

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Hon. Treasurer:  
J.D. Worsey,  
Coghill,  
1, Harold Street,  
Hereford.  
Telephone: 3833.

President:  
Wynford Vaughan-Thomas O.B.E., M.A.

Deputy President:  
Frederick Grice, B.A.,  
91, Hallow Road, Worcester.

Hon. Secretary:  
E.J.C. West,  
27, Baker's Oak,  
Lincoln Hill,  
Ross-on-Wye.  
Telephone: 2994.

Asst. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. E.G. Peters,  
18, Moor Farm Lane, Hereford.  
Telephone: 67375.

JUNE 1978.

Dear Member,

I have to report that the A.G.M. at Hereford on April 7th. was, it is claimed, the best ever attended. Some 150 members were present, many local, but others from Yorkshire, Surrey, Devon, Sussex, the Midlands and Wales; and we were delighted to have our President with us.

After the agenda of the meeting and a break for refreshments, our members, Mr. Southwood and Mrs. Oldham, gave an illustrated lecture on "Walking with Kilvert", which was much acclaimed by the very appreciative audience.

Approximately the same number attended the service of thanksgiving for Joyce and Oswin Prosser the following day at Clyro. The gifts were dedicated by the Rev. D.E. Rees (Vicar of Clyro), and the sermon preached by the Rev. D.T.W. Price. So admirable was his address that the Committee has decided to have copies of it made available for members unable to be present.

By the time that members receive this newsletter, the next event will be the Summer Service at Conover, held by kind permission of the vicar, the Rev. R.M.W. Skinner, on July 2nd. at 3 p.m. As is the Society's custom, a gift will be made to the church. The preacher will be the Rev. D.T.W. Price, and one of the lessons will be read by our Shrewsbury member, Mr. Laurence Le Quesne, whose forthcoming book, "After Kilvert" was referred to in our last issue. We shall meet in the village hall afterwards for tea, kindly provided by the local W.I. (The cost is not yet fixed). It is hoped to arrange a talk on Kilvert's Shropshire ancestors. A coach will leave Hereford Town Hall at 11.30 a.m.; members who wish to use it are asked to book their seats at Messrs. Wyeval, Bridge Street, Hereford, and to take a picnic lunch. The cost will be £1.10. The vicar of Conover has informed me that there is some parking space on the access road to the church (which stands on a nasty bend) but there will also be parking space in the yard of the village school, some distance away.

At the A.G.M. many suggestions of how to commemorate the centenary of Kilvert's death (1979) were offered by the members present, and the Committee has been considering them. It is hoped to have some definite news of the Society's 1979 programme in the next newsletter. I have been asked by members who travel some distance to attend our functions if there are any local members who would be willing to receive them as paying guests - as one member put it, such accommodation would be far more congenial than a cheerless guest house! I have also had requests for second-hand copies of the 3 volumes edition of the Diary published prior to 1977. Are there any offers of accommodation or volumes, please?

It will be of interest to members to learn that on Sunday, September 22nd. this year, (the nearest Sunday to the anniversary of Kilvert's death), the priest in charge of Bredwardine church, the Rev. J.C. de la tour Davies, is holding a service there with special reference to the diarist. It will be at 4 p.m.

In this newsletter there appears an article by Mr. Timothy Davies, whose portrayal of Kilvert in the BBC 2 series was much admired. The Society is very grateful to him for his gesture. It had been hoped to include members' views on the BBC 2 series, but these have had to be held over till our autumn newsletter. The members who have kindly written their views have the Society's thanks, and indeed if there are any more members who would wish to do, I would be pleased to receive their contributions.

Yours sincerely,

E.J.C. West.

CLYRO PARISH SCHOOL LOG BOOK AND ADMISSION REGISTER:

Recently, through the intervention of my wife, who taught for many years at Clyro School, the Powys education authority kindly agreed to make available to the Kilvert Society, on indefinite loan, the school log book covering the period 1864-1899, together with the Register of Admissions for 1861-1885.

The log book, a leather-bound volume, measuring some 9½ by 7 inches, and containing 499 ruled pages, is now in a dilapidated state, but the whole of the contents are quite legible. Preceding the written entries are three printed pages containing extracts from "The Revised Code of Regulations for 1862" and "Extracts from Instructions to Her Majesty's Inspectors upon the Administration of the Revised Code".

The first page of the log, proper, commences with an entry dated February 1st. 1864, signed by R. Lister Venables, stating that "Miss Henrietta Coleburn of the Home and Colonial Institution, having been appointed Mistress of the Clyro National School, this day entered upon her duties by opening school".

Miss Coleburn's first entry, immediately following, reveals that "On opening school there were 15 boys and 16 girls". According to the first Inspector's Report following her appointment, dated May 8th. 1864, she had "found the school in a low state".

The routine entries during Miss Coleburn's tenure of office were made daily and were quite brief, usually stating only the times of starting and finishing school, the attendance and the state of the weather. The school invariably opened at 9 a.m. and closed between 4 p.m. and 4. 30 p.m. Wet weather usually meant a smaller attendance.

Holidays at this time, and indeed right through the period covered by the log book, were very much the same in number and duration as they were in similar schools right up to the time of the second world war. The chief holiday lasted about four weeks and was known as the "harvest holiday". The date of commencement of this varied from year to year, being fixed by the school managers with reference to the earliness or lateness of the harvest, so that the children could assist in the vital operation of getting in the harvest. This was in the interest, both of the children's parents, who were glad enough to augment their meagre incomes by what little extra their children could earn, and of the farmers, to whom it was of paramount importance that the harvest was completed in as short a time as possible. There was also a week's holiday at Christmas and a further week's holiday to coincide with the main fair at Hay.

