enough there was also a family of William and Rebecca Phillips and their children, twins Evan and Levi aged 4 and Anna. William was working as a carpenter. Who were they? The total count for the household in 1841 was 21, where were they all staying? Moving on to 1851 we still have Isaac Lewis as 'Miller and Farmer' of 100 acres and employing two labourers. His wife Anne was not on the census, has she died or gone? His daughters Anne, Margaret and Mira age 15 who was described as a 'straw milliner' were all still living at the mill together with sons George who worked on both the farm and mill and Thomas working as a 'Tailor' and John who was at school. The eldest daughter Elizabeth had married James Noot. Two servants also lived with the families at the mill.

All was to change as by 1861 John and Margaret Griffiths Hughs were the Millers living at the mill with their children Thomas age 8, William, Elizabeth Ann, John, Hannah and Edwin born within a year of each other. They had four servants helping them with the mill and farm. Still further change was about to take place, once again we see the name Evan Phillips reappear, you



may remember he was just a young lad in 1841 when the Phillips family were living at the mill. In 1871, Evan was now aged 36, his place of birth was listed as 'Llanddewi Velfry', he had married Anne from Llangwm where two of their five children were born. The children were William age 14, Hannah, John, Mary and 9 month old Emily born in South Narberth, probably at the mill. Evan was widowed by the time of the 1881 census, the family continued as millers and farmers through to 1911. In 1881 John Phillips joined his father as miller and farmer and by 1901 "Susan Phillips" was the miller and farmer and head of the household, this was probably an error, the name should have been Evan Phillips, born in 1841, this was confirmed by an entry in the Electoral Roll for 1900. Siblings, William and Hannah Phillips were the millers and farmers in 1911. In 1913 Emily Phillips married Evan Evans and became the millers and farmers of 'Mabes Mill' into the mid 1930s.

I visited the ruined 'Mabes Mill' in 2020 and to avoid confusion with the house the mill is now named 'Melin Mabe' by the current owners Carol Ann and Martin Johnson. It was a wonderful experience to see an incredible stone mill with all its workings, cogs and gears and even a waterwheel, all in need of renovation as the mill has been neglected for at least half a century or more. But what a truly beautiful setting 'Melin Mabes' "lies within four stunning acres on the site of a 16th century mill that Martin and wife Carol-Anne acquired from the nearby Picton Castle estate". This tranquil stream-side setting is open to a handful of tent campers, with a few hard-standings for caravans. There is also a beautiful traditional style 150 year old gypsy caravan, or an incredible 'tree house' aptly called 'Templar Treehouse' and there is even a 'space-age Spodnic'. The current owners have made full use of a truly wonderful space in Templeton. Martin and Carol-Anne are now working on restoring the Mill and Mill House and saving it for future generations to enjoy. In clearing out the mill pond they revealed dozens of old bottles and other items of memorabilia that adorn their temporary home and will one day I am sure be in the restored mill.

## **Church Cottage**

I will just call in at 'Church Cottage' built in the 1700s, located on the north side of the 'Tregallet' road (Kilgetty Lane) just up from 'Mabes Mill' overlooking, to the south 'Catershook Wood' with the 'Fords Lake' running through it and to the north the moors of Templeton Mountain.

I am taking the opportunity to describe the evolution of the 'cottage' as a dwelling of which there were many in Templeton. Over time elements from the larger and grander houses gradually filtered down to the humblest dwellings, changing them over the centuries from semi-permanent mud or clom huts to small solidly built houses. Church Cottage is a good example from the final phases of this process.

The simplest of local cottages was a single room open to the roof in which the whole family lived and slept. These survived in use well into the nineteenth century. In very few cottages was there more than one room, which served the purpose of living and sleeping.

Furniture was the most basic form of partitioning: a dresser or linen press were typically used to divide the living and sleeping ends. The two-roomed partitioned cottage evolved from this, such as 'Church Cottage', with the kitchen/living space at the fireplace end and the parlour/bedroom, generally cold and damp, at the opposite end. This was still open to the roof, but there was a third space, more a cupboard than a room, which had a ceiling over to keep off the dust. This was the dairy or pantry, tucked into a convenient recess, usually either opposite the front door or to one side of the stone inglenook.

The introduction of partitions provided a degree of privacy but two-roomed cottages were still desperately overcrowded when they contained large families. Some were full of box-beds and it was probably these that supported the first crude lofts. A few boards were laid across and the children climbed up a ladder or the back of a chair. When properly built with a floor and partition, this 'croglofft', as it was commonly called, occupied the space over the parlour,

leaving the living/kitchen space open to the roof. It had a tiny window in the gable wall, often fixed.

The croglofft cottage was very common in the 19th century. The large volume of the living area with an inglenook and parlour leading off it and croglofft above it made an impressive central family space but the temptation to floor over the rest of the cottage would have been great. The 'one and a half storey' cottage, with a complete first floor under the roof, is a natural progression from this. Due to the low roof, the upstairs had to be lit by gable windows, but just raising the eaves by a few feet allowed small windows to be inserted at the front, whose sills are often at floor level. In fact, every stage of example of lofts can be found in Templeton, from what is an attic to full-height first floor. The last stage of the evolution of the cottage effectively turned it into a small house. The roof was raised and proper upstairs windows were introduced. The central stair was of a higher standard with a hall leading to it from the front door. To one side was the parlour with its fireplace, which became the "posh" room, reserved for entertaining the minister, laying out corpses and any other important functions. To the other side was the kitchen/living room, which had lost its inglenook and instead had hobs or a basic range. At the back was a door to the dairy or scullery. Upstairs, there were commonly two rooms with fireplaces. The famous 'ty bach' (outside toilet), began to appear, but baths were taken in a tub in the kitchen, and remained that way until after the middle of the last century.

Cottages have largely retained their features at all these different stages of evolution. The internal details are probably the most susceptible to change. The one-roomed cottage is a thing of the past, but there are still two-roomed cottages. With their original plan layout, these are antiques; so is the croglofft cottage. Even the late two storeyed cottages with their central stair are now being gutted in large numbers. The description I have just given is largely an extract from a book 'Traditional Qualities of the West Wales Cottages'<sup>34</sup>, which fits very well many of Templeton's old cottages. Many of them have been



Mabe's Mill		ISAAC LEWIS					
23	Watergate field		3	2	10		
24	Field do		7	3	10		
CARRIED FORWARD			10	5	20	100	10

No	Description	A	B	P	A	B	P
		CARRIED FORWARD					
40	Went's Mill do	4	3	20			
41	Field do			13			
42	Buildings & Yard			21			
43	Well Meadow	2		13			
44	Hayward park	2	1	1			
45	Lever	2		8			
46	The Moor	2	1	2			
47	Garden			10			
48	Witchchurch Cottages			17			
49	Mill Meadow	31	2	34			
50	York Hill	11	2	27			
51	Piper	4		11			
52	Colliery Quarry field	4	2	21			
53	Field above Moor	2	2	20			
54	The Moor	2	3	10			
55	Little Meadow	4	3				
56	Dry	4	1	21			
57	Little piece	2	1	34			
					20		10

An example of an Estate Map of Rosedown and Mabe's Mill, the numbers refer to the individual fields and correlate with the schedule shown beneath the map. The schedule shows 'Mabe's Mill' in the tenancy of Isaac Lewis c. 1840.



*Church Cottage photographed in 2020, many of the original features still remain.*

restored beyond recognition but 'Church Cottage' has been very sensitively restored to ensure at least from the exterior front view a feeling of the 'traditional' cottage remains.

To return to 'Church Cottage', as with some many of Templeton's farms and cottages its name has changed. In 1840 'Whitechurch Cottage' was how it was known. And like 'Mabes Mill' was in the land ownership of Sir Richard Buckeley Philipps Philipps of Picton Castle Estate and the tenancy of Isaac Lewis. The Picton Castle Estate plan shows "*No. 48 Whitechurch Cottage*". The cottage's first confirmed entry was on the 1851 census as the home of William and Lydia Lewis and children Benjamin aged 10, Eliza, Daniel and William at 10 months old. William was working as a 'Journeyman Mason'. On the census of 1861 'Church' almost definitely 'Church Cottage' was occupied by Sarah Thomas married to a labourer. Sarah was born in Cardiganshire in 1819. There was another change in the tenancy by 1871 when 98 year old Josiah



*Church Cottage built in the 1700s. Photo courtesy of Pam & Fred Troester c. 1970.*

Evans, born in 1773, in Llanwinio, Carmarthenshire was living at the cottage with his 84 year old wife Rahamach [*sic*] Evans originally from Llanboidy. With them was their daughter Elizabeth Prickett aged 62, granddaughter Elizabeth Lewis aged 20 her husband George Lewis and their son 6 month old Thomas Lewis. Working as a brick labourer in the 1880s George Lewis was now 'head' of the house living with his wife Elizabeth, sons Thomas aged 9, John, William, Benjamin, James, David and daughter Mary Ann aged 7. Elizabeth Prickett a widower aged 84, who we now know was their Aunt-in-Law was still living with them at the cottage.

In 1891 an agricultural labourer and his wife were living at 'Church Cottage'. they were Benjamin and Susan Evans and two orphaned children Hannah Beynon aged 10 and sister Elizabeth Beynon. George and Mary Thomas and daughter Martha aged 14 were occupying the cottage in 1901. The descendants of Lewis family seem to be back at 'Church Cottage' by 1911, John Lewis a local man born 1872 was working as a 'Brick Burner' at the local Brickworks.

He was married to Florence and they had four daughters Agnes aged 15 a domestic servant, Minnie, Laura and Hilda aged 6 were all attending Templeton school.

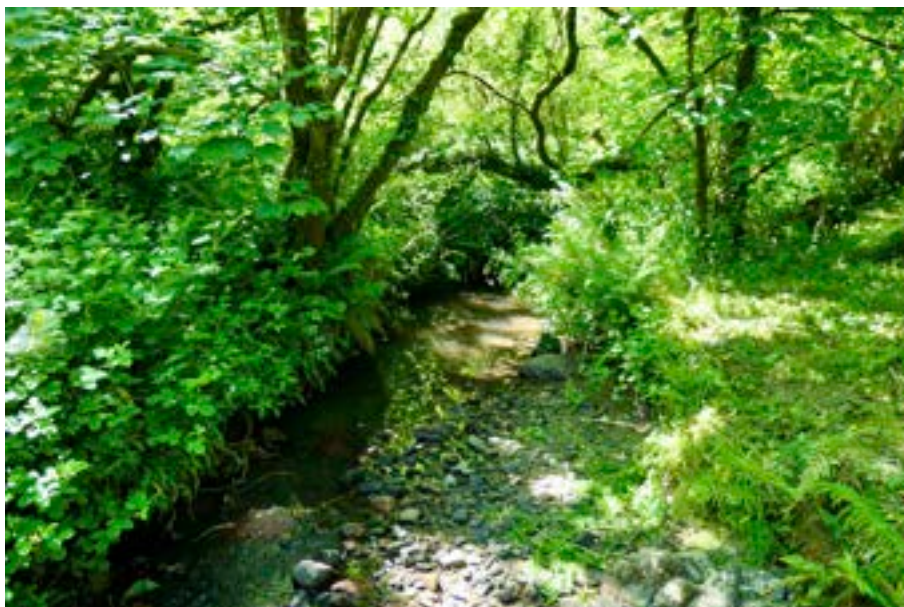
### **Crosshands Road**

If I now take you back to the cross roads at the southern end of the village, I can go west along the Crosshands Road. Back in the 1850s walking along this quiet lane having just left the 'Boars Head' and passed 'Kings Park', several footpaths would take you to the moorlands and isolated farms on what is today the airfield. On the right is a short track that led to the ruins of 'Sentence Castle' and a footpath to a 'drang' at 'Templeton Farm', but first you would have passed the cottage 'Goose Green' where today stands 'Larkspur Garage', 'Parkwall Caravans' and 'Templeton Beer Wine & Spirits Co. Ltd.' Further along the lane was the cottage and meadows known as 'David's Lake'. Crossing the tree clad lane you came to four narrow strips of land, in the last of the strips was 'Green Garden' cottage and next to it the track leading to 'Hampton Court' and 'Kiln Field', a little further on was the cottage 'Carn Pits' and then we arrive in the hamlet of 'Peter's Finger'. Today the lane, still tree lined takes the speeding motorist on the main 'A' road to Crosshands and beyond. Who lived in these farms and cottages? Several of these cottages such as 'Cairn' and 'Hedges' are long gone and the inhabitants often unknown but some have a story to tell?

### **Kings Park**

I start with 'Kings Park' where one of the first confirmed entries for this property was in the Picton Castle papers of 1706. This would suggest the house existed perhaps in the late 1600s. Further mention was made in 1720, 1789 and 'Kings Parks' in 1785. As you would expect to see, the Land Tax Assessment of 1786, the proprietor was Lord Milford of Picton Castle, the tenant and occupier was Thomas Lewis. The Assessment of 1801 shows the





*Images of 'Mabes Mill' in 2020, the old waterwheel and the stream of 'Ford's Lake' that fed the mill and drove the waterwheel to grind the corn. The old mill is slowly being renovated back to a partly working mill. It is set the most lovely of tranquil settings.*





*More images of the mills workings and the mill stones. The mill wheel was fed by water from Ford's Lake stream about 1.5 km up-stream where the river was diverted probably by a sluice into a mill race that fed a mill pond and drove the overshot mill wheel. The Mill Race is now long overgrown but there are still many areas where it is visible.*



*Extract of Tithe Map of 1840 showing the position of 'Kings Park'. The current 'Kings Park' has been built closer to the main road.*

'tenement' as 'Kings Park & Moorlands' in the same ownership and occupation. The ownership had transferred to Sir Richard Buckeley Philipps Philipps by 1831 but the tenant was still Thomas Lewis. The Tithe Map of 1840 places 'Kings Park' in field number 227 about 100 metres further away from the main road. The ruins of the old house could still be seen in the 1960s and was shown on the OS Map of 1888. The first census of 1841 for 'Kings Park' has William Lewis farming about 50 acres, he was born in 1781 and William was being assisted on the farm by his brother-in-law Thomas Jones who had married Priscilla Lewis. They had three of their children with them in 1841, Ann Jones aged 15, Harriet and Mira. The family were to farm 'Kings Park' well into the 1860s, Thomas Jones had taken over as head of the household by 1851, son James and daughters Harriet and Mira were employed on the farm. In 1853 their grandson was born, Thomas Jones Griffiths. William Lewis aged 82 was living with the family in the 1860s and they had a lodger with them, Hester Llewellyn born in 1753 making her 108 year old,

possibly she was a relative. By the 1870s Thomas Jones now in his 70s was still farming with his daughter Harriet James, grandson Thomas James (previously Griffiths!) aged 18 and his young grandson John James aged 6. Thomas Jones was farming just 27 acres in 1880, he was 81 years of age his daughter Harriett Morris (Jones) and her son John James aged 16 were living with him at the farm. John worked as a 'brick labourer'. There is some confusion on the census about Harriet, the Census of 1881 incorrectly recorded her name as Morris, whereas it should have been Jones. It has not been possible to work out who the grandchildren were, we know that Thomas Jones Griffiths was born in 1853 and Harriet was living with the family at that time. His surname had changed to James sometime before 1871 when his brother, John James born 1865 appeared on the census. Harriet was entered as 'unmarried' on the census, it therefore seems most likely that both her sons should have been Jones, unless of course the father of Thomas was a Griffiths and John's father was a James! We don't know and probably never will and does it really matter? By 1891 Daniel and Harriet Rees and their son Daniel aged 27 were farming at 'Kings Park' and continued into the 1900s, Harriet was an 'employer' working from home. She had a live-in domestic servant Martha Jones born in 1868, is there a family connection? Who was 'this' Harriet, it leaves me with more questions than answers! There is an interesting story of a lady "who was evicted from the first 'Kings Park House' and cast a spell on the house that no one will have any luck with this property". This story is very similar to one that occurred to Richard Fenton at 'Glyn-y-Mel', Lower Fishguard in the 1800s, casting 'spells' was not uncommon in many areas of rural Wales in the 18th century.

There is no question about who the farmer was in 1910, it was George Davies born in 1879 to Edwin and Hannah Davies who were the 'Inn Keeper's' of the 'Railway Hotel' at Maenclochog. He married Susannah Mary Davies from 'Cleggars Castle', Templeton in 1909, Susannah was the third of seven children of William and Elizabeth Davies. George and Susannah had a daughter

Francis Eveline Mary born in 1909. George Davies left in 1912 for Tasmania, where he was going to setup a new home for the young family. But sadly George was taken ill and had an operation on his throat and subsequently died of sepsis, so the family remained in Templeton. Their daughter Francis died age 76 at 'Cleggars Castle' in 1986.

The house we now see occupies the site of the second 'Kings Park' which was demolished in circa 1975. Several houses and bungalows now occupy the old farmyard, one of the houses has converted the old barn and extended it into their home. In meadows behind the house stands the remains of "old quarries and a gravel pit" and a footpath that would have been a short-cut to the farmsteads on Templeton Mountain.

### **Goose Green**

Leaving 'Kings Park', on the north side of the road was 'Goose Green' also known as 'Green Acre'. It was just a short distance down the 'Sentence Castle' track at the side of Larkspur Garage. The Tithe map of 1840 shows field 472 described as a "cottage and garden" in the ownership of Charles Poyer Callen and in the tenancy of Stephen Jenkins. The tenancy may well have been a family arrangement as all the surrounding fields and 'David's Lake' was in the tenancy of Jenkins, the land often being referred to as 'Poyers Land'. The census of 1841 shows Stephen Jenkins born in Pembrokeshire in 1761 living at 'David's Lake' with his wife Margaret. It is very likely that this was in fact 'Goose Green' due to its position on the schedule. The census of 1851 has two households at 'Goose Acre' the first family was Elizabeth Jenkins aged 30 with her son Thomas and daughter Mary aged 4. Elizabeth worked in the fields. The other household was 28 year old John Francis, his wife Anne and children Thomas, John and Martha aged 1. They were both agricultural workers doing labouring and field work. Two different families lived at 'Goose Green' in the 1880s, John Phillips aged 35 was a labourer born in the village, his wife Martha, a dressmaker was born at 'Peter's Finger' in 1822 as was their

daughter Mary born in 1845. Staying with them was Thomas Merriman aged just 7 months described as a 'relation' who was born at 'Goose Green'. The other household was Elizabeth John aged 50, living on her own. Moving on 10 years we have a property simply listed as 'Green' which was 'Goose Green' in the tenancy of Josiah Evans a labourer from Denbighshire born in 1830, his wife Elizabeth was born locally. Their sons Robert aged 14 was born in St Asaph in Kent and James at Newtown, Montgomeryshire. Slightly unusual at that time to see how far the family had travelled and why? The other household was very much a local family, all born in Narberth South. William Jenkins was a farmer of 7 acres, assisted by his wife Martha and children Thomas aged 23, Ada, John, Sarah and 6 year old William. The family were still at 'Goose Green' in the 1880s although the cottage was under a different name 'Davies Lakes' but appeared on the schedule in the same place as previously listed. We have to assume that it is the same place as it would be too much of a coincidence to be somewhere else! William was now working as a road labourer, Martha was housekeeper, Mary and Sarah were servants and William (junior) now 16 years old was working as a brick labourer, their youngest son was at school. They also had a 1 month old granddaughter Martha Jane Jenkins living with them. The second entry on the 1881 census was for Jane Gwyther born at 'Rosedown' in 1827 and working as an egg merchant. At some time during the mid to late 1880s 'Goose Green' must have fallen on hard times and no further entry in the census was found but the cottage was shown on the OS Map of 1888.

### **David's Lake**

Further along the road we come to 'David's Lake', a house mentioned in Slebech papers as '*Davislake*' in 1569. It had probably been associated with the family Robert Davis. A further mention in 1686 as 'Upper David's Lake' *alias* Castles appeared on the 1843 Tithe Apportionment showing fields named Castles. The Land Tax Assessments of 1786 also shows 'David Lake' in the

ownership of Thomas Mansell and occupied by Elizabeth Roach and someone with the surname Howell. The assessment of 1801 has Mrs Ann Callen as the owner and David Griffiths as her tenant. David Griffiths also is tenant of 'Poyers Land' paying more than double the tax for the land tenement than the cottage. The same was happening in 1831 the owner now being Charles Poyer Callen Esq. and the tenant John Jenkins. The Jenkins family were to be associated with 'David's Lake' for the next 90 years or so. In 1841 William Jenkins aged 20, Anne probably his sister, Stephen and Margaret Jenkins likely to have been his grandparents were living at the cottage, together with John Phillips aged 7. Both William and his 80 year old grandfather Stephen were working as agricultural labourers. By the 1850s William had married Martha and they had two sons Thomas aged 3 and Walter 9 months. Their two daughters Ada and Mary were born in the mid 1850s and John in 1860. William was now working in the local limestone quarries. The family continued to grow. Sarah was born in 1863, William in 1865 and David in 1869. The family were still living at 'David's Lake' but the census enumerator referred to the cottage as 'Green', this highlights the confusion that often happened with house names. And in the 1880s still further confusion. The house was now recorded as 'Davies Lakes'. The family grew again in 1881 when their granddaughter Martha Jane Jenkins was born. William, the father was now employed as a road labourer, son William a brick labourer and daughter Mary was an agricultural labourer and farm servant. Now working as a railway porter was 26 year old William, his father now being described as a farmer of about 7 acres still living in 1891 at 'David's Lake' with his wife Martha and daughter Sarah-Ann. William died aged 75 in 1895. The 1900's continued to see the Jenkins family or a branch of it at 'David's Lake', Thomas Jenkins born 1847 was head of the house, his wife Maria was from Wiston. They had two daughters Emily and Margaret and a 1 year old granddaughter Martha Fearson with them at the cottage. In 1911 Thomas, a roadman and farmer, his wife

Maria, daughter Sarah Ann and granddaughter Martha Fearson were all living and working at what was now the small-holding of 'David's Lake'.

## **Hampton Court**

Crossing the road, the next property we arrive at is 'Hampton Court'. In a collection of papers reference is made to "*the greate and little Ham*" dated 1688, this could well be a reference to what was to become 'Hampton Court'. The Tithe apportionment of 1840 has Sir Richard Buckeley Philipps Philipps as the landowner but the tenant is left blank and the description of the land and tenement is "house, garden and field", there is no building shown on the Tithe Map. The OS 6" Map of 1888 clearly indicates a building where the ruins are today. From that we can presume that a property once stood on the site perhaps as far back as the 1600s which was demolished and a new property built in the 1840s as we know that in 1841 Aline Griffiths born circa 1776 of 'independent' means was living at the house with Mary Griffiths, Mary and Anne Hughes both aged 12, Rachel Lewis 4 and Daniel John 3. They had left the property by 1851 and Evan and Elizabeth Williams were living at 'Hampton Court' with their grandchildren 9 year old James Williams, his brother John and sister Elizabeth 6 years old. The three children were all born at Bosherton. By 1861 Mary Griffiths a labourer was back living at the property with her daughter Rachel Griffiths (previously Lewis). Mary was still there in 1871 and 1881 with her daughter Ann Griffiths, most probably Ann was her granddaughter. We then have a gap in the records until 1925 when John and Elizabeth Thomas lived there followed by Mary Calcutt in the late 1940s and the Lawrence family through to the 1960s.

## **Green Gardens**

Slightly to the east of the old house of 'Hampton Court' was another small cottage 'Green Gardens' in field number 234 owned by Charles Callen Poyer, marked as 'Homestead', the occupier was not listed in 1840. The OS 6" Map

shows 'Green Garden' off the track leading to 'Hampton Court' with a footpath running alongside leading to the mountain. Around the area was 'Kiln Field' known as '*Kilne Parke*' in 1616 and 'Kiln Park' on the Land Tax Assessment of 1786, in the ownership of Lord Milford and tenancy of Lewis Evans. The field had been passed on to Sir Richard Buckeley Philipps Philipps and his tenant Henry Rowe by 1831, several old quarries and a lime kiln were in the surrounding fields. The first mention of 'Green Gardens' cottage was in the census of 1841, when agricultural labourer John Davies born in 1796 was occupying the cottage with his wife Rachel and children Stephen and Elizabeth both born around 1821. The occupancy of 'Green Gardens' is in some doubt for 1851 but it is most likely to be the cottage shown on the census as 'near Kings Park', home of William and Martha Jenkins and children Thomas and 9 month old Walter. The family were still there in the 1860s, William was now working in the limestone quarries and the family had grown, daughter Ada was born in 1853, Mary in 1855 and son John in 1860. There is no question about 'Green Cottage' in the census of 1871 which was home to John and Mary John. They came from Wiston and Llanboidy and John was working as a labourer. Widow, 78 year old Ann Beynon from Llanboidy was the next person to occupy 'Green Cottage' in 1881. By 1891 'Green Gardens' would appear to have seen its last resident, it remained unoccupied from then on.

### **Carn Pits**

Just beyond 'Hampton Court' on the south side of the road past the old quarry we come to 'Carn Pits'. There does not appear to have been any mention of 'Carn Pits' before 1832 where it can be found in the parish registers as 'Carnspits'. The Tithe Apportionment of 1840 shows John Lewis of Narberth as the landowner of two pieces of land named 'Mountain' and 'Mountain Field' described as arable land, no building is shown on the map in either field. The only building is on the opposite side of the road showing a 'cottage and garden' in field 430a owned by Charles Callen Poyer with the tenant John Miles who



appears to be the tenant of several properties including 'Bank House'. The OS 6" Map of 1888 indicates 'Carn Pits' just off the main road and we know that in 1841 Daniel Edwards an agricultural labourer born locally in 1816 and most probably his mother Anne Edwards born in 1791 were living at 'Carn Pits'. The 1850s saw four households listed as living at 'Carn Pits'. William and Mary Llewellyn and children Elizabeth aged 6, Jane and Martha 4 months had moved from St. Issels to 'Carn Pits'. The family had grown, William (junior) was born in 1844, followed two years later by Eliza and in 1849 son David Llewellyn was born. William continued to work as an agricultural worker and daughter Elizabeth was old enough to work and 'carries sand'. The family were to move a few years later to 'Greenhill', Tenby. The second household living at 'Carn Pits' was Anne Lewis born in 1772 and now at the age of 79 a 'Pauper agricultural worker'. It must have been a very hard life but she had the support of her two grandchildren Rachel Griffiths aged 13 and Daniel Griffiths aged 12. The third family at the cottage was James and Hannah Watkins and granddaughter 8 year old Elizabeth Edwards. Living on her own was Hester Llewellyn born at Llawhaden in 1761 now aged 90 she was described as a 'Pauper'. We see a new family occupying 'Carn Pits' in 1861 they were Henry and Sarah Fines, Henry was born in Ireland in 1811 and Sarah was from Loveston where she was born in 1820. They has a son and daughter Henry aged 3 and Elizabeth aged 12. Henry senior was a "Chelsea Pensioner and Fishmonger". This appears to be the only entry for 'Carn Pits', as on the Census Schedule 70 is 'Peter's Finger', 71 is 'Carn Pits' then we have 72 'Hampton Court' and reappearing is 73 'Carn Pits' followed by 'Hedges' at 74. Some of these dwellings appear on the OS 6" Map which are scattered around the same area, hence the confusion over the names. But in 'Carn Pits' number 73, once again we see Hannah Watkins and her granddaughter Elizabeth Edwards. The census of 1871 perhaps helps untangle the confusion over the names of the properties in the area around 'Carn Pits'. The census enumerator on page 13 of the Schedule starts with 'Kings Park' with two properties named

'Green', then to 'Hedges' and now we have three entries for 'Carn Pits' the middle one being uninhabited. The first of those entries is for Henry and Ruth Hitchens and their four children Charles aged 8, William, James, Henry aged 2 and 5 month old Martha Anne. The next occupant of 'Carn Pits' was Thomas Scourfield a 60 year old farmer, his wife Anne and children Henry aged 30 and William 23 both sons worked on the farm. The family continued farming into the 1880s, the property name had altered to 'Redpits' but it was shown between 'Goose Green', 'David's Lake' and 'Hampton Court' suggesting it was the same property. By 1911 Henry, now 70 years of age was a lodger, living at 40 Llewellyn Street in the Rhondda Valley, he was widowed and working as an 'under ground' labourer. The 1891 census once again lists three households at 'Carn Pits', Thomas Scourfield was a farmer and 'Poultry Dealer' helped by his son Henry. In the second property was Ruben Davies living on his own in one room and working as a 'shoemaker'. The final property with three rooms being occupied by David Morris a shoemaker from Montgomeryshire, his wife Sarah from Mounton and 14 year old daughter Margaret Ann. The start of the new century saw only one listing for 'Carn Pits' in the occupation of Margaret Morris, living on her own in a four-roomed house working as a dressmaker. There is no question about the occupancy of 'Carn Pits Cottage' in 1911, the census tells us there were four rooms occupied by 8 people. The head of the family was John Thomas a farm labourer from Templeton, his wife Elizabeth was from Jameston, Manorbier, both in their mid 30s. The children were Stanley aged 12, Mildred, Febie, Tudor and Hester aged 2. They were also 'nursing' 2 year old Willie Scourfield. In the 1930s through to at least the 1970s 'Carn Pits' was home of the Frearson family, in 1935 Walter and Elwyn Frearson and from the 1960s and 70s it was the home of Thomas and Ivaleen Frearson.

I now want to tell you about 'Carne Road' and the farms lost during World War II. This was the road to several Templeton farms, no houses or bungalows had

been built at that time, they started to be developed from the 1970s. Not far from what is today the entrance to the airfield was a crossroads with 'Mountain Farm' on the north west side, 'Coursehill Farm' on the south west and the south east 'Coursehill Cottage'. The only one still remaining probably built on the original footprint of the old cottage. Further along the road you would have arrived at a lane taking you to 'Jack's Hill'. Continuing along the road a short distance another cross-roads to the north east would take you to 'North Hill Farm', 'Blackheath' and 'Cranberry Pool' and you would have reached the hamlet of Peter's Finger. If you had carried straight on at the second cross-roads you would get to Reynalton, Loveston, Yerbeston and eventually arrive at Pembroke. Back to our first cross-roads heading south easterly past 'Coursehill Cottage' the road would lead to 'Ramshorn Farm' just outside the Templeton boundary and onwards to the village of Thomas Chapel. With the exception of 'Ramshorn Farm' all the other farms were demolished in 1940 to construct RAF Templeton Airfield.

### **Lost Airfield Farms**

The proposed airfield that was eventually to be named RAF Templeton required the compulsory purchase of land on what had been Templeton Mountain. The land was not of the best quality but was good rough grazing land, those farming the mountain would have struggled to make a living. You only have to look at the field names on the Tithe Apportionment to realise the name given was generally 'Mountain' or 'Furze' rather than meadow or pasture seen in other parts of Templeton.

The lost airfield farms were all shown on the Tithe Map of circa 1841, the number refer to the Field Numbers listed in the Tithe Apportionment. Cranberry Pool 57, Mountain 82, both of these farms were owned by Sir Richard Buckeley Philipps Philipps. 'Coursehill' 84, 'Blackheath' 89, 'North Hill' 97 were all owned by the Hon. William Edwards or his full title of Lord

Kensington. Charles Callen Poyer owned 'Black Mountain' farm 11. All the farms were occupied by tenant farmers.

Not a farm but a large two storey house 'Maes y coed' is shown on the Tithe Map Field Number 1625 in the ownership of Anne Barlow with the tenant as Evan Beynon in 1841. The house was on the main road near the Airfield's Main Entrance. It had to be demolished as it would have been in the pathway of landing aircraft.

The only reference to 'Maes Y Coed' in the census is between 1901 and 1911 when it was occupied by the Baptist Minister and farmer Rev. Thomas Evans, his wife Margaret and family of seven daughters ranging in age from 1 to 19 and a 15 year old son. Thomas and Elizabeth Rowe were the occupants of 'Maes y Coed' in 1935. After the war, the Ministry of Defence sold off the site and the existing bungalow was built.

### **Cranberry Pool**

The farm known as 'Cranberry Pool' was in the tenancy of Anne Webb in 1841 through to 1891 who farmed its 65 acres, she was assisted by her sons John and James and daughter Elizabeth. At some time before 1881 the farm had lost some of its land and was now 40 acres. By 1901 the farm had changed hands and was being occupied by George and Sophia Lewis who lived there with their two young sons Hugh aged about 20 months and 7 month old Sidney. In 1911 a labourer and his wife were the next tenants of 'Cranberry Pool', they were William James his wife Martha stepdaughter Kate Barry and their son 9 month old Wyndham James.

### **Mountain Farm**

'Mountain Farm' was assigned Field Number 82 in the 1841 Tithe, the tenant farmer was named as Walter Harris. The census of 1841 lists a property 'Templeton Mountain' with Walter Harries the tenant who worked as a 'carrier'



*The 2nd Edition OS map shows the location of the demolished farms necessary to build RAF Templeton. The lower map is a section of the Tithe Map of 1841 showing the same farms as above in Field Numbers: Black Mountain 11, Cranberry Pool 57, Mountain Farm 82, Course Hill 84, Black Heath 89 and North Hill 97.*

he was born in the county in 1771 and lived at the property with his wife Sarah and son William an agricultural labourer. Living at the same property was Henry and Margaret Thomas and their young family, George 8, Jane 5 and Sarah 3. The tenancy appears to have changed hands by 1851, William Evans

was now at the property with his wife Mary. She worked as a poulterer, they had a 10 year old daughter and William's mother lived with them. But, 1861 has Margaret Thomas as head of the household with her son Alfred 19, Walter 12, James 8 and their niece was living with them 8 year old Elizabeth Harries. From around 1871 to 1901 we often see two separate households mentioned as living at 'Mountain'. The Thomas's are still there as is their niece in 1871, Margaret Thomas was still head of the household and Margaret Lewis was shown as head of a second household with her two daughters and son. By 1881 James had taken over the tenancy from his mother and was living at 'Mountain' with his wife Sarah. The other household was showing 80 year old Mary Evans who was a 'Butter Dealer' and head of the house, living with her daughter who was also listed as 'head' and her daughters Margaret Ann 8 and May 6. James Thomas was still farming 'Mountain' in 1901 together with his wife and daughter Margaret 15, sons John 14 and Owen 12. They were still farming there in 1911 with their daughter Margaret now involved on the farm in 'Dairy Work'.

### **Coursehill Farm**

'Coursehill', sometimes referred to as 'Coarse Hill' or 'Course Hill' was first mentioned in documents in 1609 but the first appearance of a property was in the 1831 Land Tax Assessment when it was in the land ownership of Lord Kensington and the tenant was David Griffiths. It also appeared in the Bishop's Transcript of 1842. The Tithe Map Schedule of 1841 shows the field number as 84 named 'Crofsway Field' with its cultivation described as furze all in the tenancy of Arthur Lewis who was also the tenant of the land where Kensington Close now sits. Arthur and David Lewis, probably related, were the tenants of a considerable number of fields in Templeton in total 24 including a homestead in field number 97 where David Lewis resided. In circa 1841 'Coursehill' was occupied by Isaac Griffiths aged 23 working as an agricultural labourer and his wife Mary aged 37. Its probable that Mary was a

widow as they had an 11 year old son Levi born in 1830 that would have made Isaac only 12 when the boy was born, highly unlikely! What is confusing is in the next census of 1851 it also shows a Levi Griffiths born in 1840 making him 11. Is it possible that the first Levi had died and they had named their own son Levi? Isaac was still farming 25 acres with his wife Mary and employed on the farm was 11 year old Levi and their 8 year old son David. There was a new tenant at 'Coursehill' in circa 1861 he was Henry Jermin farming the 25 acres with his wife Susanna and children Nancy and 1 year old Thomas. By the time of the next census in 1871 the Jermin family had increased in number and had moved to Templeton Village, they appear to have fallen on hard times and Henry was now working as an agricultural labourer. The new tenants of the now 27 acre 'Coursehill Farm' were John Lloyd, his wife Eliza and son Peter 10 and 7 year old Hannah.



*Photographs of the Lewis family outside 'North Hill'. They were the last family to occupy 'Coursehill' before it was demolished. Courtesy of Sue Lloyd.*

The census of 1881 shows Mary Davies a labourers wife living at 'Coursehill' with her daughter Margaret 15 and son John 12. The farm had once again changed hands and by 1891 a local family whom had all been born in Templeton were now the tenants. They were, Henry Hitchins 48 his wife Rachel 49 and their children David 12 and Mary 14 who worked as a dressmaker. Their grandson Charles Albert was 6 months old and lived with

them together with Henry's sister Ann Hitchins 43 working as a seamstress. In a second dwelling named 'Coursehill', probably 'Coursehill Cottage' was Charles Hitchins a widower now aged 77 he had worked as a labourer but now sadly he was a pauper. Ten years later in 1901 Coursehill Farm was once again being farmed, this time by Richard Phillips 57 the son-in-law of Martha Harries a widow who held the tenancy of the farm. Richard's wife Sarah Phillips worked on the farm with him, they also had a daughter Hilda aged 6. The family were to farm 'Coursehill' for many years they were still there in 1925 and by 1935, Hilda now married to Edward Lewis were living at 'Coursehill'. They were probably the last family to live at 'Coursehill' before it was demolished.

### **Blackheath**

The next lost farm to look at is 'Blackheath' Field Number 89 located almost in the centre of what was to become Templeton airfield. 'Blackheath' appears to have had its first mention in the census of 1841, the date of building the farm is not known. It would appear to have been a small building whom Lord Kensington had given the tenancy to Daniel Lewis. The Tithe Apportionment lists a 'cottage and garden' in the occupation of Thomas Evan together with four other fields, numbered on the Tithe Map as 88, 90, 91 and 301, no further mention could be found linking Thomas with 'Blackheath'. In 1841 Daniel Lewis, born circa 1769 was farming 'Blackheath' with his wife Mary and son John. They appear to be assisted by two 'servants', John Rees 15 and Elizabeth Adams 14 who lived at the cottage with the family. Their other children were David, Elizabeth, William, Daniel, Mary and Isaac who was to marry in 1823 Ann Williams. Isaac and Ann Lewis went on to have seven children and it was their fifth child Isaac Thomas Lewis who married Sarah. He was a carpenter and farmer and they lived at 'Brownsdale'. The sixth child of Isaac and Ann was Mira Lewis who married David Davies, but that is another story.



There appears to be a break in the census between 1841 and 1851, so the next reliable census referring to 'Blackheath' is in 1861. Even this is confusing as there are three separate properties, all listed as 'Blackheath'. The farm we know as 'Blackheath' can be accounted for and is the home of William Harries 41 with Martha 37 his wife and daughters Sarah 7 and Margaret 4 who are the tenant farmers of a 20 acre spread. If we look at the Census Schedule we see 'Coursehill' as Schedule Number 61, next comes 'Blackheath' 62 a 20 acre farm. Then we have No. 63 'Jackshill', then follows two further entries for 'Blackheath' 64 of 10 acres and 65 a 12 acre farm. The 10 acre farm (64) was being farmed by Levi Adams his wife Margaret and children Thomas 14, Margaret 11 and 6 year old Sarah. A relative William Beynon 12 was also at the farm together with a 5 year old lodger William Thomas.

No. of Inhabitants	Sex, Name, Age, and No. of Male of Name	Occupation	Name and Situation of each House	Address to Street or Town	Condition	Age of the House	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	When Born	Place of Birth
			James Adams	St. ...	...	...			
41	William Harries	...	Blackheath	...	...	20			
	Martha Harries	...	Blackheath	...	...	37			
	Sarah Harries	...	Blackheath	...	...	7			
	Margaret Harries	...	Blackheath	...	...	4			
42	Levi Adams	...	Blackheath	...	...	10			
	Margaret Adams	...	Blackheath	...	...	11			
	Thomas Adams	...	Blackheath	...	...	14			
	Sarah Adams	...	Blackheath	...	...	6			
	William Beynon	...	Blackheath	...	...	12			
	William Thomas	...	Blackheath	...	...	5			
Total of Houses			Total of Males and Females						

*Extract of 1861 Census. It is easy to see why confusion can occur, as three properties are listed under the same name 'Blackheath', but the Tithe Map only shows one property suggesting new properties were built between 1841 and 1861.*

Only one property was shown on the 1871 census being farmed by William and Martha Harries, daughter Margaret 13 and twins George and James 9. The year 1881 saw two properties known as 'Blackheath', William and Martha were still

farming there with their 19 year old twin son James and daughter Alice 13 who was still at school. The second 'Blackheath' was now an 80 acre farmstead farmed by Levi and Margaret Adams both now in their early to mid 70s. Their daughter Margaret was now married to Robert Haslett a plumber from Sussex and were living at the farm with their daughter Margaret just 2 years old. But, by 1891 Levi Adams was living on his own now in his mid 80s and a retired farmer. His son-in-law Robert, and Sarah Haslett had taken over the tenancy of the farm, Robert continued to work as a plumber part time and farmer, they lived at the property with their three daughters Margaret Ann 12, Henretta 9 and Lilly 6. The family were still living at 'Blackheath' in 1900. The next mention of them is in the 1901 Census living at 'North Hill Farm'. The family had grown in size, their fourth daughter was born in 1896 and a son John in 1898. They appear to have left farming in the early 1900s and became the proprietors of the Queen's Hotel, Haverfordwest.



