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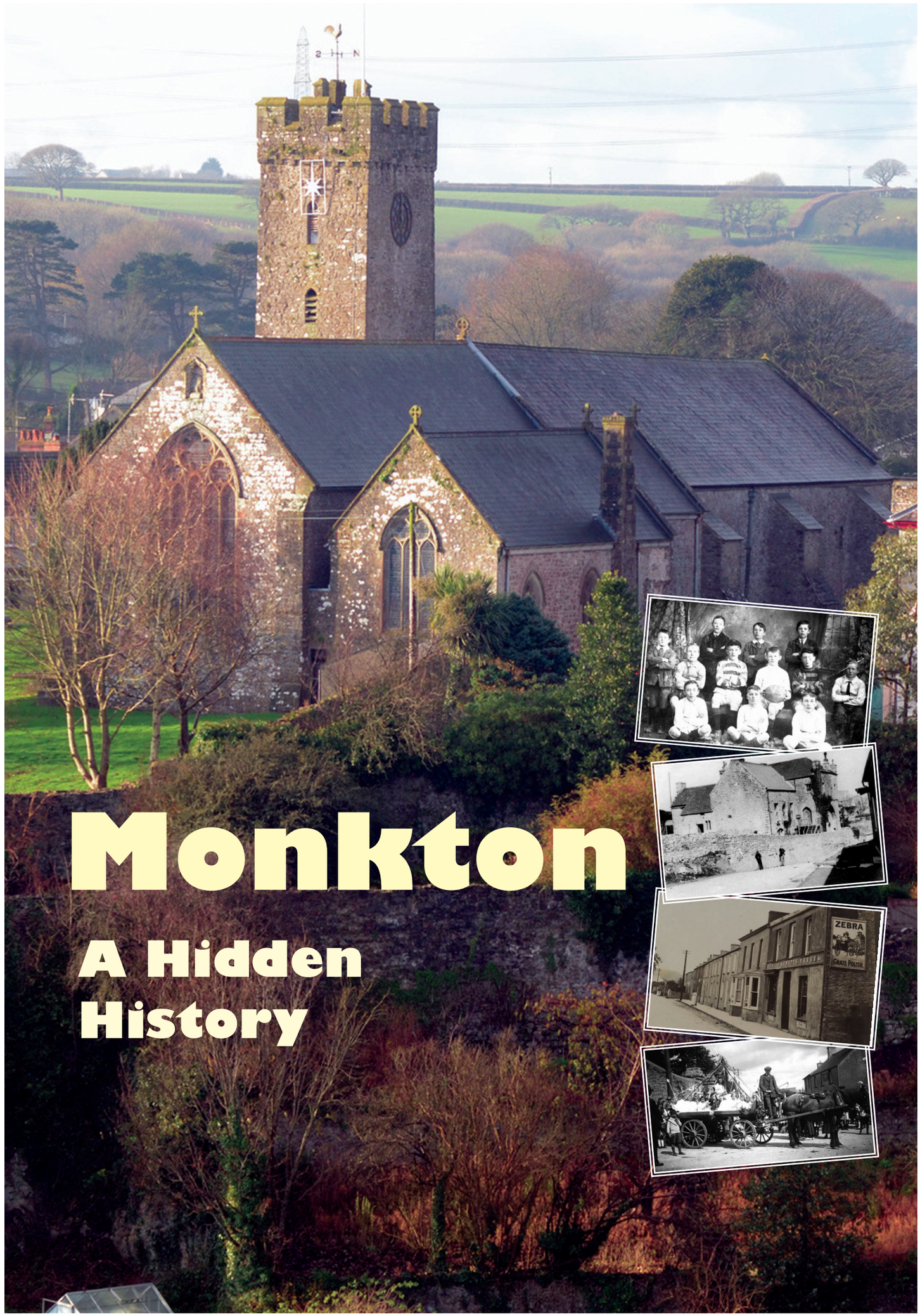

Monkton

A Hidden History

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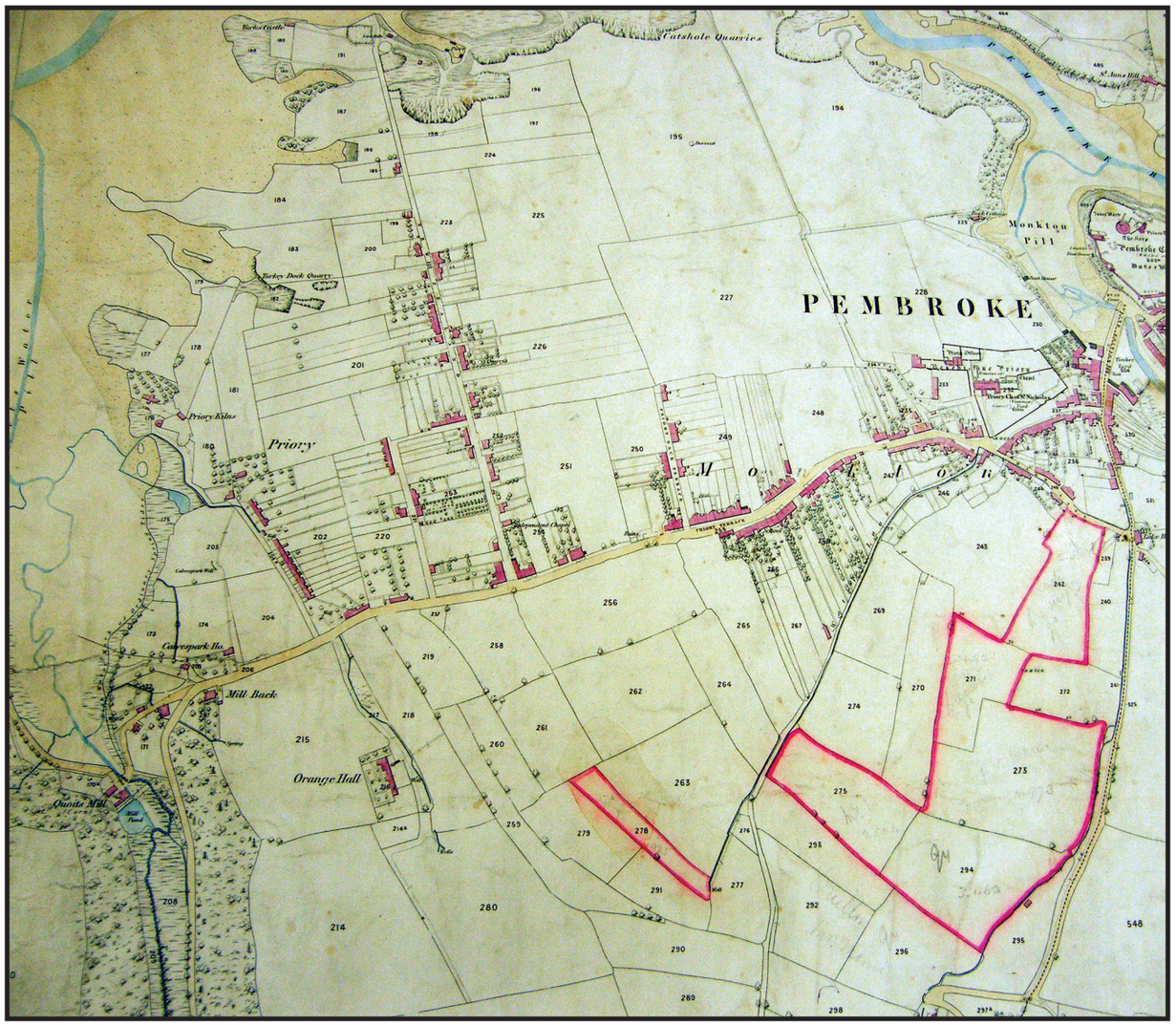

Map of Monkton village, 1885.

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Monkton

A Hidden History

Compiled by Linda Asman and Keith Johnson

This book is dedicated to the memory of Pauline Waters and to all those who shared her love of old Monkton

Produced in 2022 by Pembroke & Monkton Local History Society
www.pembrokeandmonktonhistory.org.uk

Cover photograph by Martin Cavaney

PEMBROKE & MONKTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
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Looking into Monkton's past

PEMBROKE and Monkton Local History Society was formed in 2010 by an enthusiastic group of people wanting to raise awareness of the heritage of Pembroke and Monkton.

Although Pembroke is one of the most historic towns in Wales, much of its history – especially relating to modern times – had been rather neglected. We recognised that there was a great and pressing need for further research and especially to carry out oral history recording and to create a photographic archive for posterity.



Pauline Waters in full flow during the guided walk around Monkton that launched the History Society.

We initially established our base in Monkton, where we rented a room in Monkton Church Hall. It was appropriate therefore that our first community event was an exhibition about Monkton's past, which included a walk through Monkton led by Pauline Waters, Vera John and Dot Lloyd who were able to tell us about the old community, who lived where and where the shops and businesses were located.

There was an enthusiastic response. People brought in photographs and shared memories over coffee. This set the pattern for the future development of the Society – our meetings became social occasions with coffee mornings to accompany a programme of talks and exhibitions and proved very popular.

This also helped raise the funding to cover our overheads and allow free entry to all our events.

TO MAKE our work accessible and far - reaching, we also began an ambitious publishing programme – first leaflets and articles; then books of local interest.

Our first publication was a bi-lingual English/ Welsh leaflet outlining the history of Monkton – 'Monkton: a Sense of Place'. Funding was secured from PLANED through the Adding Value to Heritage and Natural Resources Project, which was part-funded through the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007 – 2013 , funded by the EU and the Welsh Assembly Government.

The following year we continued with a similar 'Pembroke: a Sense of Place' leaflet.



The opening of Pembroke Museum in the Town Hall.

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Both leaflets were illustrated by the late, greatly missed George Lewis, who became President of the Society.

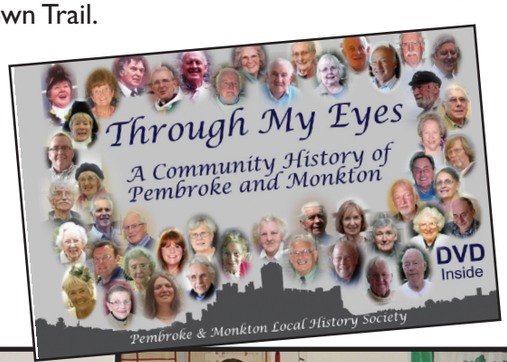
We then embarked on our first major project 'Through My Eyes: a Community History of Pembroke and Monkton'. Having already begun a programme of oral history recording, this project took us a step further in creating a history in digital stories.

Thanks to HLF funding, this was published in 2014 as a DVD with an accompanying book. The 45 digital stories or short films last only a few minutes but each throws a different light into the past, reflecting the individual experience of the person who wrote and narrated it.

Those experiences are wide and differing: put together, like pieces of a jigsaw, they form a comprehensive portrait of our community - a unique collection of oral history and photographs preserved for present and future generations.

SINCE then the society has continued to grow with a strong community outreach and became a registered charity in 2014.

Working with Pembroke Town Council and community groups, particularly Pembroke Civic Trust, we have undertaken ambitious community projects, which have resulted in a museum in Pembroke Town Hall, a Town Trail and Digital Town Trail.





Sharing memories over coffee and biscuits.

The Society played a major part in raising the money for the much-acclaimed Henry VII statue and more recently the statue of William Marshal – promoting our heritage in another way, through a heritage arts trail.

Always in the background we continue to research and add to our archive of local material and have now published several books of local interest.

In this enterprise we are extremely grateful to Keith Johnson who has undertaken for us the book editing and page design, while also steering us through the publishing process. A dramatist and writer of several local history books himself, Keith was for many years the editor of the greatly-missed *Pembrokeshire Life* magazine.

We share a common interest in the history of Monkton and whilst we, the Society, have added much to our archive of Monkton over the years, Keith also has been busy researching various aspects of the village's social and maritime history.

Continued



Contributors gather at the launch of 'Through My Eyes' (above).

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Looking into Monkton's past



The launch of the digital Town Trail.



Fundraising for the Henry VII statue.



Unveiling of the statue of William Marshal near Monkton Bridge.

So much has emerged from our work that we now feel that it is time to publish this history of Monkton which represents a shared wish to uncover the absorbing heritage of a place that has been too long neglected.

MONKTON'S really is a hidden history. It is a history which dates back to prehistoric times, encompassing the rise and fall of Pembroke Priory, the Civil Wars when Cromwell located his cannons here, the building of the Victorian terraces of Priory Mains to house Dockyard workers and the restoration of the Priory Church.

Lesser-known information has come to light, such as the surprising fact that Monkton was a centre of the Mormon religion in the 1850s, with one of only three Mormon chapels in Wales.

And research into the village's maritime past has revealed that it once boasted a thriving shipbuilding yard and that timber from Canada was imported to Monkton quay.

We have learned from our senior citizens who grew up in the old Monkton, that it was virtually a self-contained community for over a century, with shops and tradesmen of every kind, farms and quarries, schools and pubs and regular livestock fairs in the village street.

Sadly, much of the character of the village was lost in the early 1960s when the local council decided to bulldoze most of the old terraces and replace them with a modern housing estate, the old community shattered.

In compiling 'Monkton – A Hidden History', we are grateful to all the people who have contributed to it, including local historians and the many members of the old community of Monkton, past and present.

Linda Asman
Chairman,
Pembroke & Monkton
Local History Society

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The art of George Lewis



GEORGE Lewis (above) became Pembroke and Monkton Local History Society's first president in 2011. A great local personality, George was an accomplished artist, historian and public speaker who did so much for our community.

His lasting legacy lies in his artwork – the Pembroke Town Hall Murals that he and his wife Jeanne completed in 2009 are an outstanding gift to the community.

George was involved in several Society projects, the first being the Monkton Sense of Place leaflet which Linda Asman wrote and he illustrated, followed by the Pembroke Sense of Place leaflet.

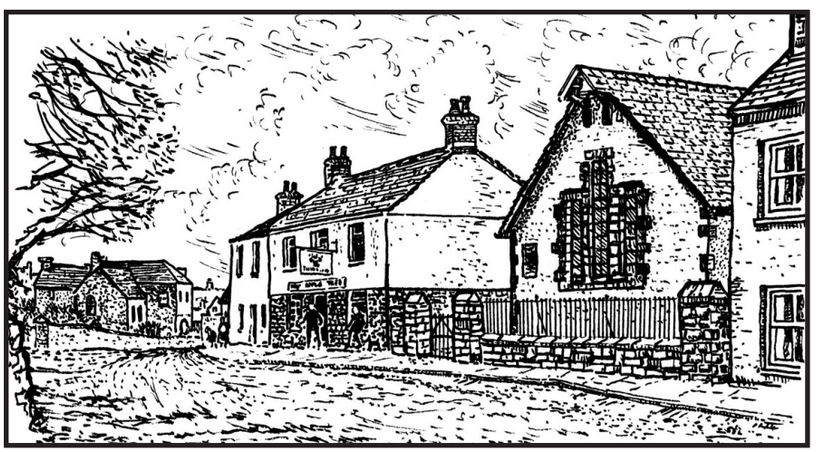
This was succeeded by the new town trail booklet which was undertaken as a Town Council regeneration project.

Then came the setting up of Pembroke Museum in the Court Room, which complements the Murals: together they tell the story of Pembroke and provide a popular attraction in the Main Street. This has continued to flourish and is another lasting memorial to him.

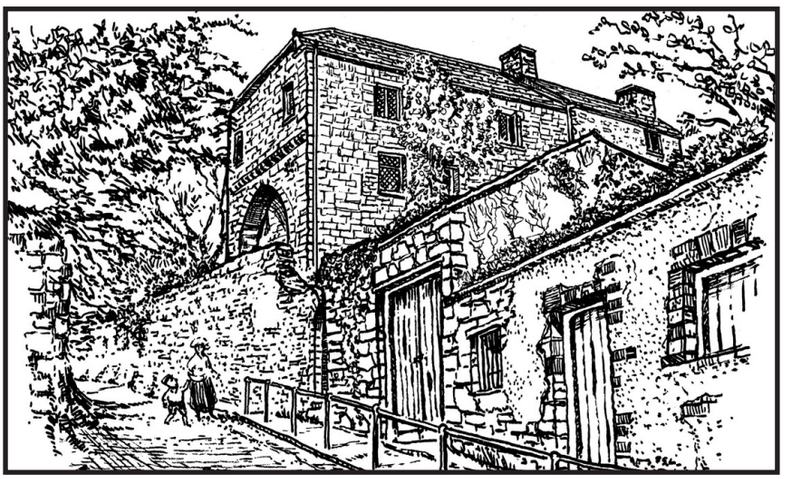
The illustrations here and overleaf include some of the line drawings which George created for that initial Monkton leaflet.

