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Roath Local History Society

Project Newsletter



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DOMESTIC MATTERS

At A General Meeting on 12th March 1987 at Howardian School, the principal item on the agenda was the proposal to increase the annual subscription from 1987-88 to £8. The meeting resolved unanimously that the subscription rate be increased accordingly with effect from 1st September 1987.

£5 had been fixed many years ago at a time when substantial donations were still being made by Jeff Childs, Gerry Penfold and Alec Keir who had all agreed to hand over to the Society the fees they had earned as part time U.C.C. Extra-Mural lecturers. These donations certainly helped to put the Society on a sound financial basis, but it was never intended that such arrangements should continue indefinitely. No lectures are in fact at present being given. With increasing costs of production of the Newsletter and the possibility that Howardian School may no longer be available for meetings, it is necessary to ensure that our reserves remain adequate. From time to time money has to be spent on photocopying documents for group projects and research. If we are to invite guest speakers to address future meetings, as has been suggested, we must also ensure that we have the funds available to meet their fees and expenses.

CONSTITUTION AND RULES

(As Amended)

1. The Society shall be called the Roath Local History Society.
2. The object of the Society is to promote, encourage and maintain an active interest in and research into local history, with particular reference to the Parish of Roath.
3. Every member of the Society shall have the right to vote at any General Meeting.
4. The Society shall be managed by a Committee consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and five members of the Society all of whom shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting to serve until the end of the Annual General meeting the following year when the whole Committee shall stand down. All officers and members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election.
5. The Committee shall have the right to appoint a Minute Secretary and to create such other posts as it deems necessary and to appoint members to fill those posts.
6. Any vacancy occurring on the Committee shall be filled by a vote of the Committee until the next General Meeting.
- 7.a. The Annual General Meeting will take place in September each year. The agenda for the meeting will be circulated at least two weeks before the A.G.M..
 - b. The Committee shall meet on at least three occasions each year.
8. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be respectively Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Committee and General Meetings. If both are absent, the members present shall, before any other business is

transacted, choose one of their number to preside at the meeting. The Chairman or acting chairman shall have the casting vote.

9. The Constitution and Rules may be amended only at a General Meeting. Notice of any proposed amendment(s) must be given in writing to the Secretary one month prior to such a meeting.

10. A quorum for a General Meeting shall be seven members and a quorum for a Committee meeting five members.

11. A special meeting of the Committee may be called by the Chairman or at the request in writing to the Secretary by any three Committee members.

A General Meeting may be called by the Chairman or at the request of any three members of the Committee, or any Six members of the Society in writing to the Secretary.

12. The financial year of the Society shall commence on 1st August and the Treasurer shall prepare an annual Income and Expenditure Account and submit the account, duly audited, at the Annual General Meeting.

13. An auditor, not being a member of the Committee, shall be appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting to audit the books of the Society.

14. There shall be a membership subscription of £8 per person per annum due on 1st September each year.

15. Any matter not provided for in the Constitution and Rules shall be dealt with by the Committee and presented at the next General Meeting for ratification.

16. All research material belonging to the Society will be held in the custody of the person or persons appointed by the Committee for the purpose.

Editor's Note

I apologise to members for being so late with this Project Newsletter.

Its production has been beset with a series of technical difficulties.

It is hoped that all paid up members will receive the remaining three issues

(Vol.4. Nos.2, 3 & 4) within the next nine months.

TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY OF CARDIFF

The first steps have been taken to set up a project in conjunction with the Manpower Services Commission to undertake an historically based topographical Survey of Cardiff. The proposal, which has the blessing of the Lord Mayor, appears to be largely the brainchild of Philip Riden, local history tutor of the Extra-mural Department of the University College, Cardiff and he has been helped in the initial stages by Andrew Thurkettle, the Cardiff City Council's M.S.C. liaison officer. The newly proposed venture will be on a much more ambitious scale than anything hitherto undertaken in Cardiff and would make use of the large and unique collection of building plans and accompanying volumes of Indexes held at present in the basement of the City Hall. At a preliminary meeting of interested persons held at the City Hall on 19 January under the chairmanship of the Lord Mayor, it was agreed that a working party be set up to examine the feasibility of proposals outlined by Philip Riden and to formulate a detailed plan of action with a view to submitting an application to the M.S.C. which if approved, would enable work to start in January 1988.

For the Roath L.H.S. this enterprise, if it should materialise, will be extremely significant; it will coincide with a phase in the life of the Society when we may begin to experience difficulty in maintaining the impetus of previous and current group projects, not through lack of support or enthusiasm by our members, but because it may be hard to think of fresh projects which do not make excessive demands on our resources. It reflects considerable credit on work already done by our Society that we should be invited to be represented on the working party and share our experience and knowledge with the other members, some of whom are from the University College, the S. Glam. Library Service, Glam. Archive Service, Cardiff 2000, Victorian Society, RCAHM(W), Welsh School of Architecture, etc.

On 4 February I told the Working Party what the Society had already done and gave an outline of what sources we considered still remain to be examined in order to complete a topographical Study of Roath from medieval times to the present day. My notes are reproduced below.

Because M.S.C. projects are authorised and funded on a basis of one year only, it is likely that the initial project would commence with a detailed topographical study of a limited area - e.g. Cardiff dockland and Adamsdown. It is hoped at the end of twelve months to Produce a publication using the results of the research.

We can only wish that the application to the M.S.C. will be successful; if it is, I think I can safely say that the project will receive the full support and co-operation of the Roath L.H.S.

TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY OF ROATH

A certain amount of work was done rather hastily by me for a dissertation for a U.C.C. Extra-mural Diploma in 1981.

Since then a few errors and omissions have come to light in the dissertation which was entitled "The Transformation of the Rural Parish of Roath into a Suburb of Cardiff - a Study of Street Development".

It so happens that a completely revised and augmented version was being planned for inclusion in our future quarterly "Project Newsletters" but it has always been appreciated that a Study in depth as a group project would be beyond the Society's labour and financial resources. (Our paid-up membership is about 30 and subs. are at present £5 p.a.)

We take as our geographical unit the old ecclesiastical parish of Roath, which includes' the Present districts of Roath, Plasnewydd, Pen-y-lan, Cyncoed (part), Cathays (part), Adamsdown, Splott, Tremorfa and Pengam. The parochial boundary extended along the middle of what are now City Road and Crwys Road.

What we have already done:

1. Main projects completed on 1840 Tithe Plan & Apportionment Schedule for Roath:

Reproductions of maps coloured to show areas of

- (a) land ownership
- (b) land occupation
- (c) land usage
- (d) tithe free land

2. Several subsidiary projects based on Tithe Plan for Roath, e.g.

- (a) list of landowners Showing area of each of their landholdings
- (b) field-names - Welsh & English
- (c) customary acres and Statutory acres,
- (d) Personal & Place-names fed into card indexes

3. Projects on Tithe Maps of surrounding parishes:

As 1(a), 1(b) and 1(c) above for Parishes of St John the Baptist, St Mary, Rumney, Lisvane, Llanishen, Radyr, Whitchurch and Llandaff.

4. Main projects completed on Census Enumerators' Returns for Roath:

- (a) Comparison of data from 1841 & 1851 censuses with Tithe Plan
- (b) Personal names from 1841, 1851 & 1861 censuses fed into card indexes (1871 in progress).
- (c) Analyses by occupation, age/sex structure etc. etc.
- (d) Place and street indexes to each census 1841 - 1871 (showing folio/page etc. on micro-film)

5. A chronological pattern of street development has been built up from:

(a) The City Hall index (two volumes) of plans deposited with Cardiff City Council which has been examined to extract the dates of earliest plans approved for most streets within the area of the old parish.