*The last occupants of 'North Hill' before it was demolished to construct RAF Templeton Airfield. The Electoral Roll of 1935 shows Archibald Harries, Bronwen, Ernest, Leslie and Thomas living there. Courtesy of Sue Lloyd.*

We know who was farming at 'North Hill' at the beginning of the 1900s, Robert Haslett but who was there in the 1800s? The Land Tax Assessment of 1831 has a Daniel Lewis leasing 'North Hill' although the name on the Tithe Apportionment a few years later has a David Lewis as the tenant.

Another of the farms to be lost when the airfield was constructed was 'North Hill' in the tenancy of David Lewis at the time of the 1841 Tithe Assessments. The census shows Thomas Evans born in 1766 as living at 'North Hill' with Sarah Evans age 55, William 20, Mary 40 and 10 month old Mary. Thomas worked as a carpenter. In 1851 the census listed 'Templeton Mountain' which probably was 'North Hill' in the occupation of William Evans, now a 30 year old working as an agricultural labourer. His wife Mary Evans was a poulterer, they had a daughter also named Mary age 10. The family continued to live at 'North Hill' although the name kept alternating between 'Blackheath' and 'North Hill', suggesting the properties were either attached or very close together. Change was happening as by 1871 Levi Adams, Margaret his wife and daughter Sarah were to appear in the census in the property named 'North Hill', but in 1881 it was being called 'Blackheath', the earlier mentioned 80 acre farm. By 1911 the only farms being mentioned on Templeton Mountain were 'Coursehill Farm' and 'Mountain Farm'. The next recorded property was 'King's Park' and the property known as '3 Buildings' came before the entry for 'Coursehill', this would suggest 'North Hill Farm' and 'Blackheath' were not occupied, which is strange as the census enumerator would normally have listed an entry as 'unoccupied'.

### **Coursehill Cottage**

The tithe map of 1840 listed 'field number 108' owned by Lord Kensington and in the tenancy of Isaac Griffiths a cottage and garden. It seems quite possible that Isaac and his family lived on the opposite side of the road at 'Coursehill Farm', I am not sure from the census who if anyone was living at the cottage in 1841. There are two entries in the 1881 census for 'Coursehill'. One occupied by Ruben Davies aged 47, the other was a family most likely living at the farm. The first reliable entry for 'Coursehill Cottage' was not until 1901 when it was occupied by John and Elizabeth Thomas their 2 year old son Stanley and 1 week old daughter Milda. John Thomas was employed at the

local brickworks. A 'wheelwright', Melbourne Tucker aged 24, his wife Maud and 1 month old Sidney were living at 'Coursehill Cottage' in 1911.

## **Jack's Hill**

An interesting farm with a long history, 'Jack's Hill' once stood at the end of a short lane off Carne Road, a little south west of 'Coursehill Cottage'. One of the first mentions of 'Jakishille' was in the Slebech papers of 1368, although there was previous references made to 'Jakkeshulle' in 1356 and 'Jakeshylle' in Pembrokeshire Records of 1532. One thought about the name is as derivative of a persons name 'Jack and hyll' and it is known that William Jakke was the reeve of Robeston 1371 Slebech<sup>35</sup>. I strolled up 'Jack's Hill' lane on a wet grey day but it still had a wonderful atmosphere with green rolling pastures probably unchanged for centuries. The Tithe Map map has the farm as occupying field number 116a in the land ownership of Charles Callen Poyer and the tenant was William Lewhellin [*sic*]. Rather surprisingly there is no entry in any of the Land Tax Assessments for the farm, we therefore have to rely on the Tithe and census. The first census of 1841 has two properties for 'Jack's Hill', the farmer was William Llewellyn born in 1776 also on the census was Rebecca Llewellyn 15 years younger than William but probably his wife and children Elizabeth aged 18 and Danie [*sic*] aged 11. The second property was the home of Mary Griffiths just 20 years old who worked as a 'knitter' and John Beynon aged 4. The census of 1851 tells us the farm was around 30 acres, farmed by Levi and Margaret Adams both about 40 years old their son Thomas aged 4 and 6 month old daughter Margaret. They went on to farm by 1871 'North Hill'. At the farm was their nephew William Beynon born in 1849, next door or at least the next household entry was Margaret Beynon a widow born in 1773 and listed as a 'pauper of an agricultural labourer', her granddaughter aged 17 also named Margaret Beynon who most probably looked after her grandmother. An agricultural labourer and his wife in 1861 were the next to make 'Jack's Hill' their home, they were Lawford Merriman aged 25 his wife Sarah and 1 year old

son John. They made this their 'starter home' as by 1871 Lawford was a miller at 'Loveston Mill' with his wife and now large family John now 11 years old, Elizabeth, Susan, Thomas, William Frederick and 11 month old Sarah. They eventually moved to 'Jeffreyston House'. Back to 'Jack's Hill' in 1871 when it was the home of carpenter James Rees, wife Martha, 7 year old son Thomas and four daughters, Sarah Anne, Betsey, Alice, and Mary Jane 3 month old. The farm was uninhabited in 1881 and no further entries were made for 'Jack's Hill'.

Now located in the area of 'Jack's Hill' is K P Thomas & Son, Fuel Oil Distributors. The company was started in 1987 by Peter Thomas from a single lorry coal round, to a multiple fleet of Oil Tankers, frequently seen delivering oil throughout the county and beyond.

We have now reached the boundary of Templeton and what could be regarded as the extended village. Now I am going to take you to the outlying hamlets.



*Early morning mists roll over Templeton village 2020.  
The conifers are on 'Templeton Mountain'.*

## The Hamlets

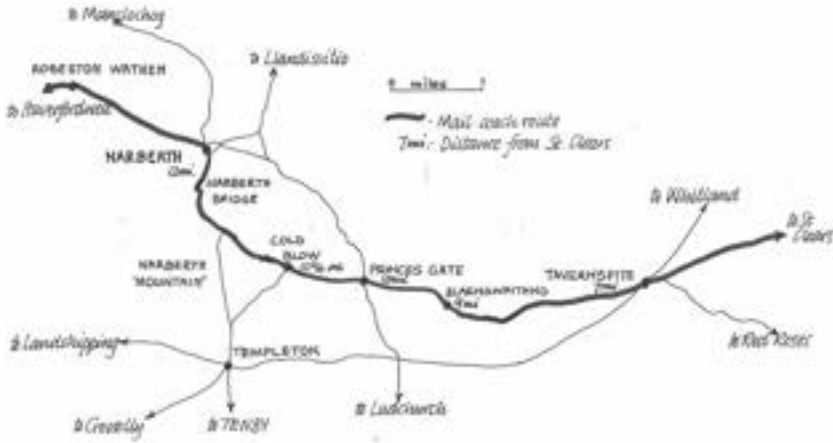
**C**old Blow is probably a good place to start as it is the largest of Templeton's hamlets. It is located about 3.2 km southeast of Narberth on the B4315 Princes Gate to Templeton road. In 'Leigh's Guide of Wales and Monmouthshire' published in 1835, Cold Blow was described as "Consists of only a few houses. It is said to derive its name from the coldness of the wind usually felt here. Inn-the Windsor Castle."

From 1787 Cold Blow would have been known to travellers on the Ireland mail coach from London and Bristol which passed through the hamlet on the way to Milford Haven. The road through Cold Blow in the 18th century was referred to as Coldblowgate and was a turnpike road leading from Narberth to Carmarthen via Tavernspite. In 1822 it was an important crossroads and an early 19th-century milestone marker near Cold Blow carrying painted cast-iron plates is still visible in the village.

Whilst researching the hamlet of Cold Blow I came across an article written by Peter Stopp, who wrote "In the 18th century Cold Blow was a remote cluster of a few houses lying on a hill to the south of Narberth on a Turnpike Road."

What follows will show the importance of Cold Blow. An Act of Parliament of 7 March 1763 established the Main Turnpike Trust, the first of the Turnpikes in South Wales were through Carmarthenshire from Trecastle mountain west to Tavernspite on the Pembrokeshire border. Tolls were extracted from those using the roads to help pay the upkeep of the road, which simply followed the long-used byways uphill and down dale. Soon many more Turnpikes were to follow, including the Tavernspite Trust in 1771.

The road led from Tavernspite through Princes Gate, Cold Blow and Narberth Bridge through the town to Robeston Wathen and on to Haverfordwest.



*The Turnpike route through Cold Blow  
(Courtesy of Pembrokeshire Historical Society)*

By 1772 there were two main routes being used by mail coaches from London through to Carmarthen and on to Haverfordwest. By 1785 the mail coaches ran through to Hubberston via Narberth – with a change of horses at the Noah’s Ark Inn, Blaengwaethno by Princes Gate.

Around 1793 the town of Milford Haven began to evolve and the terminus transferred there, at Hakin Point to meet the packet ships bound for Waterford, Ireland. The mail coach set off from London every evening at 7.15 pm, at a pace requiring its four horses to be changed every 8 miles along the route, so inns with reliable stabling were needed at those staging posts. From Carmarthen a three-horse ‘unicorn’ team took over to reach the Irish packet at Milford Haven at 5.30 am. It took around thirty-four and a quarter hours to get to Hakin Point after leaving London. This route to Ireland was an important one, and by 1804/5 the mail service had been upgraded to a daily event, passing through Narberth at 2 pm.

CAPITAL INN AND TAVERN  
AT COLD BLOW  
DAVID HUGHES

(Late Guard of His Majesty's Royal Mail)

Most respectfully solicits the attention of the Public to the above INN  
and begs to assure those who may honor  
him with their countenance and support that he has spared  
neither expense nor exertion to render his House  
commodious and comfortable in every department of  
entertainment and accommodation; and that he has  
completed his plan of accommodation by furnishing  
himself with a neat POST CHAISE and Careful Drivers.

*The words printed on an advertisement for the Windsor Inn*

Sir William Paxton (1743-1824) whom Peter Stopp was researching pointed out that at the start of the nineteenth century travel to the Continent was hindered by Napoleon's antics. Instead society looked to places in the U.K., especially to sea-bathing and spas then in fashion and William Paxton saw his opportunity to capitalise on that – by developing Tenby, which had by then become very run-down, with many neglected houses. In 1802 Paxton went on to purchase his first properties in Tenby.

In 1805 Paxton even went to Tenby for the summer. Paxton commissioned James Grier and Samuel Pepys Cockerell to design and build a fashionable bathing establishment....(and) work on the building began in the first week of July 1806.

The many developments in Tenby that Paxton made relied upon a tourist trade, so access to the town was critical to its success. And this is where Cold Blow once again come into the story. For visitors to the Spa town of Tenby travel was by coach, including the mail coach with its four outside seats. The nearest mail coach route was that which went through Narberth where the Receiving House transferred the packages of mail destined for Tenby residents onto saddle horse for delivery there by the postboy. If Paxton could connect





*Cold Blow circa 1900s the cottage on the right is 'Cae Glas' that runs alongside Shute Lane. Next to it is 'Tir Na Nog', 'Green Field Cottages (1) and 'Highmead'. On the early census the cottages were all known as 'Green Field Cottages' (Courtesy Narberth Museum).*

Tenby by coach to the mail route it would enable passengers to transfer from mail coach to the local taxi route. But that journey from Narberth to Tenby entailed crossing Narberth 'mountain', a steep climb for coach-horses.

Paxton could see that Cold Blow offered advantages as a transfer point. It lay on the main mail route at a junction which led to Tenby, avoiding the steep Narberth Mountain, and at just over 10 miles from St Clears made a slightly less demanding journey than going on to Narberth. We know he built an inn at Cold Blow and June 1812 David Hughes advertised (p.160) the Inn at Cold Blow as having a Post Chaise and 'careful drivers'.

Perhaps significantly he also advertised that he was 'late guard of His Majesty's Royal Mail'. If he was Paxton's appointee that might have been a deliberate step on the way to attracting the staging post to Cold Blow. If so, it worked, for on 25 May, 1814, Samuel Woodcock, the District Surveyor of Posts, proposed to the Post Master General (PMG) the establishment of a

Receiving House at Cold Blow to serve Tenby and Pembroke... “since Tenby has become a fashionable resort for sea-bathing, and the number of visitors much increased, a very good inn has been built at a place called Cold Blow, which is a more convenient point of communication, both with Tenby and Pembroke as by that means a long steep hill called Narberth Mountain is avoided ... I therefore propose that a Receiving House ...shall be fixed at the Inn. The Post Master General, Sir Francis Freeling, confirmed the transfer in June, 1814”. What the residents of Narberth felt about this switch is not known. Their mail was now carried on foot.

**No. 161. From LONDON to PEMBROKE. Through OXFORD, GLOUCESTER, and CAERMARTHEN.**

<i>Tyburn Turnpike to</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Tyburn Turnpike to</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Caermarthen, as at No. 31	216	Carew . . .	244
St. Clear's, or St. Clare *	225½	Pembroke . . .	248½
Cold Blow . . .	236½		

**CAREW**, in Pembrokeshire, is a small village containing a very curious ancient Cross, and spacious Church, with several monuments. About a mile distant are the ruins of *Carew Castle*, some portion of which still presents a magnificent aspect. *Parish. Pop. 1020.*

**PEMBROKE**, the capital of Pembrokeshire, pleasantly situated on a navigable creek of Milford Haven, was formerly surrounded by a wall, some part of which is still visible. It carries on but little trade, and its three Churches present nothing worthy of particular attention. On an eminence W. of the town are the remains of an ancient Castle, still comprising several apartments in tolerable preservation, one of which is shown as the birth-place of Henry VII. This castle is celebrated for its defence against Cromwell. *Borough. Pop. 6511. Membr. 2*

*Extract from Leigh's New Pocket Road-Book of England and Wales of 1833 as being 236.5 miles from the Tyburn Turnpike.*

Hughes was succeeded as licensee by David Philipps who reopened the Inn after its facelift in 1820 and then in 1823 by William Small and his wife, Mary. By this time the inn possessed stabling for fifteen horses and standing for five carriages. A later recollection paints a picture of life here around this time: ‘Coldblow, at one time, was a post-village of considerable importance, and was well-known to all who frequented the western part of the island. An immense



*Approaching Cold Blow from Templeton village. The cottage on the right is 'Park House', the house was 'Mountain View' beyond that were cow sheds. The house at the top of the photograph is now known as 'Wayside' to the left of it is where 'Preseli View' now stands and to the right were the outhouses of the 'Windsor Inn'.*

traffic flowed through it. It was on the highway to the south of Ireland, and the last place where relays were kept. Two mail coaches daily changed horses at the door of the inn, and it was not unusual to see half a dozen travelling carriages at a time drawn up in the road'. In the extract from Leigh's New Pocket Road-Book it shows Cold Blow as being 236.5 miles from Tyburn Turnpike situated on the site of the old Tyburn gallows (now where Marble Arch is located). Tyburn was one of the busiest and most profitable turnpikes in London. Lewis Levi, a rich stockbroker paid over £12,000 for the lease of this turnpike. He recouped this investment by charging carriages 10d, horsemen 4d, and 5d for 20 oxen, or 2d for 20 pigs. This turnpike led travellers into Tyburn Road (now Oxford Street), those travelling to and from Pembroke would have gone through the Cold Blow Turnpike.

In or around 1824, the year that William Paxton died, the Receiving House gained a circular 254 mileage mark. The cover sheet was sent by John Hensleigh Allen, MP. for Pembroke Borough, via Cold Blow, to his solicitor in Haverfordwest, probably near the peak of its business life.

### **The Decline of the Windsor Inn**

In the following year William Small was thrown from his horse and he died, leaving his wife, Mary, to run the business. The Receiving House was transferred to Narberth in 1827 and stayed there until 1836 when it was proposed to return it to Cold Blow. The Inn was still in the hands of Mary until March, 1837 she auctioned off the fixtures and fittings, a process lasting two days, and retired to a cottage next to the Inn. She sold the Inn five years later as well suited “for being converted into an excellent premises for maltsters”. At that time the end was clearly in sight for the inn. A new road was being built by Thomas Telford from Red Roses through to Hobbs Point, Pembroke Dock. That was opened in April, 1839 and became the new mail coach route for Ireland, but for little more than a decade when the railway took over. The local inn was the Windsor Castle. The inn may have been closed long ago but its name lives on in a small close alongside the site, called ‘Windsor Gardens’.

Attempting to identify who occupied ‘what properties’ in the small hamlet of Cold Blow has proved very difficult. Some of the properties have clearly identifiable names that have been used throughout the history of the house but many have been recorded simply as ‘Cold Blow’ even on the Census Returns. The 2nd Edition OS 6” map of 1888 provides some of the most accurate information when it names a building or property, otherwise its ‘guess’ work. The Land Tax Assessments often provide useful knowledge and what I can confidently say was that in 1786 the following ‘tenements’ were named on the assessment; the proprietor of a tenement named ‘Cold Blow’ was Priscilla Watts and the occupier William Phillip Reef another tenement owned by



*Various photographs of the hamlet of Cold Blow. Top left Holyland Farm c. 1980; top right East Close 2020. The middle row of black and white family photographs were taken c.1960. The Windsor Inn is just peeking through on the left, on the right is Preseli View and the Golden Cottage row on the far right. The bottom photograph taken 2020 has changed very little in over 100 years and should be compared with the photograph on page 171. Photo credits Kelvin George; Robert Davies and Billy Lloyd.*

Thomas Mansel, occupied by Francis Rees, only one other identifiable property was entered on the assessment of 1786 and that was 'Woodoffice'. The Land Tax Assessment of 1801 provides us with some further facts. The first entry is for 'Coldblow' and the proprietor was Mrs Ann Callen occupied by Griffith Rees. The next and only named property was 'Woodoffice'. If we jump a few years to 1831 we have three positive entries for the hamlet, Charles Poyer Callen Esq. was now the proprietor of 'Coldblow' still in the occupation of Griffith Rees, 'Woodoffice' and Mrs Mary Small was the tenant of Mrs James Jenkins who owned a property named 'Coldblow'. On the census of 1841 the fifth entry on the census schedule is 'Cold Blow' occupied by an agricultural labourer George Jermyn and his small family. Next to them on the schedule came 'Crowland' occupied by farmer, William Wheeler his wife Martha and their six children. Crowland also appeared on the Land Tax Assessment of 1831 the proprietor was John Wiley Esq. and the tenant George Prothero. Wiley also owned 'Chisley's Land' that was occupied by four different tenants including Griffith Rees, whose name appears on the assessment but written in a different hand. The census enumerator had travelled from 'Chapel Hill' to his next scheduled entry 'Number 75' where he recorded 'Cold Blow' occupied by an agricultural labourer and his family, Thomas and Harriet Jenkins and young children John and Henry. We then see an entry for 'Golden', an 'independent' family, Martha Evans born in 1776 and possibly her daughters Mary and Hester Evans both in their early 30s. This was followed by three separate properties all referred to as 'Cold Blow', agricultural workers families occupied two of the properties, Thomas Reynolds and his family and David Griffiths and his family and in the middle was David Rees aged 75 born in 1766 working as a 'blacksmith'. Next door or most probably opposite them was 'New Inn, Cold Blow', the Inn keeper was George Edwards, more about the Inn shortly. The census enumerator next visited two properties both named 'Welsh Furze', not strictly in Cold Blow but in the village of Princes Gate. Welsh Furze was occupied by a stone-mason born in 1781 he was David Parry his wife was

Elizabeth and children Sarah and Eliza. In the second property was William Thomas a shoemaker his wife Jane and children Martha and 1 month old Levi. The census enumerator next reached 'Greenwood', known these days as 'Greenwood Farm' more about that shortly. Nine properties were to follow all named 'Cold Blow', they were all between 'Greenwood' and 'Woodoffice'. Then followed 'Merryvale', previously mentioned. We then see on the 1841 census properties named 'Robin's Hook', 'Bateman's Lot', 'Silent Grove', 'Flower Hall', 'Hoar's Cross', 'South Hill', 'Mount Pleasant' and six 'Cottage's' with a name that is undecipherable. The cottage's were the homes of farmers, agricultural workers a carpenter and a woman of 'Independent Means'. The only one of these that can be positively identified is 'Flower Hall'. The other properties logically would have been in Cold Blow but it is almost impossible to know for sure. The Land Tax Assessments from at least 1786 through to 1831 all make reference to 'Roblins Land' and in 1831 the proprietor was the Reverend James Thomas and the occupier John Scourfield with a second property 'Roblins Land' with the proprietor occupying the house. Was this referring to 'Robin's Hook' we do not know and probably never will. As you can see for such a small hamlet it has a complex history and a difficult one to unfold. So, we will stick to the facts as we know them.

### **Flower Hall**

One such property is 'Flower Hall' which in 1841 was the home of an Army Pensioner, Stephen Eynon born in Pembrokeshire in 1781 with his wife Elizabeth Eynon. I have not been able to reveal where the name 'Flower Hall' came from. There does not appear to have ever been a large building in the area and 'Flower Hall' was and still is a small cottage. The cottage is located on the south western end of Twll Lane, it is not easy to identify on the Tithe Map due to damage. Just a little east of it was a clearly defined building in a field described as 'House Garden & Field' owned by Lord Kensington and in the

occupation of Thomas Scourfield, possibly 'Robin's Land'. But to get back to 'Flower Hall' we appear to 'lose' the cottage in the 1850s when it is simply recorded as 'Cold Blow' but we see it on the census of 1861 as the home of Thomas and Rachel James and children William 13, George, Mary Ann, Sophia, Eunice and baby Isaac, they had another daughter Maria born in 1864 most likely at 'Flower Hall'. The cottage disappears for the best part of 30 years and then re-appears in the census of 1901 when it had become the home of railway worker William and Martha Evans and their sons Reginald 3 and Albert born in 1900.

From Templeton walking north east to Cold Blow and just a pleasant walk away, you pass 'Merryvale' a house on the border of the hamlet and already discussed. On the east side of the road are long strips of meadow land leading down to the railway embankment carrying the original 'Pembroke to Tenby Railway' line. On approaching the cross-roads that makes up the hamlet you pass, on the west 'Woodoffice' farm and opposite a house known as 'East Close' followed by 'Park House' and 'Mountain View' you then arrive at a small cluster of cottages. Turning east along the road towards the next village of 'Princes Gate' after leaving the cluster of hamlet cottages on the north side of the road is 'Greenwood Farm' and 'Greenwood Cottages', a lane on the south east side of the road takes you past 'Golden Cottages', to 'Golden' over the railway bridge known as 'Golden Bridge'. There were a number of footpaths and tracks you could take to 'Upper Chapel Hill', 'Lower Chapel Hill', 'Little Chapel Hill', 'Wells Cottage', the village of Ludchurch to the east or south to Tanners Lane or west to 'Fords Lake', many of these tracks have now sadly been lost.

Retracing our steps back to the road we continue walking south east over the railway at 'Bog Bridge' to pass 'The Bog' on the north side of the road. A little further on is 'Ivybush Cottage' on the boundary of the hamlet.





*1st Edition OS Map indicating the position of 'Colby Lot' and 'Clements Dale' c. 1887. Access was along a lane from Cold Blow that led to 'Colby Lot' a footpath continued down to Clement's Dale Wood. Another track to the west of 'Colby Lot' led to the cottage 'Clement's Dales'. From there footpaths led to the woods or south to Shute Lane. (By permission of the National Library of Scotland).*

Returning to the cross-roads and going straight across past 'Green Cottage' you see 'Shute Lane' heading almost due north that leads to 'Clements Dale Wood'. Both the lane and the wood form the boundary of the hamlet. Continuing on along the road towards 'Allensbank' you come to 'Bellman's Well' where the road has two lanes, one heading north along 'Twll Lane' which is outside the South Narberth boundary and the other lane, the one we are interested in heading south west past an 'old quarry' to 'Flower Hall'. The lane then continues until it joins the main Narberth Road and the hamlet of 'Wood Cross'.

Back to the ‘Cold Blow’ crossroads at the side of ‘Preseli View’ cottage a lane takes you past an old gravel pit and quarry to ‘Colby’s Lot’ and walking west the lane takes you to ‘Clement’s Dale’. Wandering around the footpaths behind ‘Colby’s Lot’ takes you to the eastern extremity of ‘Clements Dale Wood’ that leads to quarries and gravel pits described in 1888 as ‘Old’. Beyond the ‘Old Quarry’ is ‘Gloyn-rocks’. Running through ‘Clements Dale Wood’ is a meandering stream that has its source near ‘Cil-rhew Farm’ and continues it



*The extract of the Tithe Map originally drawn in 1840 is compared with the 2nd Edition OS 6" Map surveyed in 1887 and amended in 1913. The only buildings at the cross roads of Cold Blow in 1840 are shown in black and the location of the Windsor Inn is indicated. The cottages near Shute Lane were not shown, neither is East Close, Preseli View nor Wayside, all are shown on the Tithe Map.*

tortuous journey under ‘Narberth Bridge’ to emerge near ‘Canaston Bridge’ where it joins the upper reaches of the Eastern Cleddau and eventually the Milford Haven Waterway.

### **Colby Lot or Holyland Farm**

The Tithe Map shows a ‘cottage’ on field number 975 in the ownership of John Crunn and the tenancy of John Brown. What we know is John Crunn owned several parcels of land in the Cold Blow area and in North Narberth where he most likely lived. He appears to have had a residence in the town at the junction of what at the time was Plaindealings Road now Rushacre Road and Wells Road Terrace close to High Street and opposite the old school. The



*Holyland Farm, Cold Blow c. 1960 when the George family were living there. The Lloyd family outside Holyland Farm c. 1930s.  
Courtesy of Kelvin George and Sue Lloyd.*

census recorded his address as ‘High Street’ where 65 year old John Crunn lived on independent means with his wife Elizabeth. John Crunn was described as a ‘gentleman’ who probably started life as a maltster and by the 1800s was living at ‘Camphill’ and was a mercer or merchant who dealt in cloth, typically fine cloth that was not produced locally. He was clearly mixing with people of high influence in the county and making a name for himself.

On the census of 1841 ‘Colby Lot’ was not listed under that name but under the broad title of ‘Cold Blow’. The census also tells us that John Brown 65 born c. 1776 was farming ‘Colby Lot’ with his wife Sarah 55 born c. 1786 and daughters Elizabeth 26 and Sarah 20. The farm was just 8 acres in c. 1851 and was still being farmed by John Brown now on his own and assisted by a 14 year old servant girl Ruth Thomas. The next positive identification of ‘Colby’s Lot Cottage’ was on the census of 1871. John Scourfield aged 26 and his wife Mira 35 were living at the farm with their children Martha Jane 4, Ann 3, Thomas 2 and John 8 months. John Scourfield was employed as a railroad labourer. The family all came from Narberth. The tenancy had changed hands again by 1881. The tenant was a farm labourer John Edwards age 57 born c. 1824 and his wife Hannah 49 who came from Llanboidy. Their daughter Martha was born in Robeston Wathan in 1861 and worked as a dressmaker, daughters Bina 8 and

Lettusia 2 where also born at Robeston as was son Daniel age 5. The next 20 or so years is difficult to be sure about what families occupied the cottage. In 1911 'Colby's Lot' was the home of farmer David Lloyd 43 his wife M. Jane Lloyd 40 and children Wilfred 17, Annie 15, Thomas 14, Nellie 10, Maud 8, and David 5. Although the name 'Colby's Lot' was used in in the 1911 census the Electoral Roll of 1910 lists the property as 'Holly Land'. The 1925 Electoral Roll has as eligible to vote David Lloyd and Margaret Jane Lloyd, by 1935 the house name had become 'Hollyland' and in 1947 saw Benjamin George and Gwyn George living at 'Holyland Farm'. Gwyn and Moria George and family were living there throughout the 1970s, for a short time following their marriage Selwyn and Valerie George lived at the farm. Gwyn George died in 2000 and Moria about 2 years later, which ended the George connection with the farm.

### **Clement's Dale Cottage**

The landowner on the Tithes Apportionment of c.1840 of 'Clement's Dale Cottage' occupying field number 980 was William Thomas Rayson. His tenant was George Davies who was also the tenant of several parcels of land surrounding the cottage. In addition he had the land in Templeton village where 'Park House' was to be built whilst still in his tenancy. We read earlier that 'Merryvale' was the home of William Thomas Rayson a 'Tea Dealer' of Narberth. He had most likely invested in land in and around the Cold Blow hamlet.

George Davies could not be found on the census of 1841 at Cold Blow but there was a George Davies living with his family in 'Templeton village'. We are therefore not able to confirm whether George Davies ever lived at the cottage. The only positive entry for 'Clements Dale Cottage' on any census was for 1911 when the cottage was occupied by John Scourfield aged 36 born c.1875 and working as a main road labourer, his wife was Martha 30. They had seven children starting with James 11 born in 1900 followed by William 9, Thomas 8,

David 7, John 5, Jennie 3 and Gwennie aged 11 months. The Scourfields are a large local family with several branches and if we work backwards it seems most likely that Thomas Scourfield born 1822 was John Scourfields father and was living in 1901 at 'Cold Blow' and was also a road labourer.



*'Clements Dale Cottage' photographed in 2020. It is a lovely stone built cottage that might well have originally been thatched.*

His granddaughter Martha Scourfield aged 26 was living at the cottage with him. The cottage could well have been 'Clements Dale'. We can follow this same family back to at least 1861 when Thomas Scourfield born c.1819 was living at 'Coldblow Village' with his wife Mary born c. 1818 and family Benjamin 17, James 13, Elizabeth 11, Martha 9 and David 3.

### **Wood Office**

On entering the hamlet of Cold Blow from Templeton we first arrive at 'Wood Office' with its roots dating back to 1569 when it was 'Woodoffis' or 'Little Woodoffis'. By 1681 it had become 'Wood Office', it appeared in the Land Tax

Assessment of 1786 and subsequent assessments. In 1786 the property was owned by Abraham Leach Esq. of the Town of Pembroke and his tenant was Maurice James. In 1801 the tenant had changed, it was now William Evans. On the 1831 Land Tax Assessment the proprietor had become John Leach Esq. the younger son of Abraham Leach, who gifted the “messuage, tenement and lands called Woodoffice” on the 23rd September 1852. The tenant Benjamin Richards was also tenant of ‘Davids Lake’. The Tithe Apportionment show Mrs John Leach as the owner and Benjamin Richards as the Tenant. Benjamin was born in 1791 and was farming ‘Wood Office’ with his wife Priscilla and 13 year old James Scourfield, they were still farming the 60 acres in 1851 and employing a labourer and had a farm servant 16 year old Thomas Evans living at the property. Around 1853 a conveyance in the form of an exchange took place between Sir Richard Buckeley Philipps Philipps and the incumbent of ‘Woodoffice’ William Rees “of the Town and County of Haverforwest, gentleman”. This type of ‘exchange’ or perhaps I should say ‘wheeling and dealing’ was not uncommon at the time. Only one year earlier William Rees of Haverfordwest had purchased the ‘Woodoffice Farm’ for £365. Now a widower Benjamin, around 80 years of age was still living at ‘Wood Office’ and employing two servants George Baddam from Saundersfoot 28 and Mary Williams 50. The census of 1871 had a family of nine living at the farm plus two servants. Thomas and Jane Evans were the new farmers, their children, 16 year old Elizabeth, Esther Jane, John, Benjamin, Thomas, Jobe and Jane Griffiths Evans 1 year old. The family were butchers and farmers. For the next 40 or so years, Thomas the son was running the farm and his brother Jobe had taken over by 1901 with Thomas assisting. Thomas was back running the farm by 1911. Stanley and Elizabeth Morgan were at ‘Woodoffice’ in 1939. In 1969 ‘Wood Office’ diversified and became ‘Wood Office Caravan & Tent Park’ with consent for 30 caravans. The park is situated on ten acres of flat, beautifully maintained parkland in the village of Cold

Blow. The Park boasts a perfect central location and the ideal base from which to explore all that Pembrokeshire has to offer.

### **East Close**

Almost opposite the entrance to 'Wood Office' is 'East Close' built on a strip of land shown on the Tithe Map as 'field 641'. The landowner was Sir Richard Buckeley Philipps Philipps and the tenant of three 'pastures' and 'House, Garden and Field' was Thomas Williams, whose property ran down to the railway embankment. The tithe map of 1840 did not show any buildings on the fields that were in the tenancy of Thomas Williams. But we read earlier John Griffiths Owen was born in 1859 at 'East Close', so that confirms that at some time between 1840 and the 1850s, the house was built. The first confirmation of 'East Close' house was when Daniel Owen born around 1800, his wife Hannah and children Mary 18, Anne, Benjamin 10 and Mira 7 were living and working for George Lewis a farmer at 'Chapel Hill'. It would appear they left 'Chapel Hill' to take up residence at 'East Close' and the family appeared on the census of 1851. It shows Daniel Owen aged about 52 a 'Pauper formerly Farmer' living at 'Cold Blow' which we now know was 'East Close' with his wife Hannah born in Eglwyscummin, Carmarthenshire in about 1791 working as a 'Huckster' as was their daughter Mira Owens born in 1833. Their son Benjamin 21 was employed as an agricultural labourer. Benjamin had succeeded his father as head of the house by 1861 and was married to Hester sometimes known as Esther born at Duffryn, Lampeter Velfry around 1828. At the time they had five children, Hannah 7, Maryann, Jane, John born 1859 and Esther 6 months old. Hester's father, John Griffiths born 1795 lived with the family for many years. They had another son in 1862 named after his father Benjamin. By the time of the 1881 census Benjamin (senior) had become an established butcher still occupying 'East Close' with Esther and three of his daughters, Elizabeth, Hannah and Jane and son Benjamin was a Farmer. There was to be a complete change as by 1891 Elizabeth was now the

head of the home with her sister Hannah and a cousin Ben John. Now a farmer in her own right, Hannah was managing 'East Close Farm' helped by cousin Benjamin John. By 1910 the Owen's had left 'East Close' and James Davies had taken over, followed by Benjamin and Lena Nicholas who ran the place in the 1930s as a small dairy farm. The Merrimans had taken over by the 1960s and Richard and Dilys Hammer in the 1970s.

### **Park House**

The next property we come to is 'Park House' that possibly existed pre 1840 as on the Tithe Assessment Field Number 637 is in the land ownership of Charles Poyer Callen and the tenancy of Martha Rees for what was described as 'Cottage Garden and Field'. The OS 6" Map confirms the existence of a property on the 1888 edition. A 'Will' dated 1907 confirms the ownership of 'Park House' as being Arthur Griffith Poyer Lewis of Henllan. The Land Tax Assessment of 1831 has Griffiths Rees as the occupier of a property described as 'Cold Blow', his wife Martha now a widow and daughter Elizabeth were living at 'Cold' Blow' most likely 'Park House' as all the connections can be made. Martha who was born in 1761 and was a farming 'Cold Blow' with her daughter. After 1841 all the census returns through to 1911 referred to 'Cold Blow' collectively as a village making it impossible to confirm any one individual house or household. But in 1953 a 'conveyance' document shows George Hywel Owen of 'Big House' (originally the 'Windsor Inn'), Cold Blow as the purchaser of 'Park House' confirmed with a plan of its exact location. The house was occupied by George and Violet Owen into the 1970s. The house was renovated in 1966 by the Owens and in 1984 Selwyn George and family moved to the house.

### **Mountain View**

The house named 'Mountain View' was shown on the Tithe of 1841 where the field was described as 'Cottage and Garden' and comprised of a pasture,



described as 'Middle Piece' and an arable 'Slang at Cold Blow'. The land was owned by Sir Richard Bulkely Philipps Philipps and home to Evan Evans a 30 year old 'cooper', his wife Caroline 25, sons John 7 and George 3. We lose 'Mountain View' until the 'England and Wales Register' of 1939 when it is listed as the home of Tudor John born in 1905 and described as a 'Butcher retired and incapacitated', with him at the house was his 'housekeeper' Gwendoline Davies 32 and most probably her son Virgil Davies 11. In 1949 once again we find an entry for 'Mountain View' on the Electoral Roll as the home of Albert Mason. The Mason family lived at 'Mountain View' for many more years. At the time of writing, the house has been unoccupied for some years.

On leaving 'Mountain View' we arrive at the 'Cold Blow' junction. Only one building was indicated on the Tithe map of 1840, on the south east of the road and opposite three buildings were shown 'Preseli View', 'Wayside' and the 'Windsor Inn'. The landowner, James Eynon of the 'Windsor Inn' was also its tenant, the Tithe Apportionment described the tenement as 'Inn & Yard' on field number 948. Behind the Inn on the lane leading down to 'Colb's Lot' and 'Clement's Dale' was field number 947, simple described as 'Cottage' owned by Charles Callen Poyer with a vacant tenancy as was the pasture, 'Field Adjoining' the cottage number 949. The next property that we would have come to was 'Greenwood Farm' and just beyond it 'Greenwood Cottage'. Further along the road over the railway bridge known as 'Bog Bridge' was a cottage 'The Bog' known today as 'Hidden Springs'. We have now reached the boundary of Cold Blow, the cottage 'Welsh Furze' should be in the village of 'Princes Gate' but was often, perhaps for convenience, listed as part of Cold Blow. If we retrace our steps back over 'Bog Bridge' opposite 'Greenwood Cottage' was 'Golden' conveniently referred to as file number 621 'Corner Park' a large pasture belonging to Charles Callen Poyer and his tenant was John James. The pasture, when the railway was built had both 'Bog Bridge' and 'Golden Bridge' within it

boundary but no buildings were shown on the Tithe Map. Crossing over 'Golden Bridge' led to lanes and footpaths to 'Chapel Hill Lane', already discussed.

### **Green Wood Farm**

Captain Young was the owner and occupier of a number of fields surrounding 'Green Wood' farm including field number 952 'House and Garden'. He also owned 'Greenwood Cottage' and 'Rowlands Park', more about these shortly. The Tithe map only showed a field for 'Green Wood Farm', in fact the only building marked on the map was 'Greenwood Cottage'. Quite why 'Green Wood Farm' was not marked on the map is not known as the house was without doubt there as it appeared on the 1841 census. The farms 28 acres were being farmed by William Young aged 95 born in 1746 and his sons John and Nepen [*sic*] born in Fife, Scotland around 1784 and 17 year old Margaret Young, possibly the daughter of one of his sons! Margaret was also born in Scotland. I suppose we should ask what brought William Young from Scotland to a remote part of Pembrokeshire? What we do know is that William owned a number of properties and land in the area, not only 'Greenwood Farm' and its 20 acres but 'Rowlands Park', 'Blackmoorhill' Narberth, 'Danyderwen' Llangolman, two houses on the Main Street of Narberth and 'Rosebush Slate Quarries' in Maenclochog. Rosebush Quarry had commenced operating by 1842 and was developed extensively from the 1860s onwards, when William Young became involved we have not been able to determine and whether it was the 'quarries' that brought him to Pembrokeshire is also not known. In his 'Last Will and Testament' that he wrote in 1871 William Young left all of his 'Greenwood' estate to his nephew John Young who was "of Greenwood", 'Rowlands Park' he left to the eldest son of his late nephew Robert Young of "Fife, North Britain", the Will was quite extensive and indicated a man of substance. The family is described in the census as of 'Independent' means, perhaps we can now see why that was. John's wife, Allison was also from

Scotland as was his son Alexander born in 1822, working as a shop keeper. The census for 1861 has living with John and Alison Young their granddaughter Ellen Rowlands aged 13 and three visitors Margaret Rowlands, Mary Rowlands aged 10 and Thomas Rowlands aged 1. Could Margaret Rowlands be the 17 year old Margaret Young, the ages would be about right and she is described as a 'Farmers Wife' from Fife, Scotland. The Youngs do not appear in any of the census for Templeton beyond 1861. We see a new



*Greenwood Farm taken circa 1980, the small building to the right of the farm was Greenwood Cottage and to the right of that the barn and farm buildings.*

family living at 'Green Wood' by the 1870s, they were Daniel and Eliza John and daughters Jane and Ann. The family were farming about 30 acres, Daniel had started as a farm labourer at 'English Whitley' Narberth in the 1850s. He was born in Lampeter in 1819 and his wife was from Narberth born in 1820. At some time during the 1860s Eliza lost her sight and was totally blind by the

1870s. Next to occupy 'Greenwood' was 82 year old farmer Margaret Davies and her daughters Martha aged 52 and Margaret 45 and granddaughter Margaret M. Davies aged 5. They were a farming family and had previously farmed and lived at 'Lower Chapel Hill' where Margaret's husband and she farmed 156 acres with their daughters and grandson 13 year old William Davies. Margaret had become widowed by the late 1870s and probably as a result downsized to a smaller farm. Ten years later Martha and her sister Margaret were running the farm helped by their niece Margaret May Davies aged 15, the sisters continued to run the farm into the 1900s. The Davies were farming 'Greenwood Farm' into the 1950s when Ieuan Davies, Elizabeth and Hannah Davies were shown on the electoral rolls as late as the 1970s Alice and Sarah Davies were at a house referred to as 'Greenwood', this could well have been the farm.