The Monkton Sense of Place leaflet is available from Pembroke Town Hall and Pembroke TIC and can be downloaded from the website www.pembrokehistory.org.uk



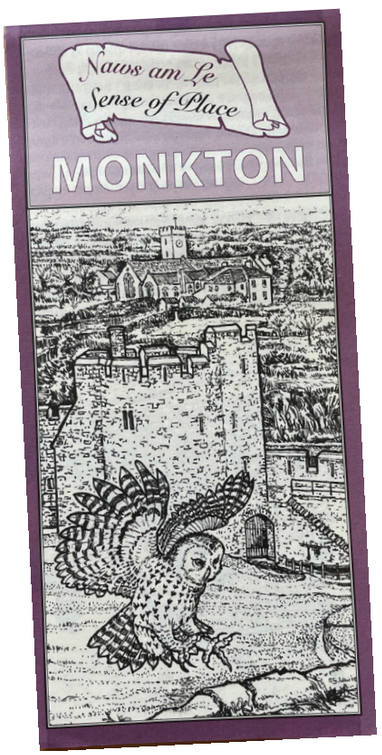


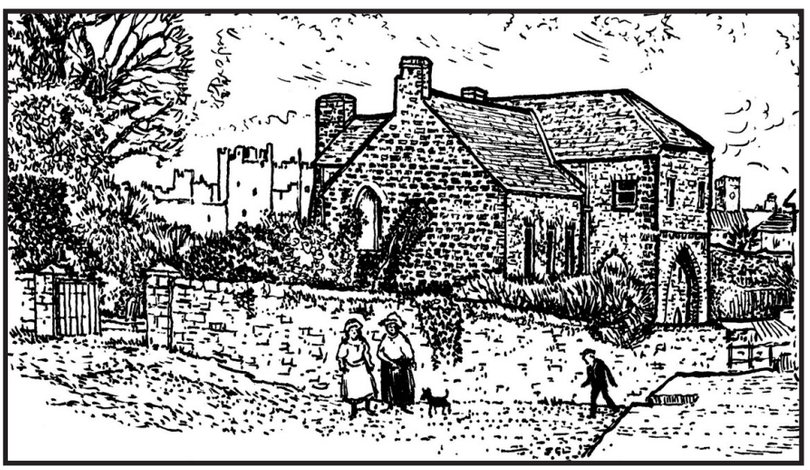




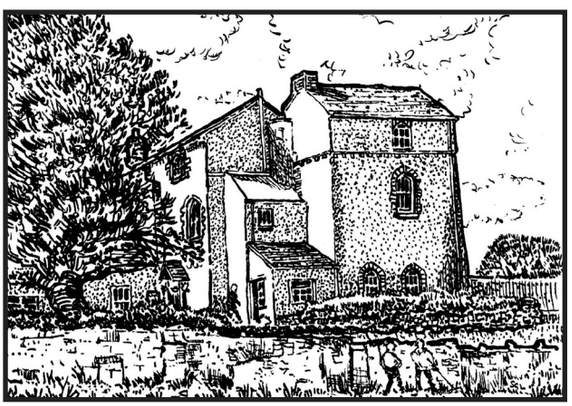


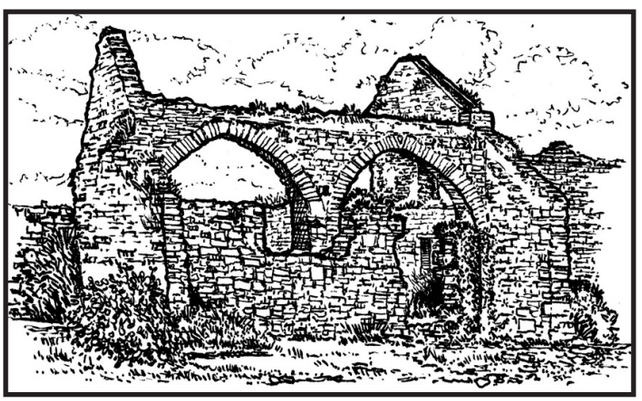
The art of George Lewis











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Monkton's earliest inhabitants

SOME 300m west of Pembroke Castle, high on the bank above the Pembroke River's southern shore, there is a cave known as Monkton Priory Farm Cave or Catshole Cave.

Here in 1906-7, two men, Dr A Hurrell Styles and Mr E E L Dixon, carried out an archaeological excavation and it is thanks to them and the artefacts they unearthed that historians have been able to shine a light on the prehistoric world of Monkton's earliest inhabitants.

Priory Farm Cave is on private land but, with the permission of landowner Mr Wyn Jenkins, it was possible to gain access to photograph the cave, which is reached after a steep climb up the heavily overgrown bank.

The mouth of the cave measures approximately 6m wide and 2.5m high, narrowing backwards into a tunnel of around 30m.

Both the roof and floor of this tunnel are uneven and, after following it for some 10m, the way was blocked by a ridge some one metre high so it was impossible to proceed further.



Priory Farm Cave entrance.

Interestingly, just to the right of this ridge is a hollow which was thought to be the den of a hyena because of the collection of bones found there. Man was not the only inhabitant of the cave!

A detailed account of the excavation was published in *Archaeologica Cambrensis* in 1933. It was written by W F Grimes and Lionel F Cowley and they stressed the importance of the Priory Farm cave finds, notably a rare hoard of bronze implements and a fine set of flint tools.

Their re-examination of the finds indicated that the cave had been occupied in the Upper Palaeolithic or late Stone Age, much further back in time than previously thought. Both human and animal bones were discovered representing a variety of species: amongst them mammoth, hyena, bear, reindeer, red deer, wolf, horse, ox, badger, sheep, goat, fox and hare.

Fragments of medieval pottery were also found, demonstrating use of the cave over a considerable time.



In the mouth of the cave.

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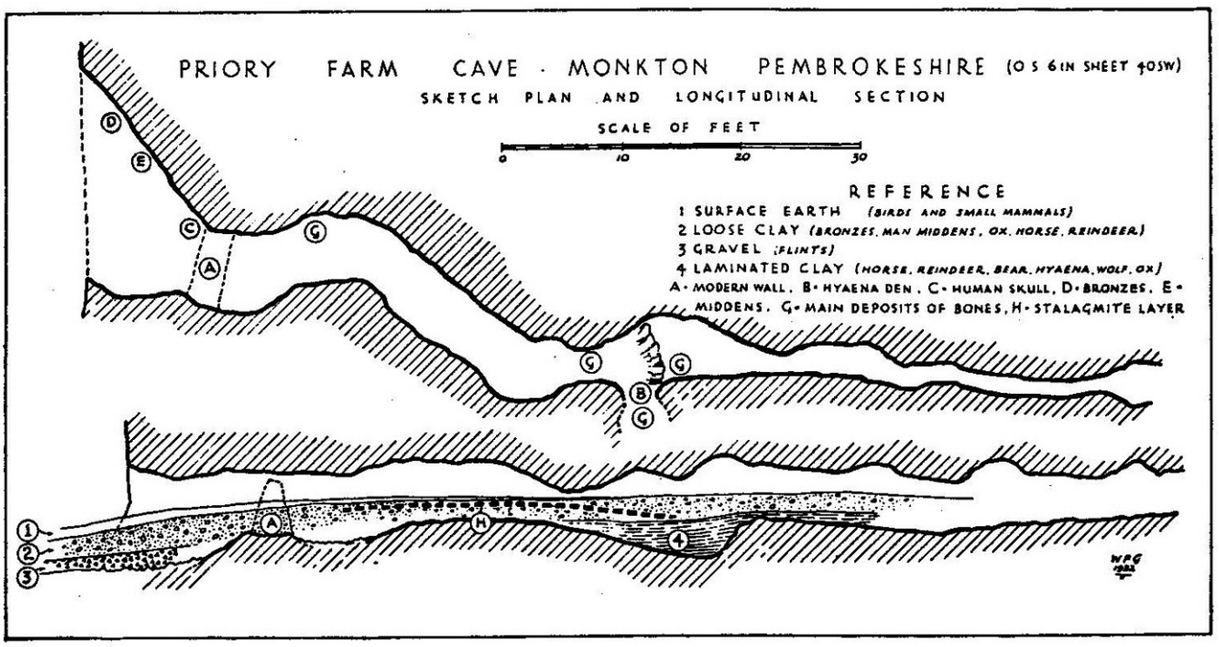

THE Old Stone Age (Palaeolithic) dates from about 350,000 BC to around 10,000 BC, when early humans first started to make stone tools. Over countless thousands of years, man evolved until, around 30,000 years ago, the first truly modern humans made their appearance.

Britain was not an island then. Land bridges connected it to Europe allowing humans and animals to migrate, but any permanent settlement was difficult as the climate fluctuated between polar desert conditions (glacials) and temperatures akin to the modern Mediterranean (interglacials).

During the glacials, the climate was arctic like, dry and cold, and the animals that wandered that bleak landscape are totally alien to us today. It is hard to visualise the great mammoth tramping through a Monkton landscape resembling Siberia, along with woolly rhinoceros, cave bear and giant deer!

People of the Later Old Stone Age could only survive during the warmer interglacials when rising temperatures encouraged the growth of trees, bushes and grasses which suited smaller animals like deer, wild pig, and cattle.

They were hunter-gatherers grouped together in small bands, living a nomadic existence and sometimes taking shelter in our Monkton cave. They lived by foraging, gathering edible plants and hunting wild animals, for food as well as the skins to clothe themselves.

They had developed tools of the sort discovered in the floor of Monkton Cave: scrapers, graving tools and a sort of short penknife blade made of flint flakes, which now provide evidence of their existence.



The cave was home to hyenas.

The Old Stone Age ended with the last Great Ice Age when a glacier covered the whole of southern Britain making it entirely uninhabitable for man. However, around 10,000 years ago the Ice Age was ending.

As the climate warmed, life returned: plants and forests grew, animals multiplied and people migrated northwards across the land bridges that linked Britain to Europe.

Continued

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Monkton's earliest inhabitants

They were following and hunting the herds of wild animals such as reindeer, horse, wild cattle and elk while those great, cold-loving animals of the Ice Age moved northwards in search of colder conditions, never to return.



Paleolithic flints from Priory Farm Cave. They show that the cave was occupied before the last Ice Age.

THESE were the people of the Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age (10,000-4,000BC), blue eyed and dark skinned. Like those before them, they were hunter-gatherers, small communities living in a densely wooded landscape in which they could hunt animals like red deer, pigs and wild cattle as well as find a plentiful supply of edible nuts, fruit, roots, and seeds.

They led a nomadic lifestyle, probably following a seasonal pattern dictated by the moving deer herds and the ripening of plant sources. The more permanent settlements would have tended to be close to the sea or inland waters which offered plentiful fish, eels and shellfish and they would very likely have fished in our Pembroke River in their coracles and dugout canoes.

This was a period of human technology which saw the production of much finer tools produced by chipping, often arrowheads, fish-hooks and points.

The landscape these Mesolithic people inhabited was very different to that which we know now; global warming was to cause dramatic changes.



Linda Asman explores the remains of the sunken forest at Freshwater West.

Huge quantities of water were still locked away in the glaciers, which had retreated north during the Ice Age and the sea level was around 25m lower than it is today. Mesolithic man would have looked out upon wide, forested plains where now we see St Bride's Bay; the present day islands, hills on the mainland.

Gradually, over thousands of years, the melting ice led to a permanent rise in sea level until by around 6,500 years ago the waters had flooded the English Channel, cutting Britain off from the rest of Europe and leaving the coastline very much as it is today.

In places around the Pembrokeshire coast, remnants of prehistoric forests can still be seen and these became very apparent in the winter of 2014, which was claimed to be the wettest winter on record.

Ferocious winds made matters worse and the storm-lashed West Angle Bay and Freshwater West were featured on the news, with people unable to stand upright while foam, snow-like, covered the road.

But the pounding of the rough seas had another effect on our coastline. Made visible by the shifting sands was the sunken forest of Freshwater West, rarely seen so clearly on this beach and generating great interest and curiosity as people poked around the tree roots and peat, all that is left of the forest where once Mesolithic man roamed and hunted.

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CHANGES in the pattern of human life happened slowly in the Stone Age, over many thousands of years. However, around 4,000 BC a social revolution was taking place which saw the evolution of man from hunter-gatherer to farmer.

This was a time historians call the Neolithic or New Stone Age (4,000-2,500BC). With the spread of farming technology into Britain from Europe, human beings developed new lifestyles, clearing the land to build settlements, planting crops of wheat and barley and raising domesticated sheep, cattle and pigs.

Pembroke River would have been a main highway for boats plying the coast and venturing out into the open sea for fishing and trade.

Technological and cultural changes were taking place too; here we see a growing and organised society, well connected to other groups elsewhere in Britain and beyond, trading over long distances with their tools and axes, which were still stone but highly polished.

They made pottery, developed weaving and left behind them a legacy of stone burial chambers, the most famous of which, in Pembrokeshire, is Pentre Ifan, near Newport.

The dramatic stone structure would have been covered in a large mound, its contents pillaged over the years.

Continued



Pentre Ifan looking towards Carn Ingli.



The Devil's Quoit on the road to Freshwater West.



The great monument at Stonehenge. Some of the smaller stones originated in Pembrokeshire.

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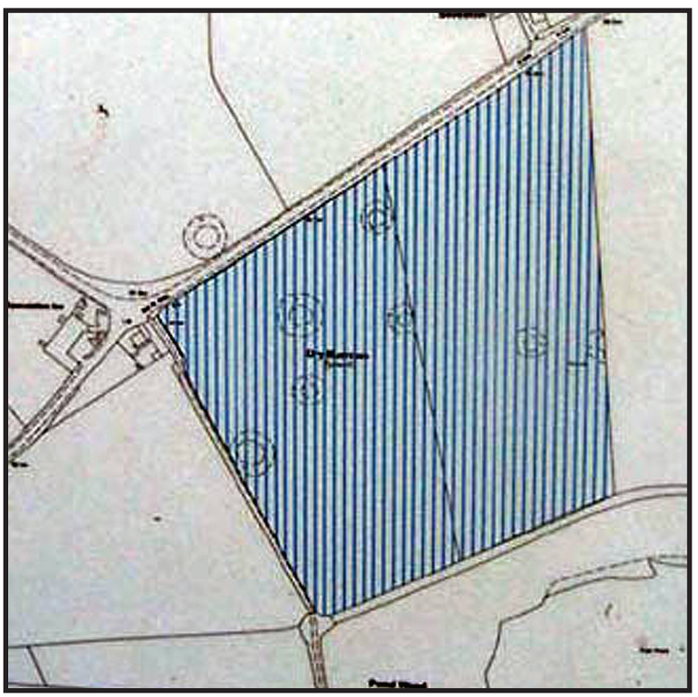
Monkton's earliest inhabitants

A much smaller monument can still be seen some six miles from Monkton on Broomhill Barrows, Freshwater West. It is known as the Devil's Quoit.

Famously, these great engineers in stone built Stonehenge. Its construction is believed to have begun around 3,000BC but carried on over many hundreds of years.

The story of the legendary Preseli bluestones and their transportation to this iconic monument continues to fascinate us.





The Dry Burrows near Hundleton – photograph (top) and map.

GRADUALLY, around 2,500 BC, the Age of Stone was giving way to the Age of Bronze (2,500-700BC) as new metalworking technologies arose across Europe and spread throughout Britain by migrating metal workers.

There is no clear division between Neolithic and Bronze Ages; change was a slow and gradual process. Many hundreds of years passed by before metal replaced flint in weapon and tool production.

Initially, metal was a rare commodity, used by a social elite for special objects of prestige and display.

The communal burial tombs of the preceding period were replaced by individual cremations under round barrows or tumuli, the remains placed in beakers or funeral urns and often accompanied by caches of expensive weapons, tools and jewellery. We have a good example in Monkton parish of such a burial ground on the Dry Burrows, near Hundleton.



Bronze Age finds from Priory Farm Cave.

We also know of the presence of Bronze Age peoples in Monkton from the finds in Priory Farm Cave.

This Bronze Age hoard consisted of a bronze chisel, a bronze palstave or axe and a bronze saw with ring, which was originally attached to the saw but accidentally later broken.

It is claimed that this is the only one of its type known in Britain and can be seen on display in the National Museum Wales.

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The land of the Demetae

AROUND 1000BC, the climate deteriorated and changed drastically, reaching its coolest and wettest around 650BC. Communities were driven away from upland areas and marshy lowlands and it seems likely that warfare and banditry erupted as people fought over good arable land on which they could sustain themselves.

Great social and cultural changes were taking place as the Age of Bronze merged into that of Iron, so called because of the development of iron working technology and the production of iron tools and weapons.

Tribal leaders emerged, consolidating their territories by building defended settlements on hilltops and cliff promontories and, by the end of the first century BC, the population of Britain had evolved into a number of distinctive tribal groups; here in south west Wales lay the land of the Demetae.



The tribal divisions of Wales.

Iron Age

EVIDENCE of Iron Age forts in Pembrokeshire is very apparent. There are good examples of these hill forts locally dotted around the coast.

Greenala Point, just a few miles away near Freshwater East, is a particularly good example: its defensive, earthen walls are still strikingly visible. It is highly probable that such a fort would have been built on the promontory where Pembroke Castle now stands as it is a key strategic position, The Norman castle later developed here would have obliterated all evidence.

Outside the protective defences of the fort, the land around was cultivated. Those Iron Age Monkton people would have farmed the land; their homes small, defended farmsteads.

These would have consisted of an outer enclosure where cattle could be kept, and a smaller area where their roundhouses were built.

Farming techniques improved and the introduction of the iron-tipped ploughshare made the cultivation of heavy clay soils possible.

They would have grown crops of corn, barley, wheat, oats, rye, beans, peas and flax. Cattle, sheep, pigs and goats grazed in the fields providing them with meat, dairy products, leather and wool.



Greenala Point near Freshwater East is a fine example of a promontory fort.

Continued

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The land of the Demetae

These inhabitants of pre-Roman Britain are often called Celts, a name first used by the ancient Greeks to describe those peoples living in northern and central Europe.

It was once believed that there was a foreign invasion, which took over the indigenous population, but it is more likely that change came about through contact with Europe, through trade, the spread of ideas and skills.

For some time before the Roman Conquest, there were very active trading links, both in Britain and with the continent. Luxury goods including wine were imported and many items including corn, metals and hides were exported.



Reconstructed Iron Age roundhouses at Castell Henllys.

Iron Age people displayed a great love of decoration and ornament – swords, shields, torcs etc were beautifully worked with their distinctive artistic style based on geometric circles. Its timeless appeal is popular today. This was a sophisticated society.

Roman Conquest

THE WORLD of the ancient Britons was to change dramatically with the invasion of the Roman army in c43AD. Wales as a geographical expression did not exist then: the tribes of Britain shared the same laws and customs and spoke a common language.

They were a warlike people and attempts were made to repel these invaders, famously by the great British leader, Caractacus in AD51 and Boudicca in AD61. Eventually resistance failed and from AD79 all of Wales was brought under Roman rule.

The Romans exercised control of the Welsh countryside from a series of strategically placed forts connected by roads. South Wales was under the command of the Second Legion situated at Caerleon (ie Fort of the Legion) connected by road to a further fort at Moridunum, what we now know as Carmarthen.

There is much we do not know about Pembrokeshire and the Romans; until the recent discovery of a Roman fort at Wiston, it was believed that the Roman road did not penetrate into Pembrokeshire.

Once the campaigns of conquest were over and the country subdued, it was Roman policy to assimilate the former ruling class and encourage them to adopt Roman ways. It is probable, although nothing is recorded, that the Demetae continued to be ruled by tribal chieftains within the Roman administration.

Situated on the far western periphery of Britain, the people of Monkton may have seen little change to their rural existence.

Roman coins have been discovered at Pennar and within Pembroke Castle itself but, at the time of writing, this is the only evidence that links us with the Roman occupation under which the country would seem to have enjoyed a period of peace.

The decline of Roman rule in Wales, during the 4th century, signalled a period of invasion; Irish raids from the west and Germanic tribes from the east. Invading Anglo Saxons and Danes spread through most of England, assimilating and integrating with the existing inhabitants to eventually become 'England', in Welsh 'Loegr' meaning the 'lost lands'.

'Wales' was that area of Britain retained by the native Britons, the name being derived from the Anglo Saxon 'Wealas' meaning foreigners.

Dark Ages

WE KNOW little about the period following the collapse of Rome and for that reason the following centuries from around 400 to 800 AD are popularly known as the Dark Ages.

But it was then that the country and people of Wales began to emerge as a separate and distinct nation divided between independent rulers. There is evidence of a settled Irish presence in Pembrokeshire; according to legend, these were members of the Deisi tribe, which had been expelled from Ireland.