(b) The minutes of the Roath District Board of Health (G.R.O. P.57) from its first meeting in 1860 until absorption of Roath into Cardiff in 1875 . This source material has been examined for a similar purpose.

(c) Minutes of the Cardiff Corporation Public Works Committee (C.C.L.) which have been consulted especially for dates of streets on the Mackintosh Estate.

6. The geographical delineation of land-owner's estates as at 1840 has been projected on to copies of later maps - e.g. Waring's District Plan of 1869 (G.R.O reproduction publication), 6" and 25" O.S. maps.

7. Some biographical notes and genealogical charts on the larger landowners are held. Articles of historical topographical interest with photocopied maps (A4 format) have appeared from time to time in the Society's Project Newsletters.

8. A photographic portfolio is held of 10"x8" prints (mostly copied from C.C.L. print collection or purchased from Welsh Folk Museum).

What remains to be done on Roath:-

1. Examine, extract, analyse and interpret the great bulk of information contained in the Inland Revenue land valuation returns by owners under Sec.26 Finance Act 1910. The volumes for Cardiff are deposited with the G.R.O. The large scale maps associated with these returns are, I understand, with the P.R.O.

2. Obtain from the N.L.W. copies of large scale plans of the Splott Tredegar estate after it had been built up. They show the streets, individual houses and names of tenants etc. The cost of obtaining photocopies (approx £70) is beyond the means of the Society.

3. For a pre-1840 topographical study of the Roath, Cathays, Whitchurch and Llanishen areas, an examination of the Heath Enclosure Award 1801 is essential. The Award itself can apparently only be reproduced by an expensive photographic process with the consent of the Glamorgan Archive Service. The Society has managed to obtain a photocopy of the accompanying Enclosure Map.

4. A list is held of deeds deposited at the G.R.O. relating to Property in Roath. Most of these remain to be examined with a view to extracting useful data.

5. Order aerial survey photographs from the Welsh Office. (O.S. Grid Refs. required).

6. A list could be drawn up of addresses from which photographs can be purchased or borrowed. The largest selections of local photographs are held in the C.C.L., Welsh Folk Museum and in Fred Jones's great post-card collection.

7. Some photographs of streets and buildings have been taken for the Society but a systematic survey is urgently needed. A short experimental amateur video film was made by us in 1985 but it remains unedited and it has no spoken commentary! Practically nothing has been done by our Society on architectural history, mainly because we think other organisations and individuals are better equipped to undertake such work.

8. Refer to Tithe Commission files at P.R.O. and extract useful information.

9. Obtain copies if possible of Strawson's plans of Cardiff esp. City Rd. (Plwcca Lane) area. We hold one only - Adamsdown House. Strawson's Plans of National Freehold Land Society, 1852 and 1856 are (or were) held at C.C.L.

10. Other source material, not all related to Roath of which I have notes: .

- Romilly Estate Sale Catalogue, 1852 (G.R.O.)
- Tredegar Estate Sale Catalogues, 1957. (G.R.O.)
- Windsor Estate Rentals (C.C.L.- unless transferred to G.R.O.) .
- Bute Estate Rentals (C.C.L. & N.L.W.)

11. Of many secondary sources, one outstanding book is M.J.Daunton's "Coal Metropolis Cardiff 1870 - 1914", (Leicester U.P.,1977), in particular Part two, (chapters 5 to 8). It is of course also useful in giving the many primary sources available for further studies.

12. Complete the transcription of LAND TAX assessments from the G.R.O. Years already transcribed: 1782 to 1790, 1791,1794, 1800,1810,1820 & 1830. These have been found valuable in giving clues to identify parcels of land and changes of tenancies and ownership in late 18 C. and early 19 C.

LIST OF MAPS HELD BY ROATH LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

CATEGORY A - ORDNANCE SURVEY

All except (1) are originals printed and published by O.S. or (in the case of SIM), their agent.

(1). c.1800 (date to be ascertained)

Prelim. working drawing. A3 size enlarged print obtained by projection of portion of Glamorgan map held on microfiche U.C.C. Library.

Extent of portion copied includes Roath.

Top L. portion of Cardiff race-course

Bot.L. Cardiff Castle

Top.R. Lanrumney Mill

Bot.R. Pengam & River Rhymney

A4 version of above prepared for Project Newsletter Vol.1. No.4 post p.30)

BOX 6

(2). 1880 (Pink Edition)

Scale 1:2500 (25.344" to 1 mile)

GLAMORGAN SHEET XLIII.II

Approx. extent:

Top L. Barracks (Brigade Depot No.24)

Bot.L. (Part missing-torn) Coopers Field

Top.R. Roath mill

Bot .R.Copper St, Ruby St, Topaz St.

(Edges are damaged & repaired with sellotape).

BOX 10

(3). 1885. (Survey ed. 1878-9. Transfer to zinc 1886)

GLAMORGANSHIRE SHEET XLIII

(SOUTHERN DIVISION) SHEET XXXVII

MONMOUTHSIRE (SOUTHERN DIVISION)

Scale. 6" to 1 mile or 1:10560

Approx extent:

Top L. Whitchurch

Bot.L. Cadoxton

Top R. Penygroes, Llanedeyrn

Bot.R. Upper Cosmeston

(4). 1901.2nd Edition. (Surveyed 1874-78. Re-surveyed & revised 1898-99. Re-print 50/1904)

GLAMORGAN SHEET XLIII.7

Scale. 1:2500

Approx. extent. Includes Southern section Cardiff Union)

Top L. The Heath. Heath Wood.

Top R. Cyn Coed

Bot.L. Part Barracks, Whitchurch Rd.

Bot.R. Oldwell, Wellclose, Old Quarry, Pen-y-lan.

(5). 1952(?) Provl. Edition. (Revision of 1940 with additions in 1948)

GLAMORGAN SHEET XXXVII S.W.

Scale. 6" to 1 mile or 1:10,560

Approx. extent. Top L. Craig yr allt (Caerphilly Cop.Const)

Top R. Rudry

Bot.L. Tongwynlais

Bot.R. Llanishen fawr

6). 1952. Provl. Edition. (Revision of 1940-1 with additions in 1948)

GLAM SHEET XLIII N.E.

MON. SHEET XXXVIII N.E.

Scale: 6" to 1 mile or 1:10560

Approx. extent: Top L. Rhydypennau

Top R. Llanrumney Hall

Bot.L. New Zealand Rd. (part)

Bot.R. Rumney

(7). 1952(?) Provl. Edition. (Revision of 1940-42 with additions in 1948)

GLAMORGAN SHEET XLIII N.W.

Scale: 6" to 1 mile or 1:10560

Approx. extent:

Top L. Morganstown, Whitchurch

Top R. Inland Revenue offices, Llanishen

Bot.L. Waterhall Plantation, Radyr

Bot.R. Gabalfa

BOX 2

(8). 1952(?) Provl. Edition. (Revision of 1941-2 with additions in 1947)

GLAMORGAN SHEET XLVII N.E.

Scale. 6" to 1 mile or 1:10560

Approx. extent:

Top L. Saltmead, Clive St.

Top R. Roath Dock

Bot.L. Cogan

Bot.Centre. Penarth Head

Bot.R. Bristol Channel

BOX 2

(9).1954. (Survey Dec.1952 Jan.1953)

PLAN ST 1877 (A photographic reduction by O.S. of the component 1:1250 Plans)

Scale. 1:2500 or 25.344" to 1 mile

Approx. extent:

Top L. Hirwaun St.
Top R. Diana St
Bot.L. Welsh Nat. War Memorial, Alexandra Gdns.
Bot.R. St Peters R.C.Church

BOX 5

(10).1954 Provl. Edition (Revision of 1916-20 with additions in 1948-50)
MONMOUTHSHIRE SHEET XXXIII S.E.
Scale: 6" to 1 mile or 1:10560

Approx extent:

Top L. Dyffryn, Coedkernew
Top R. Alexandra Docks,
Bot.L. Peterstone Wentloog
Bot.R. Sutton Farm & Bristol Channel

BOX 2

(11) 1955
PLAN ST 1876
Scale. 1:2500

Extent:

Top L. Cathays Park
Top R. Tredegarville
Bot.L. Temperance Town
Bot.R. Pendoylan Place, Ellen St.