The master or mistress in charge of a Church of England, or National, School, at this period, had no easy task. It is true that, compared with their modern counterparts, it was much easier to maintain discipline, but they were subjected to much more supervision by the authorities on the one hand, and to a good deal of hostility from parents on the other. To take the last point first, the value of a child's labour could make a significant addition to the income of a family in which the difference of a shilling or two a week could make all the difference between full bellies and empty ones, so that there was a good deal of friction between the education authorities and the parents, especially after the Education Act of 1871 made school attendance compulsory. So strong, however, were the pressures by farmers and the landed interest, that in 1876 a law was enacted to the effect that a child could be issued with a "labour certificate" as soon as he could attain certain standards of education, thus enabling the more intelligent and diligent children to leave school two or three years before the statutory age of leaving.

To take the second point, the master or mistress had to deal with two sorts of inspector, appointed, respectively, by the church authorities and by the government. Of these perhaps the latter was more to be feared, since upon the degree to which the government inspector was satisfied, or otherwise, with the performance of the pupils, depended the amount of the grant which the government made to the church-founded schools, and upon which they were heavily dependent. Inspections by officials of the church, such as the Rev. W.L. Bevan, the Diocesan Inspector and a noted authority on education, whose first visit was referred to in the log book in April, 1865, were no doubt a "back-up" to the government inspections, helping to keep the master on his toes. At Clyro, too, the registers were checked weekly by the incumbent. Another problem which the master had to contend with were unannounced and sometimes frequent visits from the school managers, some of whom were very helpful, but all of whom had the power to be extremely officious if they so wished.

The Government Inspector's report, entered in the log book on the 24th. November, 1865, criticised the poor attendance and recommended pre-payment of fees, with discounts proportional to the length of period they covered: "The discount encourages pre-payment and pre-payment creates an interest in what has been paid for".

Miss Coleburn, who, of course, must have been well known to Kilvert, evidently left at the end of the summer term of 1866, no explanation being recorded in the log book. When the autumn term commences we find "Mr. Josiah Evans, certified in the 3rd. class, 3rd. division, master", in charge. The entries then become a little more interesting.

22nd. October, 1866. Some of the boys were found to call after a man on the road - were advised together with the whole school on the wickedness of calling bad names, the prophet Elisha being taken as an illustration.

15th. November. A few boys absent to-day on account of making cider.

10th. December. Several absent having had leave "to beat" for a party of shooters on the Baskerville estate.

This last entry is one of very many similar ones, extending over the whole period covered by the log book.

1st. January, 1867. About 35 children absent to-day on account of "New Year's Gifting".

3rd. April. Several of the elder boys kept at home this week to assist their parents in farming, where their means will not allow the services of a workman.

29th. April. School rather thinly attended, the majority of the elder boys kept at home to assist in the Gardens.

3rd. May. As usual: almost all farmers' children kept at home to assist in sowing corn and planting potatoes.

21st. May. School inspected by the Diocesan Inspector, the Rev. W.L. Bevan.

10th. June. Attendance small to-day on account of Hay Fair.

A surprising number of fairs were held in Hay at that time, occurring, it would appear, at almost monthly intervals, and these were responsible, time and time again, for much absenteeism. In fact, as already mentioned, the week's holiday corresponding to what is now the Whitsun school holiday was, most years, given to co-incide with the chief fair of the year in Hay, presumably on the principle of making a virtue out of necessity. Market-day in Hay, held then, as now, every Thursday, was also a cause of absenteeism, the children, no doubt, being obliged by their parents to assist with carrying produce to or from the market.

9th. July, 1867. Some of the boys came late to school - got kept in half an hour.

One is surprised to find that despite there being two schools at Hay several children from there attended Clyro school. In fact children from a good deal further afield also attended, though apparently some of them lodged in the village during the week.

24th. July, 1867. Had an invitation to Tea on the 1st. day of August next, to celebrate the Vicar's Marriage.

1st. August. Tea Party in the afternoon, at Clyro Court, for all the School Children to celebrate the Marriage of the Rev. R. Lister Venables, Vicar of the Parish.

24th. October. Attendance 24 boys and 27 girls, being the highest since the school has been opened.

25th. October. Sewing in the Afternoon. 26 girls present.

All through the log book the greatest emphasis is placed upon "sewing for the girls", which instruction took place regularly three times a week. In fact the chief duty of the "assistant mistress", who with the master usually formed the entire staff of the school, was to teach sewing to the girls. The sewing was regularly inspected by one or other of the ladies in the vicinity. Mrs. Crichton of Wye Cliff, whose husband was presumably one of the school managers was, in the later years covered by the log book, an indefatigable inspectress of the sewing.

16th. June, 1868. A new cricket ball was presented to the school children by Mr. Murrell.

Mr. "Murrell" was, of course, Mr. Morrell (of Cae Mawr), whose name was pronounced as Mr. Evans wrote it, with the accent on the first syllable.

18th. October, 1869. Church Thanksgiving Service. A holiday given. A Tea party given in school by Mrs. Morrell to the Sunday School children.

31st. May, 1871. Tea Party given this afternoon after School, to the School children in remembrance of Miss Venable's birthday.

12th. July, (in H. M. Inspector's hand): Clyro National School inspected, July 12th. 1971. Josiah Evans 2nd. Class New Code. (Rev). S. Pryce, H.M.I.

2nd. August, (in Mr. Evans' hand):

Summary of the Report

The discipline and order are good. The character of the instruction is very satisfactory, the Reading and Hand-writing especially so. Next year hope to find that the higher standards will be presented in one special subject.

