



E-NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024

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E-NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S WELCOME

Firstly, I'd like to wish all our members a very Happy New Year, with best wishes for good health and happiness in 2024.



The photograph above is, of course, of Roath Court, a Grade II listed building, a rare example of an 18th century country villa that survived Cardiff's expansion. I've chosen this because 2024 marks the bicentennial of its acquisition in 1824 by Mrs Anne Williams, the mother of Charles Crofts Williams, following the bankruptcy of its previous owner, John Woods, a Cardiff banker and attorney. The house came with substantial land, and the timing of the purchase was propitious – within 40 years, the westernmost parts of the estate had been developed for housing to accommodate some of Cardiff's burgeoning population. By the 1950s, almost all the estate had been developed, leaving Roath Court with a vestigial curtilage, when it was acquired by James Summers as a funeral home, a use which continues until today.

This month we continue Gareth Brown's perambulations concerning notable clergy of Barry, with an examination of the Allen family and their properties in Pembrokeshire. We also have a serendipitous tale of a discovery in Australia giving a glimpse of war-time Roath, and from another contributor, a first-hand account of an air-raid just round the corner from the site of the previous account.

Jon Roberts
Newsletter Editor

The Allen Family of Pembrokeshire

Gareth Brown, RLHS Chairman

When I first started researching the family of Canon Edmund Edward Allen, I noted statements that he and his brother George Baugh Allen although born in London with a father who was the head of Dulwich College came from a long-established Pembrokeshire family. I determined to find out how deep these roots were. Also, on researching Canon Allen's family I was struck by the fact that some of the clergymen officiating at marriages had the surname Allen but were not close members of the family. An internet search found two extremely detailed and interesting articles on the Allen family. These are credited below in the sources of information. I soon discovered that the Allen family roots in Pembrokeshire were deep and extensive. I also realised that giving a comprehensive account of the family was impossible without copying out these long accounts verbatim. I urge anyone interested to read them. I find them fascinating. I decided to try therefore to only talk in any great detail about family members relevant to the story I have previously told.

Family lore has it that the first member of the Allen family, namely Thomas Allen from the north of Ireland literally washed up in Pembrokeshire after a shipwreck in the early 17th century, but there were Allens well established in Pembrokeshire by late medieval times. It is noticeable that many members of this clan became lawyers, clergymen, while others were administrators serving the empire or army officers. Many of them remained in Pembrokeshire or retained property there while working elsewhere such as London. The male members often married the daughters of near neighbours. These young ladies often were heiresses so the Allen family as a whole acquired a wide portfolio of property.

I shall follow the framework of Nick Kingsley in dividing the family into four main branches. These are the Allens of Gelliswick and later of Rickeston, who were the senior line; the Allens of Cresselly, the wealthiest and most persistent line, still at Cresselly as at 2019 and the cadet branches namely the Allens of Cilrhiw who derive from Cresselly and contain those whom we have already learned about and the Allens of Bicton. Kingsley states that these cadet branches remained prominent in the county over several generations and produced numbers of prominent churchmen and colonial administrators. (Cadet branches are those descended from sons junior to the eldest son, who typically inherits the family home when the father dies.)



Map showing some of the places referred to in the article

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It seems the first definite historical record of the family was in the mid-17th century when **William Allen (1624-88)**, son of David Allen a farmer of Newton in Llanstadwell, Pembrokeshire, took on the lease of **Gelliswick**. The family were leasehold tenant farmers here until 1808 by which time they had acquired Rickeston, (sold in the mid-20th century). They had also accumulated freehold property prior to this while leasing Gelliswick. William's eldest son **William Allen (1658-1722)** became High Sheriff of Pembrokeshire in 1693. He married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of David Paynter of Dale Castle which consequently came into the Allen family. William's eldest son was another **William Allen (1678-1744) of Gelliswick and Dale Castle**. He was a landowner, engaged in farming, shipping, coal mining and the management of St Ann's Head lighthouse. He became High Sheriff in 1742. His eldest child Martha married George Roch of Rickeston Hall. His second child and eldest son, again a William who was educated at Lincoln's Inn, died unmarried in the lifetime of his father.



Dale Castle

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The next son John who died in 1767 inherited and lived at Gelliswick until 1755 and at Dale Castle thereafter. He was a contractor to the Royal Navy for victualling vessels in Milford Haven and also became High Sheriff of Pembrokeshire in 1757. He married Mary,

daughter of Sir John Stepney, 6th baronet, of Prendergast Place, Pembs in 1744. Mary died in 1750 and John in 1767. They had issue, a daughter to whose descendants Dale Castle passed and hence out of the Allen family.

This begs the questions, what happened to Gelliswick and who continued the line there? The 4th son and 5th child of William Allen (1678-1744) namely **Joseph Allen (1726-86)** is the man who continued the lease of this house and the line. His elder brother John gave up the lease to him and also the contract for victualling vessels in Milford Haven. This enabled Joseph to secure his chosen marriage partner with whom it seems he had eight children. The eldest son **John Allen (1752-1808) of Gelliswick** became head of the family and leaseholder in 1786 and at his death in 1808 the lease reverted to the landlord. His widow Mary married again in 1813 to a solicitor of Haverfordwest and had a further 5 children. Sadly, Mary died in 1727 at the age of 50 after falling out of a gig.



Ricketstone Hall

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Charles Bowen Allen (1799-1847) of Rickeston Hall was the first son and child of John and Mary being born the year after they married. Rickeston Hall was acquired from the Roch family as a result of the marriage of George Roch and Martha Allen in 1738. Nick Kingsley lists four other sons of John and Mary but then states that Charles was the only son! John died in 1808 when Charles was nine and his brothers if alive were younger.

Charles Bowen Allen married in 1824 and his wife Elizabeth bore him eight children. Their 5th child and third son Charles Hugh Allen inherited Rickeston Hall. The firstborn child John Bowen Allen (1825-1866) married Jane Euphemia daughter of Gen. John Murray, Governor of Bermuda in 1856. She was the widow of Capt. George Russell Deare R.N. For some reason he did not come to own Rickeston Hall. The second son William Bowen Allen (1830 -1848) died unmarried on 31 August 1848, the year after his father's death. Perhaps he was ailing when his father died so Charles Hugh inherited. Charles had two elder sisters who died at a young age Mary Bowen Allen who died unmarried in 1848 aged 22 and Emma Elizabeth who died aged 5 days on 23 October 1828.