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A medieval Irish prose tale, The Expulsion of the Deisi, relates how they migrated to Wales, where they imposed themselves as the ruling dynasty in the old tribal area of the Demetae.

Eohaid, son of Artchorp, with his descendants, went over the sea into the land of Dyfed, and his sons and grandsons died there. And from them is (descended) the race of the Crimthann over there.

The leaders of the group founded a royal dynasty that, over the centuries, expanded its power and influence across west Wales: the kingdom over which these settlers ruled was known as Demed, after the tribal area of the Demetae. Over the years, the name Demed became Deued and finally Dyfed.

The earliest independent Welsh rulers were frequently at war amongst themselves but, despite this, they gradually came to see themselves as 'Cymru' 'fellow countrymen'. Among the factors which united them were their common Welsh language and their Christian religion, introduced into Wales during the Roman occupation.

The Age of Saints

AFTER the Romans left there was so much disorder and violence that some of the holiest among the Christians sought peace and refuge in remote places; such a place was Pembrokeshire. They chose barren or secluded spots where they could peacefully live a life of devotion and service to God. By the fifth and sixth centuries AD, religious communities had taken root in many parts of Wales, famously the one established by our Patron Saint, St David, where his cathedral now stands.

Men and women, who made long and dangerous journeys in order to spread the message of Christianity, founded other communities.

Many of these Celtic saints and their disciples travelled across the Irish Sea on their missionary journeys, sailing in frail skin boats similar to the Irish curragh. They became known as the Peregrini, the wandering saints, who gave their name to the period we know as the Age of Saints. Names of some of these saints can be found in the vicinity of Pembroke: St Daniel, St Pedroc and St Govan. Monkton, it is believed, was the site of an early religious community.

Early churches, in Welsh 'llan', consisted of a circular or oval embankment with a protective stockade surrounding bee-hive shaped huts in which the followers of the saints lived. Over time, it became common for prosperous communities to become monasteries, as was the case in Monkton.



St Daniel's Church near Monkton.

The many small Welsh princedoms coalesced into larger kingdoms, dominated by a few powerful dynasties. Despite the threat posed by the pagan Anglo-Saxons whose power, by the mid 600s, extended to the natural boundaries of what was to become Wales – the rivers of the Wye, Severn and Dee – Wales was never to achieve unity.

A century later, Offa King of Mercia, raised the most impressive of all symbols of power in early medieval Britain – Offa's Dyke. This impressive earthwork extends from the Irish Sea to the Bristol Channel effectively separating England from the Kingdoms of the Cymry.

Viking Invaders

IN THE ninth century, another force threatened Wales: the Vikings. The name Viking conjures pictures of merciless pirates pillaging coastal villages and churches but, while this was initially the case, these Norsemen began to establish settlements and the plunderer turned trader.

Pembrokeshire had been subject to Viking raids from their bases in Ireland and Scotland. St David's monastery was attacked and in the winter of 877-878, a warrior named Hubba brought 23 ships into Milford Haven. The village of Hubberston is said to be named after him.

Continued

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The land of the Demetae

Norse names round about give evidence of their presence; Ramsey was named Hramsa-ey, the island of wild-garlic; Skokholm was Stokkr holmr, the island in the sound; Skomer, from Skalm-ey, the cleft or split island, referring to two bays on opposite sides of the island; and Caldey, or Kald-ey, the cold-island.

The name Milford may derive from Melr-Fiord, the fiord with sand-banks, after the sandy beaches to be found along the waterway.

However, the Vikings never established a foothold in Wales. Rhodri Mawr, ruler of Gwynedd, defeated the Danes in 856, in a famous victory, which earned him the epithet 'the Great'.

Rhodri strove for national unity, and he succeeded in extending his rule over almost three quarters of Wales. However, after his death in battle against the English in 877, his kingdom was divided amongst his sons, according to the Welsh law of gavelkind.

Later, Rhodri's grandson, Hywel Dda, 'the Good' succeeded in combining the kingdoms of Dyfed and Seisyllwg to form a new realm of Deheubarth which covered much of which is now west Wales: he reigned from about 906 until 950. Hywel is chiefly remembered for the system of Welsh law that was codified during his reign: the meetings at which these laws were developed are said to have taken place at the king's palace at Whitland (Hendy Gwyn).

However, when he died, the unity of his realm died with him and years of conflict followed.



Wales at the time of Hywel Dda.



Depiction of the Norman conquest of south Pembrokeshire in 1093 from the Town Hall murals by George and Jeanne Lewis.

The Normans

IT WAS the tragedy of Wales that it never was able to unite under one strong leader. Often at war amongst itself, it lay divided in the face of the pending Norman onslaught when, in 1066, Duke William of Normandy defeated King Harold's army at Hastings and beat England into submission.

It was to be many years before Wales fell under the Norman yoke but, to deal with the problem of the unruly Welsh, William established a land barrier between Wales and England, a border territory called the March, a powerful buffer zone of mighty earldoms.

Conquest was left to freebooting Marcher lords, who ruled as virtual monarchs and became landowners by right of conquest. Pushing westwards they seized lands in the river valleys and coastal plains, raising wooden fortresses along the way to secure their grip on the country.

In 1093, following the defeat of the Welsh king of Deuheubarth, Rhys ap Tewdwr, Arnulph de Montgomery arrived at Pembroke with his Norman force and, overcoming local resistance, 'threw up a slender fortress of stakes and turf' where the present castle now stands.

Pembroke 'Penfro' was almost certainly well known to the Normans as the head or principal (pen) region (bro) of the area.

The Welsh fought back and besieged the castle in 1094 but failed to defeat the invaders.

By 1098 the Normans were secure enough to build Pembroke Priory, while the surrounding area of south Pembrokeshire gradually fell under Norman control.

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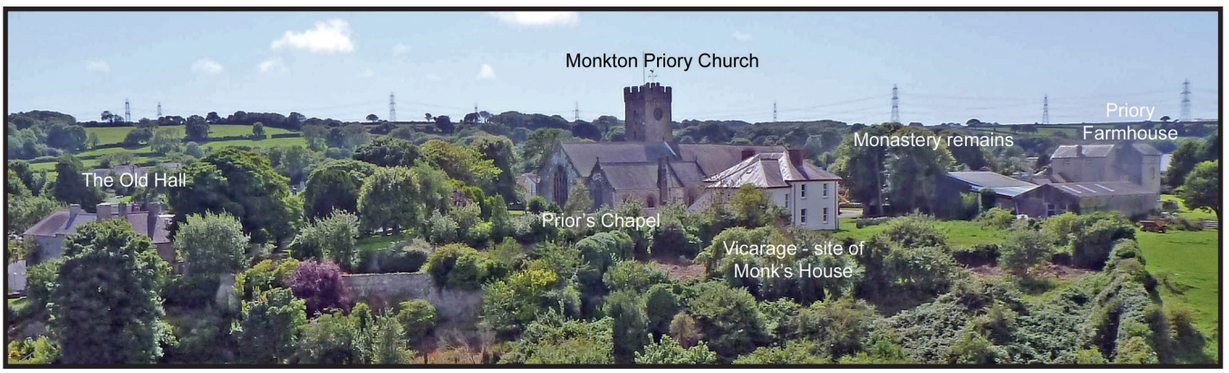

Site of Pembroke Priory, with key buildings labelled.

Rise and fall of Pembroke Priory

THE PRIORY church of Monkton, dedicated to St Nicholas and St John, stands above the southern inlet of the Pembroke River and directly opposite Pembroke Castle to which it is closely linked historically.

As noted in the previous chapter, the Norman conquest of Wales took the form of a series of opportunist raids carried out by the powerful Marcher Lords. Among them was Arnulph de Montgomery who established a castle at Pembroke in about 1093.

This colonisation of Wales was attended by much bloodshed and cruelty, and one of the means by which the Anglo-Norman noblemen sought to assuage their sins and save their souls was by promoting their own version of the Christian church in these newly-conquered Celtic lands. Churches were built and monastic houses founded, invariably granted to one of the great abbeys of England or Normandy.

Pembroke followed the latter pattern, with Arnulph making a grant to the Benedictine abbey of St Martin of Séez in Normandy in 1098 which led to the creation of Pembroke Priory. The endowment to the Abbey of Séez, dated August 27 1098, included 'the church of St Nicholas at Pembroc', twenty carucates of land and also the right to cut timber in the lord's woods for building purposing and heating.

Early records of the Priory are scarce, although a charter of 1128 exists, written by William de Curbellio, Archbishop of Canterbury, affirming in all respects Arnulph de Mongomery's 1098 gift to the Abbey of Séez.

Little more is known about Pembroke Priory in the 12th century. It was becoming a well-established religious community however and, in 1219 the great William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, died leaving a valuable tithe of his mills at Pembroke, Tenby and Castlemartin to the monks of Pembroke 'for the good of his soul and the soul of Isabella his wife'.

In 1245 his son Walter, Earl of Pembroke, granted a croft and land in Castlemartin to the priory. As historian Edward Laws noted in 1909: 'Various gifts and charters granted to the Priory by successive earls, though not individually munificent in their amount, show that the Lords of Pembroke Castle took a continued interest in the settlement of French monks'.

THERE is much that we do not know about Pembroke Priory – there has been no archaeological excavation, which could provide the physical evidence to reconstruct the extent of the medieval monastery. However, all Benedictine monasteries followed a similar layout so this can give us some idea.

Fortunately, whilst many of the monastic buildings have been lost over time, the Priory Church – the heart of the Priory – has survived due to extensive restoration.

The church is remarkable for its great length (53m) compared to its width (just 9m) but it was originally a double church dedicated to the two saints: St Nicholas and St John.

Continued

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Rise and fall of Pembroke Priory

The Black Monks

THE French monks who travelled to Pembroke at Arnulph's request were of the Benedictine Order. They followed the sixth century Rule of St Benedict, a way of life based on the teachings of the Gospels.

According to the Rule, monks should live in communities, rather than as hermits, as in the past. There was a strict timetable for religious observance and the Rule demanded a vow of poverty, chastity and obedience.

The monks were distinguishable as Benedictines by their black habits and heads shaven in a tonsure – a circular patch on the crown. In Wales there were Benedictine foundations at Cardiff, Kidwelly, Cardigan and Llanbadarn Fawr, as well as at Pembroke.

Their number at Pembroke would have been small, possibly no more than a dozen, but the Priory they founded would become the focus for a much bigger community.

Many highly skilled carpenters, masons and artisans would have been employed to build the Priory and associated buildings.

Benedict intended that a monastery should be self-sufficient as possible, and therefore needed to be well organised to feed and sustain itself.

The Priory would have owned and run farms providing food and income, granaries to store corn, mills to grind flour, bakehouses to make bread. Whilst St Benedict ruled that monks themselves should do this work, lay brothers and servants were often used, leaving monks more time for prayer and spiritual duties.

As the monastery developed it attracted traders, shopkeepers and manual workers, which led to the establishment of the village and a thriving community. The villagers benefited from employment and poor relief and the monastery from rents and taxes.

The parishioners and monks worshipped apart; the former in the Church of St Nicholas, which now forms the nave, and the monks in the adjoining, though separate, Church of St John occupying the chancel.

The nave is notable for its great length and lofty stone, vaulted roof. There have been additions and embellishments over time but its northern wall remains as a survival of the original 12th century church now supported by three large buttresses on the outer wall.

It is to the northern side of the church that the conventual buildings once stood. On the southern side of the nave is a vaulted porch and a partly fortified tower, located in the southern transept.

Fenton in his *Historical Tour Through Pembrokeshire* (1810) visited the church and remarked

The priory church taking in the unroofed old chancel, or Virgin's Chapel, making nearly half of the building, was of great length, and is a mixture of the Saxon and pointed order.

The nave is vaulted with stone. The pointed arch that led to the unroofed part must have been stopped for some centuries, as it incorporates a monumental recess neatly wrought, to which were formerly affixed brasses of figures and coats of arms, but long since stripped off, now forming the back of the communion table.



The nave and chancel, looking east.

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The church is paved partly with the glazed bricks, having arms, mottos and flowers on them as at St David's and Carew.

The modern font is placed on the fragment of a beautiful clustered column, such as does not occur anywhere in the present edifice, so that there is reason to suppose the ancient church, which appears to have been enriched with ornaments now not existing, has undergone much change."



The vestry — note the stairs in the top right hand corner.

IN THIS respect our medieval church would have looked very different. The interiors of medieval ecclesiastical buildings came to be ever more elaborately decorated with patterned tiles in contrasting colours, stained and painted glass, painted walls and elaborate monuments.

Colour was a vital element and all internal masonry would have been decorated. With the Reformation, unwanted decoration was whitewashed and this is what we have come to expect in a church today.

Whilst one can now look down the nave of Monkton Priory Church to the magnificent east window, this was not so in the original church: a stone wall, built at the eastern end of the nave, divided the two churches. During the Victorian restoration, this wall was removed, its rounded arch replaced with the present chancel arch with its clustered columns.

The chancel was the former Monks' Choir, where monks could worship, away from public gaze, following their daily routine of prayer and ritual as prescribed by the Rule of St Benedict.

The day would start at about 2am when a bell would summon them from their slumber to perform Matins, the first of the seven canonical hours of prayer. Matins were followed by the Lauds, then Prime, which took place at first light in winter or 6am in summer.

There followed a period of reading before returning to the church for Terce, after which the monks would gather in the Chapter House for the daily reading of a chapter from the Rule of St Benedict, and the allotment of various tasks.

At midday came Sext and None after which the monks would have their main meal of the day and a further period of reading.

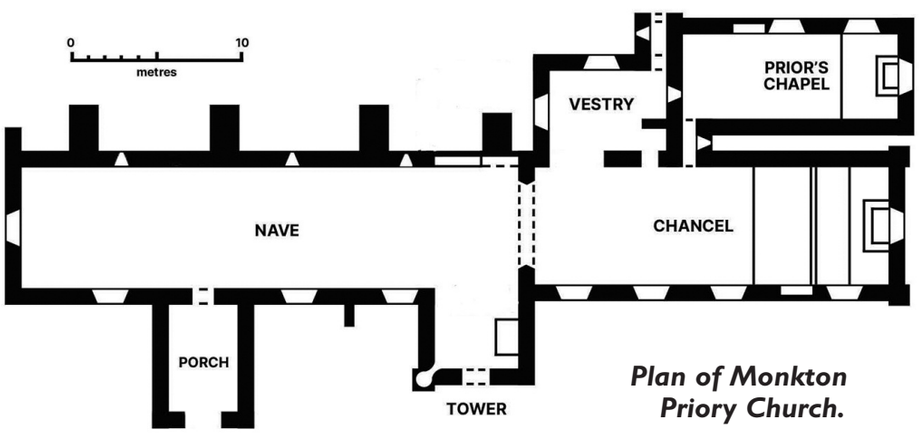
Mass was celebrated twice a day, once after Terce and once in the afternoon. Vespers at the end of the afternoon and Compline at about 7pm completed the monastic day.

The present day vestry on the northern side of the choir, once housed the sacristy where the sacristan carried out his duties.

He was charged with the care of the sacristy, the church and its contents, serving as a coordinator for services, ensuring that linens were pressed and clean, that altar vessels are kept safe, that consumables like altar wine and altar bread were in adequate supply and that the church as a whole was kept secure.

The vestry has traces of a vaulted undercroft and a stairway leading above which would have led to the Infirmary with its 'Squint' which looks directly towards the altar. From this vantage point the sick could watch the service and receive Holy Communion.

The Prior's Chapel adjoined the vestry and runs parallel with the Monks' Choir on its northern side; it was set aside, it is believed, for the use of the Prior and for private meditation.



Plan of Monkton Priory Church.

Continued

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Rise and fall of Pembroke Priory

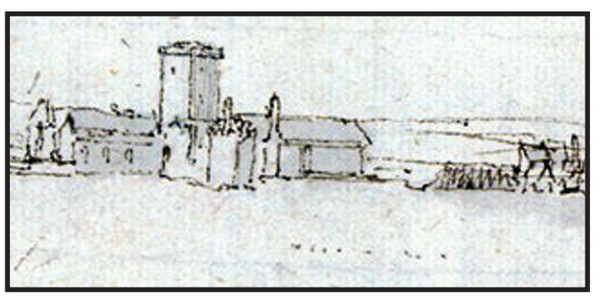
Although this is what remains of the medieval Priory Church, we do know that there were conventual buildings attached to its northern side.

Not a trace remains today, and the present day vicarage now stands on the site. However, in a sketch by Francis Place 1678 (below), you can make out a building here.

This was known locally as the Monkey House and is described by Fenton as having curious stone stairs, a vaulted roof and 12 statues of the apostles in niches on the walls. It is believed that the monks' dormitory was located here so as to allow ready access to the church for early morning Matins.



The 'squint' (right) through which the sick could view the altar and take Communion.



Also accommodated here would have been the chapter house, library and scriptorium – a room set aside for the use of scribes engaged in copying and illuminating manuscripts.

Life in a monastery revolved around the daily round of services and the texts needed for these services would have been produced by hand in the scriptorium.

Monastic routine also allowed for periods of personal prayer and reading and monasteries had libraries containing books on a wide range of subjects including scripture, philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, medicine and science.



Part of the monastic settlement – the 'Monkey House' – adjoined the north wall of the church.

Learning, decreed St Benedict, helps us to understand God and his creation: ignorance is the ally of the Devil and it is the duty of the monks to study and teach. Monasteries became centres of learning – it has often been written that young Henry Tudor was taught by Monkton's Benedictine monks, although this is questionable seeing as Henry was a mere four years of age when he was taken away to live in Raglan Castle.