(12).1974
CARDIFF and NEWPORT '
SHEET 171 1st series 1:50,000
(Flat unfolded)

(13).1975
SHEET ST 17NE
Scale: 1:10,000
Approx. extent:

Top L. Church Rd. Whitchurch, police station & school
Top R. Cyncoed College, Ael y Bryn
Bot.L. Leckwith Woods
Bot.R. Bute E Dock

BOX 4

(14). 1977 (Surveyed Jan.1952. Revised 1960. Boundaries Jan.1977).
Crown Copyright 1960
PLAN ST 1977 NE. SIM. (i.e. Supply of Survey Information on Microfilm)
- supplied by O.S.agent: H.J.Lear, Cardiff.
Scale.1:1250
Extent includes:

Roath Mill Gdns., Marlborough Rd. School, Sandringham Rd, Deri Rd, Waterloo Gdns., St. Margaret's Church, Great House, Timbers Square, Roath Court, Newport Rd.(part - Nos.170-208). Part of Stacey Rd. and Connaught Rd.)

BOX 7

CATEGORY B
ESTATE MAPS

All photocopies

1777. Plan of Splott Farm(lands). N.L.W. New Tredegar Schedules.

Vol.3.p.913.Box No.56. N.L.W.Ref.56/442. (2xA3)

(Reduced to A4 for reproduction in Roath L.H.S. Project Newsletter Vol.3 No.4)

1777. Salt Marsh S, of Rumney Bridge. PA 8329. Vol.68 No.4 - Part of Wyndham Lewis Estate in Glam. & Mon. (A3)

1796. Great House, Roath. N.L.W.TRED. Deposit 959. (A3)

1789. Pengam, Ketchcroft N.L.W.TRED. Deposit 956. (2xA3)

c.1796.Pengam, Ketchcroft N.L.W.TRED Deposit 960 (A3)

1802. Pengam, East Moors, Church Farm. N.L.W.TRED. Deposit 949. (3xA2)

1824(?). Plan of Dean's Farm, Roath by David Stewart and Cardiff in Pengam A15S. Bute Index at N.L.W. - Deposit Collection series of cards). (3xA2)

c.1828. Pengam Farm, Roath Pottery & Brick Works, Heath Brick Works, Bridge Brick Works. LOCKWOOD Deposit Collection. Map 8, (A3)

NANT FAWR - THE ROATH BROOK .

Of great topographical interest in the study of the Roath landscape is Nant Fawr (The Great Brook) the source of which lies in the uplands to the north of the parish. I am grateful to one of our members, Mr Gethin Davey of Newport, whose special interest is the ancient commote of Kibbor (Cibwr) for giving me some of his personal notes on the Llanishen/Lisvane area and the countryside around the upper reaches of the Nant Fawr, the banks of which, he says, were his childhood playground. Ed.

The Marcher Lords mined coal from the south face of Cefn Onn, and small amounts of coal and iron were mined there in the 16th and 17th centuries. Both industries developed rapidly north of Cefn Onn in the first part of the 19th century. Export markets flourished and increased a need for improved methods of transport and so dispensed with the pack-horse and mule-train. The roads to the coast were so poor as to be almost non-existent, so the use of carts and wagons was impossible.

The roads involved very steep climbs - Caerphilly Mountain and Cefn Onn. Three ancient roads run from the summits of these barriers southward - pre-Roman tracks -

- (1) along and down the Wenallt Ridge -
- (2) over Bwlch-y-llechwen
- (3) over Lisvane Craig

The weight of iron a mule could carry was one hundredweight, so the size of the billet was restricted.

The RHYMNEY RAILWAY COMPANY was incorporated in 1854. It skirted Caerphilly originally and passed through Beddau and Penrhos, joining the Taff Vale Railway near Nantgarw. In 1864, the railway was allowed to run from Caerphilly direct to Cardiff and a tunnel was constructed under Cefn Onn.

For countless years the many springs in the limestone ridges of Cefn Onn, Tranch and Lisvane Craig were the beginnings of Nant Fawr which drained into Wern Fawr and then overflowed and after a mile, ran through the centre of my grandfather's Cherry Orchard.

Nant Fawr was dramatically changed when the tunnel was bored and when the deep cutting, running from Cefn Onn for a mile and a half to Llanishen village, was excavated and drained Wern Fawr. All the earth scooped out by the steam navvies was moved to below Llanishen to form the high embankment standing between there and the Heath Halt.

The floor of the tunnel declined to the south and millions of gallons of spring and filtered bog water ran out and down through newly made wooden sluices and concrete culverts all the way to Cardiff.

Nant Fawr from its name must have been an oversized brook but I remember it as a placid stream. At its upper reaches it was easily forded with a line of stepping stones. Golfers crossed and recrossed it when they played eighteen holes. Then within a mile it was lost in the depths of Wern Fawr. The outlet from the Great Swamp was just an overflow and not subjected to violent winter torrents as

were other local brooks. Then the artificial waterways diverted the flow away from Cherry Orchard and although the horses and cattle could walk to it, the household water had to be carried a few hundred yards. The next farm - Llwyn Crwn Fach - above and away from the cutting - encountered massive problems and the miller downstream must have been put out of business - the drainings from Coed Felin would not have turned his wheels. What little water was left crossed the road below Waun Fawr and in 1869 was diverted into the newly made Lisvane Reservoir and from there in 1887 was directed into Roath Park Lake. It powered the medieval Roath Mill - the grist mill for the Manor of Roath, and was demolished in 1897 after a thousand years.

The boring of the tunnel had a revolutionary impact on the countryside that for two centuries had been predominantly rural - green fields, farms, cottages, isolated community struggling with good and bad seasons - good and bad harvests regulating their existence. Farming families grew with each generation and as the land was divided between too many sons, farms were becoming too small to be economic.

Then, as men were lured away by higher wages, farmers' sons' from Somerset and Dorset moved into the area to fill the vacancies. There was a language revolution - in just twenty years a Welsh community turned bilingual and then English speaking.

In 1801 the population of this countryside, which included two villages, was 550 occupying 120 houses. In 1841, 625 in 121 houses. In 1881, 719 in 145 houses.

The Llanishen Church School registers reflect the large influx of labour caused by this major work. 'Tunnel Children' were unable to get to school in the winter of 1874 because of heavy rain. They lived at 'The Huts', 'The Cutting', 'The Railway Cutting' and 'The Tunnel', transitory!

Gethin Davey

6 Feb 1932
S.W. Echo & Express

AMUSEMENTS.

THE PLAYHOUSE CARDIFF.
6.30 TWICE NIGHTLY. 8.45
TO-NIGHT.—The Novelty Revue,
CAVIARE
Featuring MARK RIVERS.
Next Week:
ASTLEY'S ROYAL STAGE CIRCUS.

SLOPER ROAD.
GREYHOUND RACING.
FEBRUARY.
THURSDAYS and SATURDAYS,
at 7.15
FULLY ELECTRIC TOTE NOW IN
OPERATION.

CINEMAS.

GAITY, CITY ROAD.
Robert Montgomery in SHIPMATES.
Also Louis Wolheim and Mary Astor in
THE SIN SHIP.
Enclosed Car Park, also Cloakroom, Free.