Five of the eight children had Bowen as their middle name after their mother's family surname. Charles Hugh Allen (1831-1907) of Rickeston Hall married in 1856 and his wife Mary had 4 children. Charles Hugh died on 15 March 1907 and administration of his goods was granted on 18 June 1914 (estate £2). This seems very strange if true. His widow Mary died on 31 March 1922 aged 87 and her will was proved on 15 July 1922 (estate £4,436). Their eldest son, Allen Charles Allen, born 24 October 1857, died unmarried on 1 June 1907 and the second son, **Hugh William Allen (1864-1948) of Pwllmeyric House, Chepstow, inherited Rickeston Hall** but sold it and moved to Chepstow. He died in 1948 in Charlton Kings, Gloucestershire. He was one who broke physical ties to Pembrokeshire. His only son **Maurice Hugh Charles Allen (1898-1957) of Newent**, Gloucestershire became manager of a sugar plantation in Demerara, British Guiana.

I have been very selective in the details I have included here. There are more fascinating facts, particularly showing the marriages and connections to prominent Pembrokeshire families in the first resource below. Gelliswick House comprised an L-shaped building built about 1725 and the earlier five bay Elizabethan house which served as a service wing. In 1670 the Elizabethan house was assessed as five hearths for the Hearth Tax so it was quite substantial then by local standards. The property survived until 1980 when Esso Petroleum demolished it as they 'had no further use for it'. Gelliswick is in the area of the Milford Haven oil complex now.

Rickeston Hall at Robeston West was still standing when the source material was written. It stands or stood close to one of the big oil refineries at Milford Haven. It is described as a gentleman farmer's house altered or rebuilt in the late 18th century.

The **Cresselly** branch of the extended Allen family is an example of the benefits of marrying well par excellence. We need to go back to the immediate family of William Allen (1658-1722) and his wife Elizabeth, the daughter and heiress of David Paynter of Dale Castle. Their second son would seem to be **David Allen described at first as fl c.1700 and then later as (1672-1712) of Fobston**. Kingsley describes him as the eldest son having previously stated that William Allen (c.1678-1744) of Gelliswick and Dale Castle was the eldest son! This is all very confusing, but David certainly did not lease the family home Gelliswick or own Dale Castle so is likely not to have been the eldest son. Anyway, whatever was the situation, David married Anne, daughter of Rowland Langharne and sister and co-heir of John Langharne M.P. He acquired the estate of Fobstone through this marriage. David and Anne had issue, including William Allen of Fobstone who married Margaret Bird and had a son and 2 daughters (from one of whom descend the Allens of Bicton says Kingsley, but see below. Also they had a son John (1695-1752) and our source says that the Rev Joshua Allen (c1710-65) was probably a child of this marriage. He was educated at Jesus College, Oxford, matriculated in 1729, B.A. in 1744, M.A. in 1757. He was ordained deacon and priest in 1735, became vicar of Combe St Nicholas 1737-44, rector of St Brides, 1744-65 and Narbeth 1757-65; chaplain to the 2nd Duke of Newcastle 1757 and author of "Twenty six Sermons" in 1751.

John Allen (1695-1752), the younger son of David Allen (1672-1712) brought Cresselly into the Allen family when he married Joan, daughter and heiress of John Bartlett of Cresselly on 16 February 1728. He had been living at Goodhook Farm, Uzmaston prior to marriage. He became High Sheriff of Pembrokeshire in 1732. Cresselly is described in Elisabeth Inglis-Jones' article as "a fine estate with an ancient house standing on a coal bearing headland above a tidal river and overlooking the far shores of Milford Haven." Joan died 17 years after marriage having borne many sons and daughters. Her widower John wrote "she was sweet and beautiful but above all a most prudent, discreet, sensible, virtuous, religious and good woman." John was himself described as 'a truly honest, sincere and religious man, affectionate and kind'. Amongst their children were John Bartlett Allen (1733-1803) the eldest son who inherited Cresselly and Joshua Allen (1741- 1804) from whom the Allens of Bicton descend according to the landed families blogspot as opposed to the earlier reference. Some of the other children of John and Joan are mentioned here and they and their offspring had varied and interesting lives.



Cresselly House

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John Bartlett Allen (1733-1803) of Cresselly House can be regarded as the bad boy of this everyday story of country folk. He was educated at Westminster School but did not proceed to university because he inherited the Cresselly estate at 19, when his father died in 1752. Five years later he bought a commission in the First Foot Guards and fought during the Seven Years War with his regiment in Germany. He left the army after 4 years to go back to Cresselly where he remained for the rest of his life, a captain on half pay. He married Elizabeth, the only daughter and heiress of John Hensleigh of Panteague, who was a successful attorney and Burgess of Carmarthen on 12 April 1763. John's predecessor, Henry Hensleigh of Spaxton in Somerset had acquired the estate of Panteague from Sir John Stepney.

Allen built Cresselly Hall? House 1769-71. Details of the building and photographs are in *landedfamilies.blogspot.com*. Years later it was described by the topographer Richard Fenton as "in the midst of a colliery" though judiciously planted woods screened (sic) those dingy volcanoes" from its windows. It was a plain grey stone house built on higher ground than the original Cresselly House which had been demolished. It had beautiful views down to the Creswell river and towards Milford Haven, and of a busy traffic of small craft on the water and the woods of Lawrenny sloping down to the cliffs.

At the harbour in Lawrenny ships waited to transport the local coal which was carried in flat bottom boats from Creswell Quay. The coal went to England and Ireland. It produced little smoke so was in high demand and the anthracite seam(s) extended to Cresselly. The coal mining operation was a nice income for Captain Allen. John Bartlett Allen and Elizabeth had 9 or 11 daughters (sources disagree) and 2 sons. Captain Allen is described as "moody and ill tempered... dark and domineering, whose physical strength and violent temper became legendary, [who] led the life of a busy squire, looking after his mining interests and estates and expending his energies on field-sports and in disciplining his unfortunate children". In his will, written many years after Elizabeth died in 1790, aged about 52, he mentioned one

Jenny Howells 'the woman of my dear Elizabeth'. There are no other descriptions of Elizabeth and two years after her death Allen found comfort in the arms of Mary Rees, the daughter of one of his colliers. He married her and set her up in a little house at Cresswell Quay. He promised his daughters that he would never bring them to Cresselly.

John Bartlett Allen was widely disliked in the county and not on good terms with his neighbours so that the house had few visitors. Prospects did not look good for his daughters. Their brothers were likely away a lot of the time, John Hensleigh starting his legal career and Lancelot Baugh likely coming to the end of his time at Westminster School. The girls were pretty and well brought up with delightful dispositions apparently, which Elisabeth Inglis-Jones attributes to the example of their mother, not their hectoring father. They were also good conversationalists seemingly because their father insisted they should have supper and talk with him.