Considering the presence of statues here, as described by

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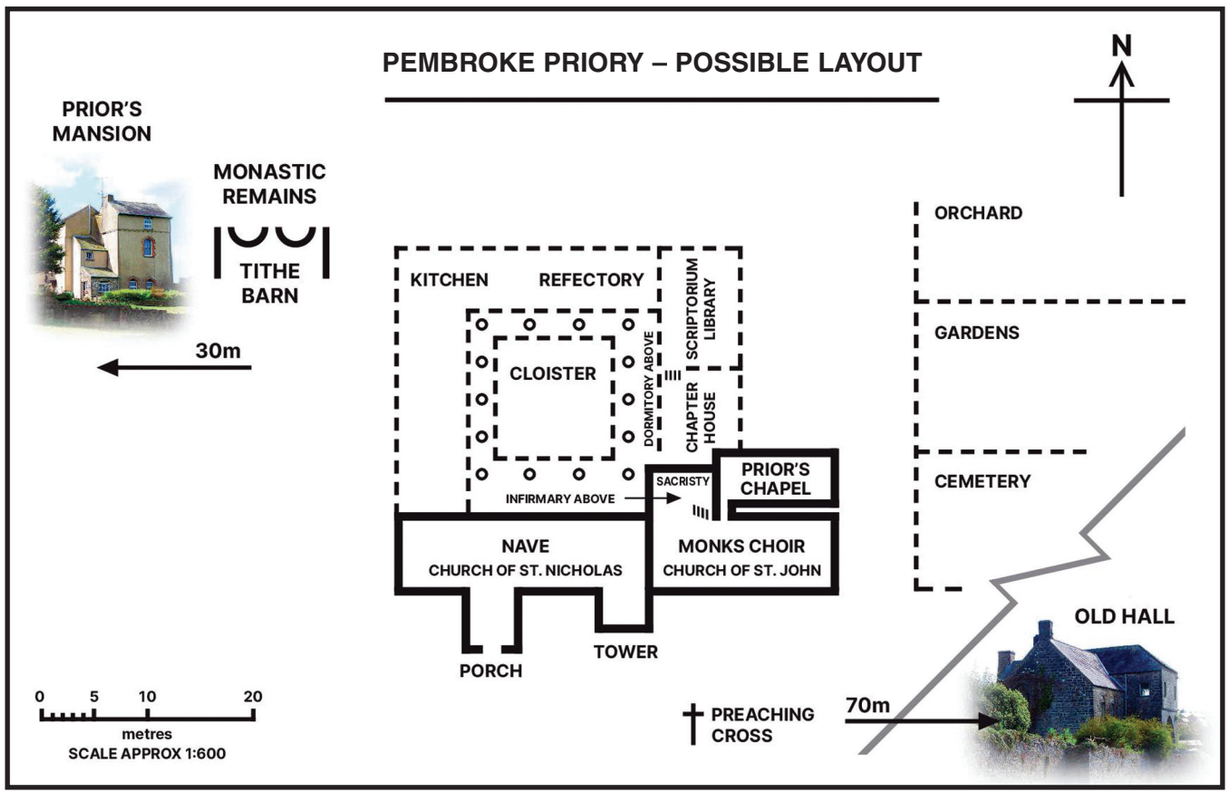

Fenton, the building must have been an imposing one dedicated to these most important of monastic duties.

Sadly it was demolished around 1850 and the stone used to build the stone barn, which now stands derelict by the Priory farmhouse. In its place was built the Vicarage and there is a story that here there was a subterranean passage to the castle.

To quote from an early Pembroke Priory guidebook

In front of the Vicarage stands a shrub which marks the spot where there was an entrance to the subterranean passage which ran from the Priory to the Castle.

The last people to attempt the journey were a Mr Alfred Davies and his brother M Thomas Davies in 1885. They went quite a distance, but returned when they heard the noise of the tidal waters above them and their lanterns went out.

THE only remains of the monastic buildings, other than those incorporated into the Priory Church, are limited to some freestanding arches, a short distance from the Priory farm-house.

However, on 23rd April 1909 *Pembroke County Guardian and Cardigan Reporter* reported a discovery, which sheds a little more light on the extent of our monastery.

The Priory farm is now held by Mr Thomas Griffiths (late of Kingsmill), who lately commenced building some pigstyes in the old hayguard adjoining the outbuildings of the farm.

Some of the avails were partly put up, when the men, excavating for foundations we suppose, came across a complete and rather massive stone arch. On digging further down an opening was exhibited about 2 to 3 feet in width, arched over with well-prepared stones of good size.

The news of the discovery was communicated to the Rev. D. Bowen, vicar of Monkton, who now resides at the Priory House, and under his direction the removal of the soil was carefully continued up to the boundary wall to the west of the hayguard.

Continued

Naming Monkton

The monastic settlement was originally known as 'Pembroke Priory', the name Monkton appearing several centuries later.

According to Dr B C Charles, the first mention of the village by its present name was in 1377 when it was recorded as 'villa de Munketun'.

In 1457 it was described as 'Monketon iuxta Pembrochian', with spellings such as Monckton and Mouncton also appearing down the years.

The name comes from the Old English "monks' homestead or settlement".

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Rise and fall of Pembroke Priory

This resulted in a large circular pit being exposed with arched passages leading to it. The well or pit is perhaps 5 feet in diameter lined with prepared stone, but the depth has not been ascertained up to the time of writing .

It is hardly possible to say at present what the passage or well could have been, but the arched passages bear a strong resemblance to the slipes or barrel communication, remains of which are still to be seen on the north side of the church, and which were used by the monks as covered communications between the different parts of the monastery.

This new discovery is in a direct line with the Priory House, and the site of the Monks' House, lying nearly mid-way between the two. It is well known that the monks of old, for various reasons, loved to pass unseen from one part of the monastery to another, and this may possibly be the remains of a passage from the (then) Prior's House to the Monks' House and church.



Ruins of what is believed to have been a tithe barn between the monastic precinct and the Priory farmhouse.

Consulting plans of Benedictine monasteries, it is possible to deduce that there was a building stretching westward from the Monks' House towards the present freestanding arches. This building could have housed the refectory, kitchens and cellars, which would not have been attached to the church itself, but close to it.

In the refectory the monks would sit on long, wooden benches to eat what might be their only meal of the day which was vegetarian: a basic diet of bread and a thick broth made from vegetables, rye, barley and beans grown on their own estates.

Meat was forbidden except when sick or on a special occasion. The meal would be accompanied by ale, which was considered more nutritious than a glass of water and which the monks brewed themselves, so there must have been a brewery within the precinct.

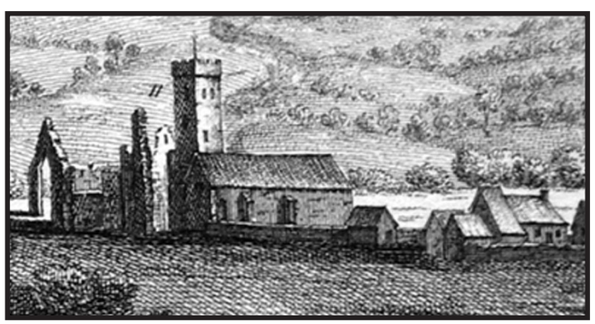
Throughout the meal, strict silence was observed whilst a monk read a religious text but, as conversation was not allowed, the monks developed sign language to communicate with each other.

The Prior sat separately on the high table. He commanded absolute obedience; miscreant monks could be forced to say extra prayers, excluded from communal activities for a period or even beaten.

The first recorded Prior of Pembroke was Brother John, mentioned in about 1255, succeeded in due course by Brother Randulphus.

Sadly, Randulphus was not a role model for the order and in 1284 the Archbishop of Canterbury wrote to the Abbot of Séez listing his 'enormous and numberless crimes'.

Evidently the Prior 'spent all his time in the vice of incontinence' and the Archbishop had little hesitation in removing him from office and banishing him back home to Normandy.



An early print showing the site of the former monastery.

A PICTURE now begins to emerge of buildings forming a quadrangle, conforming to the Benedictine plan, and within which there would have been the cloister – a covered and arcaded walk forming a square around a central lawn.

This cloister was confined to the monks' use, providing a passageway into the different parts of the monastery as well as a place to study and gather to wash hands before eating.

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The two freestanding, large, stone arches, previously mentioned could well have been one of the agricultural buildings, possibly the tithe barn to which parishioners would come to present their tithes to the church.

This was a tax amounting to one-tenth of a farmer's produce, the contributions being stacked in the barn for winter threshing and storage. The tax was intended to sustain the community, maintain church buildings and provide alms for the poor.

Although a monk was protected against the temptations of the world by keeping apart, there was contact with the outside community as needed for administration of the estate, care for the sick as well as the giving of alms.

Monasteries offered hospitality to travellers: and some of these left their mark. Look inside the church porch and you can still see pilgrims' crosses.

Monkton was not only situated by the shrine of St Daniel but also on the pilgrim trail to St David's. Since it was decreed that two pilgrimages to St David's equalled one to Rome, Pembroke Priory would no doubt have attracted many Pilgrims to rest on their journey.

Whilst monks lived a relatively austere life, comfortable accommodation was given to guests, who would donate money in return. The Old Hall is believed by some to have been the Priory guesthouse and the Prior himself, living in a separate, rather grand Prior's mansion would have entertained guests – among them a bishop, who mislaid his ring.

Many centuries later it was discovered by a metal detectorist and the ring can now be viewed at the National Museum Wales, St Fagans.

Continued



Pilgrims' crosses in the church porch.

An alien priory

IN THE late 13th century England and France went to war over Gascony. The French monks of Pembroke Priory thus found themselves in the perilous position of being resident in an enemy country – one of numerous so-called 'alien priories' in England and Wales.

King Edward I took action against these alien priories by imposing fines, seizing property and diverting into the royal coffers the annual 'apport' or tribute paid by the priories to their mother houses in France.

This was a taste of things to come, with England and France being in intermittent conflict for over a century. Each time war broke out the Crown would take action against the alien priories, confiscating all 'lands, fees and advowsons' and only restoring them in times of peace.

In 1387 Pembroke Priory was finally seized by the Crown and placed in the hands of Sir William Beauchamp, custodian of Pembroke Castle, Later, in 1413, the castle and lordship, together with Pembroke Priory and its possessions, were granted to Henry V's brother Humphrey Plantagenet, soon to be made Earl of Pembroke and Duke of Gloucester.



Humphrey Plantagenet.

Historians believe that Humphrey may have been responsible for building Monkton Old Hall as a home for his local steward and as a manorial court.

In 1443, shortly before his death, Humphrey made a gift of Monkton to the Benedictines of St Albans with instructions that Monkton's revenues should endow an obituary chantry and two priests for his soul.

Thus Monkton Priory – as it was now becoming known – became a cell of the great English abbey. According to one source the abbey sent a Prior and four monks to revive the little religious foundation.

It remained a far-flung outpost of St Albans for nearly a century, until Dissolution.

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Rise and fall of Pembroke Priory

A LONG-STANDING tradition has it that Priory farmhouse was originally the Prior's mansion.

Situated a short distance from the tithe barn it has been described either as a tower house or as a fortified first floor hall.

The house would have had a first floor hall and solar over the ground floor, and a tower with a chamber over a vaulted kitchen. The hall door was reached by an external staircase.

There were two ground floor rooms with a vaulted undercroft in the NW tower; the limestone corbels can still be seen externally around the main part of the original tower and house. A latrine shaft was discovered in 1981 in the west wall of the vaulted room.

Fenton describes it thus:

The prior's mansion, a little to the west of the cemetery, now converted into a farm house, is of singular form, uniting the architecture of various fashions and ages.

It is ascended by a flight of steps, at the foot of which on each side are the remains of very curious pillars. The basement is all vaulted; and the out-buildings together with the walls that enclose the whole, give us an idea of the prior's great estate.

The monastic precinct, or rather prior's liberties, occupying a very large tract, formed a paddock well walled round, commanding a fine view of the estuary, castle and town of Pembroke, and must have been a sumptuous and delightful residence.

A dove-house of large dimensions, an inseparable appendage to houses of the first note in this county, still exists entire just without this paddock.

THE dovecote, to which Fenton referred, still stands in a meadow between Priory Farm and Catshole Quarry – a well known Monkton landmark.

Dovecotes have been a feature of the British landscape for many centuries. They used to be a common sight, especially at monasteries and manors, where the young birds (called squabs) were highly valued for their tender and tasty meat. Pigeon eggs were another source of food, while the bird droppings would be collected and used as fertiliser.

During the Middle Ages, only manorial Lords could keep pigeons, which is why the remaining medieval dovecotes are connected with manor houses, castles or former monastic sites. The laws were relaxed after about 1600 so many later farms had dovecotes, until their use declined after the 18th century.



Priory farmhouse is believed to have been the Prior's mansion.

Monkton's pigeon house is typical of the kind of freestanding, circular stone dovecotes introduced to this country by the Normans and probably dates from the late 1300s.

How many nesting holes were contained in the Monkton dovecote isn't known, but a similar structure at Rosemarket had 200 square dove holes.

In the breeding season, the young doves or pigeons would be collected from the nesting holes by the 'pigeon-keeper' who would then wring their necks. Many of the holes could be accessed from the ground; those higher up could be reached by means of a central ladder attached to a revolving pole with arms, known as a 'potence'.

The pigeon house remained in use after the Dissolution of the Priory, and a lease of 1662 refers to 'the Pidgeon Close in which stands a Pidgeon House'.

THIS list of former Priory possessions also, mentions 'a field called 'Deeregardine' as well as 'the Conygrey and the Little Conygrey',

This 'deer garden' or deer park was one of several created in Pembrokeshire in medieval times, although the one in Monkton would have been on a much smaller scale than the parks connected with Carew Castle and Lamphey Bishop's Palace, for example.

It may have dated from the early 1400s when the Crown was in possession of the Priory lands, with the venison destined for the castle.

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The 'Conygrey' mentioned above was also known locally as the Coneygar, Coneygarth or Cunnigar, all words meaning rabbit warren.

During the early Middle Ages a rabbit warren was a tract of land reserved for the breeding and preservation of rabbits. At this time the adult rabbit was known as a 'coney' while the word 'rabbit' usually referred to the young of the species, hence the word 'coneygarth'.

According to some sources, the rabbit was not native to Britain and was introduced by the Normans. However it is now generally believed that at some early stage the native British rabbit became extinct and that the species was re-introduced by the Normans.

During the medieval and post medieval periods the rabbit was kept for its meat and fur. The meat was considered a delicacy and thus was consumed primarily by the elite classes – the gentry and some religious houses. The rabbit fur was used during medieval times as a trimming for clothing and was also used in the making of gloves and headwear.

Of course, rabbits are notoriously quick breeders and the rapid growth in numbers between the 1300s and the 1800s meant that, as the rabbit spread into the wild, so it left the realms of being a luxury food and moved down the social scale until it was in every man's reach.



A view of the Priory Farm pigeon house which is on private land. It is a scheduled ancient monument.

The name Cunnigar still survives and refers to the area of land between Priory Farm and the Monkton arm of the Pembroke River, though whether this was the Conygrey or the Little Conygrey isn't known.

The axe falls on the Priory

THE Priory at Monkton met its end when Henry VIII carried out his Dissolution of the Monasteries. In 1536 a campaign began to close down all such religious houses.

They were, it was said, full of 'manifest sin, vicious, carnal and abominable living'. The real reason lay in the King's need for money and he cast hungry eyes at the wealth of the religions orders, which would finance his French wars.

Henry VIII's Act for the Dissolution of Smaller Monasteries of 1536 was followed by a similar Act a couple of years later. This later Act spelled the end for the larger religious foundations such as St Albans Abbey.

As a cell of St Albans, Pembroke survived the first cull but fell victim to this second Act and seems to have closed by 1539.

Monkton Priory had a considerable income. It collected dues from churches stretching from Tenby to Angle and at the Dissolution, the Priory lands were variously valued at £57 9s 3d by William Dugdale but at £113 2s 6d by John Speed, two historians writing in the 17th century.

In common with the inhabitants of the other religious houses, the brothers at Monkton were probably pensioned off. The last Prior of Monkton, John Warren, became a parish priest.

The impact of its closure must have had a considerable effect on the people of Pembroke and Monkton. Not only did it support a considerable community, but was the only place to which the poor, sick and destitute could turn to in times of need.

Whilst this saw the end of the monastery, the church of St. Nicholas was transformed into a parish church, the remainder of the building, which had served the monks, becoming derelict.

Fortunately however, in the years 1879-1885 a thorough renovation of the church was carried out.

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Monkton Old Hall

KNOWN by various names over the years – The Prior's Hall, the Great Hall, the Judgement Hall and the Charity Hall among them – Monkton Old Hall is one of the most interesting and most puzzling medieval buildings in west Wales.

Standing to the south-east of the old Priory precinct, the hall has been described as 'much the finest of south Pembrokeshire's many inhabited stone-vaulted houses'.

Despite this, very little is known about the origins and purpose of the building. Parts appear to date from the late 14th/ early 15th century and include a three-bay, vaulted undercroft supporting both a ground floor hall and a service block with a first floor chamber above.

A second phase of building in the mid 15th century, added a south wing to the service block with two barrel-vaulted chambers at undercroft level. Various passageways and staircases link the different levels, while other extensions have come and gone over the centuries.

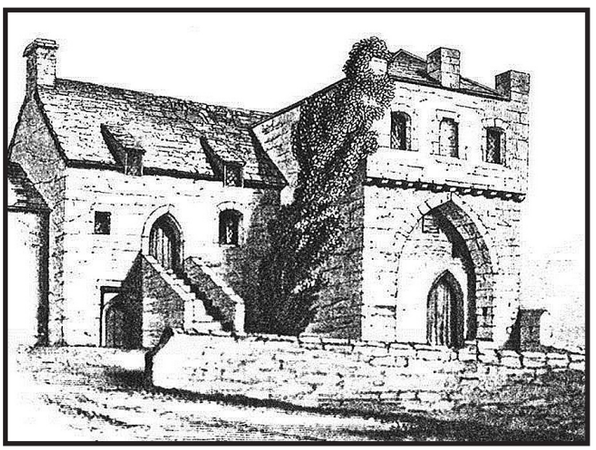
(For a full description of the building and its layout see Neil Ludlow's article in the 2017 *journal of the Pembrokeshire Historical Society*).

IT has long been assumed that the Old Hall was connected in some way with the nearby Priory, but what function it actually served has always puzzled historians – a problem not helped by the numerous rebuilds and restorations that the building has undergone.

Tradition has it that the hall was built as a monastic guest-house although, as Neil Ludlow has pointed out, Benedictine guest-houses usually occupied the monastery itself, unlike the Old Hall which lies outside the precinct. Others have suggested that it could have served as a gate-house for the Priory.

However Ludlow has made a strong case for the Old Hall actually having very little to do with the Priory, instead being built at the behest of Henry V's brother Humphrey Plantagenet who was made Earl of Pembroke in 1414.

Humphrey also received full tenure of 'the manor called la priorie of Pembroke'. Ludlow has suggested that the Old Hall may have been the home and court of the Earl's manorial steward, while also providing accommodation for the Earl himself on his sojourns in Pembroke, being more agreeable than a tower room in the castle.



The Old Hall was empty and becoming overgrown in the 1850s.

In 1443 Pembroke Priory was transferred to the Benedictines of St Albans, becoming a cell of the abbey until Dissolution in 1539. Could it be that Humphrey's manorial hall was used as a guest-house for the Priory during this period?

IF THE origins of the Old Hall are shrouded in mystery, then so is much of its history following the Dissolution.

After the Devereux family gained possession of Monkton Manor in 1575, they appear to have leased the Old Hall to a succession of tenants, notably the Meyricks. Michael McGarvie has speculated that Civil War veteran Sir John Meyrick may have made his home in Monkton Old Hall in the 1650s, by which time a new kitchen wing had been added. (The cylindrical stone chimney is also post-medieval).