CANTON CINEMA. Corner of Library-street.
Sybil Thorndike and John Stuart in
HINDLE WAKES.
Wheeler and Woolsey in CRACKED NUTS.
Comedy, News, etc.

REGENT, ELY.—Nearly 2,000 Seats.
Sybil Thorndike in a British Triumph.
HINDLE WAKES. Also Louis Wolheim and
Mary Astor in THE SIN SHIP. Serial, In-
terest, Comedy, etc. We Park your Car.

SPLOTT SUPER CINEMA.
Robert Montgomery in SHIP MATES.
Wheeler and Woolsey in CRACKED NUTS.
Comedy. "College Outies."
Shorts: Charles Hackett. Sound News.

PLAZA TO-NIGHT.
Ann Harding and Olive Brook in EAST
LYONS (6.30, 8.15). Also John Stuart and
Eve Gray in MIDNIGHT (6.30, 8.15), a Power-
ful Secret Service Thriller. —Car Park Free.

CLIFTON CINEMA, CLIFTON-STREET.
George Arliss in "OLD ENGLISH."
Also Dorothy Seacombe and Richard Cooper
in "LORD RICHARD IN THE PANTRY."
NEWS, SERIAL, COMEDY, Etc.

PENARTH.
WINDSOR KINEMA.—Double Feature Pro-
gramme. Continuous Performance from six.

THE HISTORY OF A PLOT IN PLWCCA LANE

The 1840 Tithe Plan (Plots 201, 202 & 203) shows an area of about seven and three quarter acres on the Roath side of Plwcca Lane (now City Road) sandwiched between the lands of John Mathews Richards (later the Mackintosh estate) on the north, Sir Charles Morgan (later the Tredegar estate) on the south and Charles Crofts Williams (Roath Court estate) on the east. It was owned by Edward Evans, Esq., and consisted of three adjoining portions: Plot 201: an arable field of 4 acres 1 rood 15 perches tenanted by "Thos. Lewellyn". Plot 202: an arable field and garden of 2 acres 3 roods tenanted by Daniel Vines. Plot 203: Cottages and Gardens of 2 roods 26 perches the several, occupiers of which are un-named. The owner of the land, Edward Evans, appears in the Glamorgan Voters' Lists for Roath in 1845-1853. His qualification for the vote is ownership of "freehold lands, Plucca Lane". His abode was "Town of Cardiff". Daniel Vines is probably the same man whose entry appears in the parish register of Llanedeyrn "Buried 10 June 1841 age 43 - Daniel Vines of Roath". As for Thomas Llewellyn, as there was more than one of that name in the 1840's in Roath, further clues are necessary to identify with certainty the one who had the use of this field in Plwcca Lane.

Plwcca Lane (variously spelt) sometimes went under its Welsh name of Heol-y-Plwcca or Plwca. (Welsh, the road of the plot). According to William Rees (Cardiff - A History of the City, 2nd Ed., p.20), the name probably refers to the Gallows Plot, Plwcca halog, (i.e. the unhallowed plot), which stood at the junction of Albany Road with City Road. In 1874 the name of the lane was changed to Castle Road (after Roath Castle or Plas Newydd) and in 1905, to commemorate the elevation of Cardiff to the status of a city, it became City Road. The boundary separating the old parish of Roath from the Cardiff parish of St. John the Baptist ran along the middle of what is now City Road and Crwys Road. In the Cardiff Records (Vol.V. p.321), J.H. Matthews records the reminiscences of a certain William Luke Evans, who was an Inspector of Explosives and evidently had a long memory. In 1895 this old man, talking of Plwca Lane mentions how rushes once grew hard by the lane and how mats were made of them and sold in the town for domestic purposes. But what is more relevant to our present study, he remembered that in 1830 the only habitations in Plwca Lane consisted of Roath Castle and six small cottages in two fields "now the site of James' Square". The fields which he mentions are clearly the very same as those shown in the Tithe Map referred to above and which later became the site of Talworth Street and Pearson Street on the east side of City Road.

TALWORTH HOUSE

Talworth Street is named after Talworth House which according to the 1:2500 O.S.Map of 1880 was one of the more substantial residences in the area, standing in its own grounds complete with an entrance lodge, but modest in comparison with nearby mansion of Plas Newydd.

The house was not in existence at the time of the 1851 Census but the following year it is given as the address of John Batchelor in Scammell's Directory. In Charles Wakeford's Directory of 1855 John Batchelor is shown as at Talworth House, Plwcca Lane, Roath. In Ewen's Directory of the same year, he is shown at "Plwcca Lane (Roath Road)". Batchelor Bros., shipbuilders, were at Bute Dock Head. James Sydney Batchelor, shipbuilder, was at 11 Charles Street.

The Hemingways

The next family to occupy Talworth House were the Hemingways. On 9 November 1859 at Leckwith Parish Church James Hemingway described as 'of Talworth House' had married Mary McGregor, step-daughter of his late father's partner, Charles Pearson of Woodlands, Leckwith. (Cardiff & Merthyr Guardian of 12 November 1859). He and his bride made Talworth House their matrimonial home for a period of just over one year.

James Hemingway (I) the elder, (1802-1854), his two brothers and Charles Pearson, were all natives of Dewsbury, Yorks. and were contractors for the construction of the East Bute Dock (1851-59). James (I) lived at the corner of what is now St Peter Street but he appears to have purchased the land on the Roath side of Plwcca Lane (referred to above) on which Talworth, Pearson and Byron streets, and the lower part of Plasnewydd Road (formerly Charles Street) stand, because he is known to have bequeathed 10 acres to his sons, James and John. It is probable therefore that Talworth House was only leased to John Batchelor, as it would have been to the successive occupants after the young James Hemingway moved north in January 1861; it is quite likely that the latter had intended to retire to Talworth House but he died at the early age of 45 in 1879: his monument at Macclesfield records that he was "of Foden Bank, Macclesfield and Talworth House, Roath, Cardiff". He bequeathed his share of the land and the property (7 Acres) in equal shares to his 13 children. On 26 September 1860 James Hemingway's first child was born at Talworth House.

Further evidence of Hemingway ownership of the land from the middle of the 19th century comes from:

(1) An 'In Chancery' legal notice in the Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian, 18.12.1858, p.4.col.3 stating that a petition was being made by Hannah Hemingway and her sons, James and John for powers to be granted to grant building leases on 10 acres of land in Roath held under the will of her late husband James, the Trustee being her brother-in-law John.

(2) The government 'Return of Owners of Land, 1873' which lists James Hemingway (II) as owning 7 acres in Roath (presumably Talworth House and environs, with his brother John possessing the remaining 3 acres).

The Last Occupiers and the Demise of the House

Between January 1861 and September 1862 Talworth House was leased to Samuel Nash, a Cardiff businessman, as can be seen from contemporary directories.

Before the close of the year 1862 Charles Pearson had moved from Woodlands, Leckwith to Talworth House and was soon appointed a member of the Roath District Board of Health. In the minutes of this body (which are in the Glamorgan Record Office) we find:

3 Feb. 1863. Charles Pearson - new member.

1 Sept. 1863. Plan approved of houses in Clive Street proposed to be built by Mr Pearson.

2 July 1867. Plans approved (inter alia) for...

Additions to Talworth House for Mr Pearson.

3 December 1867. Plans approved (inter alia) for new street (James Street), Castle Road for Charles Pearson.

6 Oct. 1868. Amongst plans approved are 5 houses in Clive Street for Charles Pearson.

1 December 1868. Street extension approved in Clive Street for Charles Pearson.

5 Jan. 1869. A new street near Clive Street approved for Mr Charles Pearson.

5 July 1870. Plan for house and shop Clive Street for Charles Pearson.

6 December 1870. The death of Charles Pearson on 19 November is recorded in the minutes.

According to Waring's 1868 and 1869 maps, the south and east sides of Talworth Street (then James Street) were in course of building. For a short period c.1868 to 1876 Talworth House was known also as ST. JAMES'S HOUSE.