The last two foregoing entries, the second of which is countersigned "R. Lister Venables, Correspondent", refer of course to the inspection which so pleased Kilvert and Mr. Evans, and which is recorded in the Diary, Volume 1. pp. 371-4.

At this point it will be best to reveal what can only be a surprise and an acute disappointment to students of the Diary. Neither Miss Coleburn nor Mr. Evans, whose tenures of office more or less co-incided with Kilvert's sojourn at Clyto, make a single reference to him, despite his regular attendance at the school. This is all the more surprising in view of the friendly relationship between Kilvert and Evans. Even when Kilvert leaves Clyro for good, amidst great lamentation and ceremony, there is no reference to him, though in any case the school had broken up for the harvest holidays just before he left, and there was therefore no entry in the log book for that day. This surprising failure to refer, even once, to some one who took such a considerable part in the affairs of the school, and was apparently on such friendly terms with the master, must remain a mystery. We must therefore reluctantly content ourselves with those entries in the log book which throw further light upon Kilvert's personalia or upon the customs of the times.

14th. December, 1871. Got the school chair mended.

22nd. January, 1872. A girl admitted today from the parish of Rhulen. She intends to lodge at Hay and walk to school every day.

From time to time, usually once a year, Mr. Evans listed a group of songs to be taught to the children. This is the list for 1872:-

1. How sweet the sound.
2. Away to School.
3. Morning walk.
4. Praise the spring.
5. For health and strength.
6. The little bell (round).

The songs were taught by the tonic sol-far method, and there is no mention of there being a piano or other instrument for accompanying the singing.

18th. November, 1872. School kept to-day by the Revd. H.R. Irvine ... who kindly relieved the master.

Mr. Irvine, of course, was Kilvert's successor in the Curacy at Clyro.

24th. June, 1873. A Tea-party given to the School children by H. Morrell, Esqr. on the meadow before the house in order that the children can have a ramble in the hay. Number present at the Tea = 78.

It is interesting to record that this same meadow is still used for festivities. In 1977, with the kind permission of the present owner of Cae Mawr, the Clyro Silver Jubilee Celebrations were held there.

18th. August, 1873. Got cricket implements for the boys, the gift of Mr. Baskerville.

21st. August. A School Treat given by Mr. Crichton of Wye Cliff, at his house, at 5 p.m.

5th. January, 1875. The School was broken to-day for a fortnight, in order to allow the workmen to build the classroom.

This last entry refers to an extension to the original school building. The "fortnight" allowed for completion of the work proved to be optimistic, and the holiday was extended to a month. By the time the school re-assembled Mr. Evans had gone, without any reference in the log book to his departure. The new master, Mr. Dunn, remained in office until January, 1877.

19th. April, 1875. The new class-room was made use of for the first time.

4th. October. The sewing class was taken by Mrs. Crichton of Wye Cliff this afternoon, the sewing Mistress being unwell.

18th. November. A Tea given to the children of the Sunday and day schools by N (?) M. Baskerville Esq. in honour of his marriage, which took place to-day. Number at tea 95.

20th. December. Got a football to-day for the boys. Leave given by Mr. Morrell to kick it about on his lawn.

18th. February, 1876. Each of the girls has been presented with an apron, the gift of Mrs. Crichton of Wye Cliff.

At about this time there were 60-70 scholars in six standards, with one master, a part-time sewing mistress (local) and a "paid monitor". The brunt of the teaching, therefore, obviously rested upon the shoulders of the master. The "paid monitor" was on one occasion suspended for a fortnight for "insolence to the Rev. J. Trumper, curate of this Parish" during a divinity lesson.

Mr. Dunn, in January 1877, was succeeded by Mr. W.A. Moore.

23rd. February, 1877. School visited by Mrs. Crichton and also by Mr. Evans the late Master.

14th. June. School visited on Monday by Mr. Evans, the former Master.

Mr. Moore left in March, 1881, being succeeded by Mr. Barnsfield.

24th. June, 1887. Holiday Celebrations of Queen's Jubilee being held in the village to-day. The school children were kindly entertained by Mrs. Morrell of Cae Mawr.

Mr. Barnsfield resigned in November, 1889, and Mr. Halstead took his place.

22nd. June, 1891. Mrs. Crichton brought new Bibles which she presented to the school.

The last entry in the log book was made, by Mr. Halstead, in June, 1899.

Also on loan to the Society is the Clyro School's Register of Admission, Progress and Withdrawal, covering the period from May, 1861 to April, 1885. This is a folio-size volume, in which are recorded the name of each pupil, date of admission, age at admission, residence, parent's occupation, and means of previous instruction. A good many of the names of children mentioned by Kilvert appear in the register, e.g.

Hannah Gore of Whitty's Mill, who was admitted in May, 1861. Her father's occupation is given as "engineer".

Both Eleanor and Florence Hill, of "Neuadd", Llowes, were admitted in September, 1870. Eleanor was aged 10 years 10 months and Florence 9 years 10 months. Both had previously attended Llowes National School.

Elizabeth Harris ("Gypsy Lizzie"), of Penycae, was admitted in September, 1868, aged seven years.

Ann Corfield, aged 6 years 9 months, was admitted in May, 1871, having previously attended "the Dame School".

Age of admission was generally between five and fourteen years, but there were quite a few exceptions. The youngest child admitted was two and a half years old, and there were several pupils admitted ranging, respectively, from fifteen to twenty-three years old. One of these adult pupils was Thomas Harris of Penycae, of the same family as Gypsy Lizzie. He was twenty years old when admitted in 1865, his occupation being recorded as "farmer" and his Means of Previous Instruction as "Dame School". There had obviously been a very long gap in his education.