Ownership of the hall must have changed at some stage, because in 1811 Nicholas Carlisle wrote in his *Topographical Dictionary of the Dominion of Wales* that Monkton Old Hall 'has long been in the possession of the Owens of Orielton'. Certainly the 1790-1797 Land Tax Assesments show the 'Great Hall' as being in the possession of Lady Anne Owen of Orielton, widow of Sir Hugh Owen, the fifth baronet.

Perhaps the Owens used it as a town house at one time, before acquiring a more suitable Georgian property on Chain Back in the Main Street, thereafter abandoning the draughty Old Hall which was then subdivided into individual tenements.

In 1821 it was recorded that the 'Great Hall'

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was being used as a Poor House and, as one writer noted some years later: 'Before the erection of the present Workhouse, the crypt was used as a poor house, and was divided into three compartments, in each of which a poor widow lived'.

Following the creation of the Pembroke Poor Law Union in 1837, a Workhouse was built in the Green, to which the poverty-stricken residents of the Old Hall were transferred.

For the next four decades the Old Hall seems to have been unoccupied, becoming roofless and falling into 'a disgraceful and dangerous state of ruin' according to one account.

The man who rescued the Old Hall was Joseph Richard Cobb, an enthusiastic antiquary and restorer of medieval buildings (at his own expense), whose works included the restoration of Brecon Cathedral and Caldicot Castle.

In Pembroke, Cobb purchased the castle and spent four years carrying out initial clearance work and stabalising of the ruins as well as fully restoring the barbican gateway.

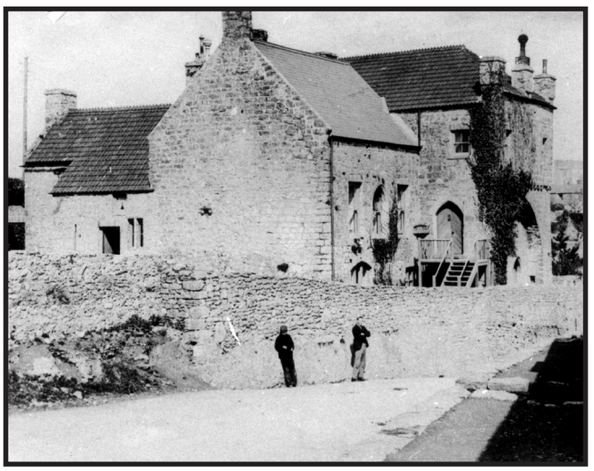
In 1879 he turned his attention to Monkton Old Hall, leasing the building from the then owner, Sir Thomas Meyrick and carrying out the thorough restoration which was necessary to save the building.

This included clearing out decades of detritus, shoring up walls and stacks, re-roofing the hall and replacing windows. The work did not meet with universal approval, one member of the Cambrian Archaeolocical Society sniffing that the alterations 'were not for the better as far as antiquaries were concerned'.

Cobb mounted a spirited defence of his actions, pointing out that his first priority was to save the building 'which could scarcely have survived another severe winter'. He had not altered anything ancient and professed his delight that the fabric of 'this venerable old pile' had been made sound and that the building was fit to be used once again.



The undercroft as it looks today.



The Old Hall in about 1890.

FOLLOWING Cobb's restoration, part of the Old Hall was used as accommodation and part was rented by the Church for parochial use, with the undercroft being used as a Sunday Schoolroom and for fund-raising concerts and events. In 1882 it was reported: 'On Thursday the Monkton Garden and Industrial Society held its second annual exhibition of fruit, vegetables, flowers, and industrial articles, in the crypt of the Old Hall, Monkton'.

The Hall itself occasionally served as a home for the Vicar. The Rev David Bowen lived there in the 1880s before moving into the new Vicarage. When he retired in 1926, Canon Bowen was allowed to carry on living in the Vicarage, so that the incoming Vicar, the Rev Edwin Tudor Moses Evans, resided in the Old Hall.

In 1933 Muriel Ethelwyn Thomson leased the Old Hall. She was the Liverpool-born daughter of a Baptist Minister. and she also had a residence in Upper Berkeley Street, London.

Very well travelled, Miss Thomson was a gardening expert who wrote articles for horticultural magazines and became County Organiser of the National Gardens Scheme.

She carried out further restoration work to the Old Hall including the installation of leaded windows, apparently taking advice from Clough Williams-Ellis of Portmeirion fame.

In 1957 Miss Thomson married James Bevan Bowen of Newport, the 74-year-old Lord Lieutenant of Pembrokeshire. It was following his death in 1969 that the property was acquired by the Landmark Trust which continues to maintain the Old Hall as holiday accommodation.

Further restoration work was carried out in 1979 by Leonard Beddall-Smith on behalf of the Trust; this included the removal of an extension added by Cobb 100 years earlier.

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The Priory estate

HENRY VIII's Act for the Dissolution of Smaller Monasteries of 1536 was followed by a similar Act a couple of years later. This later Act spelled the end for the larger religious foundations, one of which was St Alban's Abbey in Hertfordshire.

Pembroke Priory at Monkton had been granted to St Alban's as a cell during the reign of Henry VI, so it too fell victim to this second Act. At the Dissolution, the Priory lands were variously valued at £57 9s 3d by William Dugdale but at £113 2s 6d by John Speed, two historians writing in the 17th century.

In the aftermath of Dissolution, gentry and wealthy merchants vied to mop up the spoils, acquiring former Church lands from the Crown by lease or – less frequently in west Wales – by purchase. One of the most active in Pembrokeshire was Roger Barlow, a Bristol merchant, who acquired all the former property of the Knights of St John at Slebech, later adding the lands belonging to Pill Priory and Haverfordwest Priory together with much else, establishing a formidable property portfolio in the county.

Pembroke Priory and its estate escaped their clutches, however. In the early 1540s, Sir John Vaughan and his wife Katherine were granted 'the manor and selle of Penbroke, otherwise called Monkton in South Walles in the countie of Penbroke, with their rights, manors and appurtenances'. In 1544 'Johannes Vaughan de Moncton' was one of the first men appointed Sheriff of Pembrokeshire. In his book *Sheriffs of the County of Pembroke*, Dillwyn Miles noted:

Sir John Vaughan of Whitland was a son of Thomas ap Howel Fychan. Before being knighted he was described (in 1540) as of London, Doctor of Law. He received a grant of part of the estates of the dissolved Abbey of Whitland and of the Priory at Monkton. He married Katherine, daughter of Thomas Catchmayd, and was again Sheriff in 1555. He died about 1567.

Vaughan's property at Monkton is referred to in the Records of the Court of Augmentations. This was one of a number of courts set up during the reign of Henry VIII to oversee the collection of revenues from monastic properties owed to the Crown following the Dissolution.

Thomas Mildmay of Hertfordshire, the auditor for the lands formerly belonging to St Alban's Abbey, noted:



Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex and one time owner of the Monkton estate.

Monketon. Account of John Vaughan Knight Renter of the same for the time aforesaid. He answers for £48 of rent of the priory with its appurtenances so let to John Vaughan and Catherine his wife by indenture for a term of years to be paid at the Feasts of St Bartholomew the Apostle and St David the Archbishop.

The Vaughans – or more likely their sub-tenants – seem to have begun the process of converting the Priory lands to agricultural use. George Owen, the Elizabethan historian noted that the former woodland known as Monkton Park had been felled and the land turned over to arable.

AT SOME stage the Vaughans, or their son Richard, must have purchased the freehold of Monkton from the Crown, subsequently disposing of the estate to Walter Devereux in about 1575.

The eldest son of Sir Richard Devereux, Walter was another who had done well out of the Dissolution, acquiring land at Whitland and Carmarthen. He became 1st Earl of Essex and 2nd Viscount Hereford, his Welsh seat being a manor house within the grounds of the former Bishops' Palace in Lamphey.

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The Devereux Papers in Longleat House include the following, dated June 1576:

Settlement by Walter Devereux, Earl of Essex of the manor of Monkton and all his other lands in co. Pembroke, lately purchased [from] Richard Vaughan, in trust to his wife Lettice.

This settlement also named Walter's eldest son Robert Devereux, then still a youth. Walter died later that year – deliberately poisoned, according to some accounts – and his brother Sir George Devereux moved into Lamphey.

Also living there at this time was Walter's son Robert, still too young to inherit his father's land and titles which were held in trust..

While living at Lamphey as a young man, Robert Devereux befriended Gelly Meyrick, a soldier and a member of a prominent local family. When Robert eventually came into his inheritance he made Gelly Meyrick steward over all his lands in west Wales, including Monkton.

In 1584 Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex, was introduced to the Royal Court and soon became a favourite of Queen Elizabeth I, his reputation being enhanced by various military successes against Spain. He spent little time in Wales and in 1596 Monkton reverted to the Crown. A document in the National Archives at Kew, dated April 22, 1596, reads:

Grant by Robert Devereux, earl of Essex, to Elizabeth I of the manors of Newton Blossomville, Buckinghamshire, and Pembroke alias Monkton, Pembrokeshire, and their associated lands.

Sealed by Devereux.

GELLY Meyrick joined the 2nd Earl of Essex on a number of military adventures and received a knighthood, but his unswerving loyalty to his patron ultimately proved his undoing.

A failed expedition to quell a rebellion in Ireland began the downfall of Robert Devereux, and he was also accused of being disrespectful to the Queen. Stripped of office and facing financial ruin, his last desperate throw of the dice was an attempted coup in February 1601.

It failed miserably and both Robert Devereux and his loyal sidekick Sir Gelly Meyrick were executed for treason.

All the property and titles belonging to the Earl of Essex were forfeited following this abortive coup. However, when James I became King of England in 1604 he decreed that the attainder for treason had run its course.

As a consequence the son and heir of the 2nd Earl of Essex – another Robert – became 3nd Earl of Essex and 4th Viscount Hereford; among the possessions restored to the family was the manor of Monkton.

No doubt helped by Gelly Meyrick's stewardship, members of the Meyrick family were prominent among those who leased land and property in and around Monkton from the Devereux family in the 16th and 17th centuries.

They were descended from Rowland Meyrick of Anglesey who was appointed Bishop of Bangor in 1559, He married Katherine Barret of Gellyswick, Milford Haven, thus establishing a lasting dynasty in Pembrokeshire.

Their sons included the ill-fated Sir Gelly Meyrick and his brother Sir Francis Meyrick of Fleet, or Fleet Hill, near Monkton. He was a leading figure among the Pembrokeshire gentry and on his death in 1603 he was laid to rest in a splendid tomb in Monkton Church.

AMONG his children depicted as mourners on that tomb are Francis Meyrick, later to make his home at Bowett, and John Meyrick (later Sir John), usually described as 'of Monkton'.

Francis was a military man and was often referred to as 'Captain Meyrick'. He was tenant of Boughwood (Bowett) in 1660, complaining in a letter to Viscount Hereford that the farm was 'a bare, open place' with 'neither succour for young cattle or sheep'. (See 'The Meyricks of Bush' by Michael McGarvie).

John Meyrick was also a career soldier and served under his landlord, the 3rd Earl of Essex on a number of campaigns, being knighted in 1625 for his part in an an expedition against Spain. During the Thirty Years' War, Sir John served under Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden and was wounded in action at Maastricht.

He also became MP for Newcastle-Under-Lyme and sat in the House of Commons from 1640 to 1648 – both the 'Short Parliament' and the 'Long Parliament'.

At the outbreak of the First English Civil War he was appointed Sergeant-Major General in the Parliamentary Army commanded by the 3rd Earl of Essex. He led an infantry regiment, Sir John Meyrick's Foot, at the pitched battle of Edgehill in 1642 and took a prominent role in the siege of Gloucester and the battle of Newbury.

However, as Essex's star faded in the face of the rising influence of Oliver Cromwell and his New Model Army, so Sir John was obliged to surrender his commission.

He fell further out of official favour due to his public disapproval of the execution of the King in 1649 and retired to Monkton where he died at the age of 75 in about 1655. Where Sir John Meyrick made his home in Monkton isn't known, although Michael McGarvie believes that it was Monkton Old Hall.

Continued

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The Priory estate

The Meyricks certainly held most of the land in and around Monkton at this time as loyal tenants of the Earl of Essex, because a lease renewed in 1645 shows that the property they rented included:

The towne, mannor, Lordship, Priory and Cell of Mouncton and of the Rectory and Parsonage impropriate of Mouncton and all tythes of all sorts, grain and hey in Mouncton and Pembroke.

Also 20 messuages, 20 cottages, 1 water corne mill, 3,000 acres of pasture, 500 acres of fresh marsh, 500 acres of salt marsh, 500 acres of wood, 500 acres of moor and 300 acres of furze and heath in Mouncton and Pembroke.

THIS LEASE was drawn up between Sir John Meyrick and his patron Robert Devereux, 3rd Earl of Essex, just a year before the latter died without an heir. The Earl's death led to a protracted dispute, as various members of the Devereux family laid claim to the titles and estates, which included Monkton.

As Mr McGarvie has pointed out, this dispute caused a dilemma for the Meyricks who didn't know to whom they should be paying rent for Monkton.

So for several years, until the Devereux war of succession was resolved, they simply paid the money into court and let the family fight it out.

Eventually the situation was resolved. The earldom was declared exinct while a fairly distant cousin, Sir Walter Devereux MP of Castle Bromwich, became 5th Viscount Hereford and the owner of Monkton manor.

Thus for the next 150 years Monkton remained in the ownership of the Viscounts Hereford, most of them called either Leicester Devereux or Price Devereux. One of the Viscounts married an heiress from Suffolk and moved the family seat to Christchurch Mansion near Ipswich. A later Lord Hereford relocated to Tregoyd Mansion near Hay.

One of Sir Walter's first actions as Viscount Hereford was to let a holding in Monkton to John Cother, a Worcestershire yeoman, even though the property was already held on lease from the late Earl of Essex by the Meyricks.

Cother moved into the property, thought to be Monkton Farm, but was soon ejected by Sir John Meyrick by force of arms 'to the great damage of the said John Cother and against the publick peace'.

Cother sued for damages of £100 which Sir John avoided paying by the simple expedient of dying before the case came to court.



Monkton Old Hall, thought to have been the home of Sir John Meyrick in the 17th century.

Undaunted and armed with a fresh lease from Viscount Hereford, Cother reoccupied Monkton Farm, only to be ejected by force once again, this time at the hands of Essex Meyrick, son and heir of Sir John. This time around Cother claimed £40 in damages.

SIR Walter was succeeded in about 1658 by Leicester Devereux, the 6th Viscount Hereford. Like his father he had no historic loyalty to the Meyricks and seems to have been quite keen to remove them from Monkton.

It helped him that during the period the Meyricks had been paying their rent into court a shortfall had arisen. Leicester Devereux seems to have used this as a reason to revoke their lease a few years ahead of its expiry date – revenge perhaps for their high-handed treatment of John Cother.

Losing their rights to the land and property in Monkton must have been a severe blow to the Meyricks, but they did not take it lying down, and in 1661 Essex Meyrick was reported as boasting that he would soon be reclaiming the property by law, while also issuing threats against Viscount Hereford's agent.

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It proved an idle threat. The tenancy of Monkton was withdrawn from the Meyricks, prompting Essex Meyrick – Mayor of Pembroke at the time – to move across the Pembroke River to establish a family seat at Bush. It would be many years before the family held sway over Monkton Priory lands once again.

IN 1660 William Holcombe was described as 'servant of the Rt. Hon. Leicester, Viscount Hereford', presumably acting as his land agent.

Thought to be a native of Devon, Holcombe must have been gentleman of some standing in his own right, and by 1660 he was living at Brownslate, near Hundleton (see panel).

In that year he wrote from Brownslate to the Ipswich estate office of Viscount Hereford offering to take up the lease of Monkton Farm 'recently vacated by Mr Browne' for an annual rent of £50.00. (He later furnished an account of the 'pipes, gates etc taken away by Mr Browne when he left Mouncton House'; presumably this was Richard Browne who had married Essex Meyrick's sister Bridget and who had decided to pinch a few fixtures and fittings when he was evicted along with the rest of the Meyricks).

Holcombe became even more ambitious, and was soon leasing most of the former Monkton Priory lands previously held by the Meyricks.

The F C Carter Collection of Deeds in the NLW includes the following, dated, December 29, 1662.

1 Rt. Hon. Leycester, Viscount Hereford.

2 William Holcomb of Mouncton, co. Pemb., gent.

Lease for 21 yrs of the site of the late dissolved Priory or Cell of Mouncton. Closes called Deeregardine, Pease Close, the Little Demeasne, Calves Closes, the Pidgeon Close in which stands a Pidgeon House, the Conygrey, the Little Conygrey, the Great Demesne, all of which are compassed in part with a stone wall, in part with a hedge and in part with Milford Haven or water near Milford Haven.

A close called Furzie Close, a meadow called Bryans Meadow, the water corn mill called Quaytes Mill and all manner of tithes of corn and grain, a farm called Bowood Farm and a wood called Quaytes Wood, a cottage called Seres Towne, a cottage in tenure of Henry Jones, a cottage in tenure of Phillipp Roth and Rowland Russell in Hunttell Towne.

A cottage called Wyndmillhill, six cottages, a meadow called New Meadowe, a close of pasture called Cookes Close, two parcels of land in the close behind a house called Barne House, a little close, the benefit of the two fairs of Mouncton, lately in possession of Ernest Jackson.

Continued

The Holcombes of Brownslate

BROWNSLATE is a Grade II listed farmhouse near Hundleton, dating from the 17th century. For over a century it was home to the Holcombe family who leased the Monkton estate from Viscount Hereford.

Partly because most of the Holcombe men were called William, it is hard to sort them all out. This is a tentative timeline of the Brownslate Holcombes:

Wm Holcombe: A letter exists, dated 1660, sent from Wm Holcombe of Brownslate to the Ipswich estate office of Viscount Hereford. Holcombe and his son (below) both appear to have been land agents for Hereford before leasing the Monkton estate themselves and becoming country squires.

Wm Holcombe: Mayor of Pembroke in 1694. His will, proved in 1698, named his wife Jane, daughters Ann and Jane and son William, stating that the latter should be disinherited if he went ahead with plans to marry a certain Mary Gibbons of Bristol...

Wm Holcombe: He didn't, because his own will, proved in 1738, shows he was master of Brownslate. In fact he married Alice, a daughter of Essex Meyrick of Bush and they had two daughters, Jane and Alice, and sons, George (Rector of Pwllcrochan 1743-1789), John (Rector of Gumfreston 1730-1770) and Essex (below).