On the night of April 2nd 1871 the Census enumerator records (Enum. Dist.27/1.Sched.42) that the head of the household at "St.James, Plucca Lane" was Emma Pearson, a 60 year old widow, born in Swansea.

The house was leased from c.1871 to 1876 to W.Lukis, Esq. After his departure from the premises the name reverted to Talworth House.

In the M.O.H.'s Report for 1872 presented in person by Dr H.J.Paine in April 1873 to the Board and later issued in printed form (C.C.L.), he stated:

The remaining (i.e.undrained portions - those in the St. James' district, consisting of James Street, Charles street, Rose street, Lily street and Clive place have only recently been built, and are not provided with any description of drainage. There are about 150 houses occupied in this locality, it is essentially necessary your attention should be directed to this urgent want (i.e. lack of drainage) before the hot weather sets in.

The Roath District Board of Health minutes record:

6 Feb.1872. New streets approved. Saint James' for Mr James Hemingway.

2 July 1872. Plans for 14 houses approved for James Hemingway .

1 April 1873. Plans approved for 18 houses St. James for James Hemingway

The 1:2500 (25") Ordnance Survey plan of 1879 shows Talworth House and its parkland with south and east sides of "James Street" built.

From 1876 to 1890 the house was leased to W. Webb, colliery proprietor.

In the directories of 1890-91, no mention occurs of Talworth House,
Subsequent Street Development on the Site

The Cardiff Corporation Index of Deposited Plans show that plans were approved for the building in Pearson Street of:

6 houses Aug. 1889

6 houses Sept. 1889

1 house Oct. 1890

The date on a stone medallion on the facade of one of the houses is still (1897) clearly visible as 1890.

1892-93. Pearson Street and Talworth Street (new part), built on the site of Talworth House, appear in the directories for the first time. Some, if not all, of the houses built at this time were erected by John Charles Pearson whose father John, also a native of Dewsbury, was a brother or cousin of Charles Pearson. The name of John Charles Pearson of Castle Road, Cardiff occurs in the deeds of a house in Pearson Street as being granted a lease of 99 years on 5 May 1899 by "WILLIAM MOGREGOR of Beaufort Villas, old Trafford, Manchester, contractor, and CHARLES ROBERT HEMINGWAY, late of Cardiff but now of Neeld Terrace, Hendon, Middx., contractor."

Visual Evidence

No photograph of Talworth House appears to have survived, but there is a small "snapshot" in the Cardiff Central Library's collection of the wall and gates in a demolished state; this was taken by William Booth, an indefatigable local amateur photographer of the period who lived in Wellfield Road. The limits of the City Road frontage of the Hemingway land can be seen today by observing the change in roof level and architectural style (a) north of the chemists Shop between Milton Street (Tredegar land) and Byron Street; and (b) south of the shop on the corner of Cyfarthfa Street (Richards/Mackintosh land). The eastern boundary of the land is where the rear of the houses in lower Plasnewydd Road (formerly Charles Street) met Rose Street, Lily Street and Clive Place (Roath Court land). A remnant of the wall dividing the Mackintosh (Plasnewydd) estate from the Hemingway plot is visible from Talworth Street at the rear of the houses in Cyfarthfa Street.

Street names

In 1891 the then Town Council changed a number of duplicated street names; on the Hemingway estate these included:

- James Street to Talworth Street
- Charles Street to Plasnewydd Road (continuation)
- Clive Street to Byron Street

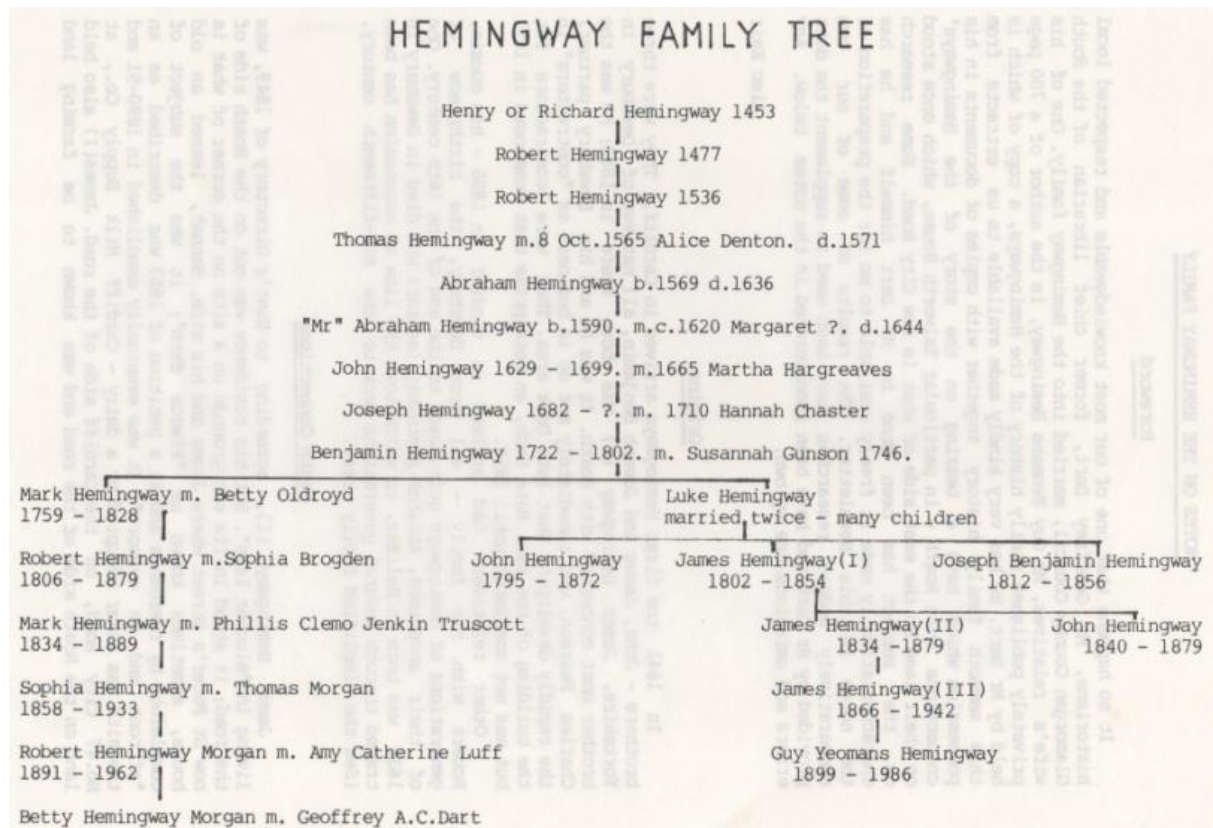
Batchelor's Family

In 1845 John Batchelor had married Hannah Reese, daughter of a Monmouthshire farmer. She died two years later leaving two daughters. On 2 August 1851, John Batchelor married at Bocking, Essex, Fanny Smith Burder of Codham Hall, Essex. She was to bear him ten children. Their third son, born at Talworth House was named Cyril Talworth. In researching the origin of the name "Talworth", Mr Geoffrey Dart has found that the name occurs in the family history of the second Mrs Batchelor. She had a brother, John Talworth Burder, who was accidentally drowned at the age of 5. Tradition in the Burder family associated their ancestry with an ancient armorial family named de Talworth of Talworth Wrattling, Suffolk.