A visit to the house in August 1792 rescued at least some of the girls from their situation. It seems that the eldest daughter Elizabeth (1764-1846), and known as Bessy, was a friend of Susannah Wedgewood, who was also 28. Susannah, accompanied by her brother Josiah, 5 years her junior and known as Jos, came to stay in August 1792 for the balls and races which took place during the summer assizes at Haverfordwest. Jos was handsome but serious and old for his age and was a junior partner of the pottery business established by his father, who, of course, was Josiah Wedgewood senior. He was smitten by the 'lovely, auburn-haired Bessy with her soft brown eyes and radiant smile' and enjoyed his time at Cresselly where John, the elder son, 23 of Trinity College Cambridge, Baugh, 18, from Westminster School and Kitty, Caroline, Jenny, Harriet, Jessie, Octavia, Emma and Fanny, all good looking, unsophisticated girls were also present. Their father must have been on his best behaviour as he was always much better humoured when he had company to divert him. He liked to talk about sport and farming and reminiscences of the Seven Years War. Another redeeming feature of his was his kindness with young children. Jos wrote to his father, saying "The family at Cresselly is altogether the most charming one I have ever been introduced to, and their society makes no small addition to the pleasure I have received from this excursion. I am very happy to perceive that their spirits are not much affected by their father's marriage. You are so kind as to say that you shall be glad to see me and my sister, but I hope you have no objection to me staying a little longer, as much on my sister's account as my own, for I am afraid she has little chance of bringing Miss Allen back with her". In fact, Bessy did go back with them to Staffordshire, to be introduced to his parents as his future wife, and they were married 3 months later, on 27 December 1792 by the curate Thomas Brigstocke at Jeffreyeston Church, in the presence of one Benjamin Twining, C Cork, Frances Brigstocke and John Bartlett Allen. The married couple proceeded to London before going to their new home at Little Etruria, close to Etruria Hall, the Wedgwood family home, near Stoke on Trent. So one

'bird' had managed to fly the nest. Others were to follow through connections of the Wedgewoods.

As old women, Jessie, Emma and Fanny talked about the old times and always agreed that Jos, whose standards were 'so high and pure and true', saved them from succumbing to the mental and moral stagnation then prevalent in Pembrokeshire. Bessy's warm-hearted good nature was enhanced by her husband's unwavering kindness and generosity, true to the Wedgewoods' principle that riches are a trust to be wisely and thoughtfully used for the general good. The sisters paid long visits to Little Etruria and became lifelong friends with the wider Wedgewood family and their circle. Josiah Wedgewood senior was great friends with Erasmus Darwin of Derby, whose son Robert married Susannah Wedgewood. Scientists and inventors including James Watt, Matthew Bolton and Richard Lovell Edgeworth were fellow members of the Lunar Society of Birmingham with Jos's father, and these friendships were carried on by the next generation. The Allen girls had entered an entirely new world with a new set of people and they quickly adapted to it.

Caroline (Antoinette Caroline 1768- 1835) married Edward Drew, a well-born but poorly paid Devonshire parson, the rector of Broadhembury, on 1 June 1793. Jos's generosity made their life more comfortable. Jenny (Louisa Jane 1771-1836), the beauty of the Allen family, married John Wedgewood, Jos's elder brother on 13 January 1794 at Jeffreyston, the ceremony performed by the curate Thos Brigstocke after banns. Dark eyed Kitty (Catherine 1765-1830) met James Mackintosh (1765-1832) at Cote House, the home of John and Jenny Wedgewood, near Bristol, in the winter of 1798-9. He was a dark-haired highlander, largely brought up at his maternal grandmother's house in Inverness-shire. He was something of a child prodigy and his passion for politics clashed with his ideal of living a life of studious reflection. While at Edinburgh when studying medicine he made political speeches and wrote poetry. He went to London to seek his fortune as a doctor but got caught up in the emotional ferment that the revolt of the American colonies and the revolutionary spirit in France had unleashed. He joined debating societies and expressed his radical political views before admiring audiences. He found this far more exciting than the wearisome drudgery promised by a medical career - sensible man! He fell in love with and married a sensible Scottish girl who was as poor as he was, but was a counterbalance to his fluctuating life fortunes. He failed to establish himself as a doctor so studied for the Bar and was living quietly outside London, supplementing his small income from property in Scotland by writing articles for various journals. One of these was named *Vindicae Gallicae*, in reply to Edmund Burke's warning *Reflections on the French Revolution*. He became an overnight sensation. Fox praised him in Parliament, the reform association known as the Friends of the People made him their honorary secretary. He was lauded by the great and the good of the radical political class becoming friends with Fox, Sheridan and all the leading Whigs.

No doubt he was known by, or met, our old friend Sir Samuel Romilly. His poor wife did her best to curb his extravagance and make him attend to his work rather than wasting time in the pleasures of good talk and good company. As soon as he was called to the Bar, he had taken a small house in Serle Street, Lincoln's Inn and there, suddenly in Spring 1793, his wife died. He was desolate, all at sea and in charge of three small daughters, not knowing where to turn. This was his state of mind when he arrived at Cote House. As well as Kitty Allen, the poet Coleridge was staying there. Mackintosh's superior eloquence and logic enabled him "to talk the poet right out of the house" in their long metaphysical discussions. He also fell passionately in love with "handsome, high-spirited Kitty". Although her feelings for him were more temperate, she accepted his proposal of marriage, and they were married on 10 April 1798. The four elder sisters were now married, two of the younger ones were generally visiting them, leaving the remaining daughters to bear the brunt of their father's increasingly bad temper, a bad leg confining him to a chair for weeks and dependent on his daughters for company. He would bang his fist on the dinner table demanding them to talk with him and would prevent them going out on rare occasions when they were in their finery, waiting for the carriage to come out of the stables.

Elisabeth Inglis-Jones' article carries on in this vein. It is a well written, interesting and charming account of the lives of Captain Allen's family particularly his daughters based largely on the contents of letters between the various sisters. A summary here would not do justice to it so I again urge you to read the second source material if interested. As a taster it contains accounts of food shortages and civil unrest in Pembrokeshire in the late 18th century; the chaotic French invasion into the county; how a niece of Captain Allen married one of these Frenchmen and ended up living over their fish shop in Paris; Captain Allen's increasing short temper and control over his unmarried daughters living at home and their periodic escapes to polite, more sophisticated society at their married sisters' homes; the deaths of John Bartlett Allen's second wife and their three daughters, the eldest of whom did come to live at Cresselly; James Mackintosh's knighthood on accepting the offer of the post of the Recordship of Bombay and his lack of fulfilment there and on his return to Britain; Harriet, sometimes known as Sad (1776-1845) who was "very small and pretty" preferring to marry the Rev Matthew Surtees, twenty years her senior and Rector of North Cerney, Glos than stay at Cresselly, despite her sisters' horror at her marrying such a disagreeable man and her not refuting this, and also descriptions of balls and receptions in high society etc.

To complete this account of John Bartlett Allen's family, I am listing the other daughters.