Essex Holcombe: Son and heir of Wm (above). In 1739 he was assigned the lease of Brownslate 'and lands called Sease Land, Sommerton and Jefferston in the parish of Munckton'. He became a Rear Admiral in the Royal Navy and died in about 1770; among his bequests were 'a Diamond Ring which was given to me by the King of Sardinia and a gold snuffbox given to me by Prince Lobkowic'.

Wm Holcombe Son of Essex, the Rev Wm Holcombe inherited his father's title to Brownslate but seems not to have taken up the lease. For a time he made his home at Bridgend House, Monkton.

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The Priory estate

Lots of tithes called Mouncton Lot, Orleton Lot, Castelton Lot, Easton Lot, Penner and Patter Church, and all tithes of corn and grain growing yearly on the lands of John Lort in Mouncton and the land now in occupation of George Catsmead.

Part of the lands of Sir Hugh Owen, all of which are in Mouncton, co. Pemb., one oxland lying in two closes near Castele Martine Church and a parcel nearby late in tenure of Richard Roe, in Castele Martine, co. Pemb., all with the exception of hunting, fishing, hawking and fowling rights.

Annual rent : £239, four cuppell of Hens, three cuppell of Capons, three fat geese, and three fat turkeys.

AS THE list shows, the Monkton estate not only comprised the monastic property immediately adjacent to the old Priory (the Deer Park, the Pigeon House field, the Cunnigar and the 'Great Demeasne' from which we get the name 'Priory Mains'), but also a scattering of properties further afield.

'Wyndmill Hill', 'Quaytes Mill', 'Bowood', Castele Martine' and 'Hunttell Town' are readily identifiable, while 'New Meadowe', Furzie Close', 'Cooke's Close' and 'Bryan's Meadow' are thought to have been pastures to the south of the lane running through Monkton, near the present Orange Hall.

As such they were not part of the immediate Priory lands, which were all to the north of the lane and comprised what became known as Monkton Farm or Priory Farm.

During their 100 years of living at Brownslate, the Holcombes established themselves as minor county gentry, marrying into some notable local families and producing a Mayor of Pembroke and several prominent local clergymen.

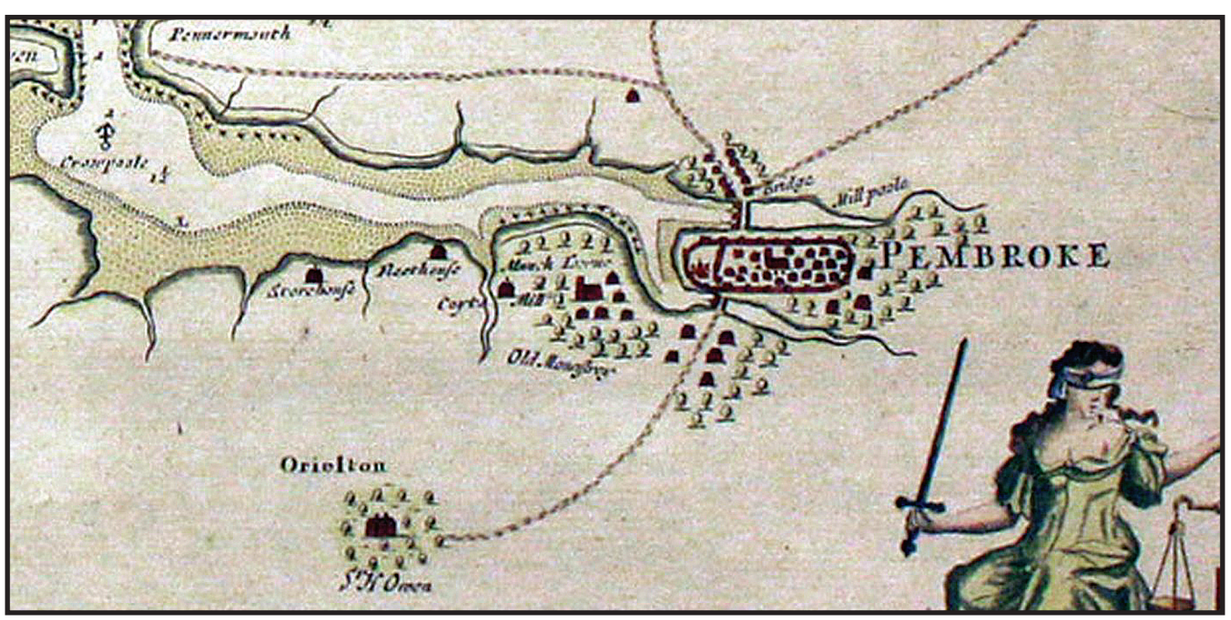
They sub-let the rest of the Monkton estate to a variety of tenants, mainly agricultural labourers who lived in the cottages. Of greater rental value were the corn mill at Quoits Water, Bowett Farm and Priory Farm itself.

The only person we know to have farmed Priory during that time was John Dunn, son of John Dunn of Crickmarren. He died in 1762.

Rear Admiral Essex Holcombe was the last of his family to live at Brownslate. Following his death in 1770, Brownslate farm was leased by David Rice who also took over control of the Monkton Priory estate. He was a son of Henry Rice of Bridge Farm, Axton Hill but little else is known about him.

In 1790 David Rice of Brownslate died on a visit to Bath. Shortly afterwards a notice appeared in the national press stating that Brownslate House was available to be let, together with 220 acres of land.

It was described as being in a 'very genteel neighbourhood and particularly suited to one who wishes to divide his time between the sports of the field and agriculture, there being several packs of fox and other hounds kept within a few miles'. The roads, it was stated, were in excellent order and the sea views particularly fine.



Part of a sea chart of 1693 showing 'Monck Towne' and Orielton.

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The advert continued:

And at the same time to be LETT and entered upon,
A very capital FARM called MONCKTON PRIORY
adjoining to the above,
containing about one thousand acres of arable, meadow and pasture land, capable of great improvement and enjoying equal advantages.
These estates being contiguous may be sub-divided for the accommodation of tenants.

George Scale, a farmer from Penally, took over the tenancy of Brownslate, followed by John Scale who married Elizabeth, a daughter of Monkton Bridge shipbuilder and merchant George Hurlow.

However they did not take up the option to rent the whole Monkton estate and by 1801 a farmer and cattle dealer named John Garbutt held the Priory on a lease from Lord Hereford and also held the rights to Monkton fairs. According to Fenton, writing in 1811: 'The Priory Farm now rents at £400 per annum'.

BY this time a significant new player had entered the history of Monkton, with the result that the estate was to change hands for the first time in 200 years. This move was revealed early in 1810 by the publication of the following Act of Parliament:

An Act for vesting the Manor of Pembroke otherwise Monkton, and other Hereditaments in the County of Pembroke, granted to Robert Earl of Essex and the Heirs Male of the Body of Sir Walter Devereux, Lord of Ferrers and Charteley, in Trustees, to be conveyed to John Owen Esquire for the Consideration therein mentioned.

As the map opposite shows, at one time all roads from Monkton led either to Pembroke or to Orielton – the greatest country estate in the parish.

The first house at Orielton was probably a fortified manor built by the Wirriot (or Wyrriot) family in the 12th century. (Giraldus Cambrensis visited in 1188 and wrote that the house was severely haunted).

Over the course of the next four centuries the Wirriots of Orielton established themselves among the leading landowners of west Wales; one was Sheriff of Pembroke, while another married a daughter of Sir Rhys ap Thomas and became High Sheriff of Pembrokeshire.



Sir John Owen of Orielton.

As their influence grew, so too did the Orielton estates. When George Wirriot, the last of the male line, died in about 1600 the Orielton possessions amounted to 5,200 acres in south and mid Pembrokeshire, including 80 farms, four corn mills and a fulling mill.

George's daughter and heiress Elizabeth had married Hugh Owen, a younger son of Owen ap Hugh (1518-1613), of Bodeon, Anglesey.

Hugh, who added many more properties to the Orielton estate, was appointed High Sheriff of Pembrokeshire in 1583 and of Anglesey in 1608; he was later knighted.

Sir Hugh died in 1614 and was buried in Monkton church. His eldest son John had predeceased him, so he left Orielton to his grandson, also Sir Hugh Owen (1604-1670), who was created a Baronet in 1641.

Orielton and the baronetcy descended through several Owen generations until 1809 when Hugh Owen, the 6th Baronet, died without issue aged 27.

The estate then passed to John Lord, a Pembroke-born barrister whose mother Corbetta was an Owen. Lord duly changed his surname to Owen and was created a Baronet in 1813.

The newly-renamed John Owen wasted little time in cementing his new status, pulling down the existing Orielton House and rebuilding it as a grand mansion and also adding to the Orielton estates.

As stated in the Act noted earlier, this included the purchase of Monkton manor from Viscount Hereford – a logical move, since the Monkton lands adjoined the Orielton estate in many cases. Listed in the purchase were:

Site of dissolved Priory of Monkton, Manor of Pembroke, otherwise Monkton; advowson of united vicarages of Monkton and St Mary's and St Michael's, Pembroke; Priory Farm and Quoits Mill (together 250 acres 3 roods 17 perches); nine houses and gardens, a limestone quarry on Priory Farm all in Monkton and St. Mary's Pembroke.

Farms and lands called Bowett (350a. 2r. 19p.), Brownslate (219a. 3r. 5p.), Iveston (131a. 29p.), Huntleton (20a. 3r. 24p.) and other pieces of land in Monkton and St Mary's Pembroke; tithes in Monkton, St Mary's and St Michael's Pembroke and St Twynnel's; and lands called Oxlands in Castlemartin.

Continued

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The Priory estate

The purchase of Monkton manor was completed in June 1810, with John Owen paying Viscount Hereford £45,545 – a sum which he borrowed from Charles Mathias of Llangwarren.

For the first time ever, the Owens of Orielton had ownership of the whole of Monkton – although there is evidence that the estate had an interest in property in and around the village for some time in the past.

A list of property owned by George Wirriot of Orielton in the 1570s included 'Flete' (later described as East Fleet) together with land in 'Munckton', while in the 1590s there was a legal wrangle involving Sir Hugh Owen over a lease 'in respect of lands in the Lordship of Monckton, formerly part of the dissolved monastery of Monckton'.

Meanwhile in 1811, Nicholas Carlisle wrote in his *Topographical Dictionary of the Dominion of Wales* that Monkton Old Hall 'has long been in the possession of the Owens of Orielton'.

Monkton was also the Orielton parish church. The Owens had their own vault in the nave and many family memorial tablets can still be seen in the church. There is even a tradition that Watery Lane was once the preferred route used by the Owens when they wanted to attend the Priory Church, and in 1853 a local farmer was able to recall seeing a coach and four horses being driven along Watery Lane between Monkton and Orielton,

THE ARRIVAL on the scene of Sir John Owen more or less coincided with the establishment of the new Royal Dockyard, just across the Pembroke River in Paterchurch.

Most of the land on which the Dockyard was built had been farmland until the Admiralty arrived, much of it owned by the Meyrick family. The Meyricks made land available on lease to enable the building of houses for a growing army of Dockyard workers, and soon the town of Pembroke Dock began to take shape.

The Owens, meanwhile, had owned all the south-facing land from Imble to Pennar Point since 1725. Sir John soon got in on the housing act, leasing land for the creation of a new development called 'Treowen' which in time become Pennar, Lower Pennar and Bufferland.



Orielton House in about 1820.

Monkton was also transformed under Sir John Owen, partly because his land agent, Isaac Williamson of East Orielton, took a particular interest in the old Priory manor. The streets of Long Mains, Short Mains, Cross Mains, Back Terrace and India Row were all developed on Priory Farm land from 1832 onwards and reflected a growing need for housing for Dockyard workers as the yard increased in size.

LIKE the previous Owens of Orielton, Sir John Owen held political aspirations. He entered Parliament as Member for Pembrokeshire in 1810 and continued to sit for the county for another 30 years.

The cost of fighting elections in those days could be ruinous, however, and it wasn't long before Sir John was being forced to sell off parts of his inheritance to pay his creditors.

Among the property sold by Sir John was the manor of Lamphey which was offloaded to Charles Mathias for £35,500, together with other property in Penally.

The bitterly-fought elections of 1831 proved particularly costly and led to Sir John having to sell more land, including parts of Monkton manor and property in Pembroke Main Street.

It was a pattern that was to continue over the next quarter of a century, with portions of the Orielton estate being sold off, some of it ending up in the hands of the Meyricks of Bush.

By 1856, Sir John's financial woes were so severe that he was finally forced to sell Orielton mansion and what remained of the estate he had inherited and enlarged,

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This included coal-mines at Landshipping and Hook, the advowson of the joint vicarages of St Nicholas, St Mary and St Michael in Pembroke, and over 3,000 acres in Monkton parish, together with numerous properties in Pembroke, including the Golden Lion coaching inn, later the Lion Hotel.

As we have seen, the Meyrick family had an historic interest in Monkton and they seem to have retained (or obtained) possession of a few pockets of land in and around the village.

They owned farms at Quoit's Hill and Lower Fleet in the 18th century, while in 1793 a blacksmith named James Lloyd took out a lease on a large plot of land from John Francis Meyrick,

This was between Back Lane and Church Terrace and was the site of a derelict dwelling house. Could this have been the former home of Sir John Meyrick?

At the 1856 sale the Meyrick estate acquired most of Monkton; as historian John Hogg noted of the terraces of Long Mains etc, 'Bush Estate bought the freehold and therefore inherited the leases'.

Orielton House itself, and parts of the Owen estate in Pennar and Monkton, were bought by Miss Jane Jones of Cilwendeg, (the 'Miss Jones' on the map below) using money paid by the Government for the Skerries lighthouse off Anglesey, owned by her family. Orielton later passed to her niece Margaretta, wife of Mark Anthony Saurin.

Another local landowner to acquire land in Monkton was John Harcourt Powell who had shares in properties on Awkward Hill and also the field on which Monkton Swifts now play.

But the lion's share of the old Priory estate was now held by the Meyricks, with Sir Thomas Charlton Meyrick (1837-1921), his son Sir Frederick Meyrick (1862-1932) and his son Sir Thomas Frederick Meyrick (1899-1983) being successively the squires of Bush. Between them they held sway over Monkton until the Bush estate was finally broken up after WWII.



The nucleus of the Priory estate in 1859, as owned by the Meyricks of Bush.

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The feuding Mayor

MAYOR of Pembroke from October 1634 to October 1635 was George Catchmaye (Catchmay, Catchmaid or various other spellings).

George was a son of Richard Catchmaye, Bailiff of Pembroke in 1602. Before moving to Pembroke to become an innkeeper and merchant in about 1595, Richard Catchmaye had been 'servant in livery unto Mr John Barlowe of Slebeech'.

He made a success of trade in Pembroke. According to Brian Howells: 'At the end of Elizabeth's reign there were a few substantial merchants operating out of Pembroke, such as Morgan Powell, Richard Catchmaid, Peter and George Williams and William Rogers'.

George Catchmaye followed his father into the ale trade in Pembroke, but unfortunately the sign of the inn isn't recorded. He was also a merchant, and it appears that he lived in Monkton or held property there, because an inventory of the Priory Estate mentions 'the land now in occupation of George Catsmead', while he also paid Hearth Tax on a house in the village grand enough to have three hearths.

George became a Burgess of the town and it was at the annual meeting of the Burgesses and 'twelve of the more honest men of the town and precincts' in the Guildhall in October 1634 that he was elected mayor in succession to Hugh Owen of Orielton.

It was an important role, because the mayor was also clerk of the market, chief magistrate and coroner for Pembroke. But George Catchmaye's time in office would have passed in relative obscurity except for his subsequent appearance before the Court of Chivalry.

This court (otherwise known as the Court of Honour or the Earl Marshal's Court) had been established in the 14th century by Edward III and initially dealt with matters relating to nobility and knighthood, including disputes over coats of arms and order of precedence.

Its role changed in 1613 as part of James I's determination to end what was becoming an epidemic of duelling amoung the gentry.

Previously the favoured form of redress for a nobleman who felt that his honour and reputation had been sullied was the duelling field. After 1613 it was possible to seek damages for defamation and a public apology in the Court of Chivalry – less romantic but safer.

Thus by the 1630s most of the actions brought before the court were for defamation, with well over threequarters of all cases stemming from insults which in earlier years might have provoked a duel.

George Catchmaye found himself defendant in one such case which came before several sittings of the Court of Chivalry between 1636 and January 1638.

THE CASE arose out of a feud between George Catchmaye and Rowland Meyrick, a member of a powerful local family who held much of Monkton on lease from Viscount Hereford.

In October 1633, Rowland Meyrick was appointed 'customer' of Milford Haven in succession to his father John, which meant he was responsible for collecting the dues payable at the customs house near the south quay in Pembroke.

He was also a regular patron of a respectable inn kept by a widow named Alice Webb in Pembroke Main Street, a house occasionally frequented by George Catchmaye when he wasn't serving in his own ale-house.

One evening in December 1634, Rowland Meyrick, George Catchmaye and others were drinking in the inn when a dispute arose.

Another of those present, a certain Henry Bealman of Llanstadwell, later described what happened:

Catchmayde said to Meyricke, 'Thou rogue, I have a hundred pounds to spend to putt thee out of thy office of customar' and then gave him a flect on the brim of his hat with his hand, which abuse Meyricke did putt up with at that time by reason George Catchmayd was then maior of the towne of Pembroke.

As soon as Catchmaye's mayoralty ended, however, Meyrick sought recourse to the Court of Chivalry, complaining that Catchmaye had called him 'a base rogue' and had provoked him on numerous other occasions by claiming to be more of a gentleman than Meyrick – ample grounds for challenging him to a duel in days gone by.

Catchmaye countered by claiming that the Meyrick brothers had assaulted him and that Rowland Meyrick had called him a 'base maier' and had made 'many other rude and uncivill speeches to and of the maior'.

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The High Court of Chivalry sat in the Painted Chamber of the Palace of Westminster before the Earl Marshal, the Earl of Arundel.

THE CASE first came before the Court of Chivalry in May 1636 and continued to be part-heard at numerous proceedings over the next two years as both sides produced a stream of witness statements that had been sworn before a special commission in Pembroke.

Among the sworn statements considered by the court was one from a skinner and glover by the name of John Poyer who was to become mayor of the town himself seven years later and who was to die in front of a firing squad in Covent Garden following his Civil War defiance of Cromwell.

Poyer deposed that on 23 May 1635:

George Catchmayd meeting Rowland Meyricke of Pembroke nere unto a gaole of the towne and, haveing some dislike with Rowland, in a deriding and scornefull manner asked Meyricke, 'Sirra, will thou goe into the gaole?'

Catchmayde then said that he was a better man then any man in this shire, meaninge within the shire of Pembroke, and further said that he was a better man then anie in Walles'.