In most cases the parent's occupation is given as "Labourer", but there is otherwise a surprising diversity of occupations, including: Horsebreaker, Shoemaker, Gardener, Wheelwright, Mason, Butcher, Miller, Butler, Cooper, Game-keeper, Teacher, Bailiff, Inn-keeper, Joiner, Toll-collector (of Hay Bridge), Wool-dealer, Chemist, Malster, News-carrier, Tanner, Sawyer, Publican, Farmer, Shepherd, Carpenter, Watch-maker, Printer, Blacksmith, Steward, Brickmaker, Waggoner, Farrier, Tailor, Plate-layer, Postman and Engine-driver.

Footnote. The old Clyro School building, almost completely unaltered from the time, 1875, when the new class-room was added, remained in use until late in 1976, having been occupied as a school for nearly 120 years. In 1976 a new school was built in the grounds of Clyro Court, and the old school now stands empty. The school-house, contemporary with the school, passed into private hands a few years ago, upon the death of the then head-master, Mr. R.H. Evans, who was for many years a member of the Society.

It is hoped that both the log book and the admission register will be put on display in the Society's show-case in Hay public library, later this year.

R.I. Morgan, Hay-on-Wye.

---

A SIDELIGHT ON REV. W. JONES THOMAS:

Our Bristol member, Mr. J.F. Burrell, has sent the following:- "A friend of mine who has access to the Public Records Office has shown me the copy of a railway accident report relating to a Hereford-Brecon freight train being derailed on 17th. June, 1880 at Llanigon due to the collapse of a bridge after heavy rain. A clergyman who lived higher up the stream (the Digedi) stated that there had been a water spout. This is obviously the Rev. W. Jones Thomas of Llanthomas. He would appear to have been interested in natural phenomena, as in the entry for 21st. March, 1871, he wrote to "The Times" to report an earthquake shock.

A minor railway accident was also reported at Three Cocks Junction on the 1st. July, 1876, but Kilvert probably was at either Canterbury or Langley Burrell at the time, and in any case this is just the beginning of one of the missing sections".

---

EXTRACT FROM 'LONGLEAT', BY DAPHNE BATH, WIFE OF THE 6TH. & PRESENT MARQUESS OF BATH (HENRY FREDERICK THYNNE):

Page 50 - "During the life of the 4th. Marquess (i.e. John Alexander Thynne, died 1896), Canon Jackson, the Rector of Leigh Delamere, was a constant visitor. It was he who catalogued the Longleat papers. He did great and valuable research in the Library and Muniment Room, and it is through his labour that the history of the house can be traced so clearly. For some years he stayed at Longleat during most of the week, and then rode back to his parish to preach his Sunday sermon".

Now in Kilvert's Diary, Vol. 2. page 279, we read: "This morning I went down to Bath by the 11 o'clock train. Saw Edward Little and Canon Jackson at the station. Canon Jackson promised to send us the letters sealed with the Kilvert arms when he goes to Longleat in November". This extract comes from the Diary entry dated 14th. October, 1872.

J.D. Worsley.

---

UNCLE FRANK:

Readers will know that while Kilvert was vicar of Bredwardine, his brother in law, Rev. W.R. Smith, held the neighbouring parish of Monnington, and there are several references in the diary to his nephews Hastings and Percival, and his neice, Florence Smith. In his old age, Hastings wrote out some memories to his famous uncle, and we are indebted to our Member, Mrs. S. Hooper of Sussex (grand-daughter of Hastings) for the following:-

"Another early memory is of the summer when I was about six years old. Uncle Frank was staying with us at Monnington, and I was considerably afraid of him. I think really it was his size and his fierce black beard. I remember my mother saying, 'Go with Uncle Frank and show him where the white trumpet flowers are growing'. He took me by the hand and I led him to a field behind the house where grew masses of the large white convolvulus. In his free hand Uncle Frank held an open knife. I was very obedient to orders - afraid indeed of being anything else - and did not even think of hesitating to show him the right hedge for the flowers, but I thought he was taking me away from the house to cut my throat! When we got to the hedge, I saw the knife was to strip sprays of convolvulus from the hedge tops. They were needed for table decoration as there was a luncheon party at the Rectory. I felt reassured to some extent, but still had misgivings. That black beard!

"A day or two later, I had a small parcel by post from Uncle Frank - my first parcel. I was interested in the little silver fruit-knife in the parcel, but fascinated by the beautiful blue stamp on the label. It was a blue mid-Victorian twopenny stamp - one of the most beautiful of our stamps. I believe it went out of issue that very year - I never saw one used on letter or parcel again.

"That same summer Uncle Frank gave me another knife. It was when we were staying at Aberystwyth and I overheard my Aunt Dora (Pitcairn) say, 'Frank, how could you give the boy a knife? He will only cut himself'. But Uncle Frank answered reassuringly, 'He won't hurt himself with it, it only cost twopence in the market'.

"That same autumn Uncle Frank died. His death and the funeral are misty memories. I remember the collection of people at Monnington for the funeral, but individually only Aunty Emmie (Wyndowe) stands out. She was very impressive in black, I remember someone telling over the names of the people at the funeral luncheon, and at the end Percy suddenly adding in a clear voice, 'And Uncle Frank', and being quickly suppressed".