### **Green Wood Cottage**

Greenwood Cottage that was once part of the 'Greenwood Farm' estate was a small farm labourer's cottage a short distance to the east of the farmhouse and this side of the old farm buildings. It is these old farm buildings, in particular the 'cow shed' and 'hay barn' that were converted in the late 1990s into the current 'Greenwood Cottage'. On the 1840 Tithing Schedule 'Greenwood Cottage' was owned by Captain Young, field number 953 'Cottage & Garden' and was the home of George Edwards.

Following them were Thomas and Anne Harries, Thomas was from Loveston as was his sister Elizabeth who worked with them on the farm. Anne was from Henry's Moat, Pembrokeshire they had sons 4 year old Archibald born in 1907 and Ernest born in 1910. The Harries family were still living at 'Green Wood Villa' in the 1970s.

## **The Bog or Hidden Springs**

Once again we see the name Charles Poyer Callen appear on the Tithe Schedule indicating that he owned 'The Bog' with John Hughes his tenant farming the fields and meadows behind the small holding. Bog Farm which was slightly lower down the field than we see it today appeared to have been fairly well established and was listed in the 1845 Bishop's Transcripts for Robeston Wathen. It is easy to see why the cottage adopted the name, a spring and marshy area of land was adjacent to the property. Two uninhabited houses were shown on the 1851 census adjacent to 'Bog House', where they were I have no idea. I am able to confirm that two households lived at 'Bog House' an 85 year old agricultural worker William John and his wife Mary John 84, the other household was Morris Evans 26 a 'dealer in poultry', Elenor 26 his wife also working as a 'dealer in poultry' and children William 3 and twins Benjamin and Sarah 3 months old. Next to occupy 'Bog' was Benjamin Thomas 35 who literally moved 'next door' as he had previously lived at 'Welsh Furze'. He married Martha 33, they lived at the house with their young family George 3, Mary 2 and Elizabeth 4 months old. They had another son Thomas Hughes Thomas in 1866 and another daughter in 1870 Martha Ann. Benjamin was now farming 'Bog' a farm of 34 acres. By 1881 the farm had lost a few acres and Martha had become a widow, farming 32 acres with her eldest son George 23 and daughters Mary 22, Elizabeth 19 and Thomas now 15. Martha's son George married Mary Ann a girl from 'Chapel Hill' and were farming 'Woodlands' with their own family in 1891, while Martha continued at the family home 'Bog' helped by daughter Martha Ann. At the farm was also her daughter Mary Thomas 32 and most likely Mary's son Benjamin Thomas 4. By the time of the 1901 census Mary Thomas had married, her name was now Mary Muttelow [sic], Martha 74 was farming 'Bog Farm' with daughter Martha Thomas 30 and helped by Mary Muttelow and grandson Benjamin Muttelow 14. There was to be a change in the tenancy by 1911 Mary Mattelow [sic] 53 was now farming with her sister Martha Ann Thomas and son Benjamin

Mattelaw 24. They had a boarder staying with them Willie Eynon 30 a Postman and a general domestic servant Mary Ann Rowland. The Muttelow's, Mary and Benjamin were still farming 'Bogg Farm' in 1935 but by 1949 John and Mary Lewis were occupying the house, John working as a 'Limestone Quarryman'. I have not been able to establish who Muttelow was, there were various spellings of his name used and I have not found any record of the marriage. In the 1970s the name of the property was to change from 'The Bog' to 'Hidden Springs'. Over the years the once small cottage of the early 1800s has been added to and extended considerably into the house we see today with spectacular views over the Preseli Hills.

### **Welsh Furze**

A short distance beyond 'Hidden Springs' we come to the parish boundary between South and North Narberth and a quick glance at the OS Map shows that 'Welsh Furze' is just in North Narberth in the village of Princes Gate. There is an intriguing story attached to 'Welsh Furze'. Firstly why are we including it in Cold Blow, well the simple answer is 'Welsh Furze' was originally in Cold Blow. And frequently appeared in the census of South Narberth. Perhaps 200 or so years ago as you approached Cold Blow you would have seen a tiny cluster of houses or buildings merely referred to as 'Welsh Furze'. They were on both the east and west sides of the road and both sides of the boundary stream. As a result of this by the time of the Tithe Assessment of around 1840 we had to look at the Tithe Map for Lampeter Velfry and Narberth. The Lampeter Velfry map showed the 'homestead' in field number 553 owned and occupied by Thomas John. This quite clearly places 'Welsh Furze' outside the Cold Blow boundary. Enough said about confirming the location of the property, what we are sure about is that the property is one of great historical curiosity dating back to at least 1609 when the property appeared in the 'Rentals and Surveys' and in the Picton papers of 1700. That said, the house referred to in the 1609 Rentals document, 'Welsh Furze' was

situated almost opposite the existing house. The Tithe Map placed the property just within the Cold Blow boundary and therefore in South Narberth. The field number was '619' described as 'Cottage Garden and Field' in the ownership of Baron de Rutzen and occupied by William Thomas. That would suggest that the house was occupied at the time the Tithe was undertaken, whether the 'building' was a ruin or lived in is impossible to determine, we do know that until perhaps the mid 1900s the ruins of the original house were still visible. The reason for the house being re-built on the opposite side of the road to where it is today and has been since sometime after 1779 but before the 1840 Narberth Tithe was undertaken was as a result of a serious fire.

There is a gripping account of a vicious murder that occurred at the original house of 'Welsh Furze' in 1779. The story goes - "Narberth was the scene of a peculiarly atrocious crime committed in 1779. In the middle of the night in March of that year the inhabitants were aroused from their beds by the glare of the fire that had broken out in a farmhouse near the turnpike. By the time that the villagers had assembled on the spot the house was reduced to a glowing heap. On examining the ruins the remains of the farmer named John Thomas were found. The old man, charred to a cinder, was sitting on a bench in a leaning posture; it was not possible, owing to the condition of the body, whether he had been murdered, or had perished in the flames. Proceeding in the search, the next victim, (now known to be his niece Dinah) a fine young woman of about 36 years of age, whose body lay across the feet and a half burnt bedstead, with a thigh broken and arm missing. Among the ruins of another room was discovered the body of a labouring man, much burnt, but with a large wound in the back of his head, from which much blood had issued. His servant girl's (Mary Child) body was next discovered lying at the entrance of one of the rooms, also with deep wounds in her head, and her hair matted with blood. Her body was not so much burnt as the others. Near her was found a large kitchen spit, half bent, with which it was supposed she had



*OS 6" Map surveyed in 1887 showing the boundary between Cold Blow and Princes Gate. Note the position of the properties Golden, Greenwood Cottage, The Bog, Ivy Bush and Welsh Furze.*

fought the murderers, for there could now be no doubt that the butchery was due to some person or persons who had plundered the house, and then set fire to it to conceal the crime. A man named James Morris, a lazy, worthless character, was suspected; and when he found that the officers were in search of him he flung himself down a coal pit, where his mangled remains were afterwards found. Then suspicion fell on one Morgan Phillips; he was arrested, and finally confessed that he had committed the crime. He was tried and hanged at Haverfordwest" - there are a few variations of this story, but his is the most factual. As was the practice of the day, under the Murder Act of 1752 it was forbidden to bury the bodies of executed murderers unless they had first been gibbeted (hung in chains).

The gibbet would be erected in close proximity to the scene of crime and be clearly visible to passers-by, the gibbet for Morgan Phillips was on Narberth Mountain. At that time 'Mountain Cross-Road' would have been a busy location with tracks over Narberth Mountain providing the most direct routes



to outlying villages, hamlets and towns. Routes would be required between for example - Molleston, Grove both long pre-dating 1778, 'Rowlande Parke' dating back to 1562, Templeton and Narberth. At Mountain Cross-Roads, where the track to the west takes you to Mountain Farm and to the east, the track has now gone but would have led to Rowlands Park and north the track most often followed to Captain's Style.

Leaving the murders behind us and moving forward to the early 1800s we know for sure that living at 'Welsh Furze' on the west side of the road in 1841 was a stone-mason, David Parry 60 his wife Elizabeth 45 and daughters Sarah 15 and Eliza 12. A second family also lived at 'Welsh Furze', possibly the old house on the east side of the road but we cannot be sure. William Thomas 25 was a shoemaker, his wife was Jane and their children Martha 4 and Levi one month old. In 1851 Benjamin Francis 67 an agricultural labourer was living at the house with his daughter Ester Francis 27. A labourer and his wife were next to occupy 'Welsh Furze' in the 1860s, they were John and Sarah Gibbon both in their early 20s and their 1 year old daughter Martha. In a second household Martha James 60 lived with her granddaughter 10 year old Martha James born at Princes Gate. Another house 'Welsh Furze' was listed on the 1861 census as 'unoccupied'. Two houses appeared on the census of 1871, the first was still the home of Martha James and granddaughter Martha, the other was the home of Phoebe Harries 70, daughter Martha Harries 21 and grandsons James 11 and Evan 6. Martha worked as a house servant and young James was a stone masons labourer. No further entries on the census returns appeared for 'Welsh Furze', they were to be entered on the Lampeter Velfry returns. The OS 6" map surveyed in 1887 shows the area around 'Welsh Furze' with a 'spring, well and a bench mark' showing a height of 450 feet above sea level and several areas of 'furze', presumably the 'furze bushes' is from where the house took its name. Importantly it also shows '3 Ft. R.H.' which, if it is needed is further confirmation of the boundary. The 'R.H.' stands for Root of Hedge indicating that the boundary is therefore 3ft away from the stem line of

the hedge. This is an unusual convention and comes from the presumption that landowners planted hedgerows slightly in from the edge of their land so as to not encroach on their neighbours plots. A cottage was also named as 'Ivy Bush', possibly one of the 'uninhabited' houses mentioned on the 1871 census.

### **Rowlands Park**

Rowland's Park borders the hamlets of Cold Blow and Wood Cross and it is amongst the oldest dwelling in Templeton. One of its early confirmed entries in official documents was as 'Relande Parke' in 1532 and closer to the name we know today 'Rowlande Parke' in 1562, 'Rolandeparke' 1586, 'Rowland Parke' 1594, 'Rowlandes Parke' 1609, 'Rowsland' on the Land Tax Assessment of 1786. The name is possibly a derivative of 'rough land field' with later substitution of the person Rowland. The land Tax assessment shows



*OS Map 6" 1888 revised 1913 showing the area surrounding 'Rowland's Park'.*

'Rowsland' in the ownership of Thomas Mansell and tenancy of David Lewis. Mansell was an interesting man, he was a surgeon and apothecary of Pembroke who was married to Margaret formerly the wife of John Poyer. He was related to the Mansel baronets, a very influential family in South Wales with

connections to the Berkeley Philipps of Picton. On the assessment of 1801 'Rowes Land' was occupied by Mrs Ann Lewis and Mrs Ann Callen had obtained the estate from Thomas Mansell. By the time we reach 1831 Charles Poyer Callen had taken over the ownership of a growing estate and two tenants were listed Mrs Priscilla Mills and Thomas Lewis who also was the tenant of 'Howells Land'. Part of 'Rowes Land' was also being rented to Joseph Davies. We know from the Will of William Young written in 1842 that he owned 'Rowlands Park' and his tenant was Jonah Phillips and looking at the census for 1841 'Rowlands Park' does not appear under that name but as 'Mount Pleasant' the home of a 'weaver' Jonah Phillips born in 1786 and his wife Sarah. Also at the house was Samuel Thomas an 18 year old 'Journeyman' and two servants Samuel Davies and Frances Williams. Due to the location on the census schedule we can be fairly confident that this was 'Rowlands Park'. By the time of the next census in 1851 Sarah was widowed and was farming 36 acres and continued to work as a weaver. Her 12 year old granddaughter Sarah John who went to the local school lived with her at 'Mount Pleasant', Sarah also employed Lewis James aged 23 as a 'weaver and spinner' and farm and house servants Frances Evans and Margaret Jones who all lived at the house. The farm was to have a different name by 1861 and was now 'Rowlands Hill', the home and farm of Mawric [*sic*] Evans age 36, his wife Elinor aged 52 and sons William aged 13, Benjamin and David and a house servant Selia Evans from Begelly aged 25. William was also working as a 'Tailor', most probably learning the trade. A poultry dealer was the next occupier of 'Rowlands Park' by 1871, he was Thomas Edwards aged 57 helped by his daughter Martha Edwards and living with them was a lodger 10 year old John Williams. A butcher and his family were to be the next occupiers of 'Rowlands Park' in the 1880s. Thomas Scourfield was from Cold Blow and was born there in 1845, his wife Sarah was from Molleston Back. Their first child Bessie was 13 and attended the local school as did John, Benjamin and William. Another son George was born in 1878 and a daughter, Jane in 1880. The first three children Bessie, John and

Benjamin were all born at Molleston Back, whereas William, George, Jane, James born 1883 and Alfred born 1889 were all born at 'Rowlands Park'. The family were helped on the homestead by two servants David James an agricultural servant and Janet Badham a General Servant. By the start of the twentieth century the family, still living at 'Rowlands Park' were all involved in the 'Butchery' business, Thomas employed assistant butchers and worked from home, son John was a cattle dealer, Benjamin a butcher as was James. Only Thomas his wife Sarah and son Alfred were still at the house in 1911, Alfred



*Rolling landscape looking across to 'Rowlands Park' and GD Harries Ltd.  
Photograph taken from Mountain Cross road November 2020 RLD.*

was now 'assisting in the business' and Thomas still held the reins as 'Butcher'. Later Alfred married Emily and they continued to live at 'Rowlands Park' into the 1940s when Dennis and Edith Bevan took over the farm followed by Gerald and Valerie Harries in the 1960s. It was Gerald and Valerie Harries who in 1977 were to establish GD Harries & Sons Ltd, with the acquisition of six quarries, plus asphalt and concrete production. The company has grown to become one of Wales's largest independent suppliers of aggregates and a civil engineering company delivering multimillion pound infrastructure projects. Their maroon and yellow lorries are a regular feature of not only Templeton

but the West Wales landscape. The company employs around 240 people, making it the largest employer in Templeton.

## **ALLENSBANK**

The next hamlet we arrive at is Allensbank on Providence Hill. It was created about a kilometre south of Narberth town on the edge of Narberth Mountain. But how and why did it come about? In Wales as in other parts of the UK a poorhouse was more commonly known as a workhouse, in Templeton this was a house built on the south side of 'Templeton Farm', it later became 'The Old Post Office' and then 'Melrose' and continues to use that name.

Before the introduction of the Poor Laws, each parish would maintain its own workhouse and often these rural 'poor houses' would be simple farms with the occupants dividing their times between working the farm and employed on maintaining local roads and other parish works. In the early Victorian era, poverty was seen as a 'dishonourable' state. Think about some of the books of Charles Dickens, where a workhouse could resemble a reformatory, often housing whole families giving manual work to the poor and subjecting them to physical punishment. We only have to look at the 1841 census to see the number of paupers living in Templeton to appreciate the problem. Many paupers lived throughout the parish often with their families but were listed as paupers. For those who had no family and could not live on their own the only option was the 'Poorhouse'. At many poorhouses/workhouses, men and women were split up with no communication between them.

Poor law unions were established throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland, they were early local government units and had defined geographical areas. The Poor law unions existed in England and Wales from 1834 through to 1930 for the administration of poor relief. Prior to the Poor Law Amendment Act 1834 the administration of the Poor Laws was the responsibility of the church of individual parishes, which varied widely in their size, populations, financial resources, rateable values and requirements. From



*Extract from the 1st Edition OS Map of 1887 of Narberth Union Workhouse. The South Narberth boundary is shown by the black dots. Camp Hill Cottages were later re-named 'Union Cottages and Union Terrace'.*



*Front view of Allensbank 'Workhouse' photographed in 2020.*

1834 the parishes were grouped into unions, jointly responsible for the administration of poor relief in their areas and each governed by a board of guardians. A parish large enough to operate independently of a union was known as a poor law parish. Collectively, poor law unions and poor law parishes were known as poor law districts. The grouping of the parishes into unions caused larger centralised workhouses to be built such as Narberth Union Workhouse to replace smaller facilities in each parish such as the Templeton Poorhouse. It was as a result of the Act that Allensbank was built as the Narberth Poor Law Union workhouse in 1838.

The order to build Narberth workhouse for 150 inmates was issued on the 12th of May 1838. The guardians met in their boardroom at the new workhouse for the first time on the 10th of June 1839. The site of the planned 'Narberth Union Workhouse' shown on the Tithe Map was constructed on land owned by 'The Board of Guardians' on field number 818 described as Union House and Garden. On the west side of the road directly opposite the Workhouse in field number 804 was a 'cottage garden and field' at the time known as 'Camp Hill Cottages' owned by Lewis Howells and in the tenancy of David Jones. These were to become the 'Union Cottages', known today as 'Rose Cottage', '2 Rose Cottage' and 'Glen Cottage'. In the same field was built 'Union Terrace', all that remains of the terrace are a few stone foundations. The boundary of South Narberth running immediately along the north side of the Terrace.

Before its completion, on the 16th of January 1839, a mob attempted to burn the workhouse down, committing the guardians to extra expense in employing special constables to protect it. A more serious attack on the building was apparently made in 1843, when a mob said to consist of 600 Rebecca Rioters were only driven back by the arrival of the Castlemartin Yeomanry; but the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, William Day, denied that any serious incident had occurred.

The first census for the Narberth Union Workhouse of 1851 records the 'Master of Workhouse' as John Williams aged 44 from Llandissilio, Carmarthenshire. His wife Martha aged 23 from Narberth was 'Matron of Workhouse', their 16 year old daughter Margaret was a seamstress. They also had a 6 month old baby daughter Mary Alice. The Workhouse School Mistress was local girl Maria Thomas 23. Mira Thomas from Robeston Wathen aged 25 was employed as a live-in nurse at the Workhouse. Living at the 'Workhouse Lodge' was William Philips born in 1799 and employed as the Workhouse Porter. His wife Hannah was born in Narberth in 1795, their son Joseph 17 was a 'Pupil Teacher at School'. I presume from the entry that he worked at the Workhouse, they also had a daughter Anne age 9.

A total of 82 inmates were living at the 'Workhouse' in 1851, the majority were listed as 'Paupers' varying in age from just a few months to 88. Three children recorded as 'Orphan Paupers' 9 year old William Price, Margaret Morris 6 and sister Eliza Morris 5. Eight children were recorded as 'Pauper Bastards'. Little had changed by 1861 as far as management positions were concerned, John and Martha Williams were still 'Master and Mistress of the Workhouse', Margaret had left home but in 1851 another daughter, Malon [*sic*] was born. The workhouse had 68 Pauper inmates, 33 were children under 15 and a foundling, supposed to have come from Haverfordwest, 8 week old Morris Marloss. The eldest inmate was 80 year old James Dalton born in Crunwear in 1781 who was to end his days in the workhouse. We still see John and Martha managing the 'Workhouse' in 1871, they had 67 inmates to look after varying in age from just a few months old to Jemma Thomas born in Cilgerran in 1781 and now 90 years of age. Now 74 years of age John Williams was continuing in his position of 'Master of Workhouse' still assisted by Martha who on the 1881 census was described as 'Matron'. The 'School Mistress' was Maria Thomas. Living at the 'Union Cottage' was Greenwich Pensioner from Saffron Waldon in Essex Thomas Scott age 66 and his Pembrokeshire born wife Sarah Scott 58. Their daughter Mary Scott a



dressmaker born in Brompton, Kent and grandson Lonston Scott 11 months born at the Union Cottage were living with them. The oldest inmate at that time was widower Elizabeth Edwards born at Llandissilio in 1791 and the youngest was 1 year old Mary Herbert who was born at the Workhouse her mother also an inmate was Martha Herbert 20. A total of 61 inmates were recorded on the 1881 Census Returns. Several families were living on what was referred to as 'Union Road' most likely to have been 'Union Terrace'. Sarah Barry 36 was a dressmaker, in the next dwelling was Sarah Bully 26 another dressmaker and her sister Esther 20, next was Elizabeth Edwards a widower age 90, then came widow William Phillips 70 a carpenter and his grandson W. Phillips 18 a carpenter from London. Elizabeth Beynon 34 a House Keeper and her aunt Sophia Beynon 59 occupied another dwelling. Finally was Mary Cook 35 and daughter Mary. What was interesting to see was that many of the inmates were employed and none were listed as 'Paupers' as had been the case in previous returns and was once again on the 1901 Census. The 'Union Cottage' was occupied by Henry Allen age 60 the 'Union Porter', his wife Elizabeth 65 and daughter Gertrude 24. The new 'Master of Workhouse' was Samuel Flook 57 from Brecknockshire his wife was from Kilgetty, Sarah Flook 52. There were just 41 resident inmates at the workhouse in 1901 varying in age from 8 weeks to 84 year old retired grocer William Jones. The more detailed census of 1911 tells us that William Hughes 30 working as a 'Teamster', his wife Martha 23 and son William George Hughes 4 and daughter Muriel Myfanwy Hughes 18 months old lived at '1 Union Cottage'. This would almost definitely be 'Union Terrace' as the Census Enumerator must have walked across the footpath linking 'Eastwood' with 'Union Terrace'. In '2 Union Cottage' were Sarah and Esther Bully and at number '3' was domestic servant 60 year old Margaret Morgan. Ann Thomas aged 72 was in '4' and '5' was home to William Morgan 32 a 'Coach Painter' and his wife Elizabeth 35, daughters Sarah Ellen 12 and Edith Gertrude 6 and son Stanley Louis 4 and 5 month old Mary Esther. The final dwelling in 'Union Cottages' was number '6'

occupied by Mary Davies 68 from Mounton and Mary Jane Davies 13 her granddaughter born in the cottage. Next came 'Union Lodge' or the 'Workhouse' with William Evan Bowen 33 as 'Master of the Workhouse' and his spouse Margaret Ann Bowen 35 'Matron of the Workhouse' their children were William 8 born in Islington, London and Bessie Myfanwy 4 born at Port Talbot. The Assistant Matron was Catherine Jane Howells 49 and the Children's Attendant was Catherine Owen Curnick 28. Amongst the 46 inmates was a wide range of occupations including a seaman, chemist, blacksmith, coach builder and servants. Eighteen children were amongst the inmates the youngest was 4 weeks old to 14. The eldest inmate was former coal miner from Saundersfoot 89 year old Lewis Morris. The census also recorded two 'Casual Inmates' George Burton 40 formerly a farm labourer from Brighton, Sussex and William Taylor 23 formerly a seaman from Bradford, Lancashire.

As the 19th century wore on, workhouses increasingly became refuges for the elderly, infirm and sick rather than the able-bodied poor, and in 1929 legislation was passed to allow local authorities to take over workhouse infirmaries as municipal hospitals. Although workhouses were formally abolished by the same legislation in 1930, the Narberth Workhouse continued under their new appellation of Public Assistance Institutions under the control of local authorities and became known as Narberth Lodge Hospital. In around 1948, it became an old people's home. Later renamed Allensbank, it was sold into private ownership in 1965 and finally closed in 1972. The buildings have now been adapted for use as holiday accommodation and a number of companies operate out of what was once the Workhouse.

## WOODS CROSS

Upon leaving Allansbank and heading due south up Providence Hill passing what today is G.D. Harries Ltd, 'Rowland's Park' and 'Southfields' we arrive at a slightly disjointed crossroads and the hamlet of 'Wood Cross'. In the schedule of Picton Castle Deeds is a reference to 'Wood Cross,' Hore Crosse dated 1690; Cross, 'Whole Cross' is shown on the circa 1773 Picton Map; Whore Cross 1793 Land Tax Assessment; Hoar Cross is referred to in 1789 in the



*Extract of OS Map 1st Edition 1887 of the hamlet of Woods Cross. It is easy to see why 'Woods Cross' got its name, the red dots indicate trackways used by farmers and drovers moving their livestock around the county. Pitch Cross which until the 1970s led to 'Pitch Farm' now demolished, Captain's Style Lane led to the hamlet of Molleston and town of Narberth or west to Canaston Woods and beyond. Off Captain's Style Lane the track to the west led to 'Mountain Farm and Cottage' and Molleston. The track past 'Woodland Farm' and 'Woodside' briefly joined the road to Narberth, the track carrying on past 'Flower Hall' and into the hamlet of Cold Blow. The farm of 'Southfield' is seen just off the Narberth Road and the whole hamlet sits on top of Narberth Mountain.*

Picton papers and in 1837 in the Bishop's Transcripts. The name 'Wood Cross' is thought to make reference to 'hoar cross', probably a boundary cross, 'hār' was used especially for boundary posts. There was a wood here formerly called



## Woodlands Farm

The track which today runs past 'Woodlands Farm' is an ancient trackway. The farm on the Tithe was occupying field number 765 in the ownership of Lord Kensington and tenancy of Isaac John. The Land Tax Assessment of 1786, 1801 and 1831 all have entries for two properties both named 'Woodside', they are shown in the ownership of Lord Kensington, the larger property in the tenancy of Joseph Jenkins until 1831 when John Rees was the tenant. The Electoral Roll of 1842 also lists two properties named 'Woodside', John Rees in one and Thomas Harries in the other. The other 'Woodside' was in 1786 home of Phillip John but by 1801 Isaac John had taken on the tenancy and was still



*Aerial photo circa 1960 of 'Woodgreen' built circa 1911 most probably on the footings of the original house named 'Woodside'. Note the well worn track to the 'Ty Bach', the outside toilet. The outbuildings behind the house were converted c. 2000 into a small cottage.*

the tenant in 1831. The census of 1841 shows 'Woodlands' a 50 acre farm being managed by Isaac John born in Narberth in 1805 married to Rachel born in 1819 in Carmarthenshire. Their children in 1841 were Sarah born 1839 and

William 3 months. Sarah does not appear on the 1851 census, William is now 10, Jonah 6 and Elizabeth 2. Two servants helped them on the farm and one labourer. On the census of 1861 the farm was listed as 'West Wood' still with Isaac and Rachel farming the 50 acres, son William was employed as a 'Ploughman', another son Peter was born in 1852, John in 1854 and Thomas in 1860. The change of farm name could have been to avoid confusion with other 'Woodside' properties in Templeton. By the time of the next census the John's had left the farm and a new tenant William Collins was farming 33 acres helped by one labourer, the farm was now recorded as 'Wood Land'. The census of 1881 lists on the schedule 'Pitch' farm followed by two further households on 'Pitch Lane' and then 'Woodside'. This was occupied by a road labourer Isaac Griffiths born in South Narberth in 1819 his wife Martha aged 60 and son David aged 36 listed as a 'Farmer'. Walking past 'Woodside' the next household and property listed by the enumerator in 1881 was 'Whole Cross' the home of Jane John aged 62 and daughter Jane 30 working as a dressmaker. Jane John senior was shown as married to a labourer. Was this the same John family mentioned previously living at 'Wood Land', if so the enumerator gave the farm a 'new' name. Returning to David Griffith and family they were still farming 'Woodside' in 1901, David was now head of the house and farming on his own account, this would suggest it was 'Woodlands' farm. David had married Annie born in 1856 and they had a son Isaac born 1896. On the census schedule numbered 85 was 'Wood Lands' the home of Robert Lewis aged 71 and his wife Margaret aged 41. They were farming 'Wood Land' on their own account. Schedule number 86 was 'Woodside' already discussed and 87 was 'Wood Lands Cottage' home to Mary Beynon a 76 year old widow. It is confusing to know whether the census enumerator was at 'Woodland Farm' or 'Woodside'. Clearly recorded as 'Woodlands' in 1911 being farmed by James Thomas born Llandewi Velfry in 1869, his wife Margaret was born in Bletherston in 1862. James brother Evan Thomas farmed the property with them he was described as a farmer and cattle dealer. James and Evan Thomas

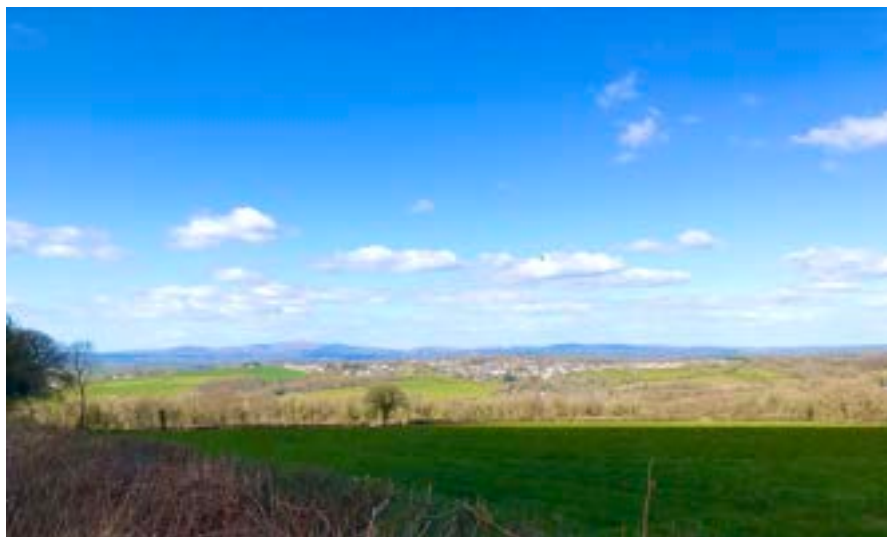
continued farming at 'Woodlands' into the mid 1930s. The Watkins family purchased 'Woodlands Farm' in the 1940s at the time comprising of 43 acres, the family continue to farm the 150acres in 2020. There was no mention of 'Woodside' on the census of 1911, the next household recorded was 'Clements Dale' in Cold Blow. The house now occupying 'East Field' and named 'Woodside' was built or renovated in 1916. A plaque in the roof has the inscription 'Thomas 1916'. In 1949 Benjamin Arthur John purchased the property and descendants of the John's still live in the house.

### **Wood Cross Cottage**

The original cottage of 'Woods Cross' may well have been a small Inn or Beer House conveniently situated at the crossroads or more accurately 'crossing tracks'. As shown on the map the tracks naturally merge at this point and for the thirsty drover or farmer a brief stop at 'Wood Cross' would I am sure have been most welcome. The cottage as we have already seen has a history going back many centuries. The first accurate mention of the cottage was on the Tithe Map of circa 1840. It occupied field 751 described as "House garden and field" owned by Sir Richard Buckeley Philipps Philipps and in the tenancy of Mary Phillipps who also had fields 749 and 750. Although the property was clearly there in 1841 it is difficult to determine the identity of the household. But in 1851 'Hoar's Cross' was probably the same place and it was the home of Mary Jenkins aged 47 a married woman and her daughter Sarah Phillipps 18. Could Mary have been the Mary Phillipps the tenant shown on the Tithe schedule, quite possibly she could have re-married hence the different surname. By the time we come to 1861 the census enumerator wrote down the name of 'Pitch Farm' and then six properties known collectively as 'Narberth Mountain'. These would have included, 'Woodside', 'Woodlands Farm' and 'Wood's Cross'. The situation was not much clearer in 1871, 'Wood's Cross' was not mentioned by name, just 'Narberth Mountain'. Probably 'Wood's Cross', the 1881 census records 'Whole Cross' as the home of Jane John aged 62 and daughter Jane

aged 30 working as a dressmaker. The next recorded household on the census schedule was 'Welcome Lane' occupied by Thomas James a 57 year old road labourer and his wife Rachel 53 and daughter Maria 17. A new house was being built on the lane in 1881, possibly the lane was where 'Flower Hall' now stands. Next came 'Templeton Cottage' with William Griffiths 40 a farm labourer, his wife Phoeby 48, son James 18 a pupil teacher, John 14 and Jane 12 both at school. We have had to wait until 1891 to get a confirmed name of 'Wood Cross' home to James John born in 1819 at Narberth Mountain.

Somewhere after 'Wood Cross' but before 'Sunny Hill' was a 'Band of Hope



*The Preseli Hills or, as they are known locally and historically, Preseli Mountains, a range of hills in north Pembrokeshire photographed from the hamlet of Woodcross in April 2020 RLD*

School', most probably a Sunday School; the census enumerator recorded it as an 'uninhabited building' and 'Required for teetotal meetings'. The Band of Hope was a Temperance Movement set up in the 1840s as part of the Victorian Social Reform programme. The census recorder seems to have left 'Pitch Farm', and travelled via 'Wood Lands', 'Woodside', 'Wood Lands Cottage' to arrive at 'Woods Cross' the home in 1901 of Martha Jenkins 57, her



daughter Anne 30, son David 25, grandson William Jenkins 6 and granddaughter Martha aged 11 months. Martha was still living at the cottage in 1905. The cottage has once again been lost by 1911 and although it would have been on the census where it is is unclear. Thomas and Elizabeth Mason were living at 'Woods Cross' in the 1920s followed by Albert and Phyllis Cole in the 1930s. It remained in the Coles Family into the 1970s when Marjorie Cole married John Logan. The Logan's still live at the cottage in 2020.

### **Sunny Hill or Southfield**

Occupying field number 816 on the Tithes Map was a farm known as 'Sunny Hill', the land was owned by Sir Richard Buckeley Philipps Philipps and the house and garden was in the tenancy of Thomas Eynon. Thomas was a 40 year old farmer in 1841 living at 'South Hill', sometimes referred to as 'Sun



*'Southfield' photographed in 1985 before total refurbishment.  
Courtesy of Mrs. E. Vaughan*

Hill', 'Sunny Hill' and today known as 'Southfield'. He lived at the farm with his wife Elizabeth aged 45 born about 1796 and their daughters Eliza 17,

Frances 14, Margaret 12 and sons John 15, Thomas 10 and James 3. As with several of the properties in the hamlet no names were listed by the census recorder of dwellings, they were simply referred to as 'Narberth Mountain'. The next confirmed mention of 'Sunny Hill' was on the census of 1891 when David Morgan 62 was farming there with his wife Margaret 65. The Electoral Roll of 1900 and 1910 has Martha Rees at 'Sunny Hill'. In the census of 1911 'Southfields' is listed as in the occupation of Martha Rees a 50 year old farmer and her brother Alfred Rees a solicitors clerk. Wilfred Rees was still at the farm in 1925. Muriel and Ruth Thomas were at the farm in 1935.

We now leave the little hamlet of Wood Cross and make our way through the many twisting tracks to arrive at Captain's Style where the track joins the back road to Molleston.

## **MOLLESTON**

Molleston has a long history, it is a rather sprawling hamlet as can be seen on the Ordnance Survey map stretching from 'Captain's Style' to 'Washfield Cross'.

The 'Inquisitions Post Mortem' for Molleston is dated 1282. The Inquisitions post mortem were local inquiries into valuable properties, in order to discover what income and rights were due to the crown and who the heir should be. These inquiries took place when people were known or believed to have held lands of the crown, and therefore involved individuals of considerable wealth and status. The fact that such an 'Inquisition' took place suggests the importance of Molleston. In 1282 reference is made to Moylhistoune, the Slebech documents refers to Moilleston in 1357, then we see in Public Records Moilaston in 1413, the names go on through the centuries Moylestoune 1598 and close to what we see today Molleston(e) 1532 and in 1561 we see Low and 'Highmoleston'. This is most likely a reference to what today we call 'Little Molleston' and 'Great Molleston'. 'Little Molleston' is specifically mentioned in the Slebech papers of 1704. The name is thought to derive from 'Moyl's farm.

Abraham Leach	Sarah Howell	Golden piece	1	3
Tho: Mansel	Thomas Row	Gold Blow	1	0
William Knox Esq	and tenants of the manor		5	0
Abraham Leach Esq	Maurice James	Wood office	3	10
<b>Moleston Quarter</b>				
Thomas Mansel		Grove	12	6
Tho: Mansel		Harrises	6	
William Knox	Tho: Mansel	part of Evan Land	7	4
W: Knox	W: George	Moleston	7	8
William Knox	Isaac Morris	Evans Land	8	0
W: Knox	Isaac Morris	White house	8	4
Thomas Mansel	Tho: Mansel	White house	6	
Lord Milford	Stephen Arley	Robbins Land	6	1
Lord Milford	Stephen Arley	for Ayles Land	12	
John Borchers	Stephen Arley	Red gate	12	
Mary Davis	Katherine David	Celler Moleston	9	
W: Clark	Katherine Butter	Moleston back	6	
W: Knox	Elizabeth Jefferies	Woodside	6	
William Knox	Phillip Protheroe	Woodside	3	
ex Griffiths	Moses Protheroe	Woodside	3	
Tho: Mansel	John Protheroe	Woodside	3	
John Mansel	John Protheroe	Woodside	3	
			28	10
				10

Part of the Templeton Land Tax Assessment of 1786, listing the Proprietors Names, Occupiers Names, Tenement Names and in the final column the Sums Assessed.

Probably to be associated with the family of Ievan Moyle who lived in this locality in 1385. This Welsh persons name, which was fairly common, derives from moel meaning ‘bald’.

Over the centuries corruptions of the name have occurred, as we have seen and in the 1786 Land Tax Assessment it has ‘Moleston Quarter’ and lists a number of landowners starting with Thomas Mansel of ‘Grove’ who also had a tenement known as “Harrises” somewhere in the hamlet as well as ‘White House’. Interestingly Thomas Mansel is a tenant of William Knox for what was referred to as “part of Evan Land”. Knox also had tenants William George at Moleston; Isaac Morris at “Where he lives at “Brown Hill””; Katherine Butter at ‘Moleston Back’; Elizabeth Jefferies at ‘Woodside’ and Phillip Protheroe also at ‘Woodside’. Other landowners included Lord Milford with Stephen Arley as tenant of ‘Robbins land’ and “for Ayles land”. John



*Extract of OS 2nd Edition Map centred around the hamlet of Mollleston. Included in the Mollleston hamlet are the farms, houses and cottages - north to south; 'Captain Style', 'Eastwood', 'Grove Gate' and to the east 'Mountain Cottage' and 'Mountain Farm'; to the west 'The Grove' and 'Molleston Back'; continuing south is 'Great Molleston Farm' and to the east 'Little Molleston Farm', then slightly south west is 'Roadside Farm', 'Rose Side' and to the east of the road 'Molleston Chapel' and 'Chapel House'. Arriving at the main road to the west of Washfield Cross is 'Washfield Farm', 'White House Farm' and 'Roadside Cottage'. To the east of Washfield Cross are 'Gate House', 'Pool' and 'Maes-y-Coed'.*

Boston landowner of 'Rose Side' and Mary David landowner with Katherine Davies at 'Little Molleston'. The 'Officer of Excise' on behalf of the Government was Edward Griffiths of Narberth with the 'Assessors' Thomas Phillips and Phillip John. The land tax assessment provides us with an insight of land ownership and of the properties that existed in the hamlet in the mid

to late 1700s. Properties mentioned in the 1786 Land Tax Assessment included 'The Grove', 'Whitehouse', 'Moleston' which is most likely to be 'Great Molleston', 'Brownhill' most probably 'Broomhill' now in Newton North, 'Molleston Back', 'Woodside', 'Roseside' and 'Little Molleston.

The Land Tax Assessment of 1786 for Templeton make specific reference to "Moleston Quarter", listing 15 "tenement names", starting as you would expect with 'Grove' (see page 203), a property that has already been discussed several times in this book. I thought I would start our wander through the hamlet at 'The Grove' as it has played such a significant role in the history not only of Molleston but of Templeton.