When Meyricke reprimanded him for this, Catchmayd replied that Meyricke did lie. When Meyricke said Catchmaye was drunk, Catchmaye replied, 'But Sirra, thou Meyricke art more drunck then I'.

Poyer thought Catchmaye's words 'were delivered in a provoking, base, opprobrious and disgracefull manner'.

IN RESPONSE to the plaintiff's charges, George Catchmaye deposed:

I, George Catchmay for the yeare ending in October 1635 was mayor and chief magistrate under the King's Majestie of the town of Pembroke.

Rowland Merrick and one John Merrick brother to Rowland, and one Rees ap Rees servant to Rowland, and sett on and abetted by Rowland, or one of them, did within the time of my said mayoraltie in Pembroke take me by the beard and tore the band about my neck, and strake me seaven or eight times upon the head with a cudgel, and called me base mayor, and used other most rude and uncivill speeches, not here to be named against me.

And the next day, in further scorne and derision of me and my said office, Rowland, John and Rees, or one of them abetted by the other, asked, 'How doth your Mayor's pate?'

Catchmaye also claimed that the Meyricks and Rees ap Rees had publicly affronted him during divine service in Monkton Church by occupying the pew normally reserved for the mayor and by 'jostling him and making wry mouths'. He produced a number of witness statements to support his case, while Meyrick produced even more witness statements stating the opposite.

After hearing this contradictory evidence over several sessions during 1636/37, the Court of Chivalry finally decided – as it usually did – to rule in favour of the man who boasted the better pedigree.

In this case it was no contest. Meyrick belonged to a gentry family which could trace its proud Welsh lineage back many hundreds of years, while Catchmaye – for all his claims to be a gentleman – was the innkeeper son of a merchant thought by many to be illegitimate.

Catchmaye was duly ordered by Lord Maltravers, The Earl Marshal's Deputy, to pay fines and damages; by January 1638 he had paid off £50, with £30 apparently still outstanding.

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Monkton during the Civil Wars

By Terry John

THROUGHOUT the 1640s the people of Monkton found themselves in the forefront of events that tore apart the nations of the British Isles. Indeed, in 1648, Monkton was placed in the frontline of a bitter siege which was the result of actions that sparked off the second civil war.

Six years earlier, on 22 August 1642, King Charles I had raised his standard at Nottingham. This was a clear signal that he intended to take military means to subdue his enemies in Parliament.

Ever since his accession to the throne in 1625, Charles had faced escalating opposition from those MPs who saw his attempts to impose his will on both Houses as tyranny. Attitudes on both sides hardened until in the autumn of 1642, hostilities commenced.



Charles I.

The King and Parliament each called upon supporters in every county of England and Wales to donate money, men and arms to the war effort, even commissioning local landowners and noblemen to raise regiments to fight.

In the larger towns and in the rural areas, the trained bands were ordered to take up arms. These were citizen militias made up of fit and active men who could be called upon to defend their community from possibility of invasion or internal threat.

The trained bands were officered by locally prominent men. In 1633 John Poyer, a merchant of Pembroke, was appointed as commander of the town's trained band and it is very likely that men from Monkton served under Poyer alongside their Pembroke neighbours.

As Mayor of Pembroke from 1641-42, Poyer also understood how local politics worked and, in the autumn of 1642, he used his experience of both offices to cling on to the mayoralty and to seize the castle in the name of Parliament.

Poyer was later to claim that he had used much of his own wealth to repair and improve the defences of Pembroke.

The people of Monkton must have watched with apprehension as teams of masons, carpenters and blacksmiths swarmed over the town's ancient walls, strengthening the wooden gates, repairing the masonry and hammering out bolts, bars and new blades for pikes, swords and perhaps creating helmets and breast- and back-plates for the militia.

THE dangers became more substantial in early January 1643, when Lamphey was raided by Royalist troops based in Carmarthen, who drove off over 700 head of cattle, an important source of food for the garrison of Pembroke Castle.

Pembroke was now the main base for the Parliamentary presence within the county. Rowland Laugharne had set up his headquarters there, in conjunction with John Poyer, while the population of the town and the surrounding area was augmented by a large number of troops.

Finding provisions for all these hungry mouths was a problem and the soldiers may well have followed the time- honoured custom of foraging through the surrounding countryside for extra supplies. The inhabitants of Monkton quickly learned the wisdom of keeping their chickens, geese and pigs well out of sight.

As 1644 dawned, the tempo of military action quickened in south Pembrokeshire. Rowland Laugharne, backed by John Poyer and Rice Powell of Greenhill, decided to neutralise the Royalist garrisons occupying the larger gentry houses near Pembroke.

One after the other, Stackpole House and Trefloyne House were taken by storm, but an attack on Tenby was postponed whilst a greater danger was dealt with.

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THE Royalists had almost completed construction of a new fort on the northern slopes of the Haven, on a headland on the eastern edge of the present town of Milford Haven.

Early on the morning of Friday, 23 February 1644, the people of Monkton were woken by the tramp of marching feet and the clatter of hooves. Peeping out of their doors, they would have seen a small army of 250 foot soldiers and 60 horsemen filing past, accompanied by seven cannon of varying sizes.

This band made its way to Pembroke Ferry, where it was shipped across the Haven.

That afternoon, and for much of the next day, the sound of cannon fire reverberated through the air, as Laugharne's guns and those on board four Parliamentary warships anchored in the Haven pounded at the earthen walls of the newly-erected Royalist fort.

The garrison surrendered and up to 300 soldiers were taken prisoner, together with eighteen great guns and two Royalist ships, which had taken refuge in Prix Pill (now Castle Pill).



Rowland Laugharne.

When news of the surrender reached the Royalist soldiers occupying Haverfordwest, they fled, according to legend leaving many of their muskets in the dust of the town's streets.

TENBY again came under fire in March 1644. Blockaded from the sea by at least three warships, it was surrounded on the landward side by a force of 600 foot and mounted troops commanded by Rowland Laugharne, who had brought with them three cannon.

The siege continued for three days until at last an entry was forced through the shattered North Gate and the town was quickly taken.

A few days later, the Royalist garrison of Carew Castle surrendered, leaving the stronghold in the hands of Parliament.

The capitulation of other garrisons dotted across Pembrokeshire soon followed, and Laugharne was able to move eastwards into Carmarthenshire and Glamorgan, subduing opposition as he went and leaving Parliament supreme in south-west Wales.

If the people of Monkton heaved a collective sigh of relief, thinking that all dangers were over, it was too soon.

In June, a formidable force of Royalists under the leadership of Colonel Charles Gerard marched into Wales. Moving westwards through Glamorgan, they swiftly retook the castles seized by Laugharne earlier in the year.

Cydweli, Carmarthen and the township of Laugharne fell before him and he then moved northwards, capturing Newcastle Emlyn and Cardigan, before turning his attention to Pembrokeshire.

At Roch Castle he took possession not only of the building but of 300 head of cattle and 1,500 sheep, all of which had been intended for the cooking pots of Rowland Laugharne's troops.

HAVERFORDWEST was blockaded by units of Gerard's army, but before any such fate befell Pembroke and Tenby, where the bulk of the Parliamentary forces had taken refuge, the King's forces suffered a severe defeat at Marston Moor near York and Gerard was recalled.

As he marched away, he left some of his men behind to hold what he had taken, but the advantage now lay with Laugharne. Emerging from their boltholes, the Parliamentary soldiers set about recovering lost ground, recapturing the castle at Cardigan.

Laugharne then concentrated his efforts on the capture of Newcastle Emlyn, where a group of Royalists was holed up. However he did not realise that Gerard had returned and was swiftly closing in on his position. On Sunday, 27 April 1645, the Parliamentarians were caught unawares, with heavy casualties, and were driven south towards Pembroke and Tenby.

The situation was now an almost identical one to that of June 1644. Tenby and Pembroke were again choked with refugee soldiers, except that this time Pembroke itself was encircled. There is little information as to where Gerard placed his men, but it is very likely that Monkton was occupied.

Furthermore, the Royalists did not hesitate to seize provisions from the hapless people of the neighbourhood. Families huddled in their cottages at Monkton and in nearby villages were helpless to prevent armed men from pillaging everything they could lay their hands on, destroying what they could not carry off and savagely punishing anyone who tried to resist.

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Monkton during the Civil Wars

There is no mention in the contemporary accounts of an actual attack on Pembroke itself. It seems probable that, given the strength of the town walls and its position on a limestone ridge surrounded by tidal creeks, that Gerard planned to starve the defenders into submission.

However, as in 1644, a distant battle may have saved the people of Monkton and Pembroke.

ON 15 June 1645, King Charles suffered a catastrophic defeat at Naseby in Northamptonshire, where his army was shattered by the New Model Army commanded by Oliver Cromwell. Within days, Gerard withdrew his men from Pembroke and began the long march eastwards.

Once again, the tides of fortune within Pembrokeshire were reversed. Rowland Laugharne swept across the county recovering what had been lost and smashing a Royalist force at Colby Moor, between Haverfordwest and Llawhaden. After this success, he was able to pacify large areas of south Wales.



Colonel Gerard.

By now, the first Civil War was coming to an end. King Charles was a prisoner in Parliamentary hands and there were hopes of a permanent peace. People began to rebuild their lives and homes and across Britain towns and cities hoped for an end to the heavy taxations that had been levied to pay for the war.



Sir Thomas Fairfax.

Parliament, now in complete control of the country, began to consider the disbanding of its fighting forces. Regiments were dissolved, their members sent home, but there were still questions to be answered.

For example, huge arrears of pay were owed to the men who had fought on Parliament's behalf. Many wealthy landowners such as Rowland Laugharne and even merchants such as John Poyer had sacrificed their own fortunes in order to arm and feed the soldiers under their command. All of them, rich and poor alike, expected some recompense – but what was offered to them fell far short of what was expected.

AMIDST rising tensions, Rowland Laugharne learned in April 1647 that only 200 men were to be retained for the defence of south Wales and that command of the dragoons was to be handed to a colonel from the New Model Army.

At about the same time, John Poyer was confirmed as governor of Pembroke Castle, but he was also facing difficulties. Almost from the beginning of the war, he had been at odds with the Lort brothers of Stackpole and John Elliott of Earwere, near Saundersfoot.

Perhaps embittered by the rise to prominence of someone they considered to be inferior in rank, they had accused him of embezzlement.

In return, Poyer claimed that the Lorts had planned to murder him, whilst they counter-claimed that he had imprisoned them in Pembroke Castle in the hope of extorting money from them. Poyer was ordered by Sir Thomas Fairfax, his military superior, to release the Lorts, but he ignored the order and only obeyed when he himself was placed under arrest.

IN ignoring Fairfax's instruction, Poyer was guilty of military insubordination. He made matters worse in the winter of 1647, when he refused to hand over Pembroke Castle to Colonel Christopher Fleming, who had been appointed by Parliament as its new governor. He also disobeyed an order to travel to Windsor to explain his conduct to a tribunal there.

The reasons for his defiance are unclear. He may have feared that an investigation into his financial dealings would uncover damaging evidence, or possibly the actions of radical Parliamentarians had shocked him.

According to contemporary accounts, Poyer was at this stage seizing provisions from private homes and had driven herds of cattle from surrounding farms, penning them up within easy reach of the castle. It is very likely that some of the cattle were fenced up in the fields of Monkton and Hundleton, or on St Daniel's Hill.

The Army leaders in London and Windsor were left with no choice but to deal swiftly with Poyer. Further attempts to persuade him to hand over the keys of the castle had proved useless and Colonel Fleming had been forced to set up his headquarters somewhere within sight of its towering walls.

Fleming made a few last-ditch attempts to negotiate with Poyer, but without warning the guns of the castle opened fire on his head-quarters, battering down several houses and killing and injuring a number of men.

Meanwhile, the garrison of Tenby Castle abandoned the town and made their way by boat to Pembroke, adding to the number of defenders. Poyer was also encouraged by news that five troops of Laugharne's men had been disbanded at Lampeter and some of them were hurrying to his aid.

On 23 March 1648, Poyer's troops surged out from the castle and attacked Fleming's soldiers. Two great culverins were captured, along with all the ammunition and twenty or thirty prisoners were taken.

Five days later, 350 Parliamentary soldiers were put ashore from ships at Pwllcrochan, occupying St Mary's church. Poyer surrounded the building with a company of foot soldiers and horsemen and a fierce fire-fight broke out.

The men within the church put up a stout resistance but were eventually forced to surrender. They were allowed to leave with their weapons, providing that they promised never to return to Pembrokeshire.

POYER was by now in contact with Charles, Prince of Wales, who had taken refuge in France. On 3 April, the Prince formally appointed Poyer to be governor of Pembroke and on 13 April sent a letter promising assistance in the struggle against Parliament. By the end of the month Rowland Laugharne had reached Pembroke having broken, or been released from, his parole at Windsor.

Pembroke had now become the centre of a vortex, drawing in men and munitions from all over the kingdom. Some of these were disgruntled Royalists, anxious to fight for their king and to overthrow his enemies.

The Royalist broad-sheets were reporting that so many men were heading west that 'Great England's honour lies in the dust and Little England (Pembrokeshire) lends a hand to raise it up'.

On 3 May, Oliver Cromwell left Windsor with three regiments of foot and two of horse, having been instructed by Parliament to deal definitively with Pembroke. As he marched westwards, he picked up reinforcements and stormed Chepstow Castle, another nest of Royalist rebels.

Poyer was now frantically provisioning Pembroke to withstand a siege. The garrison is said to have been swollen by new arrivals to



Poyer, Laugharne and Powell, as envisaged by George Lewis for the Pembroke Murals.

about 2,000 men, some billeted within the castle but others no doubt lodged in the churches and in private houses.

All those within the town walls needed feeding and to that end contributions were demanded from many Pembrokeshire parishes, including Monkton. The demands were bitterly resented by families who feared starvation if their supplies were to gobbled up by a crowd of strangers.

By the end of April Laugharne had moved out of Pembroke and was heading eastwards to deal with Parliamentary forces who were guarding the crossings of the Taff and Ely rivers outside Cardiff. On 8 May 1648, the two armies came face to face at St Fagans in a battle which saw Laugharne comprehensively defeated. Some 200 of his men were killed and over 3,000 taken prisoner.

Laugharne and Rice Powell avoided capture, riding hard for Pembrokeshire, pausing only to withdraw some guns from the castle at Carmarthen as they did so. Laugharne took refuge in Pembroke Castle, Powell at Tenby.

ON 24 May, Cromwell arrived at Pembroke, having left some of his troops to deal with Tenby. It surrendered at the end of May and many of the troops involved in its capture moved on to Cromwell's aid.

With the town of Pembroke shut up against him, Cromwell had to consider carefully where he placed his troops. The tidal creeks on three sides of the town were formidable obstacles, overlooked by the long limestone ridge topped by the town's medieval walls.

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Monkton during the Civil Wars

A large encampment, known as the Camp of the Leaguer, was set up on the slopes of St Daniel's Hill, to the south of the town. Satellite camps were created on the slopes of Golden Hill to the north and in the open countryside beyond the eastern end of the town, controlling the roads from Carew and Tenby.

An obvious vantage point was the high ground upon which Monkton stood, so another camp was located there.

Soldiers were probably billeted in the houses and cottages of the village, whilst others may have been sheltered in tents set up where they could not be seen from the castle walls.

It's also likely that earthworks were thrown up in the fields immediately to the north of Monkton church, where some slight ridges are still visible. These would have consisted of walls of earth thick enough to absorb the impact of cannon balls and revetted with timber.

Embrasures in the banks would have allowed cannon to fire directly at the castle, only a hundred yards or so away on the opposite side of the river. Trench warfare was also common in the seventeenth century, so some may have been dug in the same area to shelter musketeers.

Cromwell himself stayed at Welston Court, the home of the Cuny family, near Milton.

He began the siege at a distinct disadvantage. The ship carrying the heavy siege guns from Gloucester had foundered in the River Severn and time was wasted in dredging up the cannon and repairing them.

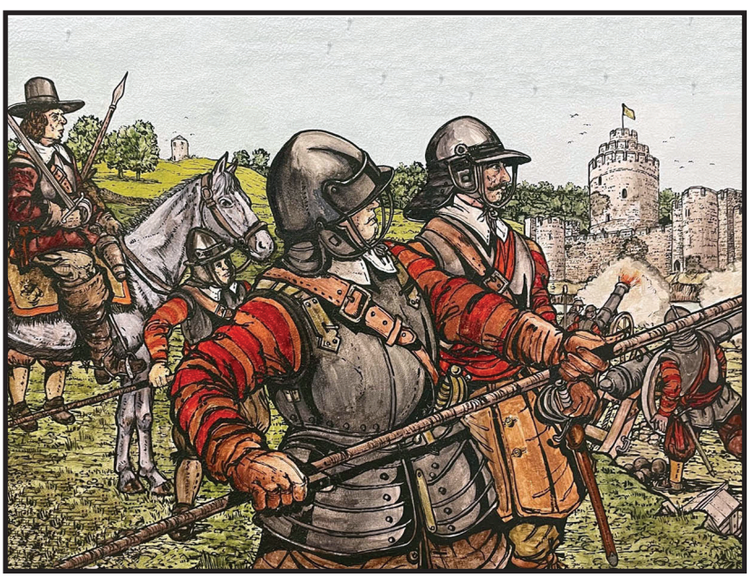
It was also proving difficult to feed his men. A letter written at the time records that, as the Parliamentary army approached Pembroke, the local people fled into the woods and hills, taking with them their possessions, including livestock. The blacksmiths even carried off their tools so that there was no chance to shoe the horses or make any iron implements.

The problem of the missing cannon was solved by obtaining from the guardship *Lyon*, then stationed in the Haven, a set of guns of various sizes, including a two drakes, two culverins, and two demi-culverins. According to tradition, two of the guns were placed in Monkton churchyard, from where they were able to fire directly into the castle and the town beyond.

Several attempts were made by the Parliament forces to break into Pembroke. On one occasion a column of troops broke in through a damaged section of wall and stormed up Main Street, almost to the gates of the castle. They were repulsed with difficulty and anything up to 130 men from both sides are said to have been killed.

The garrison of Pembroke was more than ready to mount its own attacks. At one point Rowland Laugharne himself led a charge out through one of the town gates in an early morning sortie. His target is unclear, though it is possible that he intended to seize or silence the guns in Monkton churchyard.

In the event, Laugharne was driven back into Pembroke, with nine men dead and 20 taken prisoner.



Cromwell's cannon in Monkton, trained on Pembroke Castle.
Illustration by George Lewis for the Pembroke Murals.

MONKTON cannot have been a very safe place to live at this time. As well as the problems caused by Parliamentary troops foraging for food, there was a high possibility of death or injury caused by a stray cannonball or a musket fired from the castle walls.