Jessie Allen (7 April 1777- 2 March 1853). She married Jean-Charles Leonard Simonde de Sisimondi, the Swiss historian and economist and died without issue.

Octavia Allen (4 April 1779-1800). She died unmarried.

Emma Augusta Allen (25 August 1780-1864). She died unmarried and was regarded as plain compared to her sisters. Her interests were domestic rather than intellectual and she was well liked and regarded by her brothers in law.

Frances (known as Fanny) Allen (1781-1875). She was the most spirited of the three unmarried sisters.

There was also Mary Ann Allen born in 1767 and probably died very young and Joan Bartlett Allen (17 February 1773-1801) who died unmarried. I apologise for going into more detail with this family. I found their story more interesting.

John Hensleigh Allen (29 August 1769- April 1843) of Cresselly House inherited the estate on the death of his father. He was of dark colouring like his father but in all other respects he was completely different. He was plump, genial and amiable, busy, sociable and popular in Pembrokeshire and London. His sisters were devoted to him, and the three youngest unmarried girls stayed with him at Cresselly until he eventually married. He went to Westminster School and Trinity College, Cambridge where he gained his BA degree in 1793. He was admitted to Lincolns Inn in 1789 and called to the Bar in 1799. He became a barrister on the Oxford and South Wales circuit; Lt-Col of the Pembrokeshire volunteers 1803 and South Pembrokeshire militia 1809; JP and DL for Pembrokeshire and Chairman of Quarter Sessions; High Sheriff of Pembrokeshire, 1808; MP for Pembrokeshire, 1819-26. He married Gertrude, daughter of Lord Robert Seymour (12 November 1812) and had issue- 3 sons, one of whom also qualified in law and was a barrister at law and QC etc and 2 daughters, one of whom, the first-born child, died young. DL I believe stands for Deputy Lieutenant to the Lord Lieutenant of a county and is a crown appointment. The appointment as High Sheriff I believe is for a term of one year. It is a ceremonial role.

Capt. Seymour Phillips Allen (24 May 1814-13 March 1861) of Cresselly House was the second child and first son of John Hensleigh and Gertrude Allen. He was Capt. in 1st Life Guards; JP and DL for Pembrokeshire; High Sheriff for Pembrokeshire, 1849; founding Master of South Pembrokeshire Fox hounds, 1844-50. He married on 29 July 1843, Lady Catherine Henrietta Fellowes (1821-1900), daughter of Newton Wallop (later Fellowes), 4th Earl of Portsmouth. They had 6 sons and 2 daughters. A son and a daughter died before the age of 3. Three of the sons became colonels in the army. One of these, Col. Newton Seymour Allen (1857- 1934) served in the Egyptian War 1882, was on the Nile Expedition 1884-85 and was awarded the DSO in WW1. He was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and High Sheriff of Pembrokeshire 1919. Another son, Rev. John Seymour Allen, (17 March 1855-12 August 1949) Harrow and Balliol College, Oxford BA and MA, was vicar of Pembroke Dock (1880-94) and rector of Cliddesden, Hants (1894-1934). As Canon Allen he jointly officiated at Margaret Catherine Allen's burial service at Crinow in

December 1936. She was a daughter of Canon EE Allen of Porthkerry and Barry. John Seymour Allen and Margaret Catherine Allen had a great grandfather in common, John Bartlett Allen so that made them second cousins by my reckoning.

Henry Seymour Allen (1847-1928) succeeded his father at Cresselly House. His elder brother Henry Hugh died at 18 months old in 1847. Henry Seymour was a Lieutenant in the 1st Life Guards, JP for Pembrokeshire; High Sheriff of Pembrokeshire 1873 and Master of Cresselly Fox Hounds. He died unmarried and without issue on 25 February 1928. His brother, Col. Francis Seymour Allen, the 4th son of Seymour Phillips Allen, married Florence Emma Mary, daughter of Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Thomas Symonds GCB. They had 4 sons. Reginald Seymour became a Colonel in the Hampshire regiment, Guy Francis Seymour a Captain in the 32nd Lancers, Indian Army and Major Evelyn Prestwood Seymour Allen emigrated to Canada and served as a Major in the Canadian army in WW1.

The Cresselly estate was inherited by the 2nd son **Hugh Evelyn Allen (31 March 1880-3 February 1933)**. He was educated at St Paul's School and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He was a Lt in the Royal Fusiliers and Captain in the Welsh Guards and served in WW1 (1915-18). He also became Master of the Cresselly Fox Hounds and JP and DL for Pembrokeshire. He married Christabel Emily Sarah (1886-1943), daughter of Col Rowland John Beech of Brandon Hall, Warwickshire on 24 June 1916. She had previously been married to a Captain in the 16th Lancers. They had only one child, a daughter who inherited the estate on her father's death in 1933. He shot himself, perhaps accidentally, in the gun room at Cresselly House on 3 February 1933.

Auriol Joan Bartlett Allen (1921-92) was 11 when her father died and she inherited the estate. Her mother died 10 years later. She first married Major David Harrison, son of David Harrison of The Grove, Tenby 22 August 1945 and they divorced in 1960. She resumed her maiden name in addition to Harrison by deed poll in 1948 so was Auriol Joan Bartlett Harrison-Allen until she married Brian Evans on 2 February 1965, when her surname became Evans. She had two children from her first marriage a daughter and a son. When she died the estate went to her son, the second born.

Hugh David Rowland Harrison-Allen was born on 25 April 1950 and as at 2014 was still the owner of the Cresselly estate which he inherited in 1992. He became Master or Joint Master of the South Pembrokeshire Fox Hounds in 1990. He married Elizabeth Jane Grey of St Dogmaels on 28 July 1972, and they had a daughter in 1975. They divorced in 1979. He married Amanda Jane daughter of Maj. Peter Ommanney of New Milton, Hants on 11 December 1987. They had a son and a daughter up to the time the article was written in 2014. I have not researched this branch of the family further. It has certainly got strong military links and links to fox hunting.

According to Wikipedia, updated early in 2023, Cresselly House is a Georgian country house operating as a country house hotel and adds that it is a Grade II listed building, and its gardens and park are designated as Grade II on the Cadw list but *historichouses.org* in 2023 gives visiting times for tours of the house, implying that it is still occupied by Hugh Harrison-Allen.

We now come to the cadet branch, **the Allen family of Bicton**. It starts with Joshua Allen (1741-1804) of Pembroke. He was the 7th son of John Allen of Cresselly and his wife Joan, daughter of John Bartlett of Cresselly. In other words he was a younger brother of John Bartlett Allen. He was a surgeon and served in the Pembrokeeshire Yeomanry. The source states that he married his first cousin once removed, Margaret (c. 1745-1821) daughter of William Allen of Fobstone, but this an area of confusion for me as I worked out they were just first cousins. They had seven sons and 10 daughters! The first born was Rev. David Bird Allen. This is where the name Bird comes into the family line. William Allen of Fobstone inherited Fobstone on marrying Margaret Bird. Five of Rev. David Bird Allen's brothers settled in India, two at least serving in the East India company. One sister married a Lieutenant in the Bombay Artillery.