On 17 October 1851 (qualifying date for the 1852 voters' List) his address is given as 10 Charles Street, Cardiff. His first son, John George Herbert (second child of second marriage) was born at Talworth House on 10 July 1854. On 15 October 1859 (qualifying date for the 1860 Voters' List), John Batchelor was still at Talworth House. He must have moved out shortly afterwards. The Voters' List for the following year shows that he was residing at New House, Llanishen on 15 October 1860.



John Batchelor's statue which stands in the Hayes has always been a favourite target for pranks. Here, a white scarf adorns his head and a flagon is held in his right hand. In 1981 when this photo was taken the statue occupied its original site close to the underground public conveniences.



NOTES ON THE HEMINGWAY FAMILY

Foreword

It so happens that one of our most knowledgeable and respected local historians, Mr Geoffrey Dart, former chief librarian of the South Glamorgan County Council, married into the Hemingway family. One of his wife's relatives, Mr Guy Yeomans Hemingway, is the author of a 700 page privately published family history of the Hemingways, a copy of which is held by Mr Dart. He has very kindly made available to us extracts from this mammoth family history together with copies of documents in his possession which have a bearing on the story of the Hemingways' connections with Roath - in particular Talworth House, which once stood on their land on the east side of what is now City Road. Some research on the subject has been done by Mr Dart himself and he has characteristically made it freely available to me for the preparation of the notes in this Newsletter. The results of some of our own comparatively modest researches have been used to supplement the data provided by Mr Dart and have been incorporated in the notes below. Any errors and omissions are my own.

Alec Keir

Origins

In 1841 the first Hemingways arrived in Cardiff. They were three brothers - John, James and Joseph Benjamin, all natives of Dewsbury in Yorkshire. James Hemingway(I) was born there in 1803; he was the brother most concerned with Roath. It was he and his Dewsbury partner,

Charles Pearson, who immediately set up in business as 'contractors' in the rapidly developing West Bute Dock area. They were contractors for the building of the East Bute Dock, an enterprise that commenced in 1851 but was not completed until 1859.

Other relatives had arrived in Cardiff in 1850 - his cousin, Robert with his family - all from Dewsbury, the birthplace of generations of Hemingways going back to the end of the 16th century. One of their ancestors, Abraham Hemingway (senior) who died in Dewsbury in 1636 was born in Halifax, to which town the line of succession has been traced through several generations back to the mid-fifteenth century. (See the simplified family tree). .

Roath Connections

James Hemingway (I), according to Hunt's Directory of 1849, was living in 'Blucher lane'. But his residence was not on the Roath side of the road; it stood in its own grounds on a site on the corner of what is now St Peter's Street where James and his wife, Hannah, leased an old house, sometimes known as 'Plwcca Farm'; it was the subject of complaints by residents and in a petition of 1883 was described as an 'affront and an eyesore'. It was eventually demolished in 1890-91 and the site was later occupied by a dairy - Cardiff Milk Supply Co., at No.47 City Road, on the Cardiff side of the road. James(I) also held land on the Roath side of the road and was known to be farming land leased at Hackerford, Cyncoed. Indeed, in the 1851 Census he is shown as 'Gentleman; farmer of 65 acres employing 9 labourers'. He died at his residence in Plwcca Lane on September 9th 1854. His widow, Hannah, died in the same house on 4th April 1874.

The parcel of land on the Roath side of the road on which Talworth House had been built passed to the two sons, James and John Hemingway. John Batchelor had been living in Talworth House since 1852 and continued in occupation until 1859. In that year James (II) married Charles Pearson's step-daughter, Mary McGregor and the couple lived in Talworth House until January 1861 when they moved with their 3 month old son, Charles Robert, to Macclesfield where he lived until his death on September 22nd 1879. His younger brother, John, died in the same year. He had married Charles Pearson 's daughter Elizabeth in 1866 and lived for a time in Roath - at Haddington Villa, just beyond Elm Street in Newport Road.

John Hemingway, the brother of James (I), appears in Lucas's 'Britannia Bridge' painting which was recently on display at the Welsh Industrial and Maritime Museum, Cardiff in the "Engineers of Wales" exhibition (on loan from the Institute of Civil Engineers).

The Hemingways were a distinguished family of public works contractors who built the towering columns of Stephenson's Britannia Bridge, the East Bute Docks, the direct Rhymney Railway line including the tunnel at Cefn Onn, the Clarence Bridge, the Penarth to Biglis railway and the first Roath Park contract (diversion of the brook, the Recreation Ground, flower gardens and the surrounding roads).

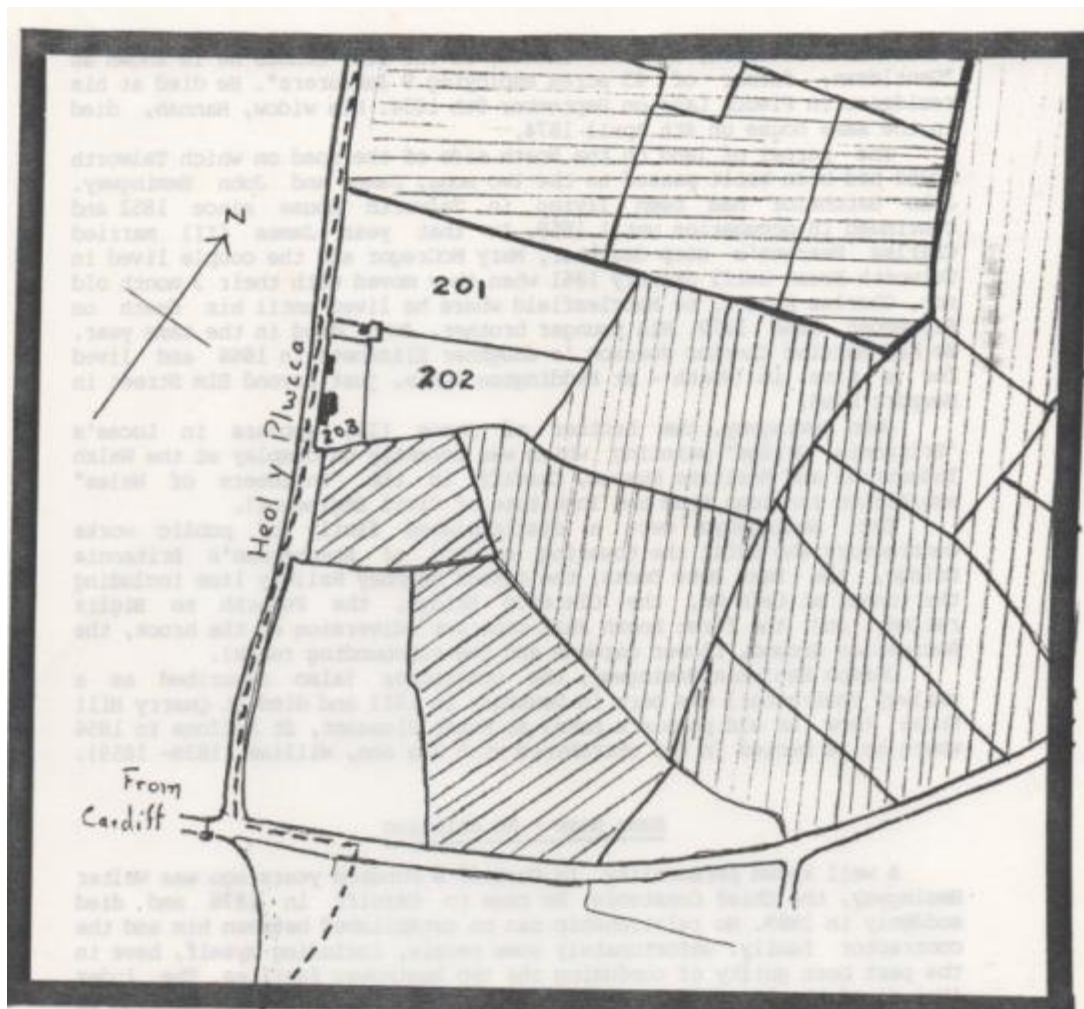
Joseph Benjamin Hemingway, the contractor (also described as a railway contractor) was born in Dewsbury in 1812 and died at Quarry Hill House (now an Old people's home) at Mount Pleasant, St Mellons in 1856 where he is buried in the churchyard with his son, William (1838- 1859).