---

A MEMORIAL TO OUR LATE SECRETARY:

Dr. Nussey has suggested that, as a permanent memorial to Oswin Prosser, a full set of his newsletters, appropriately bound and inscribed, should be deposited among the Kilvert archives at Hay or Hereford. Unfortunately a file set of the newsletters was not preserved. Members who can help us to assemble a full set of newsletters are asked to write to the Secretary.

---

PUBLICATIONS:

Sir Rupert Hart-Davies, the literary executor of Dr. William Plomer, has published recently "Electric Delights" (published by Cape at £6. 95). This is a selection of Dr. Plomer's work-poems, short stories, reviews and literary essays. One of these last-named is on Francis Kilvert, and a reviewer of Sir Rupert's selection writes that in this essay "we see revealed Plomer's love for the diaries, for the world they preserve, for the very act of bringing them down the years to a generation which lost no time in acknowledging their value".

Miscellany Two (The Oswin Prosser Memorial Booklet). Further to the announcement in the last news letter we have been able to reduce the price of this. It is now available at £1. 50 per copy, post-free.

Index. Copies of the Index to the three-volume Diary are no longer available. R.I. Morgan, K.S. Publications Dept., "Heulwen", Castle Gardens, Hay-on-Wye, Hereford.

---

THE REV. A.W. CHATFIELD:

The Rev. J. Nigel Rowe writes: There is a reference to Mr. Chatfield, vicar of Much Marcle in the March newsletter which I would like to supplement by quoting from Julian's "Dictionary of Hymnology". It was quite by chance that I discovered that the hymn "Lord Jesus, think on me" which is to be found in all the commonly used hymnbooks is a translation by him from the Greek. The following is the gist of the information in Julian:-

Allen William Chatfield was born at Chatteris on 2nd. October, 1808 and was educated at Charterhouse and Trinity College, Cambridge. Graduated in 1831, 1st. Class Classics. Ordained 1832. From 1833-47 Vicar of Stotfold (Beds). Since 1847 Vicar of Much Marcle, Herefordshire.

He has published various sermons from time to time. His translation of the prayerbook litany into Greek verse has been commended by many eminent scholars.

His songs and hymns of Earliest Greek Christians, Poets, Bishops and others translated into English verse, 1876, has not received the attention it deserves from hymnal compilers. One hymn among them, "Lord Jesus, think on me", is a specimen of others of equal merit, which might be adapted with advantage.

He died, January 10th. 1896.

---

OBITUARY:

We regret to record the deaths of the following members:-

Miss E. Quinlivan and Miss E. Langridge, both of Bristol. They had been members since 1970 and 1960 respectively.

Miss M.A. Parker of Woodpit, Suffolk, a great-niece of Daisy Thomas. Miss Parker, who had joined the Society in 1965, frequently visited Hereford and accompanied us on many outings. She presented to the Society a teapot painted by and belonging to her great-aunt Daisy.

Major C.R. Scott-Ashe, a Vice President, of Langley Burrell, who had been a member since 1965. He was the son of Sidy (Emily) Ashe, and thus a grandson of Squire Ashe, who features so largely in the Langley Burrell parts of the Diary.

---

KILVERT'S TRAVELLING CLOCK and GYPSY LIZZIE:

Mr. Laurence Le Quesne writes, "I was interested by the item in the March Newsletter on 'Kilvert's Travelling Clock'. This is something that I have wondered about too - in fact at one stage I was going to comment on it in my forthcoming book, though I've since decided to omit the passage. I don't think there's any mystery about 'Mrs. H. Venables' - this must be the Vicar of Clyro's sister-in-law, the widow of his brother Henry, whose tomb is in Clyro churchyard. 'J.C. Venables' is more puzzling, but I think in fact it must refer to the same lady, the 'H' in 'Mrs. H.' would of course be her husband's initial, whereas 'J.C.' would be her own. I've long been meaning to check whether 'J.C.' were in fact the initials of Henry's wife, but have never got round to doing so. Certainly the entry would make more sense if 'Mrs. H. Venables' and 'J.C. Venables' were the same person; the only mystery then remaining is why Henry Venables' widow would give Kilvert such a present. I can only guess that perhaps he had been helpful to her at the time of her husband's death - it may not be quite irrelevant that the primroses Kilvert gathered on the Easter morning of 1870 were for Henry Venables' grave.

"My other comment arises out of Mr. Grice's correction of the entry about Gypsy Lizzie in 'Who's Who in Kilvert's Diary'. A good deal of confusion has arisen from the fact that the source of the information in the entry was a photocopy of my own transcript of the Clyro census in 1871, and that this transcript was itself a paraphrase rather than a true copy of the original. The census itself lists the head of each household and then all its other members, recording in each case their relationship to the head of the household. When I made my transcript, I translated this into rough sketches of the family trees in each household. In the case of Pen y cae the census gives the head of the household as John Harris, who is described as a farmer of 100 acres, and then lists his wife, three sons, and Elizabeth S. Jones - the 'Gypsy Lizzie' of the Diary - whose age is given as 10, and who is described as John Harris's grand-daughter and as having been born in Pontypool. In other words there is no direct information about her parents at all. There are two possibilities - either she was an illegitimate child, or, which seems the more probable explanation, her mother was John Harris's daughter, who had married and gone to live in Pontypool; the fact that Gypsy Lizzie was living at Clyro with her grandparents suggests strongly that her mother and perhaps both her parents were dead. When I was taking my hasty transcript, I did my usual rough sketch of the Harris family tree, as it could be deduced from the entry, and included a '? daughter' among John Harris's children in order to fit Gypsy Lizzie into it; it was this that led later readers of my transcript astray".

THE DIARY OF LOUISA MARY BEVAN 1872-75.