The Rev. David Bird Allen (16 February 1769-31 December 1831) was educated at Trinity College, Oxford and was a curate in Middlesex and Wiltshire before becoming rector successively of three parishes in Pembrokeeshire until he died. He married Mary Ann Harriet (1767-1841) daughter of Peter Bartholomew Jullian of London, and they had 6 sons- his heir Joshua Jullian Allen (1799-1885); Rev. William Allen (27 September 1800-9 April 1872) of Jesus College, Oxford who became rector of St Brides and later Bosherton in Pembrokeeshire.

The Very Rev. James Allen (15 July 1802-26 June 1897) of Trinity College, Cambridge, vicar of Castlemartin 1839-1872, Rural Dean 1840-75, Canon of St Davids 1847-78, Chancellor of the diocese of St Davids 1870-78, Dean of St Davids 1878-95.

Cmdr. Bird Allen (1803-41) served in the Royal Navy, Captain of HMS Soudan, died at Fernando Po on his return with Capt. Trotter from the Niger expedition on 25 October 1841. I have seen the commemorative plaque in St Mary's church, Tenby.

Charles Allen (1808-84), Ven. John Allen (25 May 1810-13 December 1886) of Hormead Hall, Herts. Educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, Chaplain of Kings College, London 1833-36, Examining Chaplain to Bishops of Chichester 1836-39 and Lichfield 1843-48, HM Inspector of Schools 1839-43, vicar of Prees, Shropshire 1846-83; Prebendary of Lichfield Cathedral 1848-59; Archdeacon of Shropshire 1847-83; Master of St John's Hospital, Lichfield and still had time to father one son and nine daughters.

And so it goes on. This Bicton line produced many clergymen whereas the Cresselly line tended to favour the Army. The Bicton branch then included various lawyers and reverted to serving the empire in India.

The next head of the Bicton branch was **Joshua Jullian Allen (1799-1885)** he was an Attorney at Law and JP for Pembrokeshire and Somerset. He lived mainly in London and died at 77 Great Pulteney Street, Bath. He had 2 sons, the second of whom, Charles John was also an attorney at law, and a daughter. The first son Joshua Bird Allen (1823-1880) of St. Paul's school and Trinity College was admitted to the Inner Temple in 1844 and called to the Bar in 1847 but withdrew in 1853. He was Chief Clerk of the High Court of Chancery 1869-80. He had 2 sons, Jullian John Allen (1849-67) and William Bird Allen (1851-1936) and a daughter Lucy Martha Allen (1853-1928). He died before his father as did his elder son.

William Bird Allen (1851-1936) inherited the Bicton estate on the death of his grandfather Joshua Jullian Allen (1799-1885) but lived in London. He was educated at Kings College School, Trinity College, Cambridge; Lincolns Inn 1871, called to the Bar 1876; barrister at law, equity draftsman and conveyancer. He was JP for Pembrokeshire; High Sheriff of Pembrokeshire 1915. He was unmarried and without issue.

Charles Allen (1808-84) of Tenby was the 5th son of Rev. David Bird Allen (1769-1831). He served in the Bengal Civil Service and was a member of the legislative council of India; JP for Pembrokeshire, High Sheriff of Pembrokeshire 1876. He built 10 Norton, Tenby in 1859 to the design of Ewan Christian. He married his cousin Mary Allen on 11 August 1840 and they had seven sons and two daughters. The eldest son was Herbert James Allen (1841-1911) of Norton, Tenby. The next three children Jessie, Margaret and Jullian Bird Allen all died before the age of 2.

Jeffrey Jullian Allen (1846-1911), Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge became Superintendent of Government Telegraphs in India. Charles Francis Egerton Allen (1847-1927) of 10 Norton, Tenby was born in India, educated at Eton, St John's College, Cambridge, the Inner Temple from 1867, called to the Bar in 1871; Barrister at law on the north eastern circuit and later in Calcutta and Rangoon, lectured in law at Presidency College, judge in the Calcutta court of small causes; Recorder of Rangoon; Government advocate, 1877; JP for Pembrokeshire 1896-1905; MP for Pembroke and Haverfordwest 1892-95. Married but no issue.

The 7th child was Rev. William Osborn Bird Allen (1849-1930) Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. He became vicar of Shirburn, Oxon 1878-86 and Secretary of the SPCK 1891-1910.

David Bird Allen (1850-1916) Eton and St John's College, Cambridge served in Indian Civil Service as magistrate and collector of statistics.

The last and 9th child was Walter Griffith Allen (1851-1900). He served in the Indian Civil Service in public works department at Barrackpore. In 1879 he married Florence Godmond daughter of Dr William James Goodeve MD of Clifton, Bristol and had 3 sons and 3 daughters. He died in India on 15 February 1900.

Herbert James Allen (1841-1911) of Tenby was the eldest son of Charles Allen (1808-1884). He inherited 10 Norton Tenby from his father in 1884. Educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, he joined the Diplomatic Service as a student interpreter in 1861 and served in the Chinese consular service 1861-88, finishing his career as British consul at Newchwang. He was also JP for Pembrokeshire and High Sheriff of Pembrokeshire 1909 and was also a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. He married Mary Collinson (1852-1930) daughter of Dr William James Goodeve MD of Clifton, Bristol on 3 April 1877, two years before his youngest brother Walter Griffith married her sister Florence Godmond Goodeve. They had a son, Herbert Charles Goodeve Allen. Herbert James Allen died suddenly at Tenby railway station on 20 February 1912. Previously stated to have died in 1911 but parish records show that he was buried on 23 February 1912 at St Mary's, Tenby, death records recording his death in the first quarter of 1912.

Herbert Charles Goodeve Allen (1878-1965) of Norton and Bicton inherited 10 Norton, Tenby on the death of his father and Bicton from his second cousin William Bird Allen in 1936. He was born in China on 18 April 1878 and at the time of his death 27 March 1965 he lived at Little Rock House, Tenby. Educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, he was an artist specialising in local scenes in Pembrokeshire and a collection of his works is in Tenby Museum. He was a Major in the Reserve of Officers, Royal Engineers. He married Winifred Francis daughter of Rev. Francis Hoare of Derby 11 June 1908. They had a son, Sir Roger Allen (17 August 1909-9 February 1972) KCMG of the Mote, Haverfordwest. He was educated at Repton School, Corpus Christi College and the Inner Temple. He was called to the Bar in 1937. He was employed in the Foreign Office and Diplomatic Service 1940-69; (Asst. Under Secretary of State, 1953-4, UK Deputy High Commissioner in Germany 1954-55, HM Minister in Bonn 1955-6; Ambassador to Greece 1957-61, Iraq 1961-65, Turkey 1967-69; Director-General of Middle East Association 1970-72). He married Jocelyn, daughter of Commander Harry Arthur de Kantzow, DSO RN on 9 January 1954. They had one son, Charles Laugharne Allen of The Mote and one daughter.