### **Grove**

This beautiful house has already been described in Chapter 3 'Landowners'. I feel it important to include a mention of it here as the hamlet of Molleston has developed around it. The manor known as 'Grove' as we have already discussed has a long history dating back to at least 1419. From around 1670 through to 1950 the same family had close links with the property. To maintain the flow of this local history I am including here the Tithe and Census information about 'Grove'. I will start with the Tithe Apportionment fields 390, 388, 389 and 393 as you would expect all in the ownership of Charles Poyer Callen and the tenancy of John Drinkwater for 390 and 393 and many other fields around the Manor but fields 388 and 389 were in the tenancy of David Phillips. We will now look at the census of 1841 which tells us that 'Grove Cottage' was in the tenancy of John Davies born around 1781 his wife Anne born around 1791, sons Thomas 18, William 10 and Lanford aged 8. John gave his profession as 'Farmer', they employed three servants to help on the farm. Looking at the Tithe Map and Apportionment 'Grove Cottage' is where we find 'Grove Gate'. This is where it is interesting as 'Grove' was occupied by William and Mary James both born circa 1796, sons John 8 and Thomas 6. William gave his employment as 'Agricultural Labourer', was the

census entry correct or had the enumerator mixed up the properties or did William and his family live at 'Grove'. By the time we arrive at 1851 'Grove' its 100 acres was being farmed by 'gentlewomen' farmer Mary Rowe aged 57 born circa 1794 with her sister Elizabeth Rowe aged 52 also described in the census as a 'gentlewoman'. They were born at Llanstadwell in the last decade of the 1700s. At the time the farm employed three labourers. Living on the premises was Rebecca Thomas (24) a housemaid, Mary Jenkins (20) a dairy maid, William Roberts (20) a farm servant and agricultural labourer 25 year old William Rees. The 100 acres in 1861 was being farmed by Thomas Davies who was born at Coedcanlais about 1812, his wife Elizabeth 50 was from Lawrenny. Working for them was Mary Roberts 21 a dairy maid, and Sarah Griffiths 14 employed as a kitchen maid. John James a 14 year old was lodging with them working as a labourer. The 'Grove' farm had lost some acreage by the start of the 1870s and was now 70 acres being farmed by Sarah Perkins aged 46 from Gorse, Lampeter Velfry. She was helped by her children Elizabeth 24, William 22, Anne 18, Hannah 17, Sarah 10 and John 8. The children were born in Lower Caravan, Lampeter Velfry, no record was made of where John the youngest was born. Also helping and living at the house was a relative William Perkins aged 75 described as a 'Farmer' and Benjamin Cunick 17 employed as a servant. For the next 30 or so years Richard Buckley aged 44 from Hallaton in Leicestershire was to make 'Grove' the family home. The farm was now 60 acres, Richard was both 'Farmer' and a local Justice of the Peace, his wife Elizabeth 34 came from Herefordshire. They had a 1 year old daughter Maud who was born at the 'Grove' and living with them was Richard's sister-in-law Mary Bateman aged 24 from Spratton in Northamptonshire. They were employing a cook, house maid, nurse maid and a dairy maid. Richard and Elizabeth had a son also to be named Richard Charles born at the 'Grove' in 1885. A live-in 'Governess' 19 year old Felice Gorman from Neasham in Derbyshire was employed to look after both the children. The census of 1901 listed 'Grove House' still occupied by the Buckley's but there was no entry on



*Extract of Tithe Map showing 'Grove' in field number 390, the description given on the Tithe Apportionment was 'House and Garden'. A separate building is shown in the same field. A building is also shown on field number 393 described as 'garden' 392 'west meadow'. A building is also shown on field 389 'Caer Maddock'.*



*A small part of the OS Map 1st Edition 1887 centred around 'Grove', showing the walled garden. The building in fields 389 and 388 appears to have been demolished and additional buildings built on and around the Manor itself. The map also shows the footpaths linking 'Grove', 'Molleston Back' and its six or so buildings and 'Grove Gate'.*

the 1911 Census. Richard Buckley died in 1912 and is buried in St. John's Churchyard, Templeton. His memorial stone would appear to have an incorrect spelling of his name, the tablet reads - In Memoriam Richard Henry Buckby of Grove and of Leicestershire Born 1836, Died 1912.

### **Molleston Back**

Following a footpath to the west of 'The Grove' led you to a small complex of buildings making up 'Molleston Back'. You could leave the complex via a trackway that to the east joined the road at 'Grove Gate' or west that led to Mounton and Canaston Woods. Like 'The Grove', 'Molleston Back' had its own water supply via several wells. Footpaths would take you to Molleston Cross and on to Mounton Chapel or tracks to 'Upper and Lower Mounton Farms' that led to 'Roadside Farm'. It is easy to see why 'The Grove' and 'Molleston Back' were so important to the hamlet. A few meadows further west of 'Molleston Back' was the ancient 'camp' earthworks.

Four properties were listed in the 1851 census with the name 'Molleston Back'. The first property listed and probably the main property was a 70 acre farm.

An entry in the Slebech papers of 1708 made reference to 'Molleston Back', the Land Tax Returns of 1793 also listed Molleston Back. Other references were made to the property in the 1842 Tithe Assessment. In 1851 David Morgan 35 and his wife Mary 33 farmed the property employing a labourer. They lived at the farm with their four children 10 year old Benjamin his sister Jane 7 both at school and 2 year old John and 4 month old Catharine. All four children were born in Narberth. They also employed two live in farm servants Mannie Davies 18 and Mary Davies 17.

Also shown in 1851 at Molleston Back was the Rees family, headed by Bartlet Rees born in Ludchurch in 1795 who worked as an agricultural labourer, his wife was Anne born in Llandissilio in 1797 who worked in the fields, they had a



son Thomas 23 who also worked as an agricultural labourer. Their two younger children were still both at school Sarah 14 and James 9.

In a third property bearing the same name was John Adams 53 and his wife Elizabeth 48 and their four children David 15, Mary 13, Adah 8 and Sarah 2. John was a butcher and his son David an assistant butcher.

The fourth property was in the occupation of Daniel Mansell 41 an agricultural worker, his wife Catherine 43 worked in the fields. They lived at the property with their four children Owen 13, James 11, Sarah 5 and John 1.

Leaving the impressive entrance gates of 'Grove' and travelling a short distance northwards we arrive at 'Grove Gate' and our next destination.

### **Grove Gate**

Grove Gate can be dated back to at least 1826 when it was shown in the Bishops Transcripts. The Tithe Map and its Apportionment tells us that in circa 1840 the landowner was Baron de Rutzen of Slebech and his tenant farmer was John Davies. As already mentioned in 'Grove' John and Anne Davies and their children were farming 'Grove Cottage', we have therefore to assume 'Grove Cottage and Grove Gate are maybe the same place. The census of 1851 shows 'Grove Gate' as a 70 acre farm employing one labourer and in the occupation of John Griffiths 28 from Lampeter and his wife Elizabeth 25 from Robeston and their 10 month old son William. They employed in the house James Rees 20 and Mary Mathews 19 as farm servants.

A Devonshire farmer Thomas Howell aged about 72 was farming the 60 acre 'Grove Gate' farm with his wife Catharine 71 and grandsons George Williams 20 and Thomas John 13 both born in Pembrokeshire as was their grandmother. By 1871 the farm was 74 acres and being farmed by John and Sarah Webb both in their early 40s and daughters Catharine 23, Ann 17 and Mary 14 and sons George 21, Thomas 19, John 12, Evan 10, Benjamin 7 and Alfred 4. For the next 40 years the Webb family was to farm the 70 plus acres of 'Grove Gate'. The family all helped and by 1911 John Webb now 85 years old had lost his



*Extract of OS 1st Edition Map 1888 showing Grove Gate and the original position of Mountain Lane, Mountain Cottage which is now derelict and Mountain Farm. Courtesy of National Library of Scotland.*

wife Sarah. His 44 year old son Alfred who was born on the farm was still assisting his father. They had help from Mary Williams a 26 year old servant from Narberth.

Back in the 1880s you could have left 'Grove Gate' and headed east along a lane that was known as 'Mountain Lane' that led to 'Mountain Cottage' and on to 'Mountain Farm'. The landowner in circa 1840 was Daniel Callen who owned around 46 fields that included meadows, pasture, arable, wood and cottages and farms. He also owned 'Little Mollleston' where the tenant was William Rowe but the tenements listed in the 46 fields were all shown as being occupied by Daniel Callen. The difficulty we have identifying individual properties was that the census of 1841 records the 'place' that is the house name as 'Molleston'. The first place was most probably 'Grove' then came 'Molleston' occupied by David George and family, then Thomas James, followed by Thomas Harries. The next named 'place' was 'Cold Blow'

occupied by George Jermyn and family. Next followed ‘Crowland’ with William Wheeler and family followed by ‘Pitch’ occupied by Joseph Evans and his family. We then have four properties listed as ‘Narberth Mountain’. Next recorded was ‘Woodland’ with Isaac John, then came ‘Mountain Hill’ and Bartlett Rees. We then have ‘Clyfton Lodge’ with William Morgan, ‘Protheroe’s Lays’ with Joseph Rees, next was ‘Roseside’, ‘Willey’s Place’, ‘Narberth Mountain’, ‘East Wood’ and two entries for ‘Captains Stile’. As you can see it is almost impossible to determine who occupied the many, predominantly agricultural labourer’s cottages on or in the area of Narberth Mountain.

### Tithe Apportionment for ‘Grove Gate’ circa 1840

Field Number	Name & Description of Land & Tenement	State of Cultivation
376	Lower Grove Leys	Pasture
382	Ox Park	Furze
383	Upper Ox Park	Arable
384	Jeffreys Leys	Pasture
385	Sheep Cat Park	Moor
386	Three Corner Field	Meadow
387	Three Corner Meadow	Pasture
396	Field	Meadow
397	House and Garden	
398	Field	Pasture
399	Field Above Road	Pasture

On the census of 1851 the enumerator started at ‘Great Molleston’ a large 200 acre farm, more about that later. A ‘Cottage on Molleston’ was his next port of call followed by ‘Grove’, ‘Grove Gate’, four dwellings all named ‘Molleston Back’, then ‘Cumberland’, ‘Upper Rose Side’, ‘Lower Rose Side’, ‘Roseside Road’, ‘Rose Side Road’, ‘White House’, ‘Rose Side Road’, ‘Washfield’ and

‘Molleston Chapel Yard’ all with separate households. A total of 17 dwellings largely making up the hamlet of Molleston, perhaps the only missing dwelling was ‘Little Molleston’ field number 181 on the Tithe and on the census schedule which followed ‘Narberth Mountain’ of which there were seven dwellings with the same name and two uninhabited. Although we are able to identify individual families and occupiers of the many dwellings we cannot say



*Part of the Tithe Map showing ‘Mountain Farm’ on field number 409. There was a cottage in field number 789 owned by Baron de Rutzen and occupied by Joseph Rees, another cottage on 783 owned by Charles Poyer Callen occupied by Joseph Evans. Isaac John was the tenant of 785 ‘Lower pitch field’, the building could have been simply a farm building or a cottage. Field 788 comprised of two buildings, one of the buildings was a cottage owned by Mrs. Williams and occupied by George Protheroe. ‘Mountain Cottage’ was in field 241 owned and occupied by Daniel Callen. Landownership was quite complicated as seen here.*

with any certainty where the dwellings were located. To add to the confusion following the property known as ‘Eastwood’ in 1851 where seven properties are all named ‘Mrs Howell Cottage’. The first occupied by James Griffiths aged 74 working as a shoemaker, next to him was Edward Edwards born in 1794

working as a Cooper, his wife Elizabeth 57 and daughter Anne 17 were both wool spinners. In the third cottage was Mary Davies aged 39 described as ‘wife of joiner’ and her seven children, James Barry aged 40 an agricultural worker and his wife Mary 42 and two daughters. Another agricultural worker William Evans aged 35 his wife Mary 42 and daughter Margaret 14 both undertaking ‘field work’ plus four younger children. Margaret James born circa 1771 now aged 80 described as a widow and pauper of an agricultural labourer living at the cottage, with her was her daughter Elizabeth James aged 40 a pauper. In the last of ‘Mrs Howell Cottage’ was a carpenter William Bully 35, his wife Phoeby 33 daughters Mary 8, Martha 6, Elizabeth 2 and son Thomas 5. The next building listed on the census schedule was the ‘Workhouse Lodge’.

### **Mountain Farm**

As we have just read the census records for ‘Mountain Cottage’ and ‘Mountain Farm’ are both equally difficult to untangle. Occasionally it is easier to start with the more recent census and work backwards. We know for definite that ‘Mountain Farm’ existed in the 1840s as it was shown on the Tithe Map field 409. The landowner was Baron de Rutzen and the tenant John Harry. The cottage on field 789 we now know was called ‘Protheroe’s Lays’ in circa 1840 and was home to Joseph Rees born in 1791 and employed as an agricultural worker. He lived at the cottage with his wife Anne 40 and children Esther 12, Rebecca 10, Sarah 8, William 3 and 8month old Joseph. Field 783 in the 1830s was in the tenancy of farmer Joseph Evans aged 40 and his wife Elizabeth 40 and daughters Margaret 13, Elizabeth 11, Lydia 4 and sons Joseph 9 and Thomas 6. The family most probably lived at ‘Pitch Farm’ field 451 and the cottage was occupied by one of their agricultural labourers.

## **Captain's Style**

This small cottage was first mentioned in the Slebech Estate papers of 1790 there was also an entry on the Land Tax Assessment of 1793. For some reason the cottage did not appear on later Land Tax assessments. The cottage was located at the south westerly end of 'Captain Style Lane' where the lane forms a cross-roads leading to the 'Grove', Narberth and Canaston Woods. Close to the cross-roads on the east side of the lane was the main access track to 'Eastwood'. It is quite possibly that the cottage and 'Eastwood' were combined on the Land Tax assessment. The cottage was shown on the Tithe map in field number 405 where it is listed on the Tithe Schedule as a 'cottage' but the usual symbol for a building is not indicated on the map. The origin of the name 'Captain Style' is not known. One possibility that has been suggested was that Captain Style was an officer in Cromwell's army. We know Cromwell was active in the area and there was a Captain Style in his army. He was Robert Style a Captain in John Hampden's regiment of foot in the Earl of Essex's Army from or by 10 Aug. 1642. There was also Humphrey Stile a Captain in Colonel Ralph Weldon's Kentish regiment of foot in Waller's Southern Association Army by 15 Jan. 1644, transferring in June to John Birch's newly-raised regiment of foot, possibly bringing his company with him. Is it possible that it was one of these two army Captains?

To return to the facts that we can confirm in c. 1840 two households were listed on the 1841 Census as living at 'Captain's Stile'. The first household was Rebecca Mathias born about 1776 she was also listed on the Tithe Schedule. Rebecca was resident at the cottage with Ann Mathias aged 25, she was a woman of 'independent means'. She fell upon hard times as the years past and by the 1850s she was a pauper, her late husband had worked as agricultural labourer. The second household was also occupied by someone of 'independent means' 90 year old Evan Davies born c. 1751 and Margaret Davies aged 60 born c. 1781. The 1861 census has an interesting entry for 'Captain's Stile Road Tent', three or possibly four tents had been erected

around the cottage known as 'Captain's Style'. The tents were occupied by three families, John Raily aged about 40 from Galaway in Ireland whose occupation was a "Tinman". The whole family were from Ireland his wife was Bridget Birmingham Raily age 39 and daughters Mary 19, Sarah 13, Bridget 10 and Elizabeth 1 year old and sons Edward 17 and Patrick 7. Edward and most of the children were all listed as 'Tinman'. The next family, also worked as 'Tinman' and all came from Catshill, Mire West in Worcestershire. The family head was Malacy Fury aged about 48, his wife was Mary Birmingham Fury 46 and children Ann 16, John 14, Thomas 12, William 9 and Catherine 6. The third household, suggesting the third tent was occupied by John Blear age 22 his wife Ann Canan Blear 25 and children Mary 4 and Patrick 2. They were all from London as was the last tent occupant Michael Turnell aged 20 who was listed as a "Tinman & Tinker". The 'Tinman or Tinsmith' would buy perhaps several hundredweight of tinsplate from the local tinworks, most likely at Pontradulais. The family using an open fire and tools they had developed would make water cans, kettles, milk jugs, buckets and cloths pegs. The cloths peg would be made from a 12-15 cm length of hazel wood a tin collar about 1 cm wide would be wound around the one end of the peg about 1 cm down and a small nail would secure the collar. Using a specially adapted knife the peg would be spilt down the centre, rotated and would carve a curve in the peg. Simple but effective. The cottage 'Captain Style' in 1861 was the home of Daniel Rees aged about 29 working as a farm labourer. He lived with his sisters Sarah Rees 35 who was working as a servant and his married sister Mary Price 23 the wife of a labourer and her 11 month old daughter Anna. Daniel Rees now 33 was still at the cottage with his one sister Sarah and his father John Rees aged 76 from Llandisilio where he was born in c. 1795 as were his children. The census of 1891 continued to record Daniel Rees at the cottage but he has his 20 year old daughter Edith living with him. This was the first reference in the census to Edith who was born in Narberth in c. 1871. Now 80 years of age still working as a farm labourer and living at 'Captain Style' was

Daniel Rees, he lived at the cottage for over 40 years he was still at the cottage in 1910. James and Hannah Mason were living at the cottage in 1925 and by 1935 Alice, John, Maggie and William Howells were living there. The 1960s saw Daniel and Lizzie Lewis living at the cottage.

Today the house still stands at the cross-roads. It has been partially modernised but continues to have its lovely rural setting overlooking the meadows towards 'Grove' and Canaston Woods.

### **Eastwood**

About a mile south of the town of Narberth on the edge of the hamlet of Molleston is 'Eastwood' a house with a history dating back to 1624 where it is referenced in the Slebech papers. It became the home of Charles and Dorothy Hassall and their children Oriana born 1790, William born 1788 and George who was born and died in 1792. Charles Hassall had married Dorothy Bullfinch at St. Martin in Fields, Westminster, London in 1787. Charles was born in Cardigan in 1754 and Dorothy Bullfinch in c. 1760 in Westminster, London. He was an agricultural pioneer and colourful figure, he achieved some prominence in West Wales during his life-time. He came to Pembrokeshire as agent to the Llanstinan and Slebech estates of William Knox, c. 1784, but was dismissed. In 1791 he was appointed surveyor of the South Wales Association for the Improvement of Roads, and compiled reports on the agriculture of the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen for the Board of Agriculture. His 1794 *A General View of the Agriculture of the County of Pembroke with Observations on the Means of its Improvements*, is still valuable as a detailed survey of conditions at the time. It provides, for instance, the first record of an agricultural society in Pembrokeshire, founded in 1784.

Hassall participated as a volunteer in Lord Cawdor's march to Fishguard when the French landed in 1797 and was the first to meet Thomas Knox in the latter's retreat from Fishguard. Using this opportunity to get even with the Knox family, he was instrumental in causing Knox to resign his command of





*Part of the Tithe Map showing 'Eastwood' on field number 822. The land that was attached to the house included field numbers 819, 820, 821 and 823 all in South Narberth to the south of the dotted boundary line and field numbers 826, 827, 828, 829 and 830 in North Narberth. The cottage 'Captain's Style' is field number 405.*

the Fishguard Volunteers. Hassall became Major of Pioneers in the invasion scare of 1803 and secretary to the Pembrokeshire Agricultural Society in 1806. A capable and knowledgeable agriculturalist, he was on friendly terms with Lord Milford, Lord Cawdor, Greville, and the Foleys, whilst Sir Thomas Picton condescended to fight a duel with him over a quarrel which originated in a ball-room<sup>36</sup>.

Charles and his older brother Thomas (1750-1813) have been called 'two of the best-known agriculturalists in Wales' of the time, pioneering land improvement measures, such as draining wetlands, but both also acted as Commissioners of Enclosures for Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Glamorganshire and Merionethshire in the early 1800s, this was controversial work which attracted considerable criticism. The house we see today was built towards the end of the 18th century. The house was advertised for sale in 1810 and described as comprising two parlours, vestibule, three principal bed



*Front view of 'Eastwood' taken in 2020. The house has spectacular views over the Preseli Hills and surrounding*

chambers with dressing room and store room, two garret bed chambers, two other garret bed chambers, three lodging rooms for servants, two kitchens, butler's pantry, larder, water closet, cellars, granary, stable for five horses, gardens and grounds. Charles Hassall took his own life while visiting Lampeter, on 16 May 1814, aged 60. It has been suggested that Charles Hassall took his own life as he was so upset by the death of Thomas his older brother in 1813 while supervising the enclosure of Cors Fochno a raised peat mire near Borth, Cardiganshire and by complications in the process of buying recently enclosed land at Mynydd Mawr in Snowdonia. Charles Hassall is commemorated by a tablet in Narberth church<sup>37</sup>.

'Eastwood' then became the home of Sir Henry Mannix, Bt., an interesting and controversial individual. In "The Gentleman's Magazine" of 1823 following the death of Sir Henry aged 83 in 1822 he was described as of "Richmond, county Cork, and of Eastwood, Tenby". The reason for Tenby being mentioned and not 'Eastwood, Narberth' is probably an error in the magazine as he did have properties in Tenby. He left his estate to his sons

William and Henry who continued to live at 'Eastwood' and 'Sion House, Tenby'. In 1839 following a successful legal challenge by William Richards, Mayor of Tenby, concerning the right of Henry Mannix the younger to use a carriageway to Sion House, Mannix challenged Richards to a duel. Richards was nearly killed in this, one of the last duels in Britain. It is also reputed that Henry kept his 'mistress' at 'Eastwood'.

The house 'Eastwood' is marked on the maps of Mudge in 1819, Colby in 1831 and the Tithe Map of c. 1840. The Tithe shows the house occupying field number 822 owned by Lloyd and in the tenancy of Mary Axford. The boundary between Narberth North and Narberth South ran through the land leased to Mary Axford.

The first mention of 'Eastwood' in the Census return was in 1871 when it was home to Anna Maria Howell aged 63 and her servant Sarah John 16. The Electoral Roll of 1876 lists William Eynon as residing at 'Eastwood'. In 1881



*The ruins of Mountain Cottage photographed in 2019. Formerly known as 'Molleston Cottage'. It was the home of Archie Thomas circa 1920-48, in 1920 Richard Thomas was born there, he was killed in World War II, his sister Elizabeth was born at the cottage in 1923 and Brian in 1923. Trevor Thomas nicknamed 'Tomcat' built several houses in Templeton during the 1970s and 80s, including 'Kensington Bungalow'.*

John Glyn 50 was farming 'Eastwood' with his wife Mary 39, daughters Gertrude 13, Emmiline 12 and sons William 8 and Percy 2. They were still at the house in 1900, Mary was now head of the house and daughters Gertrude and Emmiline were with her. They were living by their own means, suggesting they were financially well placed. A farmer from Whitland was farming the property by 1911, he was Howard Thomas 32, his wife also 32 was Gwendoline who came from Treorchy. Their son David 4 was born in Whitland. They employed two domestic servants and a milk-boy. Shown as an 'Absent Voter' on the Electoral Register of 1918 was John Howell of 'Eastwood' fighting with the Welsh Regiment at Suvla Bay, Gallipoli. In 1955 Albert Brock and Dorothy Morgan were living at the house and in the 1970s Dennis and Marjorie Tribe had made 'Eastwood' their home.

Several barn conversions into holiday lets 'Ty Peggie' and 'Ty Yr Allt' have taken place in 2000s within the grounds of 'Eastwood'.

### **Molleston Cottage or Mountain Cottage**

On the 1st edition OS map the name was 'Mountain Cottage' but it would seem that most locals knew the cottage as 'Molleston Cottage'. The first time 'Molleston Cottage' appears on the census was 1891. The census enumerator had left 'Captain Stile', 'East Wood' and arrived at 'Molleston Cottage' before moving on to Narberth Mountain. The reason for mentioning this is in an attempt to identify which cottage is 'Molleston Cottage' as reference has also been made to 'Mountain Cottage' and cottages close to 'Molleston Back'. It seems most probable that 'Molleston and Mountain Cottage' are the same place. If it is then in c. 1840 the Tithe map showed it as occupying field number 241 described as a "cottage and garden" both in the ownership and occupation of Daniel Callen. He was listed as owning and occupying land, cottages and 'Great Molleston' where he appeared to be residing, more about that later.

Which families lived at the cottage between the census of 1841 and 1891 is not known but we do know in 1891 David Davies born at Walton East in 1865, worked as an agricultural labourer, was married to Margaret 25 a local girl born in Molleston lived there. They had three children Margaret Ann 5, John 4 and Martha Jane aged 2. The cottage had a new family living there by the start of the 1900s but was it the same cottage? This listing of the cottage was on the census schedule as following 'Grove', 'Molleston Back', 'Molleston Back Farm' then we have 'Molleston Cottage' followed by 'Roadside'. The family living there were John Scourfield aged 26 a "main road labourer" his wife Martha 20 and son James born 1900 both born at Llawhaden.

The cottage in 1911 was occupied by Richard Noble aged 40 who came from London and married in 1896 Elizabeth a local girl from Ludchurch. Richard was employed locally as a farm labourer. Lodging with them was Amilia Johns born in 1902 and according to the census was born at 'Molleston Cottage'.

## **Pitch Farm**

There have been several references so far to 'Pitch', 'Pitch Lane', 'Pitch Cross' and 'Pitch Farm'. Sadly today 'Pitch Farm' no longer exists it was demolished in the 1980s. Pitch Lane now forms part of the Knight's Way a footpath that



*The extract of the Tithes Map compared with the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887. Both maps show the footpaths, tracks and field patterns around Pitch and Woodland Farms.*

traverses from Amroth through Templeton to Slebech. Those walking the footpath, on reaching the cross-roads, looking west would see the mast that now replaces the farm, to the east the lane passes ‘Woodland Farm’ and joins the main road to Narberth at the hamlet of Woodcross. Continuing in a north westerly direction you join Captain Style Lane. When you study the Tithe map all that is indicated on field number 451 is a small building, the Tithe schedule tell us that Charles Poyer Callen owned the land that was leased to Joseph Evans. The field is described as “house, garden and field” on which sits ‘Pitch Farm’.



*Pitch Cross in 2020, where the mast is located was in the 1990's the position of Pitch Farm. Pitch Lane continued to 'Mountain Crossroads' and joined with 'Captain's Stile Lane'.*

In 1598 *Ye Pitche* appeared in the Henllan papers, ‘Pitch’ was to appear in a number of documents in the early and mid 1700s and in 1786 and subsequent years it appeared in the various Land Tax Assessments. The owner of the land in c. 1786 was Louisa Oliver who had leased the land to Lewis Griffiths who was still leasing the land and property in the 1800s although the proprietor was

now Mrs Ann Callen. The name 'Pitch' is thought to have derived from its high location on the top of Narberth Mountain.

The farmer of 'Pitch' on the 1841 census was Joseph Evans aged 40 his wife Elizabeth 40 and five children Margaret 13, Elizabeth 11, Joseph 9, Thomas 6 and Lydia 4 all lived at the farm. The next family to farm the 25 acres in c. 1850 was farmer and blacksmith James Morgan born in 1788 at Grondre, Pembrokeshire his wife Jane 63 was from Ambleston. They had three sons John 32 an agricultural labourer as was his brother Richard 23 their other brother Enoch 20 was a blacksmith. James and Jane were to move to Ludchurch and lived at 'Shippen Hill' where he worked as a blacksmith. There was a new tenant by 1860, John Eynon 35 and his wife Margaret 29 a farmer and butcher of the 30 acre farm. Their children were John 10, George 8, Betty 2 and 2 month old Ann, also with the family was Betty Eynon 68 most likely John's mother. The family were to move to Templeton Village and run one of the village farms. The family increased in size Margaret was born in 1864 followed by James in 1866 and Eliza in 1869. The farm had also increased in size to 42 acres by 1871 being farmed by William Nicholas aged 38 with his wife Martha 41 and children Sage 16, Ada 14, George 11 and Harriet 9. The census also refers to 'New Pitch' occupied by a labourer Benjamin Lewis 51 and his wife Mary 52. On the census of 1881 there was mention of two properties 'Pitch' and 'Pitch Lane'. 'Pitch' was a 27 acre farm home of John Lloyd 46 wife Eliza 41 and son Peter 19. The Lloyd's were to farm 'Pitch' for many more years by 1901 Eliza was a widow and running the farm on her 'own account'. Her 8 year old granddaughter Selina Lloyd lived with her at the farm. By the time of the 1911 census Eliza was employing Elizabeth Hughes 26 as a dairy maid, James Hughes 20 was a 'teamster' and John Rees 18 was the cowman. The property referred to as 'Pitch Lane' was occupied by Mary Beynon aged 59. The next property was the home of Charles Hitchins 60 a farm labourer and his daughter Ann Hitchins 29 a housekeeper. Much further on in the 1881 census 'Pitch Lane' once again appears home to farm labourers





*Great Molleston Farm photographed in 2019. Stuccoed three-bay farmhouse with hipped roof, the date of c. 1820, the west bay added. It has Portal with Tuscan columns.*

Benjamin Lewis 61, his wife Mary 53 and son William 26 who we saw earlier at 'New Pitch'. In the 1920s and into the 1930s Pearse Thomas was farming at 'Pitch', no further families appear to occupy 'Pitch' much after the 1940s.

### **Great Molleston Farm**

We now arrive at the farmstead, called 'Great Molleston', about two miles south-west of Narberth town this was formerly a gentry residence. Towards the end of the 16th century it was the seat of Owen Philipps, a younger son of Morgan Philipps of the Picton Castle family. He died before 1621 and was survived by his widow Priscilla Philipps and their son John Philipps who succeeded to Molleston. He married Jane Elliott and they were still living there in 1644. They had a son and heir, Owen Philipps. On 1 December 1635, John Philipps, gent., of Molleston, his mother Priscilla Philipps, widow then living, of East Moor, Manorbier, and their son and heir Owen Philipps, agreed to convey the farm of Molleston and the right to feed pigs in a wood or the



‘pannage’ of hogs and swine and wild honey in the forest of Narberth, to John Barlow, Esq., of Slebech. Owen Philipps is the last known member of the family at Molleston.

On 14 June 1704 Evan Lewis of Laugharne, yeoman, and Thomas Davies of Molleston, assigned to John Barlow, Esq., of Slebech, for a term of years, a messuage called Molleston, and lands near ‘Great Molleston’ mansion House, and a piece of land called Trebaron in Narberth parish. In 1765 Thomas George and his wife Margaret (formerly widow of Robinson Lloyd of Vaynor), were living at Molleston. In 1786, William Knox of Slebech, is described as owner of Molleston, with William George, tenant there. In 1834 William Hand is described as owner of ‘Great Molleston’.

The Tithe schedule for ‘Great Molleston’ shows the landowner and occupier as Daniel Callen with a little over 238 acres and a tenant farmer William Rowe with just over 23 acres. At the time the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836 was introduced ‘Great Molleston’ was the largest farm in South Narberth. The first entry on the census of 1841 is ‘Molleston’ of which there were four entries. We know the first entry refers to ‘Great Molleston’ the home of Daniel Callen aged 30 born c. 1811 his wife Elizabeth 20 and children Ann 7, Katherine 6 and John 5. They had seven servants living at the house and Rebecca Barlidge aged 30, who was probably the children’s governess. The 1851 census shows 50 year old widow, Mary Ormond as head of the house and farming 200 acres with the help of her son William aged 21 and her other son Maurice aged 16 and still at school. Mary was originally from Yerboston, the two boys were born in Carew. The farm employed four farm servants, John Evans a 17 year old local lad, Benjamin James (15), John Thomas (19) from Llandewi and Martha Davies (22) from Llanycefn. Mary Williams aged 25 from Llawhaden was employed as a dairy maid and 17 year old Elizabeth Griffiths from St. Michaels, Pembrokeshire worked as a house servant. The second census entry was ‘Cottage on Molleston’ the home of a farm labourer William Phillips 28 and his wife Martha 33 a laundress. On the census returns for 1861 four



*'Great and Little Molliston' as shown on the 1st Edition OS Map 1888. The lower image of the Tithe Map shows the extent of land attached to 'Great Molliston' indicated with red dots.*

families were listed as living at 'Great Molleston'. The first family mentioned came from Bedfield in Suffolk in c. 1860 they farmed just 50 acres of 'dairy land', so this was most likely one of the cottages surrounding the main farm. They were John and Elizabeth Brock both aged 54 and their family Maria 24, Jane 17 and Harriett 11. It was not to be a long association with 'Great Molleston' as John Brock died on the 25 March 1866. The main farm of 'Great Molleston' was occupied by John and Joyce Gadsden farming 200 acres described as "landed proprietors" and employing six labourers. John came from Northolt in Buckinghamshire where he was born c. 1805 and Joyce was born in 1816 at Toddington in Bedfordshire. The next property listed was occupied by William Rees 36 a labourer and shepherd and his 25 year old wife Esther, they had a son 2 year old James born at 'Molleston'. William's place of birth c. 1825 was given as 'Little Molleston'. The final 'Great Molleston' on the 1861 census was a 79 acre farm being farmed by Daniel Davies aged 58 who gave his occupation as 'farmer and carpenter' he was married to Margaret 63 their daughters Martha 31 and Margaret 25 were dairy maids. Their son Dany 17 had followed his fathers trade as a carpenter. The Brock's were still farming 'Great Molleston' in the 1870s, John Brock had died and his widow Elizabeth had taken on the tenancy. She was farming the 220 acre dairy farm employing two labourers. With Elizabeth at the farm were her daughters Maria 34, Harriet Griffiths 21, her son-in-law Even Griffiths 30 and 3 week old Ecelenio (*sic*) Brock also grandson William Brock 7. One servant was employed who lived at the house with the family Eliza Phillips 19. Elizabeth came from the village of Chenies in Buckinghamshire, Maria and Harriet were born in Kent, Ecelenio was born in London and Evan Griffiths was from Montgomeryshire, it was only grandson William who was born locally at Molleston. By 1881 Elizabeth Brock was living in Cold Blow with her granddaughter Edith who was born at Molleston in 1871. Molleston in 1881, or as we now know 'Great Molleston' was to be farmed by a family who to this day continue to farm the property. The family are the Phillips's, the first was Richard Phillips a

Carmarthenshire man aged 34 farming 260 acres with his wife Rachel 29. The children were William 7, Herbert 4, Rees 3 all born in Carmarthenshire and Penelope aged 1 born in Pembrokeshire in 1880. They employed a number of servants including John Rosser 22, David Thomas 17 both farm servants and Elizabeth Harries 23 a dairymaid, Frances Jenkins 23 a general domestic servant and Mary Griffiths 17 domestic nurse. In 1884 their daughter Margaret Ann was born followed by James in 1886, Phoeby Jane in 1889 and Esther in 1891. They were employing three servants in 1891, 14 year old Edith Allen, Mary Anne Young 19 and Elizabeth Barnell 16. Little changed over the next decade with the exception of daughter Rowena born in 1893. In 1911 Richard Phillips was 65 and Rachel 59 they had been married for 36 years and had had 12 children one had died in infancy. Their last child Ellis was born in 1897 he was 14 years of age in 1911 and was attending school, his brother John 24 was assisting his parents in running the farm. Margaret 27 was assisting in the dairy as was Pheobe 21 while Esther 20 and Rowena 18 were assistants on the farm. The other five children had all left home. The Electoral Roll of 1935 shows John and Margaret Phillips at the farm, Ann Phillips was there in 1960 and Margaret and Lionel Phillips the 3rd generation of the Phillips family were farming the land in 1975. The 4th generation of the family John and Olwen Phillips took over the running of the farm that even today comprises of about 221 acres belonging to 'Great Mollleston' plus around 180 acres added to the farm in more recent years from 'Grove', 'Little Mollleston', 'Roadside' and other pockets of land. For over 140 years the same family have been custodians of the 'Great Mollleston' land. When the time comes the 5th generation will be ready to farm the 400 acres that will be Hannah and Ellis Phillips.

On the census of 1851 William Phillips aged 28 and his wife Martha 33 lived in a cottage referred to as 'Cottage on Mollleston'. William came from Bletherston and Martha from Llanycefn, they worked respectively as an agricultural labourer and laundress. The location of the cottage is not known

but it could well be the derelict ruin on the south side of of the road opposite 'Great Molleston'.

### **Little Molleston**

We are now leaving 'Great Molleston' and heading east along West Lane to 'Little Molleston'. I am including it here as the 'Great and Little Mollestons' are so closely entwined. We have already read many references to 'Little Molleston' earlier in this chapter and in fact the Pembrokeshire Records Office have over 130 documents relating to or making reference to 'Little Molleston'. One of the earliest documents helps us confirm the existence of 'Little Molleston' as far back as 1581. The document is mainly about 'Little Molleston' and 'Roseside', it relates to an "Agreement (in consideration of a sum of money to be paid to 1. on behalf of Johane Hood the now wife of Andrew Hood, being the late wife of John Browne, deceased), for the preferment of the said Johane who is the natural sister of the said Elizabeth and Jane, and of her issue by the said John Browne) with John Hood and Harry Michell, to levy a fine in the Great Sessions upon lands in Moleston and Templeton, which were or are in the tenure of Thomas Watkyn and John Watkyn, being a messuage and 42 acres, which will be recognized to be the right of John Hood and Harry Michell who will hold them to the use of the said Johane and the heirs of her body for ever." The names mentioned are "1. Thomas Morse of Haverfordwest, mercer, and Elizabeth his wife, and Jane Rogers of Salvaige, Pembrokeshire, widow and 2. John Hoodd of Templeton, yeoman, and Harry Michell of Rebaxton, yeoman". The date of the agreement 10 July 1581 and refers to 'Little Molleston'. So having confirmed that a dwelling has existed at 'Little Molleston' for over 439 years we now look at its occupants over the past 200 years. We start with the proprietor in 1786 who was Mary David who had leased the property to Katharine David. Jumping to 1831 we see William Hand Esq. as both the proprietor and occupier of 'Little Molleston'. His name has already been mentioned in relation to 'Great

Molleston', he would appear to have been in negotiations over a number of properties in the Templeton area during the early 1820s. In a document dated 12 August 1820 he was discussing an interest in properties in Lampeter Velfrey, as we would say today adding to his portfolio. His address was given as "Nant Cottage, Llangunnor parish, Carmarthenshire" where he lived with his wife Mary. We know that William had overstretched his finances and was facing bankruptcy, papers were being served on him in 1836 when his address was given as 'Molleston'.



*'Little Molleston' photographed in 2020. The original farmhouse is the central portion. The cottage to the right was part of the original farm buildings.*

The Tithe schedule of c.1836 has Daniel Callen as proprietor or landowner of 'Little Molleston' and William Rowe aged about 30 his tenant of about 23 acres. He lived at the property with his wife Anne 20, daughters Susanna 2 and Margaret just 6 months old and Mary Rowe 25. William gave his occupation as 'Relieving Officer', in that role he was responsible for the relief of the poor of Narberth. He visited the poor in their homes to assess their health and living conditions, he would offer appropriate relief and medical help from the Narberth Union District Medical Officer to the sick and infirm where

necessary. This position he held for many years and when he left 'Little Molleston' to settle in St. Issells a few years later where he took up the position of both 'Relieving Officer and Regulator'. They went on to have another daughter at 'Little Molleston' Anne in 1843 and in 1880 Jane was born. Sons John and William were born in 1845 and 1848 respectively. They had two house servants Henry Puckett 23 and Phoeby Thomas 23. Visiting the family in 1851 was William Rowe senior born 1781 a former shipwright from Carew. In the 1860s James and Mary Evans both aged around 60 were living at 'Little Molleston' with their sons William 26 and John 20 and daughters Margaret 17 and Mary 16. James and Mary farmed 40 acres, William junior was a carpenter and joiner and his brother John a carpenter both Margaret and Mary were farm servants. Farming 27 acres in 1871 was Henry Allen born in Loveston in 1839 who was married to Elizabeth born in Narberth in 1832. They had five children Lucyana 9, William 7, Mary 5, George 3 and Margaret 7 months. They had two further daughters Elizabeth in 1874 and Gertrude in 1877 and their son William now 17 was an apprentice carpenter. A farmer from Begelly, Peter Lloyd aged 29 and his wife Elizabeth 28 were the next to farm 'Little Molleston' in 1891 with their young family Hannah just 3 and Lily 1. In 1899 son Frank was born and in 1902 Maize was born. They were still farming 'Little Molleston' in 1911. William senior died in 1918 but they kept the farm going with Frank and Eliza Lloyd running the farm in 1925. Frank was still at the farm in 1955 with Darrell Lloyd assisting. We now leave 'Great and Little Molleston' and move further south west through the hamlet of Molleston to arrive at the Cross Hands Road. The first place we visit is 'Washfield' then we will move onto 'White House Farm' and the small group of properties around 'Roseside'.