Same Name - No Relation

A well known personality in Cardiff a hundred years ago was Walter Hemingway, the Chief Constable. He came to Cardiff in 1876 and died suddenly in 1889. No relationship can be established between him and the contractor family. Unfortunately some people, including myself, have in the past been guilty of confusing the two Hemingway families. The index (Vol.6) of the 'Cardiff Records' and even the Borough Council minutes do not help in erroneously attributing Roath Hemingway affairs to W. (i.e.Walter) Hemingway, the Head Constable.



City Road March 1987. Boundary between Hemingway and Tredegar land evidenced by difference in roof levels.



Sketch map based on portion of Roath Tithe Plan 1840 showing the undeveloped Plwcca lane plots (201,202 & 203) which later became the site of Talworth House on Hemingway land.



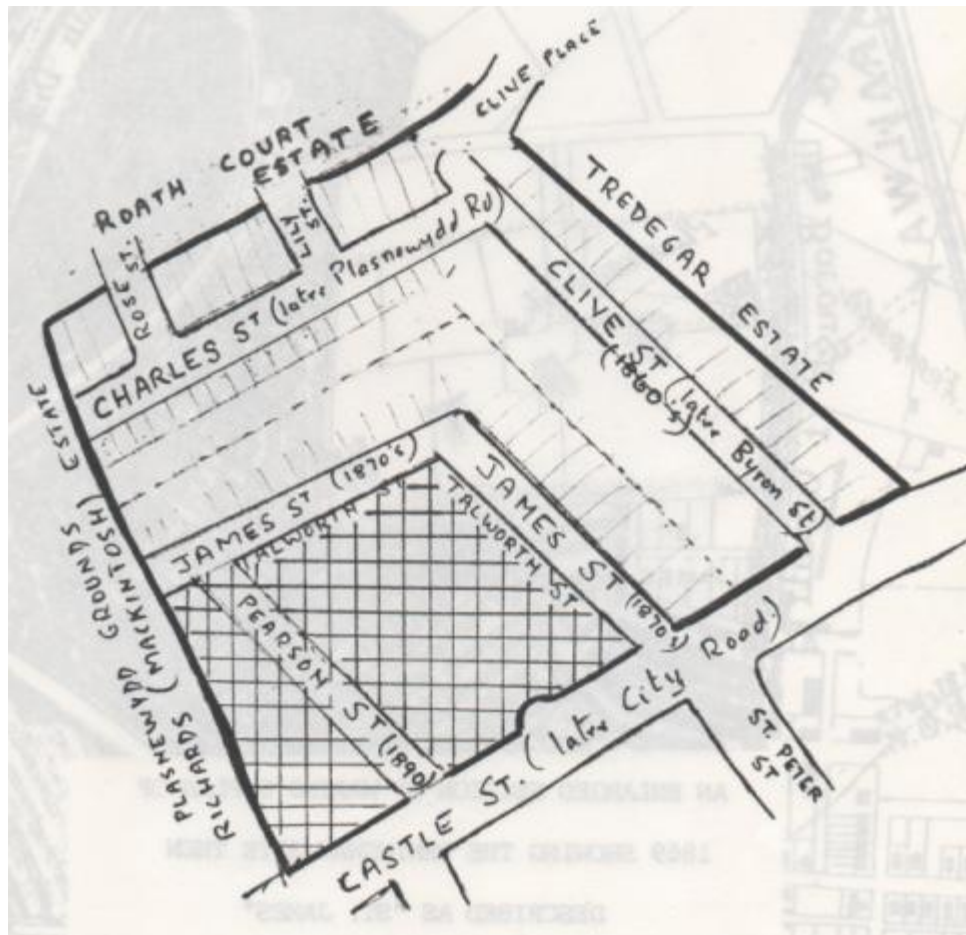
The Roath Hemingway Estate

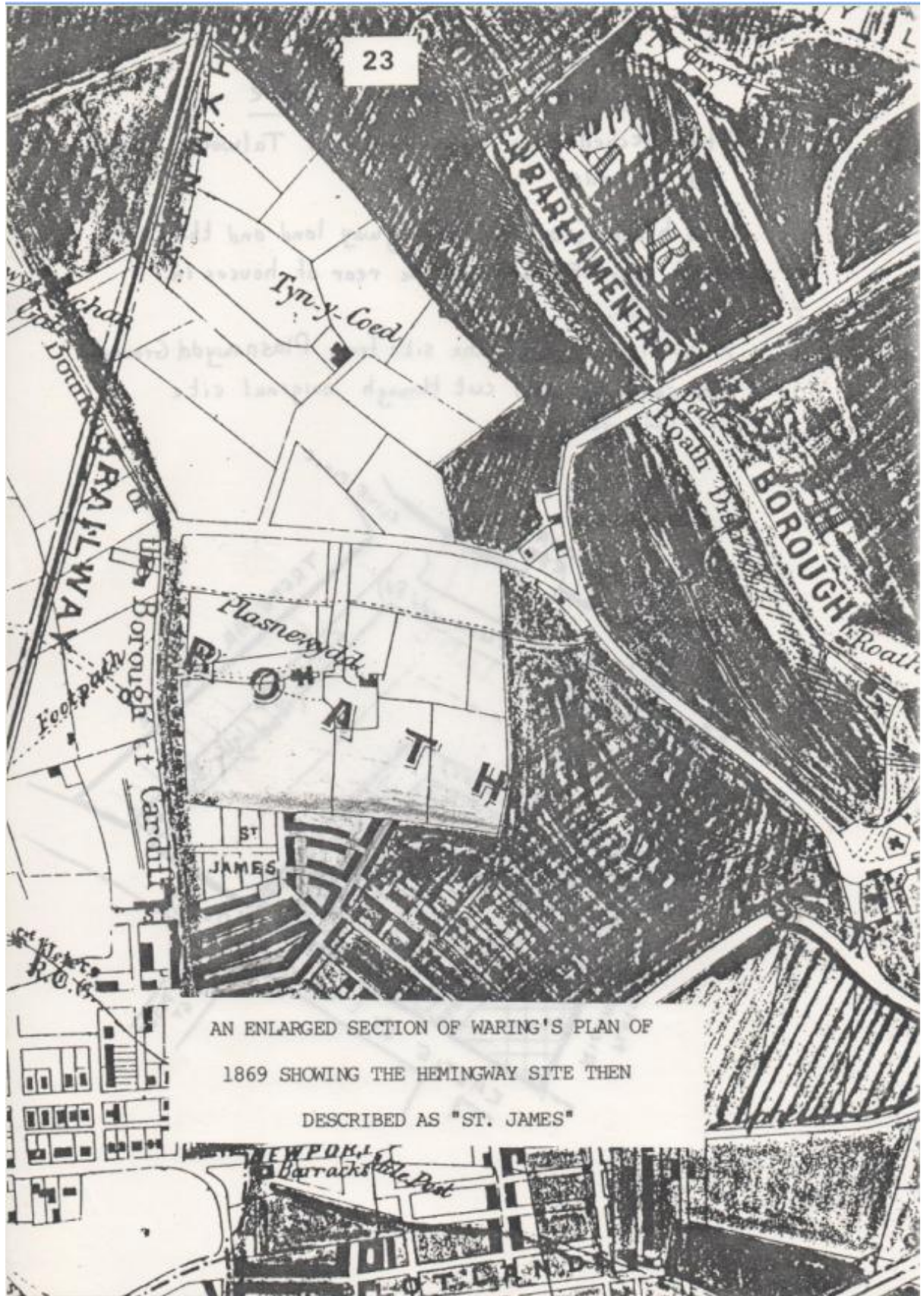
The hatched area is the site of Talworth House and grounds.