The Bicton Estate was part of the property of the Allens of Gelliswick from 1694 but in the early 19th century it passed to Joshua Jullian Allen, a solicitor and it remained the property of a cadet branch of the family until the mid 20th century. It is thought that the farm was continuously tenanted. In 1936 it passed to a branch of the family settled in Tenby where Charles Allen (1808-84) had built a Victorian Gothic town house in the 1860s. Bicton would appear to be in South Pembrokeshire between St Ishmaels and Sandy Haven. There is a B&B of that name off Bicton Road near St Ishmaels. Our first source confirms this as the location of the farm of Bicton House. This cadet branch of the Allens includes numerous clergymen, many others who lived in India and a number of diplomats and lawyers.

Finally we come to **the Allen family of Cilrhiw**, the cadet branch with which we are already familiar. It started **with Lancelot Baugh Allen (1 January 1774-28 October 1845) of Cilrhiw**, the second son of Capt. John Bartlett Allen of Cresselly. He was educated at Westminster School and Trinity College, Cambridge and Lincoln's Inn and was called to the Bar in 1803. He was a barrister at law; Warden of Dulwich College, 1805-11; and Master 1811-20. He was a barrister of the Inner Temple 1819-45; Stipendiary Magistrate, Southwark 1819-25, Clerk in the Petty Bag Office 1824; one of the Six Clerks in Chancery, 1825-42; a director of the Economic Life Assurance Society; JP for Middlesex. His first marriage was to Caroline Romilly, daughter of Thomas Peter Romilly, the brother of Sir Samuel Romilly on 22 May 1820. They had 2 sons, George Baugh Allen and Canon Edmund Edward Allen (1824-1898) of Blackaldern, Pembs whose life and family we have already covered and who had 5 sons and 6 daughters and was Prebendary and Hon Canon of Llandaff Cathedral 1887-1898.



Cilrhiw House today

Lancelot Baugh Allen's 2nd marriage on 29 July 1841 was to Georgiana Sarah, daughter of Charles Nathaniel Bayley. They had 2 sons,

namely Charles Hensleigh Allen (1842-55) who died young and Clement Francis Romilly Allen (1844-1920) of Southfield House, Woodchester, Glos. He was educated at Repton School and Trinity College, Cambridge. He entered HM Diplomatic Service, 1863-98, first as an interpreter and later as consul in China, ending his career as British Consul at Foochow 1896-98. He was a member of the Royal Asiatic Society and Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society; JP for Derbyshire. He married on 2 August 1877, Edith Louisa, daughter of Rev. Robert Wedgewood, rector of Dumbleton, Glos and they had 2 sons and 3 daughters. Lancelot and Georgiana had a daughter Elizabeth Jessie Jane Allen (1845-1918) who died unmarried, aged 73. Lancelot Baugh Allen lived in Dulwich but built Cilrhiw in about 1826.

George Baugh Allen (23 April 1821-19 September 1898), the eldest son of Lancelot and Caroline was educated at Westminster School, like his brother Canon E.E. Allen. He gained a BA in Trinity College, Cambridge 1842 and MA in 1845. He was admitted to the Inner Temple in 1842 but did not practice as a barrister but instead was a Special Pleader in the Inner Temple 1846-1896;

JP and DL for Haverfordwest. He married Dorothea Hannah, daughter of Roger Eaton of Parcglas, Crinow, Pembs on 19 May 1846. His brother Canon Allen married her sister Bertha. George Baugh and Dorothea Allen had the following issue - John Romilly Allen (1847-1907) the civil engineer, archeologist and antiquarian and also the designer of the rebuild of St Nicholas Church, Barry whom we have already described; George Allen, born 1848 but died young probably before 1851; Wilfred Baugh Allen (1849-1922) of Cilrhiw; Mary Catherine Romilly Allen (1851-1933) who died unmarried; Annie Emma Allen (1852-1942) who died unmarried; Dora Blanche Allen (1854-56); Joseph Henry Baugh Allen (1856-1908); Rev. Wilmot Baugh Allen (1857-1923) of Wellington College and Trinity Hall, Cambridge. He trained as a solicitor but gave it up for the church. After curacies in Newport and London 1884-85, he emigrated to Canada where he was vicar of St Thomas's, Chilliwack, BC. 1887-91; canon of Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria 1900-05; rector of St Mark, Victoria 1905-08, Rural Dean 1907-21; rector of St Paul's Esquimalt, BC. 1908-21. His first marriage on 29 August 1887 to Marion Agnes Jennings had issue and he married again on 7 July 1919 to Margaret Moore Gibson at Esquimalt. The 9th child of George Baugh and Dorothea was Richard Baugh Allen (1860-1908) who was a merchant at Shanghai, China. The 10th child, Rachel Mary Allen (1862-1949) of Cilrhiw died unmarried.

Wilfred Baugh Allen (1849-1922) of Cilrhiw was the 2nd son of George Baugh and Dorothea Allen to survive childhood. He inherited Cilrhiw at his father's death in 1898. He was born in London on 14 November 1849 and was baptised at Holy Trinity, Haverstock Hill near the family home at 5 Albert Terrace, Regent's Park. He was educated at Rugby School and Trinity College, Cambridge. He became BA in 1873 and admitted to the Inner Temple, according to our first source, in 1870 and called to the Bar in 1882. He was a barrister on the South Eastern circuit then a County Court judge at Nottingham retiring in 1917; JP for Pembrokeshire, Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire and Mansfield. He married Anne Sophia (1856-1946) daughter of Rev. Robert Wedgewood, rector of Dumbleton, Glos in December 1883. This would have been 6 years after Wilfred Baugh Allen's "half" uncle Clement Francis Romilly Allen married her sister Edith Louisa. Also the Rev. Robert Wedgewood, born 19 January 1806 in Stoke and died on 20 February 1881 in Dumbleton, Glos, was the son of John Wedgewood, elder son of Josiah Wedgewood senior and Louisa Jane "Jenny" nee Allen, the beauty of the bevy of daughters of Captain John Bartlett Allen of Cresselly and of course she was Lancelot Baugh Allen's sister.

It would seem if I have worked this out correctly that Clement Francis Romilly Allen married his first cousin and Wilfred Baugh Allen married his first cousin once removed. Wilfred Baugh lived most of his life in London and while a judge, rented Southfields House, Bramcote, Notts. He was living at Rosemount Tenby at the time of his death in 1922.