### **Washfield Cross**

The area around Washfield Cross requires some explanation, its an area that we generally pass almost without a second glance. Today the main road from

Templeton to Cross Hands prevents us from ambling along its grass verges but if we could go back perhaps 100 years we would leave behind the little hamlet of Peter's Finger and head on to Maes-y-coed. The first house we would see on the right hand side of the road was 'Maes-y-coed' at 341 feet (104 metres) above sea level a short distance to the west was 'Pool'. Still on the same side of the road was the drive way to Molleston Chapel and 'Chapel House'. A footpath would take you around the chapel and bring you to the lane, a left turn brought you to Washfield Cross. Just past the Chapel drive, on the opposite side of the road was the 'smithy's workshop' and next to it 'Gate House' and a little further on you came to Washfield Cross. In the field on the northeast side of the cross roads was a cottage owned by Baron de Rutzen and the home of Ann Stephens. The Tithe map records the field as 38 together with seven other fields surrounding the cross-roads that were all leased to Ann Stephens. Continuing along the road on the left was 'Washfield Farm', cross the road past three fields and you reached the lane that led to 'Rose Side' and 'Roadside Farm'. The lane continued north along-side fields to merge with the lane from Molleston Cross to Mounton Chapel and on to Canaston Woods. Returning along the lane back to the main road a right turn and you arrived at 'White House Farm' on the left hand side of the road. Almost opposite was 'Roadside Cottage', the last property before the boundary of South Narberth and the Chapelry of Mounton. We are now going to look at some of these properties and review their history some dating back to the 1600s through to the 20th century.

### **Maes-y-coed**

The farm once known as Maes-y-coed was built sometime towards the end of the 1800s. The field where the house was built was at the time of the Tithe owned by Anne Barlow in field number 1624. When you look at the maps, the first to show any house on the site was the 2nd Edition OS map. The house was alongside the main road, it was demolished around 1940 as it was thought



that it would obstruct the landing of aircraft on the proposed RAF Templeton Airfield.

One of the first to occupy the newly built 'Mase-y-coed' was the Baptist Minister Rev. Thomas Evans aged 47 and his family, they appeared on the census of 1901. His wife was Margaret Evans born c.1846, they had eight children starting with Endope 19, Margaret 17, Christmas 15, Annie 12, Myfannwy 10, Blodwen 8, Rosamond 6 and Claudia aged 1. Endope was working as a domestic nurse her sister Margaret worked as a domestic cook and their brother Christmas was an ironmonger and with the exception of Claudia all the other children attended the local school. We know that in 1891 Thomas and his family lived at 'Molleston Yard', why they moved is not known. The census of 1911 has Thomas Evans listed as a 'Baptist Minister and Farmer' still living with his slightly reduced family, some having left home at 'Maes-y-coed'. The Evans family were still at the house in 1925 but by 1935 Thomas Rowe was living at the house. The Ministry of Defence built a new bungalow a short distance west of the original Maes-y-coed around the area of 'Pool' adopting the name 'Maesycoed' when it became the home of the Watkins and Thomas families.

## **Pool**

The Tithe schedule lists Anne Barlow as the landowner of field number 1625 shown as 'cottage and garden' where 'Pool' once stood. Her tenant was Evan Beynon who leased several pockets of land surrounding his home. At the time of the 1841 census two families lived in properties named 'Pool'. The first family listed was Benjamin Davies a 65 year old agricultural labourer born c. 1776 and his wife Priscilla 20 years his junior born c. 1796 and their son Thomas 6 and daughter Mary 3. Next to them was Evan and Mary Beynon both born c. 1801. Evan was born at Coxhill, Narberth. Their children were John 11, Elizabeth 9, Anne 7, Jason 5, Levi aged 3 and 3 month old David. Evan appeared to give his occupation as Tea Dealer but 10 years later he was a

farmer of 'Pool' with 20 acres assisted by three of his sons, Jason now 15, Levi and David. Their granddaughter Mary Anne Morris aged two lived with them. The farm had lost some land by the 1860s and was just 14 acres, still being farmed by Evan, Mary and son David. We next see 'Pool' on the census of 1871 and once again two families occupied the house named 'Pool'. In the first property was Robert Johns 32 employed as a labourer and his wife Martha 33 and her son Thomas Bowen 12 also working as a labourer. They had four daughters Sophia 8, Elizabeth 5, Margaret 3 and Martha 16 months. The children Thomas and Sophia were born at Llawhaden, Elizabeth and Martha at St. Issels and Margaret at Ludchurch. The other household was the home of David Morris 33 from Montgomeryshire who had married Sarah Morris 33 from Templeton where all their children were born, Henry 5, Mary Jane 3 and Alfred Thomas Morris 10 months old. Possibly they were all born at 'Pool' and was Mary Anne Morris part of this family? In the 1880s we see two entries for 'Pool Cottage' on the census, John John a farm labourer and his wife May occupying the first property. The second 'Pool Cottage' was home to Walter Jenkins 30 a butcher married to Anne 22 with three children Thomas 3, James 2 and newborn Elizabeth. The head of 'Pool 2' in 1891 was May John now 67 years old living on her own. In 'Pool 1' was Martha Nichols 74 and son Joseph 29. Martha came from Llawhaden and was a retired farmer and Joseph was a carpenter. No further families occupied 'Pool' after the 1890s. It is most probable that the cottage fell into ruin sometime after 1900 and as already mentioned a bungalow was built around the site of the original cottage c. 1940 and named 'Maesycoed'.

### **Gate House**

This house was built sometime between c. 1840 and 1881, it did not appear on the Tithe map or schedule. The field where the house was eventually constructed was field number 39 described as 'Mountain' a pasture in the ownership of Baron de Rutzen and tenancy of Ann Stephens who was living

in a cottage at 'Washfield Cross'. The cottage of Ann Stephens no longer exists. We can be sure that a farmer born in Llawhaden in 1849 James Evans and his wife Esther aged 32 from Templeton were occupying 'Rushside'. They appeared on the census of 1881 with their children John 8, Edith 6, George 5, Martha and William aged 1. They had five more children Margaret, Mary, Evan, Elizabeth and Hugh 1 year old born in 1890. The family had left 'Rushside' and were living with James father at 'Upper Mounnton' farm. The 1881 reference in the census of 'Rushside' was to be the only mention of the house. The same name appeared on the 1st Edition OS Map. The house had adjacent to it a 'smithy' the two buildings were directly opposite the drive to 'Molleston Chapel'. It seems most likely that the house was uninhabited in 1891. The next mention of the house which had by now adopted a new name and was known as 'Gate House' was the home of blacksmith James Bowen aged 60 and his sister Margaret Jenkins 67. Alfred and Caroline Llewellyn were living at the house in 1935, Alfred was still there in 1960 and in 1970 Aileen Gilleland was living there.

### **Chapel House - Molleston House - Ty Henlloy**

Molleston Baptist Chapel was built in 1731 about 1 mile west of Templeton village. It was the first English Baptist chapel in Pembrokeshire with meetings first recorded in 1667. The chapel was rebuilt in 1763 and enlarged in 1842. The chapel was renovated into the present building in 1883. The appearance now is of this later date with a rendered gable front, door with window overhead, both arched and the three-sided gallery inside, with a remarkable continuous front of Jacobean-style, wooden open fretwork. The approach to the chapel is along a short tree-lined avenue leading north off the main road. The Tithe map apportionment describes the land as 'Chapel and Plantation' on field number 291 in the land ownership of Daniel Callen. The Chapel House at this time appears to be a small building just a little to the south of the Chapel off the main driveway. The 1st Edition OS map shows the 'Chapel house'



*It is worth comparing these three maps and noting the changes in names of houses and the complete absence of some of the houses. The top map is part of the Tithe map indicating what buildings and properties existed at that time c. 1836. The middle map is an extract of the OS 1st Ed. Map surveyed in 1887 showing what buildings now existed compared to the Tithe map some 40 years earlier. Whereas the bottom map is from the 2nd Ed. OS map of c. 1913. Note the name of 'Rushside' to 'Gate House' and the presence of 'Maes-y-coed' the existence of a Letter Box (L.B) at Washfield Cross also see the position of 'ancient stones' above Molleston Chapel.*

where we see it today. At that time access was via a footpath at the side of the Chapel. In c. 1850 'Molleston Chapel Yard' was how the house was described and the census of 1851 shows it was the home of David Phillips aged 51 his wife Sarah 58 and son David 17. David senior was the Baptist Minister of the Chapel.

### **Washfield Farm**

The landowner around the time 'Washfield Farm' was built was Baron de Rutzen of the Slebech Estate his tenant at that time c. 1836 was George Morgan. He was leasing five pockets of pasture and arable land from the Baron. The fields were to the immediate west and south of Washfield Cross. One of the first confirmations of a property being occupied was on the Electoral Roll of 1870 and has Richard Phillips recorded as living at 'Washfield'. We can therefore presume that what was to become 'Washfield Farm' was built around 1870. A building was not shown on the Tithe map c. 1840 but by 1887 appeared on the 1st Edition OS Map as a small structure just off the road, field number 33 had by now been divided into five smaller fields. There was no entry on the census of 1891. The census enumerator had recorded all the 'Rose Side' properties past an 'uninhabited' house. Could this have been 'Washfield Farm'? The census enumerator went on to 'Molleston Yard', Peter's Finger', 'Pool' and then 'Little Molleston'. On the 1901 census 'Washfield Farm' appeared after 'Roadside Cottage' schedule number 113 then 'Washfield Farm' number 114 and 115 was 'Roadside'. A butcher and farmer was living with his family at the farm, they had moved there c. 1900. They were William Rowe aged 60 born locally in 1841 his wife Ann was 58 their eldest daughter was born in 1865 Margaret followed by Emily 33, Henry 29, George 19, Thomas 17, Alice 16 and Isabella 11. Henry was a farmer and his brother George was a butcher and cattle dealer. Thomas Davies was living at 'Washfield' in 1925, followed by Hugh Evans in 1935. More recently the farm was altered to create a number of holiday lets.

## **White House Farm**

Reference to 'Whitehouse' dates back to at least 1688 when it was mentioned in the Picton papers, further reference was made in 1777. The more meaningful references to the farm were shown on the Land Tax Assessments starting with 1786 when 'White House' appears in the 'Moleston Quarter' of the land tax returns. The owner was Thomas Mansel and the tenant Thomas Morris. The next tenant was David James who lived at the farm for a large part of his life, he was there in 1801 but in 1831 Benjamin James had taken on the tenancy. His landlord was now Charles Callen Poyer. The Tithe map shows a 'cottage' on field number 25 as the home of Benjamin James farming around 70 acres. Benjamin was born in Martletwy in c. 1781 he was married to Anne James born in Mounton in c.1781. They had a son Benjamin born in 1827 and employed two house servants John Lewis aged 20 in 1841 and Martha Griffiths 15. By the 1850s Benjamin and Anne were both in their 70s they employed their nephew Joseph Evans 23 born c. 1828 to help them manage the farm. They also employed two farm servants Martha Davies 21 and Isaac Gay 15 as well as two farm labourers. The census of 1861 did not list the farm but there was a Benjamin James living at 'Roseside'. The family occupying 'White House' had completely changed by 1871 it was now the home of William Rees aged 40 his wife Hester 34 and children Ann 7, Elizabeth 5, John 2 and Sarah 8 weeks old. William Rees was not farming the land but worked as a labourer. It was back in the hands of a farmer by the 1880s, a somewhat smaller farm with 40 acres. The farmer was Thomas Lloyd 51 from Ludchurch where he was born in c. 1830, his wife Maria 50 came from Amroth where she was born in 1831. The first three of their children were all born at Cyffig, Elizabeth 21 in 1860, David in 1868 and John in 1870. Their other daughter Margaret 8 was born in 1873 in Narberth South. They carried on farming 'White House' into the 1890s and had their grandson Herbert Lloyd 8 living with them. Margaret Lloyd had taken on the farm by the 1900s she was now 28 and employed two servants to help her Mary Scourfield 21 a domestic servant and Thomas Stymus 17 who

helped on the farm. Margaret better known as 'Maggie' married Henry Rowe of 'Washfield'. They had a daughter Gladys who was described by the family as 'delicate' she was to marry Wilfred Bowen of 'Kilgetty Farm'. For a time they lived at 'Colsick' before moving to 'Washfield', they had a son born prematurely who was not expected to survive. The son was named Henry Vivian Bowen and was brought up by his grandmother Maggie Rowe. He did survive and in 1954 married Eunice Irene Powell of Templeton. They had two sons Richard and Michael Bowen. Richard married Delyth Evans and they had three children Geraint, Rhydian and Nia. Following the Lloyd family came Henry Rowe who was living at the farm in 1910, the Rowe family were to live at 'White House' well into the 1950s. The farm has stayed in the family for several generations, although through marriages the name may have changed the family continue to own and live at the farm. The family continue to farm 'White House Farm'.

### **Roadside Complex**

We are now going to cross the main road walk a few hundred meters west to 'Roadside'. But before starting the description of the properties I need to explain why I have titled this section "Roadside Complex". I think all will become clear when you see the confusion that has existed for centuries over the names of the properties in this 'complex' area. This little part of the Mollleston hamlet can trace its history back to at least 1678 when reference was made to 'Roadside' sometimes written as 'Roseside'. Further mention was made in estate papers and documents of 1784. On the Picton Map of 1773 it was written as 'Rhos Side', it has also been 'Rowside', and 'Roeside' the names appear endless and confusing. As with many place-names corruption of the name has occurred over the years and Templeton and its hamlets are no exception. The name 'Rhos Side is thought to have derived from the Welsh *rhos* 'moor' and side. I would suggest you compare the three maps on page 236 which covers the area in question.

I have included an extract dated April 1750 of a “*Mortgage of messuages and lands called Woodside and Roadside, fields called Townsend and field called Herfords Way, both in the townred and fields of Templeton, cottage and garden called Ann Howel Davids House in Templeton and a small field called Deer Park in the townred and fields of Templeton, all in Narberth.*” This document involved Thomas Willy gent. of Laugharne, Carmarthenshire and Henry Leach of Pembroke, names that frequently occur in relation to Templeton. This might help us to understand some of ‘Roseside’ or ‘Roadside’ long history.

When it starts to get really confusing is by the 1800s we have ‘Upper Rose Side’, ‘Lower Rose Side’, ‘Roseside Road’, ‘Rose Side Road’ then we come to ‘White House’, another ‘Rose Side Road’ and ‘Washfield’. I think that this last ‘Rose Side Road’ was what we now call ‘Roadside Cottage’. Over the next few pages I will use the Tithe map and apportionment and the various census data to try and provide information of who was living in the various ‘Roadside Complex’ houses over the decades. Before going into the detail of each of the identified properties I thought it appropriate to list the households that appeared on the different census records from 1841. Some of these names will appear in the relevant farms, houses and cottages. On the 1841 census a total of 5 properties appeared Elizabeth Child a farmer at ‘Rose Side’; Isaac and Sarah Hughes agricultural labourers were at the next ‘Rose Side’ whilst in the third ‘Rose Side’ were farmers James and Elizabeth Lewis; In ‘Roseside’ was farmer Sarah Boston and in the final 1841 record were agricultural labourers James and Mary James. Moving on a decade to 1851 we have at ‘Lower Rose Side’ Elizabeth Child, at ‘Roseside Road’ was 87 year old Mary Griffiths a shoemaker’s widow now a pauper and in ‘Rose Side Road’ was a couple in their 70s George and Elizabeth James who had been agricultural labourers and now paupers; in ‘Upper Rose Side’ was James and Elizabeth Lewis a cooper and farmer and in the final property was John and Hester Williams agricultural labourers in ‘Rose Side Road’. We now move to 1861 when all four entries are listed as ‘Roseside’. First is Elizabeth Child; Benjamin and Ann James retired





**CENSUS**  
ENGLAND AND WALES.  
1881

**HOUSEHOLD**

This form is to be filled up by the Head of Household.

Name of Head of Household *Mr Rees*

Name of Head of Household *Road Side*

Name of Head of Household *Marshall*

**NOTES**

**CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1881**

Household	Name of Head of Household	Name of Head of Household	Name of Head of Household	Name of Head of Household	Name of Head of Household	Name of Head of Household	Name of Head of Household	Name of Head of Household	Name of Head of Household
1	Mr Rees	Road Side	Marshall						
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									

*It is easy to appreciate why confusion over house names occur. This example of the 1911 Census return shows on the left the front of the return form, the address given as 'Road Side' whereas on the part completed by the 'head of household' who signs the form below his signature on bottom right, James Rees has written 'Roeside' which today we call 'Roadside Farm'.*

farmers; Mary James a butter merchant and James Lewis a farmer. In 1871 we were back to five properties, again all called 'Roseside' with Susanna Evans; farming just 6 acres was Mary James; William and Lydia Lewis farming 75 acres; David and Sarah Phillips Baptist Minister and farmer and finally Henry and Rebeckah (*sic*) Williams farmer of 30 acres. When we come to 1881 only three properties are recorded 'Roseside' with Lydia Lewis a farmer; 'Upper R Side' David and Elinor Owens farming 36 acres and 'Roseside Cottage' home of James and Martha Rees a carpenter. On the last census of the 19th Century in

1891 we see 'Roadside1' Susan Evans a poultry dealer; 'Roadside 2' James and Ellen Freeman farmer and tailor; 'Roadside 3' James and Martha Rees a carpenter and at 'Rose Side' William and Caroline Rower farmer. At the start of the 20th Century 1901 'Roadside' was home to James Bower a blacksmith; 'Roadside' James and Ellen Freeman a tailor; 'Roadside Farm' James and Martha Rees. Carpenter and farmer and finally 'Roadside' with William and Caroline Rower farmer. The 1911 census has 'Upper Roeside' as the home of farmer John Morris aged 38 born at Llawhaden in 1873, his wife Mary Jane John from Martletwy where she was born in 1868 and their daughter Doris John born in Cardiff in 1903. Living at 'Little Roeside' was James and Priscilla Rees a brickyard labourer and family. At 'Roeside' was James and Martha Rees and their farming family.

### **Roadside Cottage - Lake Side Cottage**

I am logically going to start this part of our journey at 'Roadside Cottage' which has been re-named 'Lake Side Cottage' which also happens to be the last house on this road in the parish. The field where 'Roadside Cottage' was built was owned by Sir Richard Buckeley Philipps Philipps and in the occupation of James Lewis. He was leasing a number of fields that he farmed from his homestead of 'Roadside Farm'. The 'slang' was a pasture he was leasing and perhaps decided to build the cottage on the site.

Now this is where it gets complicated as on the census of 1841 three families were living in properties all named 'Rose Side', including James and Elizabeth Lewis. More about them at 'Roadside Farm'. We do know that the cottage in its current form had not as yet been built. By the time we get to 1851, through deduction 'Rose Side Road' was what we now call 'Roadside Cottage'. It seems to be in the correct place, if so it was the home of John Williams aged 27 born c. 1824 and employed as an agricultural labourer. His wife was Hester aged 26 and children Martha 5, Benjamin 3 and 1 year old Mary. 'Roadside Cottage' as it appeared on the 1881 census shows it was the home of James Rees born c.

1842 a 39 year old carpenter and his large family. They had come here from 'Jack's Hill' where they had been living in c. 1870. They were Martha 38 his wife, son Thomas 17, six daughters Sarah 15, Elizabeth 14, Alice 12, Mary 10, Emily 8, and Elizabeth 9 weeks and sons John 7, James Rees Jr. aged 5 and William 3. The Rees family moved from the cottage to 'Roadside Farm' by the time of the next census. When we reach 1891 'Roadside' is listed three times and then we have 'Rose Side' in more or less the correct place for it to be 'Roadside Cottage'. It was the home of William Rower 34 a farmer, his wife Caroline 32 and sons Millie John Rower 2 and 10 month old Thomas Mark Rower. Two servants lived with them and Lydia Lewis aged 82 'living on her own means'.

In 1901 the census for the first time actually has recorded 'Roadside Cottage' with James Scourfield 52 and his daughter Elizabeth 13 living at the cottage. James was employed as a general labourer. The next confirmed entry for 'Roadside Cottage' was on the Electoral Roll of 1949, living there were Thomas and Agnes Harts. The census of 1911 once again lists James and Martha Rees living at 'Roeside' with Emily Rees 38, John Rees 36 and Eliza Rees 30. The census of 1911 also listed the number of rooms available, in this case eight suggesting one of the larger properties.

Possibly we will have more luck identifying properties and families when we visit the 'Roadside Farm' and 'Rose Side'. These properties are a few hundred metres to the east of 'Roadside Cottage' off the main road and along a lane to a complex of buildings. I mentioned previously that 'Upper Rose Side', 'Lower Rose Side', 'Roseside Road', 'Rose Side Road', 'White House', 'Rose Side Road' and 'Washfield' were recorded on the census. Both 'Washfield' and 'White House' are easily identified but as for the others we have to rely on 'family' connections. The 1st Edition OS map c.1887 identifies 'Roadside Farm', 'Roadside' and 'Roseside House' now called 'Roeside House' all forming a small complex of buildings in the same location. The cottage 'Road side Cottage' (*sic*) was also clearly identified just off the main road. Whereas the

2nd Edition OS map c.1913 identifies 'Roadside Farm' and 'Rose Side' in the complex and 'Roadside Cottage' off the road. The house 'Roadside' was obviously present on the map but not named. Within the group of building surrounding 'Roadside Farm' was a cottage named 'Roadside Cottage' which today has been re-named 'Tanglewood Cottage'

### **Roadside Farm**

Our journey is now taking us from the main road north on a lane that went alongside the properties 'Lower Road Side' now 'Roeside House' past 'Roadside Cottage' now 'Tanglewood Cottage' and 'Upper Road Side' now 'Roadside Farm' to merge with the 'Molleston Cross' track.

We will start at 'Roadside Farm' and move south to the main road. We have already established that 'Roadside' has existed in some form since the 1600s. A look at the Tithe Map c.1840, as already mentioned shows us that Sir Richard Buckeley Philipps Philipps was one of the landowners with land and property in the area. Sir Richard did own field 325 the homestead 'Roadside Farm' and James Lewis was his tenant. When we look at the census of 1841 James Lewis aged 45 born c. 1796 at Clarboston was described as a farmer, farming according to the census enumerator 'Rose Side' but we can be fairly sure that this was in fact 'Roadside Farm'. He was farming here with his wife Elizabeth aged about 45. Living with them were George Bowen a cooper aged 20 and Anne Price 20 a servant. When we come to the census of 1851 more information is revealed about James Lewis who as well as farming 30 acres of 'Upper Rose Side' or as we know it 'Roadside Farm' was also a cooper. It is most likely that George Bowen was learning the trade from a 'Master Cooper'.

Elizabeth Lewis was working the farm with James and one servant Jane John 21. Sadly, James now aged about 63 was a widower by 1871 but continued to farm, 36 acres of 'Roseside'. He was helped by two servants Margaret Williams 30 and Thomas Bowen 15. The census of 1891 lists 'Roadside 3' as the home of carpenter James and Martha Rees and family who we just read about in



It is not often we are fortunate enough to trace a family so far away and obtain photographs. During the COVID 19 Pandemic 'lockdown' in 2020 I wrote a daily 'Local History of Templeton' on a Social Media site. It was read by Doris Kennedy in Canada who contacted me with details of her relatives who had emigrated there in 1928. The photograph on the left shows the family about to embark on a journey that would change their lives forever. On the right the photograph is of Wilfred and his brother Ivor. Courtesy of Doris Kennedy, New Brunswick, Canada.

'Roadside Cottage'. Their eldest son John was working with his father as an apprentice carpenter. The only time we see 'Roadside Farm' in the census under that name is 1901 when James Rees was a "carpenter and farmer" living there with his family. Several of the family were still with them Emily 28, sons John 26 who was now a master carpenter and William 23 a teamster and agricultural worker and daughters Lizzie 20 and Hannah 18. The census of 1911 has a clear hand written entry for 'Little Roeside', now this could be 'Roadside Cottage' which we know of today a 'Tanglewood Cottage'. It was home to James Rees Jr. aged 34, who married in 1898 Priscilla Beynon aged 32 from Reylands, Kilgetty and children Millicent 11, Sidney 10, Wilfred 8, Ivor 6, Reginald 4 and Bentley 2. Millicent and Sydney were both born at the Mollleston Chapel House, a short distance from 'Roadside Cottage'. James Rees was both farming and employed in the local brickworks as a labourer. Wilfred was born in 1903 in the village of Abergwynfi, West Glamorgan. In the early 1900's there was work to be had in the mining valley of Neath with the open pit coalmines and an iron industry, it is most likely that James spent

just a few years working in the mining town. James Jr. was to return to 'Roseside' in 1905 when Ivor was born. The remaining children were all born in Templeton including the twins Gwen and Molly. On their birth certificate it stated the twins were born in the hamlet of Cold Blow. The Rees family along with several other Templeton families made the decision to emigrate and they chose to make a new life in Canada arriving in Montreal, Quebec, Canada on 25th May 1928. They were Wyn, Leslie, Gwen, Pricilla, Bently, James, Molly and Eileen. The three boys were not on the boat as they had travelled earlier and went to the west of Canada. Reginald went to the woods in British Columbia and never married. He returned to Woodstock, New Brunswick where the majority of the other siblings were living, after 30 years, in the woods in 1976. He died in 1977. Ivor went to Manitoba, returned to Woodstock, New Brunswick, he married and had 3 boys but returned to Red Deer, Alberta and died there. Wilfred was in Alberta and remained there. James Rees Jr. died on 11th November 1947 and his wife Priscilla died 5th April 1954 both in New Brunswick, Canada.

### **Roeside House**

As I have already indicated Molleston is not short of historic properties and the next one to look at is 'Rose Side' mentioned as early as 1678 and shown on the 1786 Land Tax Assessment with John Boston as both proprietor and occupier. The Land Tax Assessment of 1801 shows John Boston as the proprietor of "Hugh Land" with a tenant Griffith Phillips. We do know from records that Boston was still living at 'Rose Side in 1810. The Bishop's Transcript of 1815 uses the names 'Rhose-side' and on the Picton map of 1773 it is marked as 'Rhos Side', the property has had many an alias 'Rowside, Rosman, Rosemain, Roeside and Roadside' in 1792. The census of 1841 has Sarah Boston aged about 50 born c. 1791, most likely the widow of John Boston as the occupier of 'Roseside'. Living with her was William Lewis 30 and Lydia Lewis both born c. 1811 and 1 year old Benjamin Lewis. William

Lewis had his employment listed as a farmer. On the same census page and in fact first on the page was 'Roseside' the home of farmer Elizabeth Child. Was Lydia related to the Bostons or was there a connection to the Childs? It is almost impossible to say. Who were the Child family? Their name was to occur frequently in various documents relating to sales and purchases in the Templeton area. The Child family owned the small estate of Begelly from early eighteenth century until 1919 when it was sold off in parcels. The Child name occurs in late medieval Tenby and in fifteenth century Begelly documentation. John Child was High Sheriff in 1725. The family prospered with the development of the anthracite coal industry.

John Child, then head of the family, died in 1734 leaving as orphans his four young children and their guardian was to take the children to Tenby. John's son, James Child, took control of the estate around 1748. His grandson James Mark Child was to step back from investing in the local Begelly mines and turned to national politics instead. He stood for Parliament in 1841 and threatened to stand a second time in 1847. But by 1820 'Roseside' had changed hands, it was now in the ownership of Col. William Knox. In 1831 the Land Tax Assessment has the proprietor of 'Roside' as Child and Hitchings with the occupier listed as Thomas Ormond. Mrs Elizabeth Child was originally from Richmond, Surrey where she was born in 1786 and had married James Child esquire of Begelly House. When we look at the census of 1841 Elizabeth Child about 55 is shown as the occupier of 'Rose Side' and described as a 'gentlewoman farmer'. She was at the farm with her children Lewis 18, Elizabeth 17, Thomas 15 and Emma 11. The farm of about 76 acres in the 1850s, was referred to as 'Lower Road Side'. Elizabeth was farming the land with her daughter Emma. Still farming in c. 1860 Elizabeth was helped by her son-in-law William Lewis 54 his spouse Lydia about 50 and their son William Lewis 10 and Elizabeth's grandson Richard Brown 10 and servant Martha Brown 15. It appears from the census of 1871 that William and Lydia Lewis had taken over the farm listed as 'Roadside' but most likely to have been

'Roseside'. The census tells us William was born at 'Blackheath', a demolished farm on Templeton Airfield and Lydia was born in Neath. Helping them on the farm were three servants Mary Warlow 19, Dinah Vaughan 18 and John Lewis 15 from Templeton.

The Electoral Roll of 1900 shows two entries for 'Rose side' occupied by James Scourfield and John Symmonds and 'Road side' was the home of James Rees who was still there in 1910. Other Electoral Rolls shows James Scourfield living at 'Roseside' in 1899, 1910 and 'Little Roadside' in 1925 and 1929. In 1925 John and Mary Rees were living at 'Little Roadside' and Emily Scourfield was at 'Roadside' and Thomas Scourfield at 'Roeside'. The family later emigrated to Canada. The England Wales Register of 1949 shows 'Roadside Cottage' occupied by Mary Merriman a retired farmer born in 1863; 'Lower Roadside' was occupied by dairy farmer George John born 1891, Irene John born 1898 and son John John born 1925; whereas 'Little Roeside' was the home of John Rees born 1874 a carpenter and dairy farmer his wife Mary Rees born 1880 and children Martha born 1905 and Arthur born 1914 a carpenter; 'Upper Roadside' was another dairy farm with Thomas Brown born 1899 farming it with his wife Mary Brown born 1895 and William Brown born 1937. Several names are missing from all of these households due to "the record is officially closed" and access to the information is withheld.

## **MOUNTON**

Mounton is an ancient landscape which you reach via the Old Red Sandstone lane which leads from 'Mounton Farm' to Canaston Wood. You get to the brow of a hill and there below is stretched one of the most beautiful panoramic views the eye could wish to see.

Away to the east lies the old Market town of Narberth, set symbolically on a hill, its ancient castle reminding us of the days when it was the centre of the great mediaeval lordship of Narberth. To the north lies the great green mass of Canaston Wood sloping away to the silver waters of the Cleddau and far





*Copy of the original Tithe Map for Mownton circa 1840. The parish comprised of just 330 acres, the boundary with South Narberth is on the east side of the map. These numbers refer to field numbers listed in the accompanying tithe apportionments. Courtesy of Pembrokeshire Records Office.*

beyond, black against the sky, are the Preseli Hills. To the west lies the castle of Llawhaden, towering above the Cleddau; and to complete the panorama we catch a glimpse of the great demesne land of Slebech amidst which stands the decaying Church of the first Baron de Rutzen. On the skyline is also seen Oakwood Park and the Blue Stone Resort bringing this ancient landscape into the 21st century.

Mounton has over the centuries, had many names. I am describing some of them here as it might help you appreciate the importance of this small hamlet. In 1326 it was recorded as 'Monketon' and its alias was 'Kilmayn' as written in the Black Book of St. David's, Monkton in 1543, Munkton thought to mean 'by the Wood' in 1602; Mouncton 1599, Mounckton 1659, Monckton, the name appeared as 'Mounton' in Public Records of 1609 and on the Land Tax Assessment of 1793, Munckestowne was recorded in 1598. A reference on the Land Tax Assessments of 1793 made specific entries for 'Upper and Lower Mounton'. Mounton or 'Monks Farm' belonged to the Hospitium of St. Mary, Llawhaden. The lost Welsh name Cilmaen (Kilmayn) is from cil 'nook' and maen 'tone' or main 'thin, narrow', alternatively it could mean 'Corner Stone'? Some of the earliest inhabitants of Wales are thought to have settled in this region of South Pembrokeshire. Running through South Wales is a ridge of old red sandstone, and this ridge appears as part of what is known generally as Narberth mountain or locally 'the Mountain'.

Early in the 20th century, there were found in this area many prehistoric hearths which were evidently used by the earliest settlers of this region; some authorities put the date of these hearths as being Neolithic, others say that the methods of stone laying, for which these hearths were evidently meant survived late into the bronze and late Celtic ages. In January 1946 there was found at High Toch a stone axe head, evidence of the habitation of the immediate area during these prehistoric times.

Geographically and economically Mounton was ideal for settlement, the area is some 400 feet (122 meters) above sea level, well drained, there are ample water

*A Rate made on the Parish of Mownton towards  
the Land Tax for the year 1786.*

<i>Landlords</i>	<i>Tenants</i>	<i>Description &amp; Price</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>d</i>
<i>M. Watk...</i>	<i>William Allen</i>	<i>for Mownton</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>M. Lloyd</i>	<i>Wm. Callan</i>	<i>for the Libe Land</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>John Grier</i>	<i>Naach Allen</i>	<i>in New house</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>John Callan</i>	<i>John Callan</i>	<i>for Mownton</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>M. William</i>	<i>Geo. John</i>	<i>for Mownton</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>M. William</i>	<i>Lewis Morgan</i>	<i>Mownton</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>10</i>
	<i>Geo. John</i>	<i>Collector</i>			
	<i>Geo. John</i>	<i>Collector</i>			

*Wm. Jones*  
*Parry*  
*W. Davies*

*Copy of Land Tax Assessment for Mownton for the year 1786 only six entries were made. With kind permission of the Pembrokeshire Records Office*

supplies and it was an area of strategic importance being it overlooked the north of the county and the Estuary of the eastern Cleddau.

That the native Welsh occupied the area is certain; about a quarter of a mile to the east of the decaying Mownton church lies the camp called ‘scary back’. The name is suggestive of the Scandinavian ‘sker’ so it may have had a Scandinavian connection, or maybe even a Scandinavian origin. The enclosure is described as a ‘complex defended enclosure’ set on a gentle north facing slope. The enclosure or camp is banked with a stone and earth wall some 8 to 12 feet high, and is built roughly in a horseshoe formation. It is some 360 feet long with a breadth of 180 feet. The camp shares its boundary with the hamlet of Mollleston. The area of the camp suggest that its direction was purposeful, and that it was obviously the centre of the native Celtic life.

It is a fact that Mounton Church was situated near the British camp or ‘scary back’ and consequently near the traversed tracks through Canaston Woods, and secondly that nearby are situated a number of springs of water. It is known that springs played a prominent part in the religious life of the Celtic people, and it is obvious that an area rich in springs would be selected for the site of a Christian building.



*Oblique aerial photograph of Molleston Back Hillfort Enclosure, viewed from the south-east. Taken on 11 January 2006 by Toby Driver. (With permission of RCAHM © Copyright Reserved)*

There is no doubt that the first church at Mounton was a Celtic type such as was erected in many parts of Wales, and in other remote Celtic areas such as Cornwall.

Mounton was a Chapelry in its own right until the 1830s but due to depopulation was absorbed into Narberth South. In 1833<sup>38</sup> it had a population of just 41, covering 330 acres. Mounton Chapelry consisted of a large portion of woodland, ‘Canaston wood’ together with some good arable and pasture land, which was enclosed and cultivated. It was part of the rectory of

Narberth with its own medieval chapel, dedicated to St. Michael; it became a chapel of ease and was in use and good repair until 1948.

The medieval chapel comprised of a nave with tall west bellcote. The chancel was of a different build, with a trefoiled lancet to the south. In the 15th century a west porch was added with a reset chamfered doorway with broach stops. The narrow north-west projection originally housed a gallery stair. Inside were two shallow niches each side of the altar and a piscina with a trefoiled head. The 19th century saw restorations in the nave, including square mullioned windows and a kingpost roof, which incorporated a piece of its predecessor, dated 1743. Sadly the building is now derelict.



*Mounton Church photographed in 1962 in the wonderful setting of 'Mounton Chapel Meadow' with the Preseli Hills in the distant landscape. Photograph by the late Lance Cole.*

One of the great advantages of local history is the opportunity it provides to research what some might think of as trivia, but delve a little deeper and who knows what lies beneath. This is what happened when researching the ruins of Mounton Church - an article had been written by Rev. Lawrence Llewellyn

*In  
memory of  
Anne Callen wife of  
William Callen of  
Merrixton Gent. and last  
surviving daughter of  
John Poyer of Grove Esq.  
She departed this life the 13 January 1808  
aged 79 years*

*In  
memory of  
Louisa Poyer. wife  
of William Oliver  
who departed this life  
June 10 Anno 1792.  
aged 54.  
Affliction sore, long time I bore  
physicians was in vain  
till death gave ease,  
with God did pleas  
to ease me off of my pain.*

*To come to more recent times this church has had a chequered history. In the 18th century it was in a ruinous state yet was restored by the initiative and generosity of the Poyer and Callan families, whose mortal remains are buried within its walls. The two floor memorials at the east end of the church are shown here.*

Davies in the early 1990s. He said “The view that confronts the visitor to Narberth as he looks towards the south is the great expanse of land known as Narberth Mountain; though hardly a mountain in the usual sense of the term it is a place of rural beauty especially in the summer.

Canaston forest, open fields, criss-crossed by bridleways and an ancient road some of these dating back to Roman times. This then links onto the great Roman road (now on the A40) which ran from Londinium (London) to Menevia (Saint David’s). And of course we know the Roman Road from ‘Captain’s Style’, through Canaston Woods to Blackpool Mill once joined the

'Great Roman Road'. The Tithe map of Narberth also tells us of one field called 'Cromwell's field' which reminds us of the warring factions of King and Parliament'.

Lawrence Llewellyn Davies went on to say "*the most ancient and historic place in this area is Mounton Church - what is left of the slated roof can still be seen shining in the sunlight after a shower of rain*". Sadly that is not the case today, this wonderful ancient church is now no more than a ruin, the roof has almost fallen in, yet there is still something that draws you to investigate this most ancient building.

The beginnings of this Christian holy place go back to the pre-Christian times. In 1943, Lawrence Llewellyn Davies was chaplain at RAF Templeton he asked the pilot of a Beaufort torpedo bomber to fly him over the site; he noted 'Chapel Meadow', the field in which Mounton church stands was almost a complete circle - undoubtedly the site of a large Celtic Circle of the type at 'Gors Fawr' in the Preseli hills. Chapel Meadow has been the subject of many entries in documents dating back to at least the 1600s and probably much earlier. The 'meadow' is field number 71 on the Tithe Map of Mounton Chapelry in the ownership of Charles Poyer Callen and occupied by John Harries in circa 1840.

Lawrence noted that a large Cromlech capstone was built into the south side of the church. The first Christian Celts built their earliest simple churches on pagan sites - symbolic of the fact that the darkness of paganism was now replaced by the light of Christianity.

Again after World War I it fell into disuse, became the target of vandals, and cattle were allowed to shelter within its walls. Some of the memorial stones inside the church were dislodged and smashed.

In the summer of 1940 the church was completely restored. The opening service being conducted by the then Bishop of Saint David's, Dr David Prosser, later Archbishop of Wales. Unfortunately, it was once again allowed to fall into disuse and disrepair and in 1974 arrangements were made to transfer the stained-glass window to Saint Martin's Church, Haverfordwest where it can

still be seen today in the south east end of the chancel. Later the Royal Marines Memorial chair and altar frontal were transferred to Robeston Wathan Church, the church plate was taken to Narberth Parish Church, while the memorial to Sergeant Ernest Hughes a Celtic Cross was transferred to Slebech churchyard, through the initiative of Archdeacon *Emeritus* Ivor Philips MC, who buried Sergeant Hughes in Italy. Ernest Hughes was the son of John and Sarah Hughes (nee Killa), of Templeton. He joined the Pembroke Yeomanry and was killed in action in Italy on 22nd January 1944. Today, the churchyard at Slebech just off the main A40 is overgrown and the church in a perilous state. Access to the church and churchyard is no longer permitted.

In the early 1980s a so-called 'service of the deconsecration' was held on the site of Mounton Chapel. Lawrence Llewellyn Davies thinks that it was probably not realised at the time that burials had taken place within the church. It was pointed out by the late Archbishop Charles Green DD of Wales himself a scholar in Canon Law (church law) that an act of consecration is permanent. What this really meant was that burials were within Mounton church and that the act of deconsecration was "ill-advised to say the least". He went on to say "Who would imagine for a moment, a consecrated churchyard the last resting place of peoples loved ones could be deconsecrated and used for secular purposes?"

The descendants of the Poyers and the Callans have rendered great service to the church and state - Bishop Lewis of Llandaff, Sir Wilfrid Poyer Lewis was a distinguished judge of the High Court while the late Miss H. M. P. Lewis of 'Woodfield' Narberth was associated with many good causes.