In 1977 the Librarian of Hereford Public Library received from Australia the MS. of a diary kept between 1872 and 1875 by Louisa Mary Bevan, daughter of the Revd. W.L. Bevan of Hay Castle. Miss Bevan had been given a notebook by one of her friends to use as an album in which she might enter her own verses and, presumably, other poems which she admired; but she decided to use it as a diary. The MS. consists of 64 pages, written in a fairly clear hand, and contains not only prose passages, but some of the diarist's own verses.

In scope, in literary skill or excellence, and in interest, Mary Bevan's diary is not of the same quality as Kilvert's. One would hardly expect it to be so. He devoted a great deal of time to his journal; hers is almost an after-thought. But Mary Bevan was a very articulate young woman, and her diary, though not a rival to Kilvert's, is a valuable supplement to his record. It throws a great deal of light on the social life of Hay and the surrounding district. The Bevans moved in distinguished circles. Mrs. Bevan and her daughters nearly always wintered in Weymouth, sometimes spending as much as four or five months there. Mary lives in an almost constant social whirl, and though occasionally there is revealed in her diary a hint of uncertainty about her place in society (she is hurt when Lady Eldon does not call on her at Weymouth - 'I suppose we are not grand enough for her' - and when Emily Pryor, whom she had befriended, does not even invite her to her wedding, and Mr. Turner seems to neglect her) she mixes on fairly easy terms with people of high rank - Lord and Lady Hereford, Sir Henry Croft and others. But perhaps her closest friends were the Thomases of Llanthomas, especially the sons (she never mentions Daisy), the Crichtons, the Venables, the Dews, the Haigh Allens, the Baskervilles. One gets the impression that these families formed a circle of firm friends, and that Kilvert was perhaps more of a fringe member of that circle than his Diary implies. On several occasions when the diaries overlap (the Ball at Clifford Priory, the Volunteer concert in the Hay Schools, the visit to Weymouth to see the fleet) Kilvert mentions Mary but she does not mention him. The name Kilvert



occurs only twice in the three-year record. She mentions meeting the Kilverts at Chippenham on her way home from Weymouth in 1873; and that both she and Kilvert are staying at Llysdinam on the occasion of the Garth Show.

How much ought we to read into this lack of reference to Kilvert? In some respects her failure to mention him is surprising, for they had a great deal in common. They both wrote the same kind of elegiac Tennysonian verse. They both had susceptible natures. Mary is as frequently attracted by handsome men (especially military men) as Kilvert is by pretty girls. But, although it is true that Mary makes no mention of Daisy either, it is fairly clear that Kilvert does not rank with her among the Llanthomas young men, or the army and navy officers she met at Weymouth; and maybe her attitude to him helps to explain Mr. Thomas's positive refusal to entertain him as a prospective son-in-law.

Mary's diary records one or two events that Kilvert merely notes en passant or does not (at any rate as far as we know) record at all. She adds details to the sad story of the death of little Lily Crichton, and tells, with real sorrow, of the death of Charlie Thomas from typhoid in Rome, and of an accident to Mr. Haigh Allen of Clifford Priory that cost him one of his arms. On the whole it is a diary with an underlying tone of sadness. She lives what looks like a full social life, with balls and archery meetings at Ludlow, Kinnersley Castle, Clifford Priory, Stoneleigh Abbey, croquet parties with the Crichtons and the Morrells, spends long holidays at Weymouth, goes to London and sees plays (including Charles 1 with Henry Irving) and opera, and visits friends at Windsor, etc. But her friendships with Henry Thomas, Capt. Gatacre, Mr. Turner and others do not ripen into an engagement. The diary ends on a note, almost of disillusionment. She longs for some happy love-affair to give zest and fulfilment to her life; but by 1875 when she is in her 23rd year it has still not come to her.

For the subsequent history of Miss Bevan I am indebted to her grandson, Mr. C.P. Dawson of Settle, Yorkshire, (and a member of the Kilvert Society). It is not surprising to learn that she inherited her father's intellectual gifts. She published several booklets on Welsh history, contributed to the Cambria Society and corresponded with Edward Lear, whom she helped in the composition of a poem. When she was 36 she married Col. H.P. Dawson of Hartlington Hall, Burnsall, Yorks. Her son, who, surprisingly, was converted to Roman Catholicism when he was at Oxford, became a distinguished theological scholar and Professor of Catholic Studies at Harvard. Her daughter, who died unmarried, was a missionary with the Universities Mission of Central Africa, an organisation founded by a friend of her grandfather's, Dr. Livingstone.

All this information confirms the impression that the social circle in which Kilvert was fortunate enough to move during his stay at Clyro, was, far from being parochial and provincial, a remarkably enlightened and progressive community.

F. Grice.

---

KATHLEEN HEANLEY:

On reading in Who's Who in Kilvert's Diary I noticed that under Kathleen Heanley it was stated that little was known of her. This prompted me to find out something about her. I knew that she lived in Lincolnshire and was connected with Croft Church which is near Skegness. Looking Backwards stated that she lived on her father's farm. His name was Marshall Heanley.

My first move was to write to the Vicar of Croft, the Revd. H.C.J. Malkinson. He kindly looked through the registers for 1840-1870, and generously did not enforce the standard charge of 30p per year investigated, but requested a donation instead. Unfortunately he could find no reference to Kathleen's baptism or (up to 1880) marriage. It was here that I came up against one of those frustrations so often met with by researchers. 'If you had written six months earlier, Mr. Searby's aunt, who recently died at the age of 91 might have remembered Kathleen Heanley'.