Wilfred Baugh and Anne Sophia had a son Richard Lancelot Baugh Allen (1 May 1887-27 December 1918). He was a barrister in Canada until 1915 and served in WW1 as Lieutenant, Royal Field Artillery. He married Marion Irvine in 1917 but had no issue. He committed suicide in Egypt on 27 December 1918 and was buried in Cairo War Memorial Cemetery.

Therefore at the death of Wilfred Baugh Allen in 1922, Cilrhiw passed to his youngest sister **Rachel Mary Allen (1862-1949)**. She did not marry and on her death it passed to her second cousin **Bertram Wedgewood Allen**. I found Bertram W in the 1891 census at 21 Belgrave Road, St George's, Hanover Square. He was 2 and born in China. His mother was Edith L. Allen aged 37 and born in Dumbleton, Glos and his father, Clement F.R. Allen was 47, British consul in Chefoo, China, born in Dulwich, Surrey. His sister, Emma J R, was 7 and born in Marylebone and his sister, Clementine D, was 5 and born in Pakhoi, China. They had 8 female servants in residence aged 20-32, 2 nurses, 2 cooks and 4 various types of maids.

In 1901 Bertram W Allen was a pupil aged 12 at The School in the parish of Malvern Link in the registration district of Upton on Severn, Worcestershire. His father Clement FR Allen had retired in 1898 and on census night was 57, living at Clifton Hall in the Civil Parish of Clifton & Compton in the Rural Parish of Ashbourne, West Derbyshire. He is described as a retired consul and Justice of the Peace. Also in the house were 5 female domestic servants. Bertram's mother, Edith Allen, 47, was head of household, married and living at 74 Eaton Terrace, St George, Hanover Square, London, born in Dumbleton, Glos, living on her own means. With her was Emma, single, 17, born in Marylebone, London and Clementina 15 and a British subject born in China. Very strangely Emma and Clementina are clearly classified as nieces of Edith Allen despite having the correct first names, ages and birth places for her daughters as compared to 1891 and the entry for Clementina Dorothy in 1911. There were 2 servants, one a French subject born in France.

In 1911, Clement, now 67, is a retired consul and Edith Louisa is 57. They were living at Southfield House, Woodchester, Stroud and had been married for 33 years and had 5 children all living. Only Clementina Dorothy, 25 and single, was at home and there were just 4 servants, age range 15-26, a housemaid, a kitchen maid, a parlour maid and a cook. I cannot find Bertram Wedgewood Allen in the 1911 census of England and Wales. His death was recorded in the second quarter of 1955 at Narberth. Nick Kingsley says that Cilrhiw seems to have been sold after Bertram's death.

Cilrhiw House would appear now to be a luxurious country hotel at Princes Gate, near Narberth. It is a "small" stuccoed and hipped-roofed L-shaped house, built about 1826 for Lancelot Baugh Allen. A square block was added to the broad side of the house in about 1850. The photos I have seen of it and its interior and room plan show it to be not that small, very attractive externally and furnished very opulently.

Canon E.E. Allen's house of Blackaldern near Crinow apparently was, or is, a grade II listed building and the coach house is notable. There is a small formal garden but Blackaldern is best known for the woodland garden on the west and east slopes of a sheltered valley with a stream running through it.

If you have persisted with me in following this detailed account of the Allen family in Pembrokeshire, I assure you that it is a summary. It is quite obvious that the Allens were a long-established family in Pembrokeshire. Even if their professions led them away to far flung parishes in England or legal practice in London, many members maintained palatial homes in that West Wales county. Their original wealth sprung from their ownership of land in Pembrokeshire and income from this in farming, and in some cases, the exploitation of coal beneath the ground continued their accrual of wealth. This enabled them to send their sons to the so-called public schools which were privately funded, and this eased their path to Oxbridge, Cambridge in particular. Trinity College, Cambridge was a favoured destination for many, particularly those destined for a career in law it seemed in the case of the Allens.

This Cambridge education received by many in the family, not just lawyers, opened the door to high-flying careers in Law, the diplomatic service and serving the empire in India and in some cases, consular duty in China. Roger Allen 1909-1972 was the greatest example of this being UK ambassador to Greece, Iraq and Turkey in the years between 1957 and 1969. Very many of the family became clergymen, some very prominent in Pembrokeshire or various parts of England and even Canada. A feature I noted was that the sons of these clergymen often married daughters of clergymen, keeping the church in the family you could say! We have noted the connection of John Seymour Allen to Canon Allen's family and William Allen 1800 -1872, one of the three clergyman sons of the Rev. David Bird Allen was noted as the Rector of Bosherton in 1866 in a previous article of mine. I am sure that there were more Allens as vicars and canons in Pembrokeshire who officiated at baptisms, marriages and burials of members of the wider Allen family, but I have not the time or inclination to find out more!

Another feature I noted was that a number of the Allens married their first or second cousins. As well as the close connection of the Allen family with the Romilly family this research has revealed a very close connection with the Wedgwood family, the fine china, porcelain and luxury accessories manufacturer of Staffordshire founded by the potter Josiah Wedgwood in 1759. Some sons married daughters of nobility and at least one himself became knighted. The Allen family seemed to have almost a monopoly of the role of High Sheriff of Pembrokeshire and certainly have been a very prestigious, privileged and notable family of the county. If anyone of you dear readers who have followed my exhausting, if not exhaustive, accounts of the Romilly, Stewart and Allen families are still with me, I have good news for you. I am not delving further into the families of personalities associated

with my walk around Barry in September 2022. I was tempted to write about David Davies and his family, the Cory family and many of the other industrialists associated with the development of Barry but I shall leave those for you to read elsewhere. So get your walking boots on as our tour around the west of Barry and Barry Island resumes soon!

P.S. When I put my walking boots on to walk the coastal path from Amroth to Tenby in April 2023 I came across a signpost to Allen's View on the way down to Tenby.



This was a diversion from the main path which rejoined it further on. As rain was threatening I was determined to reach Tenby before it started, so did not visit this delightful viewpoint and garden. I failed in my attempt to keep dry! The land for the viewpoint was gifted in two parts to the Friends of Tenby in 1965 and 1974 from land owned by Miss Jessie Allen of Clovers, Northcliffe, Tenby. Jessie Allen was born in Tenby in 1885 and on return to the town after retiring from a college in Cheltenham in the 1930s, she involved

herself in the social life of the town. She improved the plot of land at the Clovers and to share the wonderful view with the town she gifted a south facing plot to The Friends and an adjoining area gifted to her landscape gardener was passed to the Friends by him in 1974. For further details see aroundtenby.co.uk Miss Jessie Allen had to be one of the family, didn't she? A search on the Genealogist site showed that she was born 25 April 1885 in Tenby and was baptised on 1 June 1885 at St. Mary's Tenby. She lived at 10 Norton, Tenby. Her father was Walter Griffith Allen, a civil engineer, son of Charles Allen of Tenby, who built 10 Norton in 1859. Her mother was Florence Godman Allen, daughter of the good Doctor Goodeve of Clifton, Bristol.