Lawrence finished the article by saying "So, today (circa 1990), Mounton church remains stark and empty yet the intangible spirit of this ancient holy place will live on and who knows perhaps be restored to a decent order in the future." Well as we all know that is not the case, Mounton church is now a ruin, and fenced off and looking very sad and will probably be no more than a distant memory before very long.



This small ancient hamlet that developed slowly around the ‘Chapel of St. Michael’ on the edge of the forest has only ever comprised of a handful of properties. A good place to start our exploration of the families who have made their homes and often their livings at Mounon is with the census of 1841.

### **Mounon Properties listed on the 1841 Census**

<b>PROPERTY NAME</b>	<b>OCCUPIER</b>	<b>PROPERTY NAME</b>	<b>OCCUPIER</b>
Upper Mounon 10	John Harries	Red Pits 34	Stephen Griffiths
Lower Mounon 58	John Morris	Mounon Cottage	John Richards
Mounon Hill	Joseph John	Mountain	Hannah Watkins
Folly possibly 44	Mary Merriman	Mountain Cottage	James Vaughan
Folly Cottage pos. 45	Elizabeth Mathias		

The numbers refer to the Tithe Field Numbers shown on the Tithe Map.

Recording the Census of 1841 for Mounon would have presented very few challenges for the person creating the record, the ‘Enumerator’, as shown in the table above. He only had 9 houses to visit, he started his journey at the north end of the parish. He first visited ‘Upper Mounon’, crossed the track diagonally and arrived at ‘Lower Mounon’. Two easily identified farms at the time still remain almost 200 years later. The Enumerator carried on along the track heading south passing Mounon Quarry and lime kiln, went across the road, now the A4115, walked east for a short distance and picked-up the track on the right that led to ‘Mounon Hill’ farm and ‘Folly’ shown on the OS map as ‘The Smithy’ and ‘Folly Cottage’. Carrying on along the track he would have arrived at ‘Red Pits’, possibly he would have had to re-trace his steps back to the road to call at the last three households at ‘Mounon Cottage’, ‘Mountain’ and ‘Mountain Cottage’. I am not able to identify these specific cottages. There were 14 buildings shown on the Tithe map so I have to assume some of the buildings were houses. The total population of Mounon parish in 1841 was 36 this dropped to 33 with only 6 properties just 10 years later and by the turn of the 19th century just 4 occupied houses remained with 17 residents. The Tithe map also showed the footpaths and tracks that linked the properties

together. Going west from Molleston Cross the track led to 'Mounon Chapel' and continued to a crossroads at 'Canaston Wood'. The road ran north south to 'Newhouse Farm' at Newton North and the 'Cross Hands' Public House and south to 'Canaston Gate' and 'Canaston Bridge'.

We have identified 'Upper Mounon', 'Lower Mouton' and 'Red Pits' from the Tithe map and the OS 6" 1888 map. Where the confusion arises is the names 'Upper Mounon' was 'Mounon' field number 10, 'Lower Mounon' was 'Mounon Farm' field number 58, 'Red Pits' was designated field number 34. The Tithe maps show four buildings in field 10 and three buildings in field 58 of which one could well have been a separate dwelling. In the area of 'Mounon Hill', similar confusion occurred. Buildings are indicated in fields 18, 17 and 53 and two buildings on fields 44 and 45 suggesting that the buildings on the various fields were dwellings but it is almost impossible to identify who lived in what property.

### **Upper Mounon**

Medieval farms were often grouped together and the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 show 'Mounon' originally consisted of the two farmsteads of 'Mounon' now known as 'Lower Mounon' and 'Upper Mounon'. An adjacent field shown on the tithe map as 'field number 59' is described as 'burgage', a term with Medieval origins often referring to plots within nucleated settlements. The 1st edition map also marks several cottages to the south of the farmstead, presumably drawn to the area by late post Medieval quarrying activity. The cottages appear to have been abandoned along with the quarry by the early 20 century.

The current boundaries and field system we see around the 'Upper and Lower Mounon' farmsteads were all in place by the time of the Ordnance Survey of Mounon in 1887, although smaller fields in the southern half of the holding have been amalgamated into larger fields during the 20th century. Medieval

settlement is also recorded in this area, possibly in the area of the current

Field No.	Field Name	Land Type	Acreage
1	Upper Mouton	Arable	99.5
2	Lower Mouton	Arable	10.5
3	...	...	...
4	...	...	...
5	...	...	...
6	...	...	...
7	...	...	...
8	...	...	...
9	...	...	...
10	Upper Mouton	Arable	99.5
11	...	...	...
12	...	...	...
13	...	...	...
14	...	...	...
15	...	...	...
16	...	...	...
17	...	...	...
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100	...	...	...

*Extract of Tithe apportionment dated 1843 showing the landowner as Peter Watts and the tenant as John Harries. The apportionment indicates the field name, land type and acreage. Upper Mouton was a little over 99 acres (about 40 hectares).*

‘Mouton’ farmstead.

The first entry on the census for the parish and chapelry of Mouton was ‘Upper Mouton’, the home of farmer’s John and Mary Harries and their children Anne 15, William 14, Elizabeth 10 and one month old John. They had been farming at ‘Mouton’ in the early 1800s. The landowner was Peter Watts, the Tithe field number 10 was described as ‘homestead’. The farm was a little under 100 acres. How long the family had already been there is not known. We read earlier that ‘Upper Mouton’ was mentioned on a Land Tax Assessment of 1793 so from that we can confirm the presence of a building at some date before 1793. In 1851 the farm was 89 acres and had become the home of Daniel Ormond age about 61, his wife Martha who was about 14 years older and Martha’s daughter Jane Jenkins 33. Daniel came from Llawhaden and Martha from Trevane. They employed three farm servants

William Phillips 20, Elizabeth Moens 18 and Joseph Johns 15 who all lived at the farmhouse and one farm labourer.

Daniel and Martha were still farming there in 1861. Their niece Maria Morris 18 worked there as a dairy maid she was from Wiston. They employed two servants Harriet Mathias 21 worked as a kitchen maid and John Davies 18 worked as a carter. The farm had increased in size by the 1870s and was now about 100 acres being farmed by Evan Evans born around 1812 and his wife Catherine born 1809 and their sons James 22, Henry 20 and daughters Mary 14 and Martha 12. By the 1880s the farm had lost some 25 acres but was still being farmed by Evan and Catherine helped by a general servant Ann Thomas 18. Evan Evans had become a widower by 1891 and was living at 'Upper Mounon Farm' with his son James 40 and daughter in law Esther Evans 40 and their 9 children, John 18, Edith 17, Martha 13, William 11, Margaret 9, Evan James Evans 6, Elizabeth 4 and Hugh aged 1. All the children, Evan's grandchildren were born in Molleston most probably at the farm. Two of their children, William and Martha had left home by the start of the 1900s, the rest of the family continued to manage 'Upper Mouton' and were still farming there in 1911, Mary Catherine 28 was a dairy worker as was her sister Elizabeth 23 and Hugh was a farm worker. Referred to as 'Mouton West Farm' on the Electoral Roll of 1925; John, Gwendoline and Hugh Evans appear to be running the farm. By 1929 Hugh had left the farm and we see Thomas Evans and William Hughes have joined the family farm, they remained at the farmstead until at least 1935. In 1955 a new family were occupying the farm Neville Jones, Thomas Jones and Elizabeth Jones. The 1970s saw Thomas and Christine Phillips at the farm, his twin brother William Phillips eventually took over the farm which continues to be farmed by the same family to this day.

### **Lower Mounon**

Just across the track from 'Upper Mounon Farm' is 'Lower Mounon Farm' also known as 'Mounon', 'Mounon Farm' and 'Mounon Farm East'. It has a

long history possibly dating back as far as 1326 when 'Monks Farm' existed which was part of the Hospitium of St. Marys, Llawhaden. We cannot really isolate this farm from 'Upper Mounon' as probably at that time they were one of the same settlements. We know that in 1563 there were only 5 households living at Mounon and the Hearth Tax Assessment of 1670 shows 3 of those households paid Hearth Taxes. Were 'Upper and Lower Mounon' two of those households? We do not know for sure but it would appear quite likely. The farmstead we see today dates back to at least 1793 as it was listed on the Land Tax Assessment and could well have been built on the footprint of a much earlier homestead. It was possibly built with stone extracted from Mounon Quarry, a short distance down the track from both 'Upper and Lower Mounon'. There was a quarry even closer to the farms in the late 1700s.

The Tithe Map indicates one large building, the homestead itself and two smaller buildings in field number 58. The farm comprised of around 192 acres, which included a cottage on field number 53 alongside the main road. The farm was in the ownership of The Bishop of St. David's and William Willes and was in the tenancy of John Lewis. We are already aware of the land ownership connection with the Bishop of St. David's but who was William Willes of Astrop House, Northamptonshire? We know from records he was negotiating a long lease of 'The Norton', Tenby in 1839, possibly as a 'summer retreat'. In 1868 Willes was working on an agreement between Sir Richard Buckeley Philipps Philipps of Picton Castle for a "lease of sand and clay under lands in the Parish of Narberth South". And in 1882 Willes widow Sophia Willes of 'The Manor House, Kings Sutton, Northamptonshire' was involved with a "conveyance of fields in Begelly". It appears most likely that in the early 1800s he either leased or purchased land in the Mounon area from the 'Picton Castle' estate.

The census of 1841 shows the farm being worked by Morris John 38 and William John 15. So what is going on here, as John Lewis was not listed on the census but is listed on the Electoral Roll of 1842 as living at 'Lower Mounon'.

If we look at the census of 1851 Morris John has gone and John and Ann Lewis both born around 1800 are farming 180 acres with their four children Anne 23, John 15, Joseph 14 and Ada 8. They employed four farm servants who lived at the farm with the family and 2 agricultural labourers. They were still farming 'Mounton' in the 1860s employing four men and two boys as well as four farm servants, John Morgan was a ploughman, Lydia Lloyd worked as a cook and dairy maid, Eliza John was a kitchen maid and John Thomas 14 was a shepherd. John Lewis junior was employed by his father to work on the farm as was his other son Joseph and daughter Ada. John Lewis junior by 1871 had taken over from his father and was farming around 150 acres. He was helped by four servants a 50 year old dairy maid Elizabeth Evans, Ann Evans 30, William Rees 17 and David Evans 18 all general servants. John was to have a reasonably short period as farmer of 'Mounton' as by 1891 William Hughes aged 50 from St. Issells had taken on the tenancy. He employed Sarah Reed as a dairy maid, John Davies 18 was a ploughman and John Thomas 15 was a general farm servant from Begelly. A woman farmer from Martletwy, Anne Morris aged 55 had taken on the tenancy for the start of the 1900s. She was assisted by her children Elizabeth 25, John 24, Rebecca 22, George 20 and Owen 16. All the children were born in Martletwy between 1876 and 1885. They continued to farm 'Mounton' throughout the 1920s and beyond. William and Annie Phillips had taken on the tenancy by 1932, in 1953 they were to purchase the farm from Baron Chatfield, described on the 'conveyance' documents as 'Admiral of the Fleet The Right Honourable A. E. M. 1st Baron Chatfield'. Quite how an Admiral of the Fleet ended up owning a farm in Pembrokeshire is not known as Alfred Ernle Montacute Chatfield the son of an Admiral was born at Portsea Island, Hampshire in 1873. Records show that part of Chatfield's education was at St. Andrews School, Tenby, this possible has the Pembrokeshire connection. He married Lilian St John Matthews in Hanover, Jamaica and had three children. Baron Chatfield, GCB, OM, KCMG, CVO, PC, DL was a highly decorated Royal Navy officer. We have no idea of

what really brought him to Pembrokeshire other than his brief time in Tenby and even less of an understanding as to how he ended up owning a property in the remote hamlet of Mounton. It would I think be remiss not to make mention of this important local landowner. During the First World War he was present as Sir David Beatty's Flag-Captain at the Battle of Heligoland Bight in August 1914, at the Battle of Dogger Bank in January 1915 and at the Battle of Jutland in May 1916. After the war he became Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic Fleet and then Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Fleet before serving as First Sea Lord in the mid-1930s. He subsequently served as Minister for Coordination of Defence in the early years of the Second World War. He died in Farnham Buckinghamshire in 1967.

'Upper and Lower Mounton' farms are now merged, continuing in the ownership of the Phillips family. William and Annie Phillips passed on the farms to their twin sons William and Thomas who were born just 12 days before moving into 'Lower Mounton' in 1932. Today the farm is around 240 acres.

### **Mounton Limestone Quarry**

South along the track to 'Upper and Lower Mounton' is a large 19th century limestone quarry. It is thought the quarry was opened in an area of basal grit quartzite and millstone grit and probably used to extract local building material. The quarry is now filled with water and surrounded by scrub, it lies on the eastern side of the trackway to Mounton farmsteads. On the south side of the quarry lies a large early 19th century limekiln. On the western side of the trackway lies the tree and scrub covered spoil heaps from the quarry.

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 marks at least three small cottages in the area, possibly housing quarry workers. The cottages were still shown on the 2nd edition OS 1907 map but had probably been abandoned by this time. The main period of quarrying activity would appear to be during the 19th century although limestone from this area is likely to have been used



*This posed photograph shows family and friends wearing their 'Sunday' best 'Threshing at Cotts' in circa 1915. The families in the photograph had farms at Lower Mounton, Yerbeston and Martletwy.*



*Photograph c. 1920 of a horse-drawn hay binder making sheaves in a field at 'Lower Mounton Farm', clearly showing the horse-pole from the binder to the horse collars.*



during iron smelting work in nearby Canaston Woods operating in the early to mid 17 century.

### **Folly or Smithy, Mountain Mounon and Mounon Hill**

Over the period since the census of 1841 through to 1911 it would appear that 'Folly', Mountain Mounon and Mounon Hill were the same place or at least occupied the same plot of land. This appears most likely as there were a number of buildings shown on the Tithe Map, suggesting separate dwellings. Although I cannot be absolutely sure of this, it is I hope you will see the most probable scenario. The 1st edition OS map confirms that field 44 was the 'Smithy' and was almost certainly known as 'Folly'. The Merriman family had lived in the Mounon hamlet for generations and Joseph Merriman, a blacksmith and his wife Ann lived at 'Folly'. They lived at 'Folly' alias 'Smithy' with their daughters Sarah 8 and Priscilla age 6 who was born at the house circa 1835. They moved sometime before 1841 to Tenby where Joseph took up his trade as blacksmith. In 1841 'Folly' was to be the home of Mary Merryman a widow born circa 1780 her son Charles 25 who was a blacksmith and her other son James 18 an apprentice blacksmith. With all of these references to 'blacksmiths' I think we can safely confirm 'Smithy' and 'Folly' as the same place. Mary's daughter also named Mary helped her mother run the 30 acre farm. It appears most likely that the second building, field 45 was 'Folly Cottage' the home of Elizabeth Mathias 23, John 4, Caroline 2 and 1 month old Charles. The home now referred to as 'Mountain Mounon' in the 1850s continued to be farmed by Mary Merryman and her daughter Mary 31. Her son James Merryman 28 now a qualified 'Blacksmith' had taken over from his brother, her grandson William Merryman 19 was now a 'Journeyman Blacksmith'.

No further entries appeared in the later census returns for 'Folly Cottage' or Elizabeth Mathias. What we do know was that Charles Mathias in 1851, now 10 years old was the grandson of Mary Merryman and living with the

Merryman family. (It is worth noting that the spelling of the surname varied between Merryman and Merriman.) The census of 1861 has James Merriman, his wife Ann and children Isaac 4, Mary Jane 2, his elderly mother Mary and nephew James Mathias all living at 'Moun-ton Mountain'. As if to keep the confusion going in 1871 we have yet another name for the Merriman family home 'Moun-ton Hill'. James and his family were all living there, his mother had died and they had three further children Joseph 7, Benjamin 5 and Charles 3. A decade later James and Ann are still farming about 30 acres. Son Joseph was an apprentice carpenter, the younger children were all in school including Mary Ann born 1872, Maria Jane born 1874 and their youngest Elizabeth born 1876. The children were all born at Moun-ton, as was their father James, their mother Ann was born around 1834 at Wiston. The family saw a few changes by the start of the 1890s, Benjamin 25 was now a butcher and living at the family home with both his parents and sisters Mary Ann and Maria Jane. An entry on the Electoral Register of 1894 shows the 'Place of Abode' of Isaac James as 'Mountain Hill Cottage' whilst James Merriman is listed as 'Mountain Hill'. The start of the 20th century saw James and Ann farming at 'Moun-ton Farm' with Benjamin running a butchery business from home with Margareta and Maria both 'at home'. Benjamin a bachelor aged 44 had inherited the farm around 1905, now 'Moun-ton Hill' and was running it with his sisters Mary Ann and Maria Jane. In 1925 'Moun-ton Hill Farm' was occupied by Benjamin and Ellen Mathias, I am not sure when they arrived or when they left. By 1955 James Roach was living at 'Moun-ton Hill', descendants of the Roach family continue to live there.

### **Red Pits**

This once small stone cottage was located south of the A4115 down a narrow track which in its day would have led to the 'Smithy' and a little further on 'Red Pits'. The cottage was adjacent to several small quarries. Both the cottage and the quarries have returned to nature. All that now remains of the cottage is a

small heap of stones once forming the walls of the home. The owner of the land and property in circa 1840 was the Bishop of St. David's and lessee William Willes. It was described on the Tithe map as 'garden' in field number 25 a pasture and furze. The tenant of the cottage was John Lewis, one of several properties and fields that he rented. It would seem most likely that in 1841 the cottage known as 'Red Pits' was the home of agricultural worker Stephen Griffiths born in 1794. He lived at the cottage with his wife Rachel aged 42 and three children Margaret 12, John 10 and Rachel 5. The Electoral Register of 1894 has Lewis Phillips living at 'Red Pits'. There is no mention of the cottage in 1851 but by 1861 Joseph and Mary Stephens were occupying the cottage with their six children Mary 12, Elizabeth 11, Joseph 6, Eliza 6, Martha 4 and Ann 3. Joseph came from Loveston where he was born in 1815 and was now employed as an agricultural labourer. His wife Mary also came from Loveston born there in 1824. Their first two children were born in Amroth, Joseph was born in Narberth and the other three children were all born at Mounton. A new family occupied 'Red Pits' by 1871 and was farming 30 acres. The farmer was William Nicholas aged 64 married to Maria 57 and their children Martha 17 and James 13. Living with the family were their grandchildren John Nicholas 10, Thomas Nicholas 7 and John Perkins aged 1. William and Maria were still at the cottage in the 1880s together with their grandson 11 year old John Nicholas. William was now around 72 years of age and employed as a labourer. Who was this John Nicholas who in 1881 was on the census as 10 years of age, the grandson, John Nicholas shown on the 1871 census was 10 years old. It would appear to be a different John Nicholas but John Perkins could well be the John Nicholas, he is not listed on the 1881 census under the name Perkins, his age would match as he would now be 11. Was this an error by the family, the enumerator or was it a change of name, probably we will never know. By 1891 the Nicholas family had gone and dairy farmer 58 year old widow Anne Lewis from New Moat one of the few Welsh speakers was living at the cottage with her son. According to the census the

son was named Lewis Phillips a 29 year old ploughman from Clarboston. Was this a clerical error, should he have been registered as Phillip Lewis? We were not going to find out as at the start of the 1900s 'Red Pits' was the home of Seth Davies a 45 year old coalminer from Begelly his wife was Phoebe 47 from Moat. Their daughters Sarah 20 and Lizzie 13 were born in Loveston and 5 year old Beatrice was born in Mounton. Seth had found work as a farm labourer by 1911 and was still living at the cottage with his wife and daughter Beatrice. Described as 'Red Pits Farm' on the electoral roll of 1925, still occupied by Seth and daughter Beatrice. There were no further entries for the cottage which slowly fell into decay.

That concludes the hamlet of Mounton, sadly cottages such as 'Mounton Cottage', 'Mountain' and 'Mountain Cottage' can no longer be found. They are now history but several more recent properties replace them such as 'Hillbro', 'Mounton Hill' that first appeared on the Electoral Roll of 1960 when it was the home of James and Elizabeth Roach. On the Electoral Roll for Mounton in 1899 was 'Highgate', that was actually in Martletwy and was home of the Tribes and in 1910 William Jermin was living at 'Cannaston' that was most probably in Robeston Wathen.

### **PETER'S FINGER**

Now we arrive at the tiny hamlet of Peter's Finger. It first appeared in Henllan Estate papers as 'St. Peter's finger' in 1745. The name was also shown on the 1786 Land Tax Assessment in the ownership of Louisa Oliver and the tenancy of Thomas Jermin. On the assessment of 1801 Anne Jermin holds the tenancy with the new owner as Mrs Ann Callen. By 1831 Charles Poyer Callen is named as the proprietor of Peter's Finger and his tenant was Edward Price.

It is probable that 'Finger' may refer to some projecting topographical feature, perhaps a standing stone, for some reason associated in popular lore with St.



*Extract of Tithe Map showing Peter's Finger and Peter's Finger Lane. The black dots indicates Peter's Finger Lane, to the south the blue dots links the lane across what is today the airfield. The red dot is where Peter's Finger Lane crosses West Lane and the green dots is where the lane merges with Pitch Lane.*

Peter. A look at the Tithe Map drawn a few years after the Land Tax Assessment shows a cottage in the occupation of Jane Price, most probably the widow of the previously mentioned Edward Price. The field number is shown as 239, with the land still in the ownership of Charles Poyer Callen who also owned the field numbered 419 home of John Miles with a cottage and garden. A house was listed on field number 240 occupied by Thomas Watkins and the landowner was Anne Barlow. They appeared to have a number of fields in the locality including including 422. On the west side of Peter's Finger Lane Anne Barlow owned further fields including 426 a house and garden occupied by Benjamin Lewis, field 425 was part of the land occupied by Thomas Watkins. On the north east of the lane one meadow to the south of West Lane was a small field and building in the occupation of William Wheeler who had a number of meadows in the area. His cottage was a little further north along



*1st Edition OS Map c. 1887 centred around Peter's Finger showing its proximity to Templeton village. Note 'Lewis's Barn', 'Cranberry Pool' and 'Wheeler's' just north of Peter's Finger lane cross-roads. Also note 'Willey's Land' known today as 'Slade Acre' off West Lane at the top of the map.*

the lane just not of the cross roads, a cottage and garden in shown on the tithe map field number 447. The land was owned by Sir Richard Bulkeley Philipps Philipps. To the south west of the main crossroads a house and garden is shown on field number 51 occupied by John Lewis and owned by Anne Barlow. Collectively these buildings, cottages and homesteads made up the tiny hamlet of Peter's Finger. Quite probably Peter's Finger was a wayside inn for drovers and pilgrims. In Catholic times, many alehouses and inns were called after St Peter and the sign showed him raising his hand in Papal blessing. After the Reformation, these signs were banned; however thrifty alehouse keepers would often cut the sign in half disposing of the head and keeping the hand - hence Peter's Finger<sup>39</sup>. The OS Map shows just two buildings to the immediate west of the crossroads as Peter's Finger. Today two original cottages are still

occupied at Peter's Finger and a property known as Bryn-mor, renamed 'The Beeches'.

### **Peters Finger Cottage**

The census of 1841 shows five families occupying the cottages at Peters Finger in the first cottage Elizabeth Matthias aged 55 and her 10 year old daughter



*Peter's Finger Cottages photographed in 2020*

Esther were living and staying with them was 20-year-old Jack Price who was listed as of independent means. Elizabeth was also of independent means. The next household was home to Benjamin Lewis aged 60, his 55 year old wife Sarah and daughters Elizabeth aged 31 and Martha aged 20. Benjamin was employed as an agricultural labourer. We then have Elizabeth Hughes aged 70 and probably her daughter Margaret aged 25 occupying a property in the hamlet of Peter's Finger. Also in the hamlet was the Griffiths household. Phillip Griffiths (b. 1801) worked as an agricultural labourer, his wife was Mary also born in 1801. They had a daughter Hannah aged 11 and Jane aged 3, their sons were John aged 9, James age 5 and William age 1. The other person living

in the hamlet was Anne Morris born in 1766 of independent means. The Lewis family were still living in the hamlet a decade later although Benjamin had died and Sarah was now head of the household, her daughters Elizabeth and Martha both lived with her. Martha worked as a dressmaker. The granddaughter Mary Allen aged 6 was with them at the cottage. The whole family were born in Narberth. In c. 1860 the Griffiths family still lived at Peter's Finger, Phillip Griffiths still working as an agricultural worker, his wife Hannah had died but sons James, now working on the fields and William herding sheep and cows were at the cottage. Phillip now had another daughter born in 1843 and now 8 years of age named Phoeby. All the children were born locally in Narberth except Phillip who was born in 1799 just a few miles away at Robeston Wathen.

### **Bryn-mor - The Beeches**

Both the Tithe and the 1st Edition OS maps shows the presence of a building where 'Bryn-mor' now stands on field number 426. Although the current house is built further east than the original building. The 2nd Edition OS map identifies 'Bryn-mor' by name and the original field has been sub-divided. The fact that the house did not appear on the 1st Edition OS map of 1887 but does appear on the 2nd Edition indicates the house was built after 1887 but before 1913. In 1901 'Bryn-mor' was the home of William and Elizabeth Davies and their children, David 10, John 8, George 6, Gilmore 4, Iris 8 weeks and Bessie Davies 15 who was employed as a general servant. Their son George was killed in the 1st World War (see Chapter 10). William Davies was born c. 1867 at 'The Barn' Templeton, his parents were farmers David and Mira Davies. They were a farming family and in 1911 were working and assisting with the running of the farm. Their son George who was now using his middle name Elwyn was a butcher working from home. The whole family came from Narberth South. Iris Davies married Wyndham Collins who had succeeded his father George Collins as Auctioneer and Land Agent for the Cresselly Estate. On the



England Wales Register of 1949 'Brynmor' was occupied by widowed Elizabeth Davies, George Collins who looked after 'livestock and general duties' his wife Iris Collins and children Elizabeth born in 1935 and George born 1938. The family lived at 'Brynmor' well into the 1960s. The house under the name 'The Beeches' appeared for the first time on the Electoral Roll of 1977 when it was occupied by Richard and Faye Bowen and family. Richard Bowen was the son of Howard Bowen of Llawhaden who established Green Bower Garages. Another interesting fact is that Faye Bowens father owned and trained a race horse 'Gritter' that won the Grand National in 1982. The horse was named 'Gritter', as the family owned a quarry near Haverfordwest that produced large amount of grit.

### **Cranberry Pool**

I am including the lost house of 'Cranberry Pool' in the hamlet of Peter's Finger but it could well have been in Molleston or Templeton. The small farm was located on the top of Templeton Mountain. When you look at a map of Peter's Finger it is easy to see it was at a cross-roads, directly opposite Peter's Finger two tracks led you over the mountain. The track on the east led to 'Coursehill Farm' and the west track went to 'Cranberry Pool', 'Blackheath' and 'North Hill Farm'. Now all are demolished and are buried beneath Templeton Airfield.

The Tithe map c. 1840 shows the 'house etc.' in field number 57 in the landownership of Sir Richard Buckeley Philipps Philipps and tenancy of Anne Webb together with a number of 'Mountain' fields around the house. The 1841 census has Anna Webb aged 55 born c. 1786 farming 'Cranberry Pool' with her sons John 25 and James 15 and daughter Elizabeth 20. William Reynolds aged 12 was listed as a servant. The farm was about 65 acres and Anne Webb employed one labourer in c. 1850 to help her and Elizabeth and James run the farm. James and Elizabeth were still running the farm in the 1890s. The beginning of the 1900s saw George Lewis aged 32 and his wife

Sophia Jane Perkins 22, who married in 1897, farming 'Cranberry Pool'. They had at home their two baby sons Hugh and Sidney both born in 1900. George Lewis was born at 'Colsick' in c. 1868. George senior appears to have re-married by 1911 and had Sarah Ann Lewis and Beatrice Louisa Lewis with his wife Ann. They had also moved to a farm 'Kingsmoor Park' in Begelly. William James 30 a labourer had taken over the farm house from George Lewis by 1911. William lived at the farm with his wife Mortha 41, stepdaughter Kate Anne Barry 18 and son Wyndham Clifford James 9 months old. Gilmor and Mary Davies were dairy farmers living at 'Cranberry Pool' in 1935 with their daughter Merle born in 1928.

## 10

# Seeing the Light

I was going to title this chapter ‘Education and Worship in Templeton’ but I think ‘Seeing the Light’ is more appropriate. Next to parents perhaps the greatest influence on children is education and since the mid 1800s in Templeton village there has been a ‘school’. Up to the 18th and into the 19th century it was mainly the children of the gentry who were educated often by a ‘governess’ and then to a Public School like Eton. One such example would be the Phillips of Picton Castle, who were substantial landowners in Templeton. The education of the gentry was designed to fit them for leisure and politics and for the wealthier families, the institutions through which such an education was acquired were the public schools, universities and Inns of Court. The lesser families could send their children to the local grammar schools like ‘Haverfordwest Grammar School’ which dates back to 1454. At the public schools and universities great emphasis was placed on the classics. This perhaps explains the easy use of classical references in contemporary correspondence and the prominence of Latin and Greek authors in the libraries of eighteenth century country houses.

When I used the word ‘school’ earlier I was thinking in the broadest sense as here in Templeton the local Congregational Chapel was to play an important role.

The first reference to education and providing a school in Templeton was in a letter dated 26th October 1711 , when Sir John Phillips of Picton Castle wrote that he had “hopes of setting up a charity school at Templeton”. I am not sure whether this ever really happened but there were good intension. We then



*1st Edition 6-inch to the mile OS Map 1888. The pink shaded area shows the position of the 'Old School' on the corner of 'Chapel Street' now 'Chapel Lane' and 'Crossways' cottage. Back Lane ran between the School Room and the Congregational Chapel. Note the old stables behind Shady Grove. On the 2nd Edition OS map of 1913 the school room is indicated as 'Old School'.*

see a school set up in a private house in Tanners Lane. We do know that a 'school master' in 1881, John Evans, for a short time ran a 'private school' at 'Fairview'. A family would send their child to his school for perhaps 1d. per day and if Mr Evans thought the child had potential would encourage the family to send him for perhaps 3 days per week. John Evans was born in Templeton in 1811, his daughter was also living at the cottage. They were still there in 1891 John had by now retired from teaching. Heather Evans was living there in 1901, she might well have been the daughter mentioned earlier as the age is very similar. In 1935 when dairy farmer Thomas Phillips born in 1868 his wife Harriet born in 1872 and their daughter Edith age 27 who assisted her father on the farm and son 25 year old Gilbert Phillips, described as a "tunnel miner, heavy worker" lived at the property. In the 1960s it was home to Alan and Grace Palmer and the 1970s saw James and Lucy Hughes at "Fair View".

The first public school, not to be confused with 'Public Schools' in Templeton was in the room belonging to the Congregational Church. Lessons were also given in the "old schoolroom," at the time being used by the Congregational Church. The Tithe map c. 1840 shows the landowner of the 'Cottage and Burial Ground' occupying field number 536 as the 'Society of Baptists'. The tenant, probably of 'Crossways' cottage was James Williams. The Trustees of the Society of Baptists also owned the Congregational 'Chapel and Yard' field number 572. The Old School was used for the education of local children until the new school was opened in 1887. The Old School in 2020 is undergoing major renovations to convert it into a home.

### **Templeton County Primary School**

The building of what was to become the 'Templeton C P School' was largely the result of His Honour Judge B. T. Williams, who lived at 'Merryvale', Templeton. The new school was to cater for the educational needs of the village and outlying regions. Over the years there have been a number of headteachers starting with in October 1887 Mr. E. C. Hart; between 1893-1897 Mr. D. James; followed by Mr. Fred Duckfield in 1897-1901; then came Mr. Maple from 1901-1908; then until 1922, Mr. Howard Thomas; 1922-1935 was Mr. D. Miles Lewis; 1935-1937, Mr. L. Newman Williams; 1937-1968, Mr. A. Kitto Jones, B.Sc.; in 1968 Mr. Owen Morse was appointed headmaster; then followed Mike Perkins from 1990 to 2014. Mr Kevin Phelps in 2014 was appointed Head Teacher of the combined Tavernspite School with Templeton School. It was only in 1942 that the children were offered school dinners, prior to this the children had to walk home for their lunch, many living a considerable distance from the school.

The school underwent a complete refurbishment of buildings in 2000 when five new classrooms were constructed and many other areas of the school were rebuilt and greatly improved. This was done to accommodate the rising numbers from 72 in 1990 to 135 at its peak. Interestingly in 1893, 136 pupils

attended Templeton school including several children from the workhouse at 'Allensbank'. The school continues to improve its facilities in the second decade of the 2000s. A key moment in the history of Templeton School was when it federated with its neighbouring school, Tavernspite in 2014. Suffering from declining pupil numbers in the years previous, Templeton School was facing the possible threat of school closure and such a union was needed to save the school. This arrangement, although temporary in the first instance became a permanent and formal federation in April 2016, carrying the name *'The Federation of Tavernspite and Templeton Community Primary Schools'*. The federation was a great success with Templeton pupil numbers back to full capacity within five years. To this day, the schools remain as separate establishments, maintaining their own identity and managing their own budgets, although they share a federated Governing Body and benefit from collaborative working and sharing of resources. Recently the Welsh Government awarded 'Templeton School' the accolade 'Green School'. In 2017 HM Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales, 'Estyn' awarded the school "Excellent Standards", the highest award possible for a school. The school has come a long way since the days when children would attend school when they were not required to work on the farm. Or as often seen in the 19th century School Log Books, the headmaster writing many children were absent due to 'hay making' or an outbreak of 'scarlatina'. We know it as Scarlet Fever, an infectious and dangerous disease at that time. Thank goodness times have moved on and the welfare and happiness of children is now a priority.

### **Worship in Templeton**

Congregationalists are the oldest sect of Nonconformists, who believed that each church should be independent of external ecclesiastical authority. Congregationalists are first recorded in the early 1600s. In 1833, the Congregational Union of England and Wales, formed the Congregational Sect, which became fairly widespread. Back in the mid 1960s when Russell Morgan



*United Reform Church photographed in 2020*

was writing his 'Jottings of Templeton and District' he wrote "I fear the churches and chapels have before them a big task in the next decade. We face this decade with our pockets fuller than ever, our larders fuller than ever, our prisons full to overflowing, full Bingo Halls, and nearly empty places of worship. State legislation has given a boost to education, general living standards, and more time to spare on our hands." Now some 60 years later his 'fear' has largely become a reality but what we must remember is the role the 'church' has played throughout the centuries.

It is believed that there was at one time a place of worship opposite 'Templeton Farm', where people worshipped secretly. An early map shows that where the 'Brambles' now stands in Kensington Close were the remains of an 'ancient' chapel.

The Templeton Congregational Chapel was built in 1818 on its present site on the west end of Chapel Street. The name 'Chapel Street' takes its name from an 'ancient' chapel on Chapel Street and not from the relatively modern



*Templeton Congregational church and the 'School Room', the white building connected to the church. Photograph taken in early 1900s. 'Hawthorn' cottage can be seen on the far left.*



*Photograph of Templeton CP School and the 'School House' which was the home of the headmaster. c. 1910*





*An aerial photograph of the north end of Templeton village taken in 1961. The photograph shows the Old School Room, 'Crossways' cottage, Congregational Chapel and graveyard, 'Hawthorn House' and 'The Cottage' all on Chapel Lane. Travelling south through the village is 'Corner House and Pendre', 'Dourigan and 'Ivy Cottage'.*



*A view inside the main classroom in circa 1900 with the head teacher behind his desk and the children sat neatly at their desks. The oil light is seen hanging from the ceiling. The cupboards are still in use today.*

Congregational Chapel. It was destroyed by fire and a far larger church rebuilt in 1839. The first minister of the chapel, who died in 1850, was the Rev. T. R. Williams, who had connections with the 'Merryvale' family. Following his death the Rev. D M Picton was appointed the minister and it was during his ministry the chapel was enlarged to its present size. The chapel went through extensive interior and exterior renovations in 1905, 1939 and 1961. In 1924 it became a joint pastorate with Reynalton, during this year also, gas lighting replaced oil lamps in the chapel. In 1927 during the Rev. E. T. Jones' pastorate the 'Manse' was built, at a cost of £890, by local contractors, Messrs. Thomas Bros. of 'Rose Villa'. In today's money that would equate to about £250,000. This money would probably have been raised by public subscription and events such as bazaars, concerts and fetes. A large donation was given by Mr. William Morgan of 'Poyers Arms Farm' who had emigrated to America, and set up his business in Binghampton, near New York.

At Molleston Baptist Chapel and St. John's Church, notable events on the church's calendar were the Sunday School Anniversaries and preaching. Russell Morgan pointed out that *"in pre-war days one could depend on the church being full to overflowing. Seating often times had to be placed in aisles to accommodate people, and indeed similar congregations attended the preaching anniversary services.*

*Following the Whit-Sunday anniversary at the Congregational Chapel, on Whit-Monday a tea party was always held and in the evening sports with packets of sweets as prizes. In the summer, the Sunday school trip took place to the seaside. A great day this for scholars and the hard-working officers of the Sunday school. Prior to the journey by buses, local farmers conveyed the trippers by horse and cart. This ended about 1924, and in the horse and cart day trips to the seaside, many of the trippers had to walk up Errox Hill, near St. Issell's Church, and Cleggars Castle, to save the shaft horses this, indeed, was a day to remember. On arrival at Saundersfoot water was collected and boiled on a stick fire, sandwiches cut, fancy cakes etc., laid out, crockery handed out to scholars, and when the tea was ready everyone sat down on the sands, always near Coppett Hall, and enjoyed the refreshments, plus a little sand, and usually a few wasp stings. The magic blue bag was always at hand to heal*

*the unfortunate child who had been stung, and after a "real treat at the beach," the long trek back to Templeton".* I think this provides us today with a lovely impression of rural village life, which has now largely disappeared.

The chapel and the school room were a focus of village life, for example in February 1887 the village 'fife and drum band', under its conductor, Mr. Jim Richards of 'Shady Grove' gave a concert in the 'old' Board Schoolroom, and the first children's concerts were also given in the old schoolroom in November the same year.

In 1934, the electric light was installed in the schoolroom, 1936 in the 'Manse' and in 1938, the electric light was switched on in the chapel for the first time. The introduction of a Harvest Supper was held in the Congregational Schoolroom in 1969 and over 150 people attended.



*In June 1925 the first Young People's Guild had a coach trip to Aberystwyth.*

Amongst the Ministers who have held the pastorate are: up to 1850 The Rev. T. R. Williams, who was the first minister; 1852 to 1864 Rev. W. W. Morris; 1865 to 1874 Rev. E. Griffiths; 1876 to 1892 Rev. D. N. Picton; 1894 to 1899 Rev. Henry Davies; 1900 to 1908 Rev. J. I. Phillips; 1909 to 1922 Rev. Daniel

Phillips; 1923 to 1947 Rev. E. T. Jones; 1950 to 1965 Rev. Edward James. Between 1965 and 1969 there was no minister, the next minister was the Rev. Albert Liley and between 1975 and 2020 there was Rev. Elwyn John; Rev. Hamish McLoughlin; Rev. Russell Gordon; Rev. Nanette Lewis Head; Rev. Chris Tolley and the current minister is Rev. Stella Hayton.

Apart from the church services, pre-war on Wednesday evenings the Band of Hope was-held, followed by a prayer meeting, and on Friday evenings, the Young People's Guild met. Sewing classes were held periodically, in preparation for bazaars etc. In 1937 newly formed Girl Guides met in the schoolroom and in 1938 a 'Dairy Class' was held there. By the late 1950s all of these groups and events had finished.

### **St John's Church**

Approaching the village from the south, the church of St. John immediately catches the eye. On the left near the church door is the remains of a cross, or at least the upright shaft. The Church is said to have been built on the old site of the Knights Templar Hospice. It was built in 1859 to seat 224 people to designs by Prichard and Seddons. John Prichard was a Welsh architect who established a practice in Llandaff, Cardiff, becoming 'Resident Diocesan Architect' of Llandaff Cathedral in December 1844. Between 1852 and 1863 he was in partnership with John Pollard Seddon.

It has been described as a "plain church, constructed of rubble with coloured stone bands under slate roofs, it comprises nave and narrower chancel, small gabled south porch, north vestry and tall west gabled bellcote. Windows are in lancet style. The interior is light with steep scissor-truss roof. The font, a tall octagonal bowl, is of 1862 as are the furnishings". St. John's Church was consecrated by the Bishop of St. David's, the Rev. Connop-Thirwall in 1862. The builder of the church was Mr. David R. Richards, a local contractor. The society for building churches granted £250 towards its building fund. St. John's Church was a perpetual curacy allocated to the Parish of Narberth since 1863.