The boundary between Hemingway land and the Roath Court Estate was the rear of the houses in Charles Street.

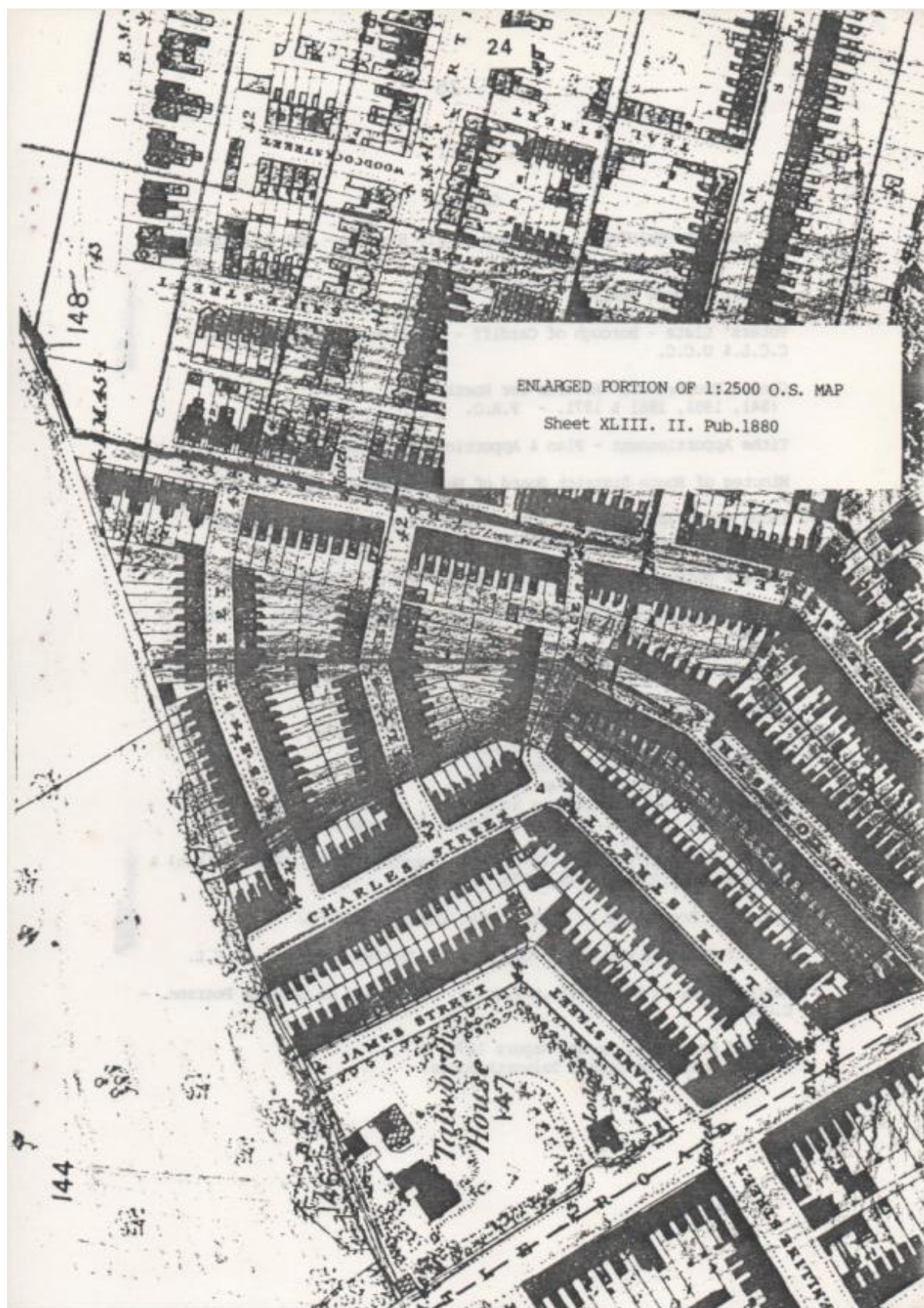
A wall separated the site from Plasnewydd grounds.

Pearson Street (1890) cut through the original site of Talworth House.





AN ENLARGED SECTION OF WARING'S PLAN OF
1869 SHOWING THE HEMINGWAY SITE THEN
DESCRIBED AS "ST. JAMES"



SOURCES

GUY YHOMANS HEMINGWAY - Hemingway Family History - MSS in possession of Mr Geoffrey Dart, Cardiff.

Cardiff Records Vol.V

Voters' Lists - Borough of Cardiff - Roath Polling District. - C.C.L.& U.C.C.

Census Enumerators' Returns for Roath 1841, 1851, 1861 & 1871. - P.R.O.

Tithe Apportionment - Plan & Apportionment Schedule 1840. - N.L.W.

Minutes of Roath District Board of Health. 1860 - 1875 - G.R.O. P.57

Index of Building Plans of the Cardiff City Council in custody of Records Dept. City Hall, Cardiff.

Cardiff Borough Council Minutes (Public Works Committee). - C.C.L.

Roath Local Board of Health - Officer of Health's Report for 1872. - C.C.L.

Cardiff Directories - various - C.C.L.

Cardiff & Merthyr Guardian:

- 16.8.1851. Marriage of J. Batchelor)
- 15.9.1854. Death of James Hemingway
- 22.9.1854. Death of William Hemingway
- 23.8.1856. Death of Benjamin Hemingway

18.12.1858. (p.5.col.3) - Legal Notice re Hannah Hemmingway.

Return of Owners of Land, 1873 - Parliamentary Paper. Vols. I (Mon) & 12 (Glam.). P.R.O. C.-1097/1875.

Baptismal Records of St Peter's R.C. Church, Cardiff.

Cardiff Times 26 Nov.1870 - Obituary of Charles Pearson. - C.C.L.

Western Mail 21 Nov. 1870 .p.2.col.6. - Obituary of Charles Pearson. - C.C.L.

Cardiff Nats. Soc. Annual Report 1876.
(re. W. Lukis who leased Talworth House)

SOURCES Continued

Maps:

1832 Reform Bill - Borough of Cardiff. 2" to 1 mile map from the O.S. showing old & proposed boundary boundary.- C.C.L.

1835 Municipal Corporation Boundaries (England & Wales). 4" to 1 mile map (enlarged from the O.S.) accompanying Report upon the proposed municipal boundary and division into wards of the Borough of Cardiff. - C.C.L.

[Both of the above boundary maps largely corroborate the information given in the reminiscences of Luke Evans. The only buildings shown on the east side of Plwcca Lane are (1) Plas Newydd (Roath Lodge) and (2) what appear to be three small cottages on the site of the land which was later to become the small Hemingway estate.]

1840. Tithe Plan of Parish of Roath - N.L.W.& G.R.O.

1850. STRAWSON, George S. Plucker (Plucca!) Lane Building Ground Plan. dated March 14th 1850 but with later additions. Scale: 40 feet to 1 inch.- C.C.L.

1869. T.Waring.- District Plan of Cardiff & Penarth, including Roath, Canton & Llandaff. - G.R.O. - reproduction publication.

1879. O.S. 1:2500 (25").

1970 to 1980. Geographia large scale detailed street plans of Cardiff. - Pub. Geographia Ltd. 62 Fleet Street, London.

1985. O.S. Cardiff City Map. 1:10,000 £1.70.