The next step, at Mr. Grice's suggestion, was the County Archivist in Lincoln. Here again I met with disappointment. Miss Mary Finch, the Deputy Archivist, had details of the Heanley family, but none of Kathleen who seemed to be deliberately dodging registers and records. Miss Finch suggested two alternatives:- Kathleen's older brother, the Revd. Robert Marshall Heanley was the Secretary of the Universities Mission to Central Africa, and a Mr. David Neave of Beverley, had done some research on the Lincolnshire connections of the Mission.

This, I thought, could be just the thing that the highly religious Kathleen would have been interested in. Unfortunately, Mr. Neave replied that he had come across no mention of Kathleen. Miss Finch's second suggestion was that Mrs. Eva Farmery, a retired schoolmistress of Croft, who knew a lot about the history of the parish, might help. How right Miss Finch was. Mrs. Farmery replied, giving full details of the family. Kathleen (b 1850), like Kilvert, died young. Also, like

Kilvert's earlier love, Daisy Thomas, she died unmarried. Mrs. Farmery also listed Clara Ann Heanley (Molson) 1849-1914, and Sarah Ellen Heanley (Goulter) 1854-1930, both of whom were at the wedding at Findon.

Finally, Mrs. Farmery asked for the address of the Kilvert Society, so I hope that in addition I have found the Society a new member.

John Burrell

---

ANOTHER FIND:

Mr. Arthur Scott, of Langley House, has discovered among papers belonging to his brother, the late Major Scott-Ashe, three sheets containing copies of passages from Kilvert's Diary. The period covered is from May to August, 1875, and the passages are written out in a hand that looks like Dora's. They do not add very much to our knowledge of the Diary, but they do confirm Kilvert's deep love of children and his genuine sense of loss when Emily's children left the Rectory to go to Clifton; and they contain a few striking sentences on the scenery between Langley Burrell and Kington St. Michael, as well as a picture of Kilvert conscientiously playing the role of spiritual pastor.

With the kind permission of Mr. Arthur Scott we are printing here the full text so that K.S. Members can judge for themselves the value of these unpublished items.

F. Grice

31 May 1875

This is our children's last day in the old home.

1 June

There was a great scramble of packing and cording boxes this morning. Mrs. John Knights lent Emmie a cart and horse, and her son John came across to help load the luggage. Emmie and Charlotte Hatherell with the three children who were in high spirits, went down to Bristol by the 2.6. train and took up their quarters at their comfortable house at 16 Sion Place, Clifton.

2 June

The old house is very quiet this evening. No children's footsteps on the stairs, no children's voices about the passages - the silent empty nurseries, the little untended gardens, two or three old toys forgotten, and left behind with an old lesson book, seem to ask for the children and wonder where they are.

6 June

As I went down the garden path today I saw some forget-me-nots in the children's little gardens - The children's eyes seemed to look at me through the blue beautiful flowers, and I almost heard their voices saying, 'Forget me not'. It almost overcame me. 'No, dear children, I will never forget you'.

Wednesday, 9 June 1875

This morning I drove my mother after tea through the beautiful sunny lanes and village greens to Foxham Farm to call on dear old Mrs. Pegler. The house is a pretty picturesque farm house nestling in fruit trees, and climbing clustering roses on the edge of the green behind Foxham Church. The geese were grazing and the children playing on the green, and the sun slanted tenderly over the rich country between the elms with brilliant gleams and long shadows. We found Mrs. Pegler at home. She is a fine handsome old lady with a singularly pleasant open countenance.

Foxham seems to be in a sad state ecclesiastically and parochially, and miserably neglected by Bremhill and the clergy there. The Holy Communion has only been administered in Foxham Church five times in two years. Mrs. Pegler told us that the curate, Mr. Rivett Carnac, who goes about in a cassock, was attacked one day by their gander, which tore a grievous hole in his 'petticoats'. He said he should tell his friends what a ferocious house guardian Mrs. Pegler kept. 'Perhaps, sir', suggested the old woman slyly, 'Perhaps, sir, the gander was excited by some peculiarity in the dress'.

18 June

I went down to Sydney's wood to see Tom Cole, who was better and down stairs. Talking of Steart's Lane, he said it went to London. The continuation broke here and there but it could be traced all the way. It was recognisable at Swindon, where it is called 'The old Lane to London'. Cattle could be driven from Wiltshire and Gloucestershire to London in old days without paying toll.

Sunday, 15 August

After our own services I walked over in the beautiful evening to Kington St. Michael to help Edward Awdry. The sun was still hot, but lowering fast and sending long

shadows across the brilliant green of the meadows. As I went down into the alternate shade and sunshine of the Happy Valley, the cooing of the wood-pigeons floated quietly down from the dark woods of the Marsh, and a sweet peace of Sabbath stillness brooded over the Vale. Down the road from Kington to the Plough it was warm and sultry, and there was no sound but the 'drowsy tinklings' of the sheep from the Lodge Farm. The little mournful piping of a bullfinch and the occasional sudden sweet song of a robin. 'The Twelve Apostles' (the twelve oaks, one crooked and broken for Judas Iscariot) stood upon their hill, then 'The Four Evangelists' (the four elms on the Top Hill) came into sight. Around lay the rich undulating country, the emerald meadows in their setting of golden cornfields, and below nestled the King's Town, the house of my forefathers with the gray Church Tower embosomed amongst its limes, and the long village street climbing the gentle slope beyond. I found the good vicar hot and lonely, walking disconsolately in his garden, and wishing someone would come and help him with his duty. Seeing me, he started and came forward joyfully, 'You're the very man I wanted to see', he exclaimed, 'I want you to preach for me'. He read prayers and I preached to a most attentive congregation.