*St. John's Church, Templeton c. 1930*

At that time St. John's worked closely with St. Eldyr's church in Ludchurch. A church with a history dating back to the thirteenth century, when John Aungur was its Rector.

A chancel stained glass window of St. John The Baptist, to whom the church was dedicated was a gift from Priscilla, daughter of the builder of the church, Mr David Richards and his wife, Elizabeth, who lived at the 'Olde Post Office' now 'Melrose'. Miss Priscilla Richards died in 1935 and this stained glass window was unveiled by Miss Cynthia Clifford of Chapel Street, a descendent of Mr and Mrs David Richards. Mr. Richards's brother lived at 'Laurel Bank'.

The single church bell weighed over 50kg. and like other church bells, was removed from its bellcote during the World War II.

The original roof was in a poor state and in 1965 the old roof was removed and replaced at a cost of £2,300. The first Rector of St. John's Church in 1863 was Rev. Charles Cornish who remained the incumbent for the best part of 25

years. He was followed in 1888 by Rev. Andrew Fitzgerald Keogh. The Rev. Edward James Hughes became Rector in 1897. The start of World War I in 1914 saw the Rev. Maurice Morris as Rector and remained until the end of World War II in 1945. The Rev. M. Llewellyn Davies was Rector for the next 4 years until 1949 when Rev. Hilton Grey took over.

Buried in St. John's Church graveyard is Mr. Buckby, J.P., of Grove, the first chairman of the local parish council. Mr. R. H. Buckby died in 1912 at the age of 76.

A positive relationship has developed between the Nonconformists and the Church in Wales. To demonstrate its relationship, in 1969 the Rector and members of St. John's held a special evening to welcome the Congregational minister, the Rev. Liley and the Rector spoke at the induction service at the Congregational Chapel of the Rev. Liley.

### **The Heart of the Community**

I have referred to the names of some of the people who lived in the village before 1970 who actively participated in church activities. It helps to identify both people and their homes and demonstrates the importance the village churches all had in the community

It is interesting to see how closely the churches were supported at least until the late 1960s with parishioners giving various gifts to their respective churches, for example at St John's the Rector's stool was given by Mr. and Mrs. David Thomas of 'Laurel Bank', in memory of Mr. Thomas' brother, 'Mr. Alfred Thomas of 'Rose Villa', who died in 1944. The reredos around the altar was given by church members, who subscribed to a fund, in memory of the late Rev. Maurice Morris, who met his death, following an accident near 'Headlands' in 1945. The hymn board was given by Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Webb, in memory of Mrs. Webb's sister, Iris, who died at the age of 14 in 1946. They also gave a wafer box, in memory of Mr. William Evans, 'Park House', who was Mrs. Webb's father. A brass candle extinguisher was given by Mrs. Doris Rees,

'Rising Sun', in memory of her late husband, Gilbert, who died in 1934. A Prayer Desk was presented by Mrs. Elizabeth Rowe, 'Myrtle Villa', in memory of her husband, Mr. Tommy Rowe, who died in January 1949.

The Congregational church members made gifts to the chapel. The two chairs in the lobby were given by the family of the late Mr. Howard Davies of the 'Boars Head'. Two pulpit chairs were given by Mr. and Mrs. Ben Thomas, 'Myrtle Villa'. The Bible was given by Miss Minnie Davies, 'Hazeldene'. The Christening Bowl by Mrs. Lewis and family, 'Slade Acre', in memory of her husband Mr. Tom Lewis, 'Slade Acre'. The Hymn Leaflets by Mr. Russell Morgan and family 'Martins Farm', in memory of Miss E. J. Morgan, who was chapel organist for 33 years. A Band of Hope Hymnary was given by Mrs. Hilda Benham, in memory of her husband, Mr. William Benham. The Hymn Book Case was given by Mrs. Miriam Jones and her sister, Mrs. Mary Griffiths and was placed in the lobby, in memory of their parents. A new Clock was given by Mrs. Bernard Belt, in memory of her husband. A Pulpit Light was given by Mrs. George and family, 'Picton House', in memory of her sister, Mrs. Evelyn Holmes. A Pulpit Hymnary was given by a former headmaster of the County Primary School, Mr. L. Newman Williams, Cardiff. In 1925 Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Davies, 'Merryvale', presented the chapel with the Hymn Board. In listing all these names and house names it helps us to see the village as a community and confirms people and places. At the time of writing this book many of the names will be familiar to local residents and hopefully remind them of times gone by. A generation from now they will be names to be remembered and that is what 'local history' is all about.

### **The Church Hall**

It has proved difficult to put an exact date of when the Church Hall was built but stones for the building of the hall were hewn out of the quarry in the field directly opposite the entrance gate to St. John's church in what is today the village green. With that knowledge it is probably safe to say that the hall was

built between 1890 and 1896, during the time Rev. Keogh's was Rector. The hall was most probably donated by the Henllan Estate then under the ownership of Revd. Richard Lewis. He had been the Rector of Lampeter Velfrey for 32 years before he became the Bishop of Llandaff between 1883 and 1905. He was born in Pembrokeshire in 1821 and was the brother of John Lennox Griffith Poyer Lewis of Henllan.

The hall became the focal point of the community through two World Wars and during the post war years. In 1964 a kitchen and additional storeroom to the church hall were built through the generosity of Mr. Hubert Davies of 'Rising Sun' and Mr. Vivian Bowen, 'Whitehouse'.

Meetings held in the church hall included the local parish council, Women's Institute, Royal Observer Corps, Young Wives' Circle, Mothers' Union, and the Narberth R.D.C. rating officer attended there when rates were due for payment, and of course, church business meetings were held there. Sadly none of these groups now function in Templeton. The Women's Institute only closed its doors in 2019. The Templeton Community Association now have their meetings at the hall as does the 'Templeton Young Farmers' and throughout the year 'Coffee Mornings' are held monthly.

In 2006 the Church approached Templeton Community Council asking them to take over the management of the hall on a lease. This they did for several years but it was eventually suggested that the Council bought the hall from the church. In 2016 the Council sold a field outside the village that was no longer required for football. The sale was used to purchase the hall and to match fund a National Lottery and Rural Development grant to enlarge and modernise the hall.

The hall was in urgent need of renovation and modernisation. As a result the hall was extended in 2019 to provide a modern and well equipped community hall for the growing village of Templeton and its hamlets. The village green is on the west and south of the hall and now forms an integral part of the 'Village Community Hall'. The car park, now a necessity compared to when



the hall was first built is accessed from the newly developed Knights Court completed in 2020 and built by G. D. Harries & Sons Ltd. of Templeton.

As we move into 2021 there is no doubt that the transformation of a church hall into a modern community hall will be a 'hub' for all the residents of Templeton.

# 11

## Lost Through Time

**W**hen we started our journey through Templeton we saw how it grew from being the home of the Knight Templar and their ‘Sentence Castle’ to a Mediaeval village. Today little remains of the distant past but what does remain is important to ‘hold on to’. It is hard for us to appreciate that Templeton once had a railway station that could help transport you anywhere across the United Kingdom. That fire bricks could be made in the local brickworks and transported to as far away as Glasgow. The house known as ‘Eastwood’ was home to a man who would influence agriculture for centuries to come. Only one public house remains the ‘Boars Head’, church numbers have dropped, the village blacksmiths and shops have now gone as have the corn mills and thankfully the workhouse.

Perhaps a good place to start this chapter is with our ‘blacksmiths’. The first village ‘Blacksmith’ had his workshop and forge in a building attached to the ‘Poyers Arms’. Opposite what would have been the ‘Poyer’s Arms’ was the ‘new’ workshop and forge of the last village blacksmith, who was an important person in the community. For fifty years Ernie Owen was the village blacksmith who could fashion delicate and ornate supports for signboards and create wonderful ornamental ironwork, he was a very clever ‘all round’ man. He not only could shoe horses, but repair all kinds of agricultural implements. Ernest (Ernie) Owen was born in 1900 at ‘Templeton Farm’ and in 1928 married Elizabeth Evans from Sodston Farm, Narberth. His father, John

## An Album of Photographs of village people and events



*Top photograph is the 'Ladies Silver Jubilee' committee for King George V in 1935. The lower photograph was 'The Village Hut' boys annual trip to the 'Red Cow' in Treorchy c. 1960.*



*The top photograph is for the re-opening of the United Reform Church in c.1961 after major redecoration of the church. The lower photograph is the 'Silver Jubilee' Committee chaired by Russell Morgan for the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 1977.*



*Templeton 'boys on the beer' c.1960. Royal Wedding Committee 1981.  
United Reform Church 'Nativity Nights' c. 1980s. Templeton Carnival c. 1970s.  
'Dad's Army' at the Templeton Carnival c. 1970s.*



*Templeton County Primary School photographs. The top photograph were the boys in the 'gardening' class c.1950. Middle row children playing basketball in the school yard and children learning handcrafts, making cane baskets in the 'Playground Hut' c.1950s. The two lower photographs are a class group photograph c.1960s and the lower right class photograph taken against the wall of the old 'Air Raid Shelter' in1946.*



Griffiths Owen was born in 1859 at 'East Close', Cold Blow and married Esther Lewis of the 'Barn', Templeton. They lived in the 1920's at 'Elm House', Templeton. From the Blacksmith Shop in the 1920's Ernie sold petrol from his '2 gallon cans' (about 9 litres). Petrol pumps operated by hand were installed in the 1930s and the blacksmith shop doubled-up as the village garage. When Ernie retired in 1975, his son Brian Owen was to take over the blacksmith shop and business. He was to become a master blacksmith and went through an intensive apprenticeship in Pembrokeshire and elsewhere. Brian was born in 1936 in 'Brooklands', Templeton the youngest son of Ernie Owen. Like his father Brian ran the shop for another 50 years. Brian's work is recognised nationally and can be seen on the beautifully ornate gates outside the Shakespeares's Globe Theatre in London. For his outstanding work Brian was given the 'Freedom of the City of London' in the 1990s.

### **Templeton Fair**

In the early part of the 1900s there was an annual cattle fair held on 12 November it was an event of considerable repute, with cattle lining the streets



This recipe would not go down well today. For the pastry 450g flour, 225g suet, good pinch of salt and water as necessary. The filling was 225g minced mutton, 225g currants, 225g sugar, salt and pepper (the original recipe was in Imperial weight). The method of making the pie: make hot pastry by melting the suet in the water, bringing to the boil. Add the flour and salt, stirring well with a wooden spoon. When cool, form into one large pie in a 10 cm. ring. Line the ring with pastry, add filling. Cover with thin pastry. Bake for 30 min in hot oven and eat hot or cold.

*The 'Katt's Pies' are being made here by sisters Jessie Davies (nee Morgan) and Doris Hughes (nee Morgan), wife of the last Templeton Station Master William Hughes of 'Crossvilla'.*



*Through time village life has changed forever. No longer do cows walk the main street for milking and the village pumps for water are no longer required. John Thomas, the bearded village blacksmith with his workshop adjoining the 'Poyer's Cottage' is long gone and replaced by the last village Master Blacksmith Brian Owen working at his forge built by his father. But time must move on and we are left with wonderful stories of a bygone age and people like Brian whose family have lived in Templeton for generations have secrets to tell for those who want to listen. I have tried to tell some of his village life and experiences throughout this book.*





*The original stone Church Hall was built c. 1890 and extended in 2019 to become the Templeton Community 'Village Hall'.*

and filling the field at the entrance to Tanners Lane. In the 1920s Tommy Hill ran a fun fair to entertain the village as part of the 'Cattle Fair'. The traditional food eaten on the Fair day was "Katt's Pies", so named after a Mr Katt who owned a bakery in the village and developed this recipe. The pies were only made for the fair, although some were sent to soldiers during the First World War. The fair ceased before the Second World War and unfortunately Katt pies are no longer made in the village.

### **Templeton Railway**

The building of the railway in the 1860s was to have a significant impact on the village. I can do no better than reproduce an article written for the 'Western Telegraph' in 1984 that provided a good description of the birth and death of the station. "The date on the limestone railway bridge that arches high above Tanners Lane in Templeton proclaims that it was built in 1865. And it was in



*I had to include this lovely old postcard depicting an impression of the railway line running through Templeton c. 1900. (collection of Brian Owen)*

May the following year that the first steam train chugged painfully into the village along the newly-laid track that linked with the Pembroke and Tenby line.

Crowds of people lined the edge of the track to see the wonderful sight, and many were rewarded with a free trip on the train — a works engine operated by contractors Davies and Roberts. From Templeton the navvies brought the line over Cold Blow summit and down into Narberth, driving a three hundred yard tunnel through the hillside at Blackaldern before tackling the gentle slope of the Lampeter Vale to link up with GWR line at Whitland.

The 'Whitland extension' which linked South Pembrokeshire with the main railway network was officially opened on September 4th 1866, having cost £200,000 to construct. A feast was held at the de Rutzen Hotel in Narberth when all the navvies who had worked on the line were in attendance, and the speeches flowed in torrents.

Back at Templeton there were mixed feelings over the arrival of the Iron Horse. Little had happened to disturb the peace of the village since the days of

the Mabinogion, but the, coming of the railway put the tiny farming community firmly on the map.

And at the Boar's Head pub, built 30 years earlier just down the road, there was talk of suffering all the of the internal new-fangled steam engine, without even having the benefit of its own station.

The biggest impact on the village was the opening of a brick works alongside the line in about 1868. A siding was built to transport the brick from the yard, which employed some 30 men and boys, was carried by rail.

### **The End of an Era**

By the turn of the century the freight trains carrying the stacks of brick were virtually the only trains to stop at Templeton. The passenger trains roared straight through and only the Mail trains served the station itself, stopping on Fridays and Saturdays.

God's Wonderful Railway — the GWR — recognised the run-down nature of Templeton when the company took over the line from the Pembroke and Tenby Railway in 1896. One of the first jobs the new owners undertook was the demolition of Templeton's outdated and redundant signal box.

This old wooden box had been built on the platform itself, and possessed just four levers. It was built by a company called McKenzie and Holland of Gloucester which specialised in signal box construction.

For the first ten years under the GWR, Templeton languished in the doldrums. A single attendant was employed to handle the minimal amount of work generated by the handful of trains each week.

In 1905 the GWR decided to inject new life into the rail service in West Wales. The original platform of the 'up' side of the line at Templeton was refurbished and new station buildings erected. A goods loop was added to allow passenger trains to cross with freight trains and on May 1st. 1906, Templeton was opened up as a station for both goods and passengers.



*Templeton Signal Box and Station. Photographed in c.1960*

To handle this increase in traffic a new signal box was constructed housing 29 levers. As can be seen the new signal-box was a smart new brick structure and measured 7.6m by 3.6m by 3m. From his glass-sided control room the signalman had a fine view over his now extensive domain.

“In many ways this was the best box on the line,” wrote Mr. J. P. Morris in ‘The Pembroke and Tenby Railway’. “It had facing trap points at both ends of the crossing loop allowing two trains to be brought into the station simultaneously. Spring points slotted from the box were also installed in the up-loop to prevent runaways.”

Despite the imposing array of levers at his command, the signalman at Templeton was still expected to undertake his general station duties.

The first stationmaster at Templeton under the GWR was Mr. John Thomas. He held sway until 1911 when Mr. William Lewis took over who was in charge of the station until 1939. Two passenger trains were now able to cross at the



*Railway bridge at Tanners Lanes. Photographed in 2020.*

station — a great help to the moving of troops — and a refuge siding was added.

With the return of peace Templeton returned to a quieter existence serving a rural community as far as Martletwy and Landshipping. In the 1920s the local economy of Templeton suffered a blow with the closure of the brickworks, and the familiar sight of wagon-loads of brick in the Templeton sidings came to an end.

Most of the workforce of the yard sought employment elsewhere, many emigrating as the Depression began to bite, and Templeton station began to look incongruously large for a village of 100 families.

The long sidings did prove useful on a couple of occasions when Royalty visited the county. The Royal Train that transported the visiting entourage would be kept overnight in Templeton sidings.

The station gained importance during the Second World War when the aerodrome at Templeton was established nearby.

Generally life at ‘Templeton Tom’ as the railmen knew it, was one of quiet decay as the rail system in West Wales was allowed to drift into post-war decline under British Rail.

There were occasional bouts of excitement, such as the time a temporary signalman tried to cross a goods train with the prestigious Pembroke Coast Express in Templeton station. Local railway legend records that as the trains passed on adjacent lines they came so close all the door handles on the Express were ripped off!

From the Second World War until its closure, Templeton Station had just one full-time signalman. Mr. William Hughes, of ‘Hazeldene’, held the post for 27 years, running the station single handed for the last ten years.

During this time, Mr. Hughes saw the station facilities decline to nothing. In December 1963 the goods service at Templeton was withdrawn thanks to Dr. Beeching, and proposals were laid for the complete closure of the station.

In June 1964 the axe fell with a thud. Templeton station was closed to all traffic and the sidings lifted and station buildings demolished. In October 1965 the signal box was closed, Mr. Hughes received his redundancy, and shortly afterwards the fine building itself was pulled down.



*Bricks were transported mainly by rail, loaded into the wagons at the Templeton sidings. The train and wagon shown here are on the embankment just north of the Tanners Lane railway bridge.*

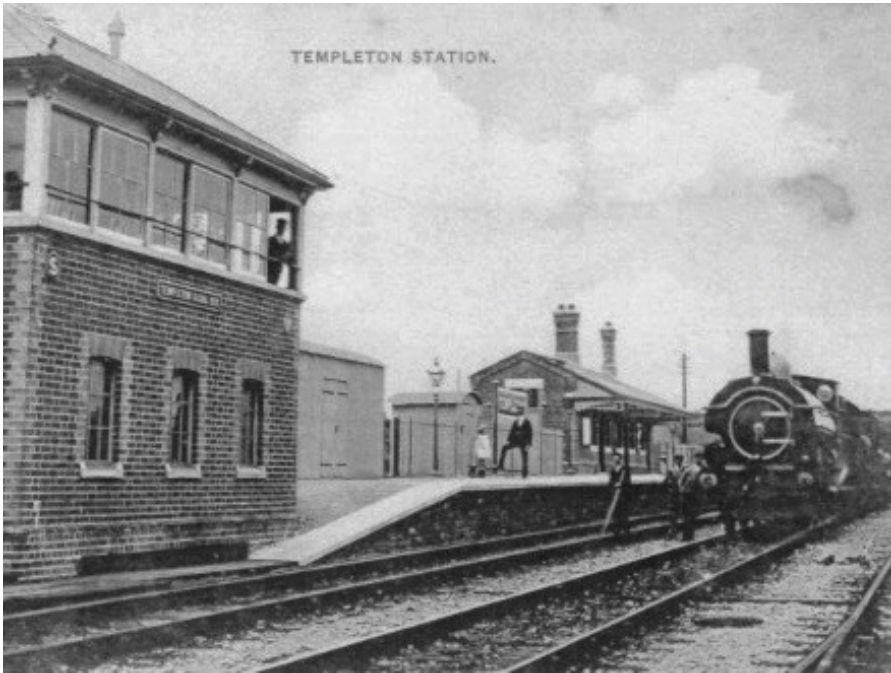




*Part of the 1st Edition OS Map showing the position of 'Templeton Brick Works'. Clearly visible are the large drying kilns, the moulding house and the horse and cart weigh bridge.*



*Workmen at the 'Templeton Dinas Silica Brick and Cement Company' c. 1910. Today the brickworks is a Pembrokeshire County Council Depot, some of the original structures still exist.*



*Templeton Railway Station circa 1950s. Courtesy of Brian Owen*



*Date stone on Railway Bridge dated 1865*



Little now remains, to show the passengers on board the diesel trains that thunder through the village, that for one year, less than a century, Templeton had its own attractive and thriving station.

Over the years several incidents occurred along the Templeton stretch of the railway line. Fortunately no fatalities were recorded but circa 1960 around fourteen cattle managed to stray on to the railway track just north of the 'Tanners Lane' railway bridge and unfortunately all the cattle were killed when a train ran into them. On another occasion circa 1980 a railway carriage caught on fire, all the passengers were safely escorted out of the carriage and off the tracks and emerged by the 'Tanners Lane' bridge.

### **Templeton Brickworks**

The brickworks was built on land in the ownership of Baron de Rutzen and the tenant was John Lewis, that was c. 1840. The field number on the Tithe map was 221 which was part of the land of 'Barn Farm' where John Lewis was living.

In 1868 the first brickworks opened adjacent to the railway station at Templeton. By 1885 the brickworks were owned by the 'Templeton Dinas Silica Brick and Cement Company' and employed 25 men and six boys. The bricks were firebricks which were only suitable for building fire ovens. The bricks were not suitable for housebuilding as they absorbed water. Templeton firebricks were said to be the finest quality. The raw materials were mainly silica mineral stone carted from North Hill, Cleggars Castle and White House quarries. One ton of coal was needed to manufacture 1000 bricks and a stock of 65 tons was always kept at the yard.

The manager of the brickworks between 1923 to 1926 was William Belt, he had taken over the management of the works from H.E.H.Kent who held the post of managing director from c. 1906.

Neville Benham the son of William and Hilda Benham lived at 'Corner House' Templeton he new the brickworks well and wrote down his recollections about the working methods at the works.

*"I believe that the brickwork was closed about 1928, I would have been about 10 years of age at the time, but I have a vivid memories of the workings, having visited the place quite often with my father. Many times I had to take his tea to him when he unexpectedly had to work overtime. He was secretary of the union at the brickworks, and I remember meeting him off the train when he had been to Swansea to union meetings. I believe he works mainly at the pan. There is a medallion with the name of the union on his watch chain.*

*In the early days stone was quarried from Cleggars Castle. If you take the road to Mabe's Mill at the bottom of Cleggars Castle Hill, passing under the railway, after a few hundred yards there is a gate on the left hand side of the road which leads into the quarry.*

*During my recollections stone was quarried North Hill farm, which was demolished during the war and is now part of the airfield. If you take the road to Cresselly from the Boar's Head Cross, you have to turn left for Reynalton at what used to be known as Hasslet's Cross. Here there was a lane to North Hill farm which went straight through to the Molleston road which it joined at Brynmoor. It was therefore quite a long way to take stone to the brickworks by horse and cart.*

*All the stone was weighed on arrival. The horse could not be weighed, so a length of wood was placed under the shaft of the cart, with one end on the Weighbridge. The weight of the cart was known, so it only needed to be deducted that figure to get the weight of the stone. The stone was then tipped in a large pile as near as possible to the crusher, marked 'D' on the plan.*

*The process from here on depended in the first place on the large horizontal cylinder oil engine, which had a flywheel of about 6 feet diameter. A belt from flywheel worked the Crusher and the Pan.*

*The stone was broken down by the Crusher to about the size of a tennis ball and then passed into a sloping chute where entry to the Pan was controlled by a trap door.*

*The pan was a circular structure which had wheels, or rollers, revolving around a perpendicular spindle, on their own spindles. Each wheel was about 5 feet in diameter and some 2 feet wide. They rolled at quite a fast speed and the stone soon pulverised. Lime and water was mixed in a separate tank and this was added to make a clay something like stiff cement. When the consistency was write a trapdoor in the side of the pan allowed the clay to come out, it was shovelled into a wheelbarrow by the man in charge of the Pan and wheeled across to the moulders on the other side of the room.*



*An interesting fact pointed out by Brian Owen was that the red sandstone brick with the throat (the indent) stamped with 'Templeton' was not made at the Templeton Brickworks. Templeton bricks were mainly used for furnaces and were regarded as "of the highest quality", they're stamped with 'Templeton'. Some of these 'special' bricks were shaped at the moulding stage to fit the curve of a furnace. Many of the bricks seen in the area with 'Templeton' can only lay claim to the name.*

*There were five or six moulders, each of whom had a labourer. This man would give the clay another mix and cut it into blocks about 8" x 4", which they would then put on a metal plate of about the same size which had stumpy legs and each corner the whole thing was then lifted onto the mould, the moulder would pull a handle which released the mould and produced the shape of the brick as desired. They were not always the usual oblong brick sometimes they produced wedge shaped bricks, but they all had in 'Templeton' stamped on.*

*The moulded blocks were taken from here to the Stoves where they were laid out for several days to dry off. The floor of the Stoves was some 4 feet above the ground and was heated by the hot air passing through flues under the floor from fires at various points around the outside. These flues went to a central chimney some 40 to 50 feet high. (This was demolished during the war to provide bricks for Air Raid Shelters.) The work on the stones was very strenuous and hot and all those working here with teenage boys*

*When the bricks are dried out they were taken in wheelbarrows to the kilns, which were round, and some 20 feet high, with the dome at the top which had a circular vent in the centre. Each kiln had an arched doorway which was built up after the bricks have been stacked inside. The floor of the kiln was some 3 to 4 feet above the ground and was fired by similar systems of flues to the stones. The vent in the kilns was to allow steam to escape. I don't remember having the smoke from the fires was drawn off, nor do I remember exactly*

*how long the bricks were in the kilns before they were again wheeled out in who wheelbarrows to railway tracks in the adjacent siding.*

*I should've mentioned at the beginning that this was not building bricks but silica bricks for lining furnaces in steelworks or other similar purposes. When the brickwork closed it was said in the village that the moulds were taken to Kidwelly, where the same owners had another works, and the bricks were turned out there that purported to come from Templeton, but that they were of inferior quality, and the brickworks eventually closed. However they would say that because it meant that some 20/30 men were unemployed as a result of the closure."*

Unfortunately production ceased in 1922, the works did briefly reopen in 1924 a few months later national strike once again threatened closure, and the yard finally close on November 9, 1924. Little remains of the old brickworks which stood derelict for many years and now is a road-works depot for Pembrokeshire County Council. A number of the original buildings still stand. The quarries that supplied stone have long gone and have largely returned to nature.

### **Lost Names and Places**

Looking through old documents and ancient maps I often came across places that have been lost through time. I wonder what secrets those places held, what stories they have to tell! Some of the named places can be loosely found but the exact location will probably remain lost forever. Somewhere in South Narberth was, in 1745 'Adams Tenement' and in 1762 'Oldern Green'. Broomhill was recorded in 1793 as near 'Grove'. In the year of 1680 we see 'Callens Vron' and when we study the Tithe Apportionment of c.1840 we find fields named 'Vron', is there a link to the Callens, surely they cannot be a coincidence. In 1609 a reference is found to 'Carrell House' or 'The Great House' Templeton. Who was Carrell and where was the house? Similarly where was the 'Dolphin Public House' that existed in 1821 as did 'The Talbot Inn'; King's Grove of 1609 and 1724 'Stockwell' and in 1712 'The Upper House' Templeton, all of these names and places have been lost. Together with many more no doubt some relatively recently, if we think that the 1841

census was just 179 years ago. Looking at the 1841 census somewhere near Cold Blow was 'Crowland' home of the Wheeler family or 'Clyfton Lodge, where the Morgan family lived. Next to it was 'Willey's Place' and the Harries or 'Shady Grove' with the Scourfields, not be confused with 'Shady Grove' in the village. Somewhere on Templeton Mountain was 'Cumberland' occupied by the Morgan family. Close to 'Coursehill' was 'Stone Lays' which had become the home of farmer David Evans and his family. The Scourfield family were living at 'Fountain Hall' somewhere between 'Colsick' and 'Chapel Hill'. We then come to an area between 'Merryvale' and 'South Hill' where five lost houses existed in c.1840. The first was 'Robin's Hook' appearing in 1724 and in 1681 we see 'Robins hoake' and the land tax assessment of 1786 refers to two plots named 'Robins land' in the ownership of James Higgons and the tenant John Rees and the second plot was owned by David Beynon. In c.1840 independent farmer Anne Thomas born c. 1796 was living at 'Robin's Hook' with her children William 15, Joseph 14, Thomas 11 and Anne 2. Then came a property 'Bateman's Lot' with John Williams and family; 'Flower Hall' which we have already looked at and then came 'Hoar's Cross' with Mary Phillips an independent woman with her children.

There were other properties with names like 'Catharine's Mountain'; 'Lewis' Barn'; 'Croweland' in 1566; 'Heards House' in 1685; 'Silent Grove' in 1841 and this list goes on.

The occupations of many of the residents have also been lost or at least lost in Templeton; Shoemakers; Coopers; Wool Spinners; Weavers; Knitters; Railway Officers; Shipwrights; Seamstress; Master of the Workhouse; Blacksmiths; Butchers; Poultry Dealers; Hucksters; Egg Dealers; Dressmakers; Broom Makers; Straw Milliners; Millers; Bakers; Kiln Keeper; Turnpike Road Labourers; Clerk to Guardians; Quarrymen; Laundress; Chelsea Pensioners and Paupers. All of these trades were once part of village life. As well as all of these lost trades and professions there were and still are Farmers; Farm

Labourers; Mason; Carpenters and Cabinet Makers. The list will continue to evolve. Today of course many of these occupations have changed beyond recognition from our forebears who relied almost entirely on physical labour whereas we now have computerised equipment. We must not forget our past, it is the past that provides us with the lifestyle we now have. We must not forget the sacrifices made in two World Wars. The problems we face today in the middle of a Global Pandemic will all be the past and history for the next generation to reflect on.

Before leaving this chapter I felt it necessary to mention the 'New Recreation Room'. In the post war years of World War II, it was thought that a recreation room was needed. The hall adopted various names 'Recreation Room', 'Reading Room' and 'Village Hut'. An enthusiastic band of young men met in June 1945, and it was agreed to purchase an ex-RAF hut from a site near Withybush Aerodrome for £60. It was dismantled and brought to the village green and erected by voluntary labour but the committee found themselves in trouble with the Pembrokeshire County Council for carrying out the construction of a building without appropriate planning permission. The county council gave notice to remove the building by October 27th 1945 and if it was not dismantled by November 28th they would carry out the work themselves. As could be appreciated a great deal of correspondence and committee meetings followed, and on 21st December 1945, the committee was informed that villages could erect "*temporary buildings*", to "*remain for a period of three to ten years, in order to raise funds to build permanent halls*".

The floor was laid, electric light and fireplace installed, chairs purchased, platform erected etc. The hall committee held an opening week commencing Monday 21st January 1946, which was well arranged and supported. Dances, whist drives, concerts etc., were organised and the social life of the young and old was being catered for.

The takings for the events held during the first 12 months were £434 1s. 3d. Of course, the expenditure was high as well, being £402 18s. 6d. All debts



*The base of the old 'New Recreation Room' during demolition in 1961*

were cleared for builders' accounts, seating and heating. After a few successful years, the new recreation room began to decline and eventually failed to pay its way. In May 1961 the hall was dismantled after just 15 years of use but 5 years more than agreed by the council. The salvageable materials were sold. The proceeds which totalled £131 5s. 9d., went towards the newly-formed village recreation hall committee fund.

It was disappointing that with a reasonably large population of farmers' sons and young men employed on local farms in the parish, a young farmers' club never flourished at Templeton. It is only in more recent years that "Templeton Young Farmers' Club was established as one of 12 clubs in the county federation of Pembrokeshire. Today the Templeton Young Farmers' Club provides leisure, social and educational activities for 10 to 26 year olds, within a supportive and friendly club environment. The club now meets in the 'New Village Hall', the successor of the 'New Recreation Room'.

A tradition now largely lost not only in Templeton but across the country is ‘nicknames’. Nicknames, as in other parishes, was an established part of rural life. I remember my own father was ‘Stan the Post’. He was the village postman in Lisvane village, on the outskirts of Cardiff for over 50 years. Templeton was no exception but how these “nicknames’ were given to these men is not always easy to determine. The men did not mind being referred to or called by their ‘nicknames’. The late Russell Morgan and Brian Owen, both long term residents of Templeton, gave me the nicknames used in the parish until perhaps the 1980s. They said it sounds almost like a quiz game! Whiskey, Tiffy, Ddu-Ddu, I Guess, Quaker, Foggy, Mackbar, Boggy, Corbett, Cobbler, Will Spring, Gloucester, Fitty, Skip, Rammy, Datt-it, Pop, Yes-Aye, Doctor, Tarpaulin, Nicho, Corky, Gabe, Tut-Tut, Bert, Codda, Bloater, Tasker, Tip, Cardiff, Carnera, Long Jim, Spot. There may be many others. Some went, of course, by their place of abode, such as Dai the Barn, John the Barn, Charlie Rowson, Tom the Poyers, Johnnie, Chapel Hill, George, Wood Office, Heber the Mill, Bill or Tom Mounton, Jack Ford’s Lake, and Dai the Welshman, Tom the Sailor, Bengy the Mounton, Billy the Bull, Hubert the Sun and so on.

To finish this chapter I want to give you an insight of the Templeton Minute Books.

### **Templeton Minute Books**

The first recorded meeting of what has become Templeton Community Association was held on 4th December 1894 when Mr Richard Buckby of Grove was appointed founder chairman and Mr Thomas Lewis was made the first ‘parish clerk’. At a meeting in December 1895 the ‘Village Green’ improvements were discussed when it was also decided to “*stop intruders staying on the common with caravans and swings*”. In 1897 the committee discussed a rate increase for the Brickworks of £50 and a rate of £5 on ‘Mabes Mill’. The Parish Council wrote to the Great Western Railway asking them to stop two up trains and two down trains daily at Templeton station. The local school master



Mr Duckfield was appointed Council chairman in 1899. The minutes mentioned the public well at Cold Blow that was opened in September of the same year. It was also recorded on the 6th November 1899 that the public well at the Common (the Green) was out of order.

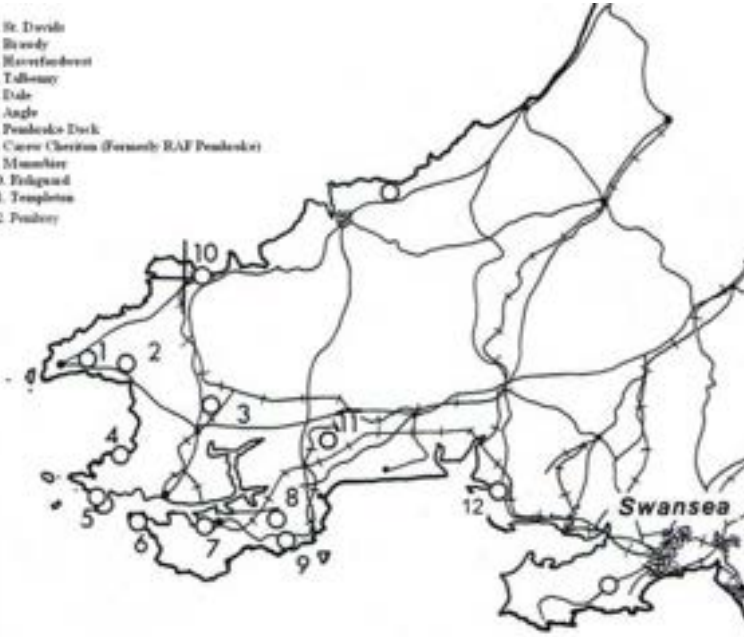
In November 1905 an interesting report was received that two gates had been erected between Peters Finger and North Hill Cross and a Mr Maddocks and Mr George Lewis were ordered to remove them within two weeks. At a meeting on 30th June 1905 street lighting was discussed and it was decided that money for the lamps be raised by holding an Eisteddfod. When the lights were to be erected they should be on the same iron standards as at Saundersfoot. In November 1906 lamp prices were received from Towy Works, Carmarthen at £2.14 shillings each for six standards. An entry for 12th. February 1907 reported an obstruction on the lane leading from Woods Cross to Grove, put there by Mr Hughes. He was instructed to remove it within two days. There were many more interesting entries including in April 1909 when Mr David Rees proposed that the young men of the village be allowed to play quoits on the south side of the green, providing they did no damage. This was rejected. In August 1913 the Sunday delivery of post, with collection in the afternoon was applied for and in November that year a telephone box at the Village Green was applied for. War clouds were looming and for the next 4 years meetings were poorly attended. The last item I will mention relates to the returning after 50 years of the Templeton school tower bell that used to summon the children to classes. At the invitation of the headmaster Mr Owen Morse, Mr Russell Morgan, chairman of the Parish Council rang it again. The bell was used at Templeton RAF station during the war and afterwards the Reverend Lawrence Davies, who was chaplain at the airfield, acquired it for use at Narberth County Primary school. The bell was installed back in the school thanks to the assistance of Wilfred Price of Narberth, Brian Owen, David Lloyd and Michael Davies of Templeton. The instruction were that the bell “will be rung at 9:10 am, 1 pm and 3:30 pm when the school closes”.

## The War Years

Fortunately Templeton got off very lightly during WWII, the only record of an enemy attack was when a bomb fell at ‘Wood Office Farm’ in 1942. There were no casualties and pieces of the shrapnel were later sold locally as souvenirs to aid the Spitfire Fund.

West Wales has a long and distinguished military history, with the Royal Dockyard at Pembroke and the Army bases at Pendine, Penally and Castlemartin but the newest of the Armed Forces is the Royal Air Force and during the 20th Century, twelve R.A.F. or R.N.A.S. (Royal Naval Air Service) bases were created throughout West Wales, which was to include RAF Templeton. Templeton Airfield was constructed on a ridge a mile to the west of the village. The now derelict airfield was built in 1942/43 as a satellite airfield to RAF Haverfordwest. The station’s historical record is not outstanding and it was destined to spend World War II as home to a number of training units. The community became very involved with the servicemen’s welfare, the local Women’s Voluntary Service opened a YMCA at the Congregational Chapel and during the evenings they would serve snacks. Another consequence of the war was the evacuation of children from Greenwich in 1940, to live with local families. The village also had an active home guard regiment with dugouts being present at the crossroads by the Boar’s Head. The road here was set to blow up if an invasion should occur! RAF Templeton was finally closed in June 1945<sup>40</sup>. Templeton lost eight young

1. St. David's
2. Brawdy
3. Haverfordwest
4. Talbenny
5. Dale
6. Angle
7. Pembroke Dock
8. Casar Christian (Formerly RAF Pembroke)
9. Mynydd
10. Ffringand
11. Templeton
12. Pwllheli



*Royal Airforce Bases in West Wales. Courtesy of West Wales War Memorial Project Copyright © 2003-2019*

men in World War I and eight again in World War II. A welcome home committee was formed in the Parish which was greatly appreciated by those who returned home. On the Templeton welcome home register in December, 1945, there were 48 names of men serving and the welcome home committee shared out the money. To men who served overseas £12, served in the homeland £5, men serving in the Forces who married local young women £2. The Parish celebrated Victory celebrations with a sports, tea, etc., and with an extra large bonfire on the village green. The following few pages tells the story of those young men who gave the ultimate sacrifice in both World Wars and are remembered on the Templeton War Memorial and the memorials in the three local churches.

## **World War I 1914 - 1918**

The bloodshed on the battlefields of the Western Front that the young men from Templeton faced throughout the war must not be forgotten. Canadian doctor Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae wrote in 1915 the poem that inspired the use of the poppy as a symbol of remembrance. McCrae wrote the poem from the perspective of the fallen soldiers:

To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

I am particularly grateful to Steven John of the West Wales War Memorial Project for allowing me to use his research data listed below.

**Mansel Bowen** was killed in action on 9 October 1917 aged 37. His body was lost on the battlefields, he is remembered on a Memorial in Belgium.

Mansel was the son of Richard and Mary Bowen, of Big House, Cold Blow. He had worked as a Railway Plate Layer for several years prior to the war. He enlisted at Narberth into the army and was posted to the Lancashire Fusiliers, who landed at Havre on 28 February 1917, moving to the Belgian coast, where a secret offensive, Operation Hush, had been planned. At the end of September it was moved south to reinforce the Allied troops assaulting the Passchendaele Ridge, during the Third Battle of Ypres. On 5 October the division relieved the 3rd Australian Division in the front line near Poelcappelle. The division attacked from their trenches following a heavy artillery bombardment on the morning of 9 October 1917, but found the German defences untouched by the artillery barrage. After heavy fighting elements of

the division made their way into Passchendaele village, but were later forced to retire.



*Remembrance Day at Templeton War Memorial 2018. The children from Templeton CP School took part in the Service. Charlie Reynolds, Poppy Kirkwood, Basil Foraud and Judith Francis led the service*

**Elwyn Davies** the son of William and Elizabeth Davies, of 'Brynmor', Templeton had worked as a butcher at Narberth prior to the war and enlisted at Narberth into the Pembroke Yeomanry. After completing his training Elwyn like Mansel Bowen was posted to the Lancashire Fusiliers. The Battalion landed at Havre on 28 February 1917. George was badly wounded at Passchendaele and brought back to the Casualty Clearing Station at Remy Sidings, where he died of Wounds on 11 November 1917, aged just 22. He is buried there at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium.