Jessie reappears in the 1901 census at 5 Belmont Grove in Lewisham, aged 16, and born in Tenby. The head of household is her mother Florence G Allen, a widow aged 43, living on her own means. Also present is Jessie's sister Mary, single and 17, a British subject born in India, Jullian, her brother, aged 14, born in India and her sister Mabel, 12, born in India, plus 2 servants.

It seems that her father, Walter Griffith, who was working for the Indian Civil Service in public works, died in India in 1900 and that Florence came home with the children. Jessie was obviously born in Tenby on a brief return to Britain for this family. Walter and Florence married in the 3rd quarter of 1879 in Barton Regis in Bristol and had 3 sons and 3 daughters according to our first source material. I could not find them in 1881. I found a Jeffrey Allen, aged 10, in the 1891 census living as a pupil at St Andrew's boarding school, 2-3 Northcliffe, Tenby. He was born in India. There were 20 pupils, mostly from Pembrokeshire but also Carmarthenshire and Glamorgan, some from various places in England and two from Ireland. Also present were the owner and his wife and their 1 year-old daughter and 2 older stepchildren, an assistant master, an electrician, 2 governesses, a nurse, a cook, and a domestic servant. Jeffrey is quite likely to be an older brother of Jessie sent home from India to Tenby for education near to relatives, while his parents and at least some siblings remained in India. After Walter's death in 1900, Florence remarried in 1905, to Capt. Angelo Mamola of the Italian Army. I cannot find Jessie in the 1911 census.

Again, I apologise for leading you down the garden path of genealogy.

Sources

1 landedfamilies.blogspot.com

Landed families of Britain and Ireland no. 102 Allen ^{families} of Pembrokeshire published by Nick Kingsley 17 Jan 2014, last revision 13 Jan 2023.

2 genuki.org.uk A Pembrokeshire county family in the 18th century by Elisabeth Inglis-Jones

3 <https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/>

4 Wikipedia articles for additional information not quoted here directly.

5 <https://aroundtenby.co.uk/>

ROATH PHOTOS FROM DOWN UNDER

Jon Roberts with thanks to Tim O'Shea



During the Second World War, Flying Officer Cyril Hampden Isaac, a Royal Australian Air Force photographer, was sent to Europe to record wartime scenes. His tour of duty took in the horrors of the concentration camp at Belsen, as well as scenes elsewhere in Germany, and on to France, Denmark, Belgium, London, Northern Ireland and Wales, before he returned home to Australia to be "demobbed" in December 1945. He continued living in Victoria, the state of his birth, until his death in 1971.

Cyril Isaac is pictured here in Germany in March 1945, talking to a British soldier at Xanten on the River Rhine.

In September 1945, Flying Officer Isaac came to Cardiff, where he took photographs which included a street scene in Inverness Place, and an informal family portrait of Charles and Annie O'Shea and their 2½ year old son, Tim, pictured standing outside their scullery in 159 Inverness Place.

Roll on almost 80 years, and Tim, now living near Bury in Lancashire, comes across the photograph of his family sitting in the online records, thousands of miles away, of the Australian War Memorial. He had no memory of Cyril Isaac's visit and didn't know of the existence of the photograph, so coming across it after all those years was both a shock and joy. It had been donated to the Memorial, along with many other photographs, by Cyril Isaac's daughter. Tim got in touch with the Memorial's Curator and was told the story of how "his" photograph ended up with them.

Tim says that his dad was wearing his working clothes, so must have just



returned from work, whilst his mum was wearing her best dress.



And here's the photograph of wartime Inverness Place. Taken from near the junction with Albany Road. The two-storey building next to the car on the left is now occupied by the Spice of Life and the rear extension of Tesco Express is now on the right.

Just look at the amount of space between the (very few) parked cars!

And one mystery remains. Amongst Cyril Isaac's photographs in the Australian War Memorial collection is one described as "Mr and Mrs Harry Nichols of Cardiff". We know that at least one of Cyril Isaac's Memorial photographs from that time in the UK has been mis-attributed, but in the hope that this one is indeed from Cardiff, or even Roath, if anyone can identify the couple here, please let me know.



HERBIE GOT TO RIDE AGAIN

BY HERBIE DAVIES

On 3 September 1940 I had gone with my mother and brother to the Gaiety Cinema in City Road to watch George Formby in Riding in the TT Races.

[Ed's note – the film, made in 1935, was actually titled "No Limit" – "Riding in the TT Races" was a well-known song from the film, sung by the star George Formby].



The Gaiety Cinema pictured in 2007

Attribution: ceridwen / The Gaiety Cinema in City Road / CC BY-SA 2.0

The film was about halfway through when there was an air raid warning. We still stayed to see what we might miss but we were told that the enemy aircraft were imminent. We left soon after and proceeded up City Road to Albany Road and then up Inverness Place, across Moy Road to our home at



86 Inverness Place.

As my mother got to the door and I was closing the gate, the plane released its load of bombs overhead, and, following a huge flash, I was picked up and thrown above my mother and brother into the house, and everything came down on top. We lay there for a while until we heard the people digging in [78] Arabella Street, at a virtually an identical house to ours. It had been hit with the first bomb and the parents, who were waiting for their children to come home from the cinema, were killed. [Ed's note – David George Walters (age 52), his wife, Mary Jane Waters (age 51), their daughters Joan (age

21) and Winifred (14) were all killed in the raid]. That was the first of many attacks, resulting in the fire-bombing of St Martin's Church and Littlewoods in Albany Road.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Elizabeth Morgan, RLHS Programme and Events Organiser

ROATH LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Wednesday, 10th January, 2024

The Story of INSOLE COURT & the FAMILY who Made it



Insole Court drawing by Nevil James



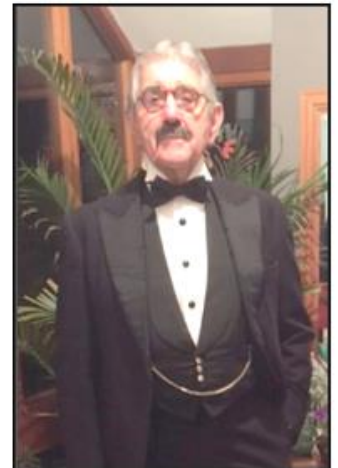
An historical presentation in aid of the
Insole Court Trust

with

John Prior-Morris MBE

*in theatrical character, as the
Edwardian Gentleman*

**George Frederick (Fred) Insole
(1847-1917)**



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