24 July 1875

In our garden this evening I found the two nice girls Elizabeth and Mary Knight who had come by invitation to gather blackcurrants for their home wine-making. They were in their black and white striped dresses and had their sleeves rolled up, and their hands were stained with the blackcurrant juice. Presently they wanted another basket and I went to fetch them one.

When I came back with it, Mary said suddenly, 'Mr. Frank, I want you to do something for me'. 'Well, what is it?'. 'To speak to Mother about coming to the Sacrament, I think she would come if you would ask her'. 'I will gladly ask her if you will give me an opportunity of seeing her alone, to have a little talk. I think she will speak more freely to me when no one else is by'.

The girls agreed, and spoke very nicely and sensibly about it. 'Now', I said, 'will you let me ask you to do something for me?'. 'Yes', they said, 'What is that?'. 'To come to the Holy Communion with your Mother. I have long wished it and hoped you would'. 'I have often thought of it', said Mary. 'I think it is a thing people ought to do. I told Mother I would come when she did'. 'People say', said Elizabeth, 'that you oughtn't to come to the Sacrament till you are good. But I don't think that's right. I think if we stay for that we shall never come at all. It was meant, I believe, to help us to be good'. 'Certainly', I said, 'and remember that after the Last Supper Peter denied his Master, and all the disciples forsook Him and fled. We shall never be quite without sin in this life, but if we use the means of grace and help which God has given us, we shall sin more and more seldom'. We had a good deal more talk of the same kind, and the girls spoke nicely and heartily. When they had finished picking their currants the sun had set, and the glory had died off the highest elms. The little brook at the bottom of the garden tinkled on quietly and chimed in with our voices. The girls had gathered their baskets full and I walked up with them to the farm through our orchard, carrying the heaviest basket for them. I parted with them at their gate with a hearty clasp of the hand. I hope that some good may have been done, and that something may come of our evening talk in the garden.

4 August

I bought in Bath today a copy each of 'Thoughts and Prayers for Young Communicants' for Rosamund, Elizabeth and Mary Knight and took them to the Farm. Rosamund was at home with her Mother. When I was coming away, Mrs. Knight said to my great joy, with a softened look on her face, putting her hand in mine, 'You must please to teach and instruct me all you can'. Surely this humble child-like spirit that asks for instruction and desires to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven shall never be cast out.

---

ST. HARMON:

From Mr. Kenneth Jones of Watford comes the following extract from A.G. Bradley's "The Highways and Byways of South Wales" (1903).

"At St. Harmon - which now boasts a railway station three miles above Rhayader amidst a solitary waste of bog and mountain, strange things heppened in Giraldus's time. For in the little church dedicated to Germanus or St. Garmon (hence Harmon) there was preserved a staff of St. Ciengs covered on all sides with silver and gold and shaped in the form of a cross. Sufferers from glandular diseases who approached the sacred symbol in the proper spirit and presented at the same time a penny, found an unfailing cure. Even then, however, before the stock business could possibly have been a profitable pursuit in Radnor, there were men with a sharp eye to a deal. One sufferer having prostrated himself before the sacred symbol had the temerity to offer it a halfpenny, whereupon, says Giraldus, only the centre of the sore healed,

the outside parts retaining the inflammation. On the production of the balance due, we are told, the cure was fully perfected. Another graceless person persuaded the oracle to give him credit but, having been cured, failed to pay, whereupon he had a recurrence of his ailment: nor was it until he had produced thrice the original fee that he was made a whole man again".

Mr. Jones comments that if the St. Harmon's part of the Diary had survived, we might have found that he made mention of the ancient staff !

---

GIFT TO CONDOVER CHURCH:

In response to the Society's wish to commemorate the service at Condover with a gift, the Vicar of Condover has intimated that his church would welcome a set of chant books. These will be dedicated at the service. The announcement of the service in the secretary's letter omitted that the Act of Remembrance would be performed by the Rev. D.N. Lockwood, Vicar of Hanley Swan, one of our vice-presidents.

Condover church, according to Sir Nicholas Pevsner is of an attractive creamy pink sandstone, and possesses a remarkable collection of monuments. While the north transept is late Norman, much else dates from the Restoration times, including the fine hammer-beam roof. There is also Victorian work to be seen. Condover Hall nearby is termed by Sir Nicholas as "the grandest Elizabethan house in the county".

---

OFFICERS 1978-9:

Vice-Presidents (in order of appointment)

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| The Very Rev. Hedley Burrows | Canon J.S. Leatherbarrow    |
| Rev. H.T. Watts              | The Very Rev. N.S. Rathbone |
| Mr. J.D. Gibson-Watt         | Rev. D.N. Lockwood          |
| Mr. Geoffrey Bright          | Mr. Robin Tanner            |
| Mrs. E.M. Victor             | Canon R.W. Kilvert          |
| Mrs. S. Mumford              | Miss M.L. Kilvert           |
| Rev. T.J. Lewis              | Rev. E.H. Waddleton         |
| Col. E.P. Awdry              | Rev. D.T.W. Price           |
| Mr. E.F. Jelfs               | Sir John Betjeman           |
| Mrs. J. Feisenberger         | Mr. A.L. Scott              |

Committee:

Mrs. D.M. Davies, Mrs. M. Mathers, Mrs. M. Morgan, Miss I. Rees, Mrs. L. West,  
Mr. G.C. Davies, Mr. H.T. Lloyd, Mr. R.I. Morgan, Mr. M. West.

---

STOP PRESS:

Owing to last minute complications the contribution by Mr. Timothy Davies has regreably had to be held over until our next newsletter.