**John Davies** was a Private in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers who was born at Templeton. He was called up for military service in 1916. He was posted to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in France. The Division he was attached to had been in France since July 1915, and had fought at the Battle of Loos and on the

Somme before John joined their ranks. By the summer of 1917 it had moved to positions south of Ypres, at Messines, where it took part in the great Battle of Messines, which was launched by the blowing of nineteen huge underground mines on 7 June 1917. John was killed that same day, during the initial attack of the 19th Division towards the Red Line near Oostaverne. He is buried at Wytschaete Military Cemetery, Belgium.

**Benjamin Evans** of the Lancashire Fusiliers was born at Templeton in 1892, the son of Price and Elizabeth Evans. The family later moved to Bridgend, Glamorgan. Benjamin had initially served with the Lancashire Fusiliers, but does not appear to have served overseas with the battalion. At some time Benjamin had been medically downgraded, and was posted to the 533rd Agricultural Company, Labour Corps. He died on 7 February 1919, aged 26 and is buried at Molleston Baptist Chapel, Templeton.

**William Lewis** enlisted at Haverfordwest into the Army, and was posted to the 13th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps. William was the son of Ann Lewis, of Park Villa, Templeton. The 13th Field Ambulance had been in France since 15 August 1914 and had fought at the Battle of Mons and during the retreat south fighting at Le Cateau, then down to the Marne where the German attack was halted. They took part in the advance to the Aisne, before moving to Flanders, where they fought at the Battle of La Bassée, then at Messines in October, 1914. Then they fought here through First Ypres and took part in the capture of Hill 60 and then fought at Second Ypres in April 1915. March 1916 saw the Division moving to positions between St. Laurent-Blangy and Vimy, near Arras, and the Division saw plenty of action during its spell here. On 1 July 1916 the Battle of the Somme opened, and the Division moved south fighting at High Wood, Guillemont, Flers-Courcelette, Morval and Le Transloy. William was killed during the later stage of the Somme offensive, on 3 September 1916, aged 23 whilst attempting to rescue a wounded comrade under shellfire. He is buried at Hamel Military Cemetery, Beaumont Hamel, France.



*Memorabilia from the late Gwyn Williams. Group photo 1915 of The Royal Engineer, Gwyn is sitting front row, second left. Official letter from the War Department to his wife "It is my painful duty to inform you...", Jessie was said to have let out such a heart felt scream. He was killed in action on 7th October 1918, just 32 days before Armistice Day. Originally from near St Clears he married Jessie Scourfield who later lived at 'Bank House', Templeton. Courtesy of Robin Hector, grandson of Gwyn Williams.*

**Owen Morris** was the son of Joseph and Ann Morris, of Mounton, Templeton. He was living in Birmingham prior to the outbreak of war, working as a Coach Painter, and enlisted into the Queen's Own Worcestershire Hussars (Worcester Yeomanry). The unit formed for war on 4 August 1914 and on 11 April 1915 they sailed from Avonmouth, arriving at Alexandria before moving to Suvla Bay, Gallipoli. During November 1915 the Worcester Yeomanry returned to Egypt, where the 2nd Mounted Division which it was attached to was broken up and the brigade became the 5th Mounted Brigade. In February 1917 the brigade moved to the Imperial Mounted Division and took part in the advance into Palestine. Owen became ill during the offensive, and died on 14 May 1917, aged 32. He is buried at Deir El Belah War Cemetery, Israel.

**Sidney Thomas** was from the village of Ludchurch and is listed on the Templeton War Memorial. He was born at Ludchurch on 23 January 1899, the son of Margaret Thomas. Prior to the war he worked as a Goods Clerk for the Great Western Railway at Pontliw, a village located near Pontarddulais. He enlisted into the army and was posted to the South Wales Borderers, which was the Pioneer battalion. The Division had fought at the Battles of Arras, Messines and Passchendaele in 1917. November saw them move south again, where they took part in the Battle of Cambrai. They remained in the area over the final winter of the war, and were stationed near Gouzeaucourt when the Germans launched their Spring Offensive. Sidney was killed by a shell during the first morning of the offensive, on 21 March 1918. He was just 19 years old and is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, France.

**Gwyn Williams** was born at St. Clears, and had been brought up by James and Mary John, at Tynwydd, St. Clears. He had lived at Templeton prior to the war and married Jessie Miriam Scourfield of Templeton in 1915. He enlisted at Cardiff into the Army, and was posted to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. During December, 1915 the Division moved to France and concentrated on the Bethune area. They saw their first major action during the Somme Offensive, at the Battle of Guillemont and also fought at the Battle of Ginchy. By May,



1917 the Division had moved to positions south of Ypres, where they fought at the Battle of Messines and then moved north, fighting at the Battle of Langemarck, before returning to Arras. Gwyn was killed in action at Arras on 7 October 1918. He has no known grave, and is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, France.

## **World War II 1939-1945**

**William Davies** joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and became a Pilot Officer (Air Gunner). William was the son of David Howard Davies and Minnie Davies (nee Morgan), of Trogan House, Templeton. He served with 630 Squadron, RAF, which was a heavy bomber squadron, equipped with the Avro Lancaster, based at East Kirkby, Lincolnshire. William's Lancaster was damaged while on a mission to bomb a synthetic oil plant in Germany on the night of 21/22 August 1944 and while attempting to return home, the aircraft became un-flyable and the crew were forced to bale out over Cambridgeshire. William's parachute was damaged, so he roped onto a comrade in an attempt to jump to safety together, but was killed when the attempt failed. He was 23 years old, and his remains were brought home for burial in St. John's Churchyard, Templeton.

**Sergeant Ernest Hughes** of the Royal Artillery killed in action on the 22 January 1944. Ernest was the son of John Hughes and Sarah Rebecca Hughes (nee Killa), of Templeton. He served with 102 (The Pembroke Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, which landed at Algiers in February 1943 as part of the 1st Army. After the fall of Tunis they converted to a medium artillery regiment and landed in Italy with the 8th Army, in December 1943. He was 25 years old, and is buried at Minturno War Cemetery, Italy.

**Desmond Calcutt** John was a Guardsman with the Welsh Guards. He was the son of Harry and Veneda John (nee Calcutt), of Templeton. Desmond was educated at Tenby, and was a regular soldier, serving with the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards at the outbreak of war. The Welsh Guards moved to France as

part of the British Expeditionary Force, and took up positions in the city of Arras on 17 May 1940. In May 1940, the Germans launched their Blitzkrieg or



*This memorial commemorates the residents of Templeton who were killed or missing in the First World War and the Second World War.*

military campaign into France, and Arras was bombed heavily on 19 May, with heavy fighting following. On 24 May the Welsh Guards were ordered to withdraw, and began a fighting retreat towards Dunkirk. Desmond was killed during a brief but fierce rearguard action at West Cappel on 29 May 1940. The German advance was delayed but at a heavy cost to the Welsh Guards. Desmond was 20 years old and is buried at West Cappel Churchyard, Belgium. He is also commemorated on the Tenby War Memorial.

**Oliver Maurice Lewis** was a Sergeant with the Pioneer Corps. Oliver was the son of John Thomas Lewis and Lilian Lewis (nee Morgan), of 3 The Buildings, Templeton. He served with the Pioneer Corps. Little else is known, but Oliver

died on 5 January 1943, aged 29, and is buried at Templeton Congregational Chapel Cemetery.

**James Mason** was a Royal Naval Stoker he was born on 3 September 1920, the son of William and Catherine Mary Mason, of Hoarstone, Martletwy. He married Winifred Mabel Eileen Allen, of Ruelwall, Llanteg in 1942. He served in the Royal Navy as a stoker aboard the Royal Naval Vessel, H.M.L.B.O.6. The vessel was in fact a device that had been invented purely for the Normandy Landings, and was a Landing Barge. These Landing Barges came in a huge variety of different types, and were used for several purposes; defence, transportation, supply (of food, water and oil) and repair (fitted out with workshops). Little is known of what happened but John is recorded as having been killed on 14 June, 1944 aged just 23. He is remembered on the Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent.

**John McCarthy** was an Air Gunner Sergeant with the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve he was the son of Patrick and Mary McCarthy. He married Gladys Morgan of 'Wood Office', Templeton in 1942 while based in Pembrokeshire with the Royal Air Force. He served with 460 (Royal Australian Air Force) Squadron, RAF, which was a heavy bomber squadron, equipped with the Avro Lancaster, which flew from RAF Brighton. John served as Air Gunner on the crew of Flight Sergeant G. A. Grant, and on the night of 20 February 1944, the crew of eight flew as part of a massive raid on Stuttgart. On their return the following morning of 21 February 1944, the Lancaster crashed with the loss of all eight of her crew. John was 24 years old and was brought home for burial at Templeton Congregational Chapel Cemetery. He had flown fifteen combat missions by the time of his death.

**Thomas Neale** was Fusilier with the Royal Welch Fusiliers. Thomas was the son of Edwin Neale and Mary Neale (nee Roose), of Redberth. He married Annie Mary Elizabeth Mason of Templeton in 1941. He served with the 6th Battalion, Royal Welch Fusiliers, which was part of the 53rd (Welsh) Division

that landed on Normandy at the end of June, 1944. Thomas was killed during the fighting in the Bocage on 17 July 1944. He was 24 years old, and is commemorated on the Bayeux Memorial, France. Thomas is also commemorated on the Carew War Memorial.

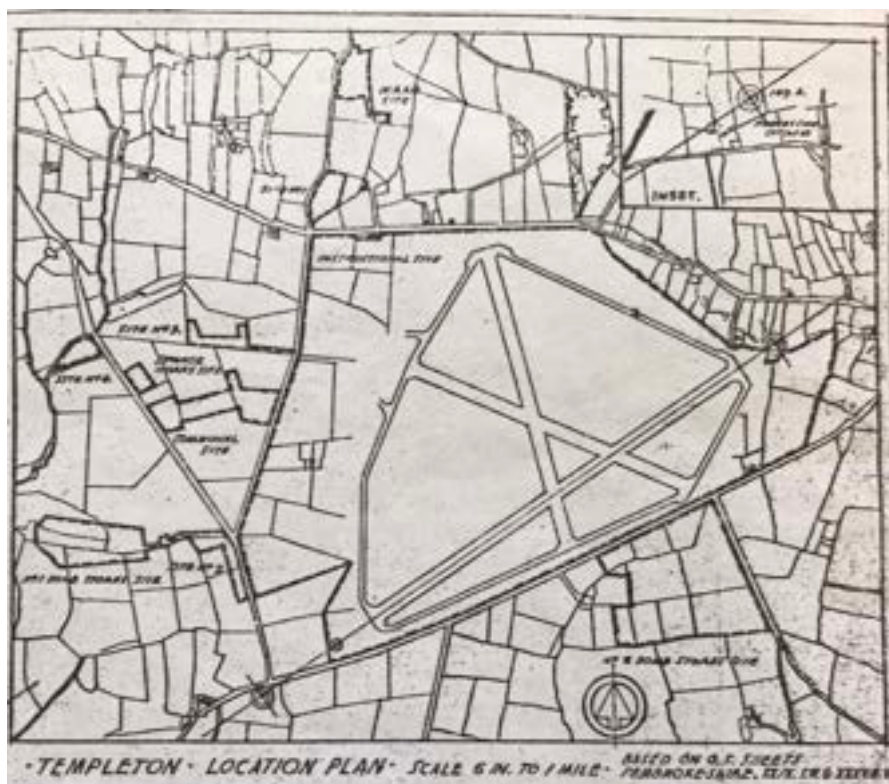
**Marine Richard Thomas** was born in Templeton in 1922. He served with the Royal Marines, and after the Normandy Landings of 6 June 1944, was serving with 27th Battalion, Royal Marines. The battalion took part in the drive through Holland in 1944, and then into Germany, where Richard was killed, just six days before the surrender of Germany, on 29 April 1945. He is buried at Becklingen War Cemetery, Germany.

### **RAF Templeton 1942-1945**

A short background of RAF Templeton's unusual history is included here. I am particularly grateful to Basil Foraud and Sue Lloyd for providing the information. RAF Templeton was created to be a satellite airfield to RAF Haverfordwest based at Witybush Airfield. In the early stages it was clear that the construction of Witybush was running behind schedule due to the muddy conditions on the site causing the machines to be continually bogged down in the mud. The site was requisitioned by the Ministry of Defence in 1939 soon after the outbreak of World War II<sup>41</sup>. By 1942 Cranberry Pool, Blackheath, North Hill, Coursehill (or Porth Villa), Mountain and Black Mountain farms, were all demolished to make way for what was to be RAF Templeton Airfield. A property known as Maes-y-Coed was also demolished as it was thought it would obstruct landing aircraft.

Building started on the aerodrome on the 10th November 1942 on farmland acquired by the War Department and opened in January 1943. RAF Templeton as it was officially called, initially formed part of No. 17 Group RAF. No. 17 Group RAF was a group of the Royal Air Force that was first formed in May 1918 and disbanded in October 1919. It was reformed in December 1936 as

No. 17 (Training) Group in RAF Coastal Command. As its title suggests it was the training organisation within RAF Coastal Command, and had a particular role in training for the defence of the oil installations in Milford Haven. In



January 1943 No 306 Ferry Training Unit (Bristol Beaufort) formed at the aerodrome, later departing to Maghaberry in Northern Ireland. The Observer training flight, "O" Flight, of No. 3 (Coastal) Operational Training Unit RAF (Avro Anson). The unit formed at RAF Chivenor training crews for various aircraft including Bristol Beauforts, Avro Ansons, Vickers Wellingtons and Armstrong Whitworth Whitleys. On 29 July 1941 the Whitleys and Wellingtons moved to RAF Cranwell and the Beaufort section became No. 5 Operational Training Unit RAF (5 OTU) when it re-formed at Chivenor on 1 August 1941. 3 OTU then moved to RAF Haverfordwest where it was disbanded on 4

January 1944 and absorbed into No. 6 Operational Training Unit RAF (6 OTU). moved in from nearby Haverfordwest, staying until December 1943. From December 1943 to May 1944, the station hosted an American unit, using British-built aircraft, 1st Gunnery and Tow Target Flight, VIII USAAF, (Westland Lysander and Miles Master) towing targets for the fighters at the American training base at RAF Atcham, Shropshire. During the latter part of 1944, anti-aircraft target-towing Miles Martinets and Supermarine Spitfires of No. 595 Squadron RAF, based at Aberporth, used the airfield. In January 1945, No 8 OTU moved into Haverfordwest, and "A" Flight was detached to Templeton, training aircrew on photo-reconnaissance aircraft including the Supermarine Spitfire and de Havilland Mosquito. They only stayed until March but a small engineering unit remained at Templeton to carry out aircraft repairs. They moved to Benson, Oxfordshire, in June.

In July 1945, the RAF closed RAF Templeton although No 74 Gliding School Air Training Corps continued to use part of the airfield as they had done since 1944. The Royal Marines took over the camp in 1945 and it was used as a holding camp prior to de-mob for marines from all over the world.

Templeton perhaps suffered from a lack of clear strategy on the parts of military planners, plus perhaps a mixture of its geographical position, connection with Haverfordwest (Withybush) and a certain lack of hangar space.

The airfield closed when transferred to the Admiralty in October 1945 but since the 1950s increasing and diverse activity has resulted in Templeton being used far more than in wartime. Army driver training and exercises have played a big part in this and can see considerable activity at times. Even aviation has never quite gone away as the Haverfordwest Model Club is based here for model aircraft flying. Recreational civil gliding has occurred in the past, in some ways following a tradition from when No 74 Gliding School stayed between

1944 and leaving for Carew Cheriton in 1946. All three runways are in relatively good condition.

Today, the two multi-user paths from the hamlet of Peters Finger closely follow the Farm Roads of the 1940 Survey. The path to the Reynalton exit crosses the sites of three farms: Cranberry Pool, Blackheath and North Hill. Two farms were situated by the Thomas Chapel exit: Coursehill and Mountain. Black Mountain Farm was situated on the west of the aerodrome site by the Carne/Washfield Cross road. The site remains in MoD ownership as the *Templeton Dry Training Area*. It is used for a variety of training tasks, including helicopter and air defence exercises, infantry and driver training. Usage is shared with a number of other activities, including agriculture, storage and model aircraft flying.



*Templeton Control Tower Type - Watch Office with Operation Room for Bomber Satellite Stations 7345/41 with added observation room 13079/41 and update to 2338/42.  
Photograph Courtesy Sue Lloyd 1970.*

On 5<sup>th</sup> January 1943, Squadron Leader Freke reported to RAF Templeton for duty as the Chief Instructor to a new Ferry Training Unit. Two days later, a postagram arrived informing him of the immediate formation of No. 306

Ferry Training Unit (shortened to FTU) to ferry train 25 Beaufort crews per month. Also on the same day, all personnel on the strength of RAF Haverfordwest (Withybush) were reposted to RAF Templeton. Presumably this was due to the problems referred to above. By the end of January 1943, there were 144 airmen of the RAF regiment at the airfield and 306 FTU was to be ready to train an expected initial input of 10 crews.

In the February of 1943 more officers and men were posted to 306 OTU of various trades and for flying duties. On the 11 February a War Office communication authorised 25 Beaufort aircraft, 47 officers, 277 airmen and 22 WAAFs to be based at the airfield.

Due to limited storage facilities at Templeton, main equipment stocks were to be held at Haverfordwest. Also, crews were to arrive fully equipped by Filton for their posting overseas before being despatched to Templeton. Also, each output of crews should be despatched before the following crews arrived.

An incident occurred at around 2320 hours on the night of 16<sup>th</sup> February 1943 when an Avro Anson twin-engined, multi-role aircraft from RAF Longmarston made a forced landing due to lack of fuel. There were no night landing facilities at RAF Templeton but it was a moonlit night and fortunately there were no casualties other than to the aircraft which suffered damage to its propellers, flaps and a measuring instrument known as a pitot head.

In the March of 1943, 21 Bristol Beaufort Mk 1 twin-engined torpedo bombers arrived making a total of 23 on the station. One crashed on take-off on the 27<sup>th</sup> March, it began to swing violently during take off, crashing into a hill in the centre of the airfield.

The 1<sup>st</sup> April 1943 was the day when the whole of RAF Templeton was celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RAF with a ceremonial parade, involving a Colour Hoisting ceremony, followed by a march past. At some time during the day, Beaufort Mk 1 No. DX 124 crashed soon after taking off. It crashed at Redstone and was completely burnt out. Three of the four crew were killed: Sgts Colclough, Norman and Ackroyd. The survivor, Sgt Rudd was



seriously injured and was admitted to Picton Castle Military Hospital where he was placed on the dangerously injured list. One of them, a Wireless Operator/Air Gunner in the Royal New Zealand Air Force is buried in Robeston Wathen churchyard. Two days later F/Lt Newton arrived to carry out an investigation



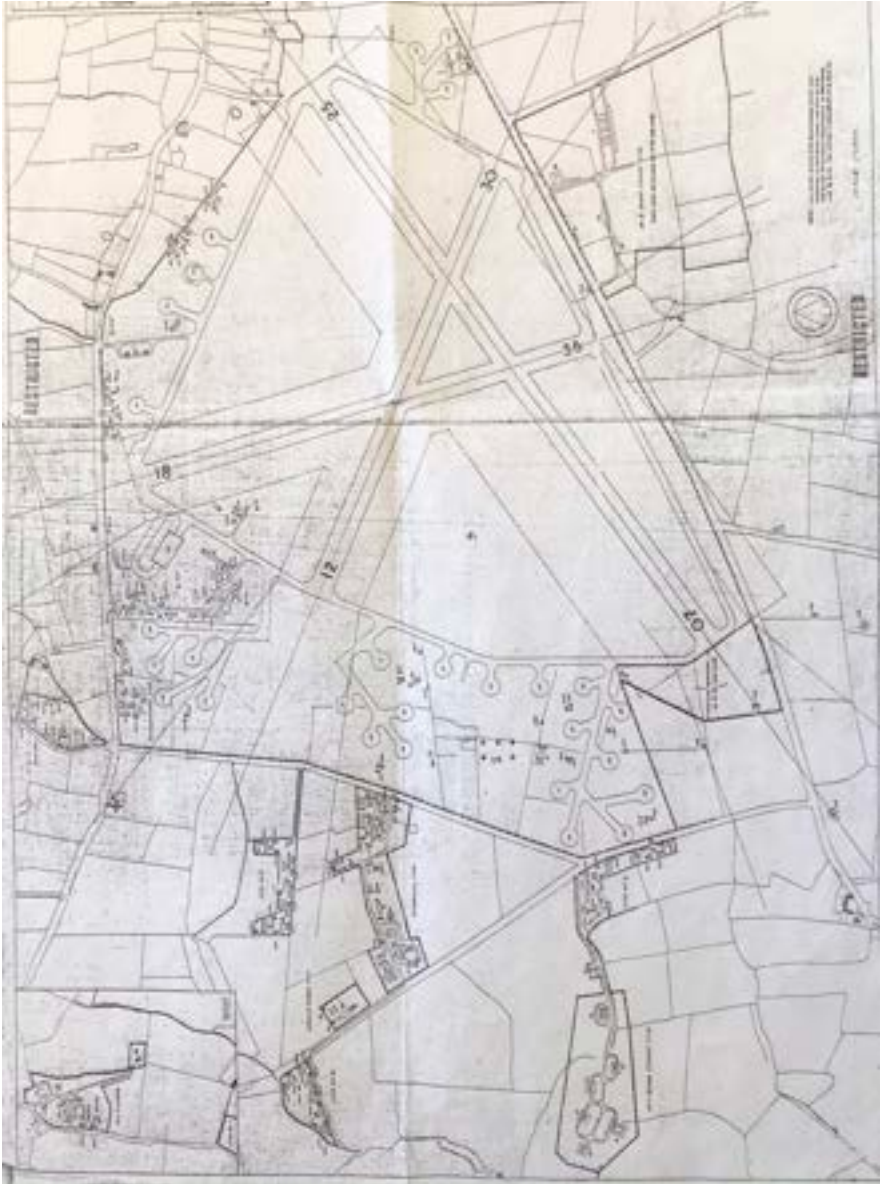
*Colour photo of two Beaufort Mk.Is of 217 Squadron. They would have been a familiar sight over the skies of Templeton in 1942-43.*

*Photo credit: Wikipedia*

as to the cause of the crash. An extract of the Report on Air Crash near Redstone Farm on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1943 is shown here:

*At 10.09 hours on 2/4/43 two observers were on duty at R.2. Post, Cox Hill, Narberth. They were observer W. Sutton who was "Spotter" and Observer W. S. Rowlands who was telephonist. Two Beauforts were spotted low flying over the Post one travelling North and the other West. There was a strong westerly wind blowing and visibility was poor. There seemed to be nothing wrong with the plane and engines were working regularly. The only thing out of the ordinary was that the plane seemed to be drifting sideways towards the East with the wind. Suddenly Sutton noticed what looked like a red ball of fire from the Northerly bound plane*

## Plan of Templeton Airfield



*This was a 'Restricted Document' showing the layout of Templeton Airfield.  
Courtesy of Basil Foraud*

# Key to Templeton Airfield Plan

SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION	SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION
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<b>ACCOMMODATION SITE</b>			
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Key to the layout of Templeton Airfield.  
Courtesy of Basil Foraud

*somewhere near its nose. Then there was a huge discharge of smoke near the ground indicating a crash.*

*Rowlands then at once proceeded to the scene of the crash which was in a field behind Red Stone Farm. He arrived there by car within 7 minutes. When he arrived there he found another R.O.C. man of the name of J. F. C. Thomas already on the spot with a few farm labourers. Observer went close to the plane to investigate. He found a Flight Sergeant lying severely injured on the ground. He was dangerously near the burning plane. His head [hair?] was almost burned. Thomas called for help and, with the assistance of Rowlands and a man named Rowe and some others they carried the man free from the flames and put him on an improvised stretcher. The sergeant was in great pain but behaved with considerable pluck. His only concern seemed to be for his comrades in the wrecked plane.*

*Later on I arrived at the scene and brought P. O. Webb in my car to the observer post for him to make enquiries there.*

*Signed: B. W. Allen, Capt.*

*Head Observer, 281 Group,*

*R.2. Post,*

*Royal Observer Corps. 5/4/43*

## Fatal Crash at Redstone

At 0959 hours on April 1<sup>st</sup> 1943 a twin engine Beaufort Bomber Mark 1 took off from Templeton with full tanks for a navigation exercise. At 1009 hours that aircraft crashed at Redstone with the loss of 3 of the 4 crew.



*Photograph of a Beaufort Bomber Mark 1. Photo credit: Wikipedia*

Two observers of the Royal Observer Corps post at Coxhill, Narberth spotted the aircraft. It appeared to be drifting sideways in the strong westerly wind. Suddenly they saw a red ball of fire and a huge discharge of smoke.

The aircraft had crashed in a field behind Redstone farm. Within 7 minutes Observer W. S Rowlands was on the scene, joined by Observer J. F. C. Thomas and some farm labourers. Flight Sergeant Rudd had managed to climb out of the plane but was lying on the ground severely injured. He was dragged clear, but the others perished.

The survivor, Sgt. Rudd, said that the pilot had been unable to maintain height and warned the crew that he was going to crash-land. The aircraft hit the ground at high speed and crashed through a solid bank. The port engine was thrown out and the aircraft burst into flame.

The report on the accident stated that the starboard engine failed due to



*Photograph of crashed Beaufort Bomber on Templeton Airfield 1943.  
Photograph courtesy of Basil Foraud.*

petrol starvation. The pilot had turned the fuel off by mistake. The lever on the balance cock quadrant, which controlled the fuel distribution to the engines was badly designed. The lever was not easily accessible to the pilot and the pointer was on the inside, not in his view. The report implied that the pilot, Sgt Colclough was unfamiliar with this type of aircraft. It also stated that this was an easy mistake to make and that modifications must be made.

The airmen who died were:

Vivian Ackroyd a Sergeant in the Royal New Zealand Air Force. Vivian was the son of Herbert Ackroyd and Edith Emily Ackroyd (Nee Thomas), of Temuka, Canterbury, New Zealand. He enlisted into the Royal New Zealand Air Force, and was posted to Britain to train as a Wireless Operator/Air Gunner with 306 Ferry Training Unit, Royal Air Force. Vivian was stationed at

RAF Templeton during the war. Sergeant (Pilot) Stewart Colclough with the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Stewart was the son of Richard and Lucy Colclough, of Oak Hill, Stoke-on-Trent. He served as a Pilot with 306 Ferry Training Unit, Royal Air Force. He was stationed at RAF Templeton during the war. The third member of the crew to be killed was Sergeant John Norman of the Royal Australian Air Force was the son of William Henry and Kathleen Norman, of Townsville, Queensland, Australia. He had worked for the Kodak Company in Australia prior to enlisting into the Royal Australian Air Force. He was posted to Britain and joined 306 Ferry Training Unit, Royal Air Force.

Vivian Ackroyd was 21, and is buried in Robeston Wathen Churchyard. Stewart Colclough was just 20 and is buried in Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent and John Norman was 23 and is buried in Wallasey (Rake Lane) Cemetery, Liverpool.

Fourteen more Beauforts and crews arrived at the airfield during April 1943 and 18 were despatched to RAF Portreath on completion of their Ferry Training.

In the month of May 1943, 18 crews arrive for training and 25 trained crews were despatched to Portreath. All of these aircraft with their crews were despatched onwards to India Command.

Within just six months on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1943, No 306 FTU left RAF Templeton and moved to RAF Maghaberry, near Belfast. By this time, 306 FTU had almost reached its target of training 25 crews per month, and RAF Templeton's Operations Record Book for 306 FTU was closed.

A new chapter for RAF Templeton was about to start and following the departure of 306 FTU it was replaced by "O" Fight Ansons from 3 OTU (Operational Training Unit) from RAF Haverfordwest. 3OTU was a Coastal Command Unit training crews on Wellingtons and Whitleys. Complete crews were trained in reconnaissance skills, which would have included anti submarine warfare. Changes took place rapidly and by December 1943 the

Ansons of 3OTU were transferred to 12 Radio School, St Athan, near Cardiff. In April 1940, a School of Air Navigation moved to St Athan from RAF Manston, with 12 Radio School utilising the flight of Avro Ansons from RAF Templeton from September 1943 - May 1944 under the command of 27 Signals Group. As one chapter ended for RAF Templeton another would



*Vultee A-35B Vengeance 41-31367, a tow-target tug  
with the 1st Gunnery & Tow.  
Courtesy of the American Air Museum in Britain.*

begin. The airfield was now to be used by the 1<sup>st</sup> Gunnery and Target Towing Flight of the United States Army 8th Air Force flying P 47D Thunderbolts. They stayed until May 1944.

RAF Templeton days were numbered when in January 1944 it ceased to be a satellite base of RAF Haverfordwest when the No. 3 Operational Training Unit (OUT) was disbanded and absorbed by No. 6 Operational Training Unit at RAF Silloth, Cumbria



RAF Templeton became functional again in August 1944 when permission was given to No 595 Squadron to tow new winged glider targets from its runways. The squadron was used to help anti-aircraft batteries calibrate their equipment, providing aircraft to fly at fixed courses and speeds and target tugs. Miles Martinet aircraft were designed solely as target and later glider tugs, but the first aircraft crashed on landing. Thereafter, Spitfires carried out most of the towing.

October 1944 saw No. 74 Gliding School formed at RAF Templeton for Cadets of the Air Training Corps. After the War it moved to Carew Cheriton in December 1946.

In January 1945 ‘A’ Flight of No. 8 OTU was detached from RAF Haverfordwest to RAF Templeton flying Spitfires and Mosquitoes. It is presumed some of the photographic survey sorties were flown from here. A small engineering section then moved onto the airfield in February 1945, repairing aircraft for the OTU.

Subsequently RAF Templeton was used to repair aircraft for No. 8 OTU in its single T2 Hangar. The airfield was closed in June 1945 when No. 8 OTU left for RAF Benson.

Finally in 1945, the airfield was taken over by the Admiralty and used as a Demobilisation Centre for the Royal Marine School of Signalling from all over the world who held their Farewell Service at Mounton Chapel on June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1946.

### **The Remains of RAF Templeton**

A few buildings survive from the 1940s. Some became useful for agricultural purposes and are still in use. That any survive at all is testament to the quality of workmanship on buildings that were only built to last until the end of the war.

The runways are still intact and are occasionally used for military exercises. The hard-standings, perimeter taxiways, roads and paths were skimmed with

bitumen to render them less visible from the air. Walking along the runways the bitumen can still be seen in many areas.

The No 2 Bomb Stores site, to the south of the airfield is now a fuel yard. The Nissen Hut on the road nearby used to be the Heavy Bomb Fusing building.



*The concrete roof of the Battle Headquarters Bunker is still visible in 2020.*

At Carne two low red brick walls can still be seen which supported the Instrument Landing System. It is in line with the main runway. This enabled pilots to land in poor visibility.

On the western side of the Carne-Washfield Cross Road, just before the bridge, can be seen the remains of a Picket Post and a Sergeant's Quarters. Further along towards Washfield, the remains of domestic buildings of the Communal Site can be seen through the trees.

Going north from Washfield, two air raid shelters can be seen in the field on the right, with their blast walls still intact. Further along this road there was a WAAF site, but next to nothing remains.

“Maes y coed,” a large two storey house on the main road near the Camp’s Main Entrance was demolished as it was too tall and in the pathway of landing aircraft. After the war, the Ministry of Defence sold off the site and the existing bungalow was built.



*Microwave Communication Bunker photographed in 2020.*

### **Microwave Communications Bunker**

This “Cold War” building and was erected in the early 1980s. The Cold War was a period of considerable tension between the Soviet Union and the United States and their respective allies, the Eastern Bloc and the Western Block, after World War II. The period spanned from 1947 to 1991 when it ended with the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The term "cold" was used because there was no large-scale fighting directly between the two superpowers. The Templeton Nuclear Bunker was designed to withstand both missile attack and nuclear

blast. In 2006 a local oil and fuel distributors, KP Thomas and Son, successfully purchased the disused nuclear bunker on the edge of the now obsolete Templeton airfield for the purchase price of £130,000. The building had an area 6,500 sq ft with 1.26 acres of additional land.

### **Royal Observer Corps Post**

The ROC underground nuclear monitoring post was situated off the entrance to the lay-by to the west of the A478 as you leave Templeton village travelling towards Narberth. The underground chamber was built to a standard design constructed from reinforced concrete and brick with access by means of a steel ladder inside a vertical shaft; the chamber measured 4.5m x 2.3m. The post was active between January 1960 and September 1991. One local who joined the Royal Observer Corps part-time was David Lloyd of Molleston<sup>42</sup>. He was born in Cold Blow in 1936, and went to Templeton Primary school and then on to Narberth Grammar school. In 1956 he was called up to do his National Service, and, after completing his basic training at No 7 Air Force, he was posted to the Middle East Air Force as a supply assistant at 107MU Kasfareet. After completing his trade training he became AC1 'Storeman MechTech' and was put in charge of the tyre stores. Soldiers from the East African Rifles and the local Egyptian workforce assisted him. As the Egyptians became more and more hostile the camps began to close down and he was transferred to the disposal section of 107 MU. When the closure were almost complete he was posted to Cyprus and had the distinction of being one of the last airmen to leave the canal zone.

During the Cold War the Royal Observer Corps changed its role to Nuclear attack reporting, their task to identify low-flying aircraft and report to headquarters with the type, speed and height of the aircraft. He spent many weekends training or on exercises, he became the chief leading observer in

charge at the Templeton post and completed 24 years service in the ROC. David Lloyd died at home in July 2019.

### **Public Access**

The public have right of way along the three multi-user paths that cross the airfield from the Microwave Communications Bunker at the Thomas Chapel exit to Peters Finger, and from Peters Finger to the Reynalton exit. These paths roughly follow the paths of the old farm roads. In addition, a new path has been opened, connecting the Reynalton and Thomas Chapel exits.

While the sites surrounding the airfield has been largely returned to private ownership, the airfield itself has been retained as a military training area by the Defence Training Estates, Pembrokeshire.



*A suitable photograph to finish the book on, a young couple starting out on married life in Templeton. The WW1 is over and unknown to this gathering WW2 was to start just 20 years later. We are looking north along Templeton main street. The wedding appears to be outside Glenview.*

# Epilogue

I have reached the end of this local history of Templeton and what a journey it has been. I have attempted to look at the farms, homes and dwellings of the people who over the best part of a 1000 years have called Templeton and the hamlets their home. The Knights Templar who made their home here at Templeton and the Knights of St John who built a commandery at Slebech at the time of the Crusades, all had significant influence on the development of what would have been the rural backwater of Templeton. The real impact of Templeton occurred during the Mediaeval period when much of the village laid down its footings. And it is on those footings that modern day Templeton has been built, particularly over the past 500 years. The gentry of Pembrokeshire such as the Philipps of Picton Castle the Lewises of Henllan, the de Rutzens of Slebech and others have all had a considerable effect on the community. I have looked at the changing landscape and the introduction of enclosures and the break up of these large estates.

The census and land tax assessments have played an important role throughout this book. They have helped provide an insight into the families who have made Templeton their homes and for some of those families continue to do so. I documented the railway's arrival and the establishment of the brickyard and their disappearance all too quickly. The shops, butchers, bakers, millers and blacksmiths all made their mark on the village, sadly all have now gone. Only a handful of farms now remain. Two World Wars took their toll on the community and while writing this book we are once again fighting a different type of war. That war is the global pandemic of COVID 19 and like all the other pandemics will come and eventually go and be confined to history. There is still plenty to research in Templeton's local history. Some of you will I am sure be disappointed that a photograph or place has not been mentioned. I apologise and hope that the next historian will include it.

# References

- <sup>1</sup> Ian Soulsby, *The Towns of Medieval Wales*, 248, Pub. Phillimore 1983
- <sup>2</sup> *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* S. Lewis, 1833
- <sup>3</sup> Russell Morgan, Jottings of Templeton, 1969
- <sup>4</sup> North Hill farm is now part of the disused Templeton Aerodrome.
- <sup>5</sup> Cists (pronounced 'Kists') were an early type of grave used for mainly Bronze Age burials. They usually contained one or more unburnt burials of both male and female. *The structure of these tombs consisted of an underground pit which was lined with slabs or a number of small stones and covered in most cases by a single slab stone. Their dimensions were usually 1 metre or less in each direction. Cremation or burials in Cists were often accompanied by a small single pot or decorated urn which was left near the head and was presumed to contain an offering of food or drink for the spirit of the deceased. The burial rite in the early part of the Bronze age was inhumation but with passing time cremation become more dominant. The word Cist is originally Greek from 'Kist'.*
- <sup>6</sup> National Museum of Wales, Cardiff
- <sup>7</sup> Jon Hudson, The history and landscape of Narberth Forest. Thesis Oxford University 2006 (revised 2012)
- <sup>8</sup> The order was founded in 1119 and was active until about 1312.
- <sup>9</sup> Knowles and Hadcock, *Medieval Religious Houses*, 296; R.C.A.M. W.M., Pems., 296.
- <sup>10</sup> *Brut Tynysogion*, 40.
- <sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, 90,111; Hogg and King, 'Early Castles', 117, 120
- <sup>12</sup> *Cal. Cl. Rolls*, 1279-88, 200
- <sup>13</sup> C 133/32/7; Owen, *Cal. Pems. Records*, ii, 75
- <sup>14</sup> Jon Hudson, The history and landscape of Narberth Forest. Thesis Oxford University 2006 (revised 2012)
- <sup>15</sup> Slebecch Commandery and The Knights of St. John, J Rogers Rees. Pub. 1900
- <sup>16</sup> The house at Merrixton House Farm, Stepside, Narberth was built about 1750.
- <sup>17</sup> Pembrokeshire Records Office Ref D/LWE/1/83

<sup>18</sup> Derek Rees, *Rings and Rosetted - The History of the Pembrokeshire Agricultural Society 1784-1977*. Gower Press. 1977

<sup>19</sup> Pembroke Story - the link to the organisation is no longer available.

<sup>20</sup> Excavations in Three Burgage Plots in the Medieval Town of Newport, Dyfed, 1991 by Kenneth Murphy. PDF copy in Templeton Folder notes on iCloud

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, 99, 116

<sup>22</sup> Ledbury History Society

<sup>23</sup> Kensington also owned property and land in Templeton

<sup>24</sup> Houses of the Welsh Countryside: A Study in Historical Geography by Peter Smith. RCAHM. HMSO 1988

<sup>25</sup> The Buildings of the Countryside 1500-1750, Edited by M. W. Barley. Cambridge University Press 1990

<sup>26</sup> Extract from the Captain Cook Society by John Robson

<sup>27</sup> See *Cook's Log*, page 2013, vol. 25, no. 4 (2002).

<sup>28</sup> TNA. Adm 51/4531/47. It runs from 1 December 1776 to 28 November 1779.

<sup>29</sup> Originally published in *Cook's Log*, page 18, volume 36, number 1 (2013)

<sup>30</sup> PROB 11/1676.

<sup>31</sup> The Pubs of Narberth, Saundersfoot, & South-East Pembrokeshire. Keith Johnston 2004.

<sup>32</sup> Emanuel, H. D., (1959). WILLIAMS, BENJAMIN THOMAS (1832 - 1890), barrister and educationist. Dictionary of Welsh Biography.

<sup>33</sup> *The Place-Names of Pembrokeshire* B. G. Charles, National Library of Wales 1992.

<sup>34</sup> *Traditional Qualities of the West Wales Cottage*, Martin Davies, Pub. E. L. Jones & Sons, Cardigan, 1991

<sup>35</sup> The Place-Names of Pembrokeshire, by B.G. Charles. The National Library of Wales 1992.



<sup>36</sup> Jones, E. H. S., & Löffler, M., (1959). HASSALL, CHARLES (1754 - 1814), land agent and surveyor. Dictionary of Welsh Biography.

<sup>37</sup> Henry Stuart-Jones and Marion Löffler. Dictionary of Welsh Biography. 1959

<sup>38</sup> From *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* S. Lewis, 1833

<sup>39</sup> The Pubs of Narberth, Saundersfoot & South-East Pembrokeshire, by Keith Johnson, Logaston Press 2004.

<sup>40</sup> 5 farms lost. Used coal tips Begelly, Loveston, Bonvilles Court. Kent & Sussex then Wimpy

<sup>41</sup> Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust

<sup>42</sup> Western Telegraph obituary 19th August 2019