It is possible too that before the arrival of Cromwell'sregiments, Poyer's men may have pulled down some houses in Monkton that overlooked the castle to prevent them being occupied by sharp-shooters and to provide a clear field of fire. This is known to have happened during the first civil war, when a number of houses outside the walls of Pembroke were destroyed for military reasons.

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Members of The Sealed Knot re-enact Civil War action in Pembroke Castle.

In view of the dangers, it wouldn't be surprising if some residents of Monkton left the village, seeking safety with friends and relatives further away.

One man who refused to go was Peregrine Phillips, the vicar of Monkton. In common with may local people, he may have had some of Cromwell's troopers billeted on him and, knowing that they would rummage through his house for supplies, he decided to protect his scanty stock of food.

Tradition relates that he stuffed it all – especially the flour – into the bolsters of his bed. Another story describes how his dairy-maid continued to milk the cows on a daily basis, despite the upheaval all around her.

BY THE middle of June, Cromwell had finally received the missing cannon and by about 13 June, two were placed on Golden Hill, close to the present site of Bush House.

As soon as they were rolled into the emplacements prepared for them, a steady bombardment of Pembroke commenced.

Within a short time, some of the thatched roofed houses along Main Street were on fire, with the flames quickly spreading to such an extent that buildings were still ablaze the next day. The inhabitants of Monkton must have watched in horror as a pall of smoke and sparks lifted into the air above the stricken town.

However desperate things were within Pembroke, conditions were no easier for the army encircling the walls. Food was in short supply and the besiegers faced bitter hostility from local people. Every community in the county was expected to contribute to the upkeep of Cromwell's army and the constant demands rankled.

Cromwell, in a letter to Sir Thomas Fairfax, noted that there were protests almost every day, some of them violent, and that he had no money to buy provisions.

He informed Fairfax that the countryside around Pembroke was 'miserably exhausted' and that the main sustenance of the foot-soldiers was bread and water.

THE mention of water raises a question about the siege of Pembroke that has puzzled historians for many years. Were there sources of water within the town?

In a letter to the Speaker of the House of Commons dated 14 June 1648, Cromwell seemed sure that the siege would soon be over. He mentions the possibility of destroying a staircase leading down to a cellar where a well existed, but he does not mention the location of the well. Tradition places it in Wogan's Cavern beneath the castle, but there is no evidence today of one having existed there.

Another well was to be found in the base-ment of Barnard's Tower, near the eastern end of town, but no attempt appears to have been made to wreck either of these wells. The stonework in both locations bears no scars from cannon fire and in subsequent letters, Cromwell never mentions the wells again.

Water was obtained from three or four springs near Norgan's Hill, south-west of Pembroke. From there, it was carried in earthenware pipes that ran underground, and was stored in a reservoir somewhere in Monkton.

The pipes were said to continue on from the reservoir, crossing the river bed before entering the castle through an arch close to the Monkton Tower.

That the pipes did exist is certain. They were rediscovered in the 1930s in fields adjacent to Norgan's Hill and had been laid in masonry covered by flat stones, but it is not clear if they actually did continue along the river bed or were carried along the causeway that existed in the seventeenth century between Monkton and Pembroke.

Continued

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Monkton during the Civil Wars

It has never been ascertained if other wells existed elsewhere in the town, though some must have been located just outside the walls, as is suggested by the name Well Hill, at the eastern end of town.

According to an enduring legend, Cromwell is said to have initiated a search for the underground pipes stretching down from Norgan's Hill in order to cut off the water supply. The pipes were dug up at a spot close to the Old Conduit near Monkton Church and were broken, halting the flow of water to the castle. (See story on holy wells).



Oliver Cromwell.

WHATEVER the truth of this legend the situation in Pembroke was desperate. Men were deserting over the walls at night and morale had slumped.

It was increasingly obvious that the garrison could expect no help and towards the end of June, Cromwell's heavy siege guns and mortars finally arrived.

These powerful weapons soon opened up a number of breaches in the town walls, the mortars in particular battering down houses and killing at least thirty people. Surrender was inevitable. Poyer and Laugharne sent out a request asking for terms.

Cromwell is supposed to have initially refused to consider terms, but realised that if none were offered the siege might drag on for weeks.

Hugh Peter, Cromwell's army chaplain, took the terms of surrender into the town under safe conduct, where they were carefully considered before being accepted. Poyer and Laugharne and several others were expected to surrender themselves to the mercy of Parliament, with no certainty of what their fate might be.

Some of the more prominent officers were banished from the kingdom for two years, whilst others could return quietly to their homes, providing they submitted to the authority of Parliament. The rank and file were also allowed home on similar terms and the inhabitants of Pembroke were free of violence or plunder and might leave the town if they wished.

Cromwell moved from Welston Court to oversee the final details of the surrender and is said to have taken up residence in the York Tavern on Main Street. A few days later, possibly on Sunday 4 July, the first Sunday after the capitulation, a special church service was held, at which Peregrine Phillips, the vicar of Monkton, preached before the Parliamentarian soldiers.

WHEN he left Pembroke, Cromwell took with him Rowland Laugharne, John Poyer and Rice Powell. They were eventually put on trial for treason in London and all three were found guilty and sentenced to death.

Laugharne and Powell had their sentences commuted to imprisonment and were eventually released. John Poyer was not so lucky. He was executed by firing squad at Covent Garden on 25 April 1649.

The news of his death was probably received in Pembrokeshire with mixed feelings. For some, he was a heroic figure, for others he was the cause of all the tragedies and hardships that had befallen the people of Pembroke.

The encampment of tents at Monkton was dismantled and loaded onto carts, which rumbled away in Cromwell's wake. Perhaps the earthworks adjacent to Monkton Church were demolished too, the timber revetments useful for the repair of houses in the village.

People began to rebuilt their lives, though it cannot have been easy. Food was still in short supply and it would take time to rebuild shattered homes and ruined farms.

Hard work was necessary to clear the surrounding fields of the litter of war and to replace the livestock seized to feed the troops. Indeed, it was to be many years before life returned to normal.

Even worse, in February 1649 a collective fine had been levied on the whole of south Wales for delinquency in the second war, which can only have added to the woes of its people.

In 1651 an outbreak of plague swept across the county. Hundreds died and the recovery from war staggered to a halt.

In October 1652, the London Committee for the Regulating of Markets allowed a number of new markets to be established in the county, including a Tuesday one in Monkton.

It was probably hoped that this would stimulate the financial fortunes of the village and the surrounding area, but it would not be until the Restoration in 1660 and the decades that followed that prosperity and calm returned to Monkton and its neighbours.

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Early glimpses of Monkton

FOLLOWING the Civil War, Pembroke Castle was slighted on the orders of Cromwell and fell into a ruinous state. However, a century later, men no longer came to fight; instead they came to paint.

In the 18th century, attitudes in art were changing. The Romantic Movement saw the emergence of landscape painting in Britain and artists went in search of the picturesque,

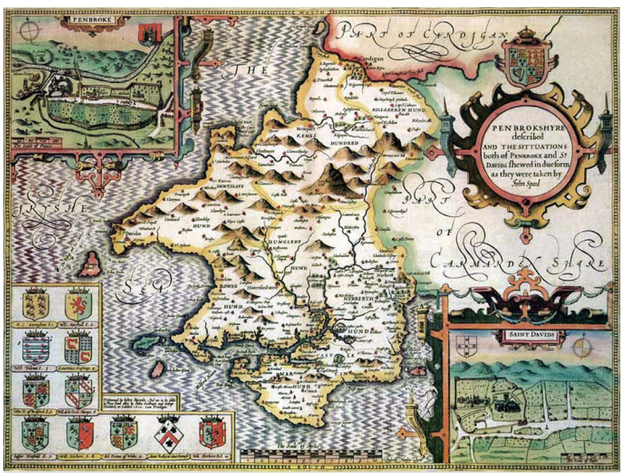
A ruined castle set in a natural landscape was very appealing and attracted many great artists to Pembroke, including JMW Turner, Paul Sandby, Sir Richard Colt Hoare and Henri Gastineau to name a few.

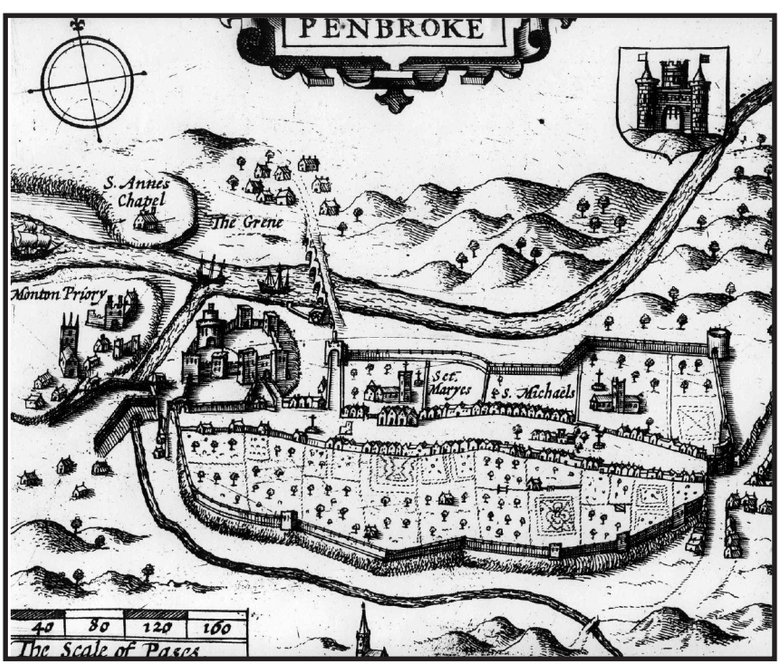
The use of printing techniques to produce views of buildings, towns and the countryside is also a product of the Romantic Movement in art. This enabled the people, for the first time, to actually see engravings of paintings which would otherwise be part of private collections.

The early print makers, like the Buck brothers and Paul Sandby, were both market leaders and pioneers. They put Pembroke on the map and Pembroke Castle became one of the great views of Britain.

On the downside, interest in the castle was so great that the town itself received far less attention, forming only the background to a view of the castle.

And so it was with Monkton, but these early prints do offer us an early glimpse.





John Speed's map of Pembrokeshire (top), with the inset map of Pembroke shown in detail.

1611 John Speed

THE FIRST view we have of Pembroke, which includes Monkton, can be found on the John Speed map of 1611.

The map has inset town plans and we can regard this as the earliest view of the town of Pembroke. At the beginning of the 17th century, Pembroke was very much confined within its walls except for Monkton with its Priory Church and Prior's mansion, later to become Priory Farm.

John Speed was probably the best known of the early British map makers and it is suggested that these three dimensional town maps were his original creation.

Continued

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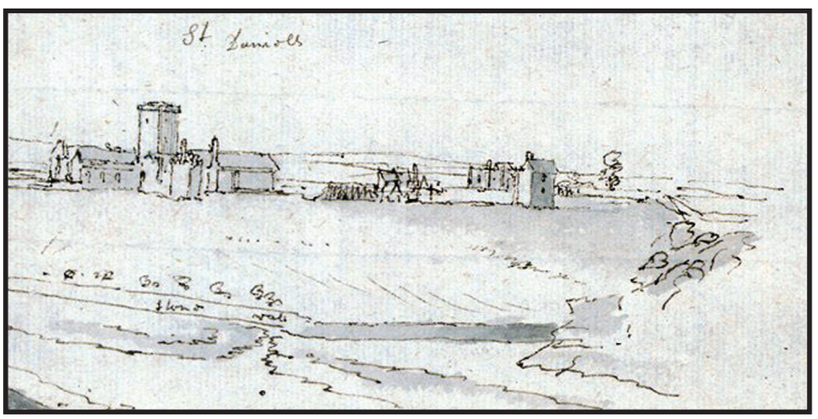
Early glimpses of Monkton



1678 Francis Place



Images from the sketchbook of Francis Place.

THE FIRST known drawing of Monkton and Pembroke was by Francis Place (1647-1728). It was discovered in a sketchbook deposited in the National Museum, Wales which contains the earliest images of Wales carried out in situ that we know of (dated 1678).

Born into a wealthy Yorkshire family 1647, Place studied law in London which he abandoned to escape the Great Plague in 1665. Coming into his inheritance enabled him to pursue his love of art and he was one of the earliest English artists to specialise in landscape. He loved to travel and this sketch was made on a tour of the West Country in 1678.

These two pages of his sketchpad (one a drawing of Pembroke and the other of Monkton) have been digitally re-mastered into a panorama joining Pembroke and Monkton. The Monkton sketch shows the Priory Church and associated buildings.

At the north side of the church, facing us, is a building, the former monks' dormitory, known locally as the monkey house – long since demolished. The vicarage now occupies the site.

To the right of the picture is Priory Farm, the former Prior's mansion. Place has not sketched in the background although he has pencilled in St Daniel's, as if meaning to draw it later.

1748 S. & N. Buck

IN 1727, brothers Samuel and Nathaniel Buck commenced sketching and engraving a series of architectural remains of England and Wales.

They published two major series of engraved views of England and Wales: 81 prospects of towns (1728-53) and views of over 400 notable antiquities – ruined castles, abbeys and the like (1726-42).



Panoramic view of Pembroke by the brothers Buck in 1748.

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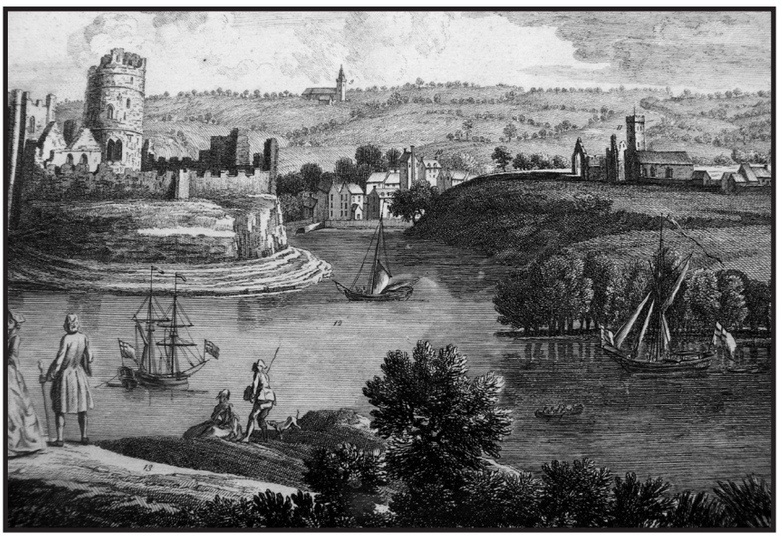
These constituted the most significant print series produced in Britain in the first half of the 18th century.

The Buck brothers were some thirty years ahead of any other print makers in seeing towns and ruins as suitable subjects for their pictures and, unlike many print producers who followed them, they both drew the subjects on site and engraved the plates themselves.

The panorama shows us rather more of Monkton than we could glean from the sketch of Francis Place. This was a time of growing prosperity and Pembroke's maritime trade was thriving, as can be seen by the impressive houses and quayside buildings.

Monkton Priory Church is now in a ruinous state while on the horizon (missing from the Francis Place sketch) is St Daniel's Church.

• A print of the Bucks' panorama can be viewed in Pembroke Museum.



Detail of the Bucks' print showing Monkton Priory.

1775 Paul Sandby

BORN in Nottingham, Paul Sandby joined the topographical drawing room of the Board of Ordnance at the Tower of London in the early 1740s and in 1747 was tasked as chief draughtsman with mapping the remote Scottish Highlands – a "compleat and accurate survey of Scotland".

While undertaking this commission, he began producing watercolour landscapes documenting the changes in Scotland after the 1745 rebellion. In 1752, he took up a post with his brother producing landscapes of the royal estates at Windsor (the royal collection includes over 500 images by the Sandby brothers).

Sandby made his first recorded visit to Wales in 1770, later (1773) touring south Wales with Sir Joseph Banks, resulting in the 1775 publication of *XII Views in South Wales* and a further 12 views the following year, part of a 48- plate series of aquatint engravings depicting Welsh scenery.

Continued



Paul Sandby's unusual view of the castle, with a cart going up Westgate Hill,

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Early glimpses of Monkton

He made many drawings of Pembroke but the one at the bottom of the previous page , entitled 'Pembroke Castle', is of interest as it is taken from the Monkton shore.

Boat building is taking place in the foreground. One of the earliest local shipyards that we know about was that set up by George Hurlow in the early 19th century in the part of Monkton known as Cunnigar; this engraving shows the existence of a boatyard alongside Monkton Bridge as long ago as 1778.

1837 Charles Norris

CHARLES NORRIS (1779-1858) was born in London and settled in Pembrokeshire, building himself a house at Waterwynch, near Tenby.

He was a fine topographical artist and an antiquarian. He came to note as an etcher of landscapes of the Pembrokeshire countryside, but mainly of Tenby.

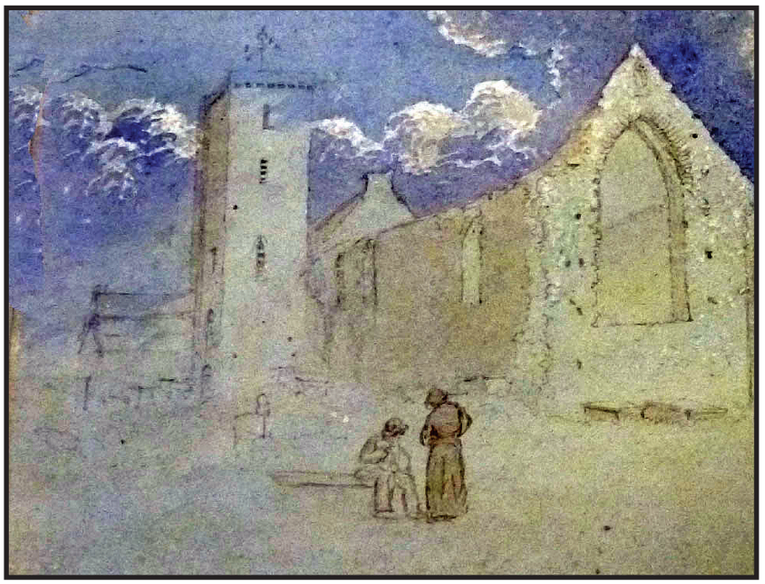
Norris is seen as an important recorder of the medieval buildings of Pembrokeshire. Fortunately he made many visits to Pembroke and, besides many sketches, he produced in 1817 four fine etchings of the town, which can be seen in Pembroke Museum.

Amongst his sketches are these three (right) of Monkton Priory Church and Monkton Old Hall, drawn in 1837.

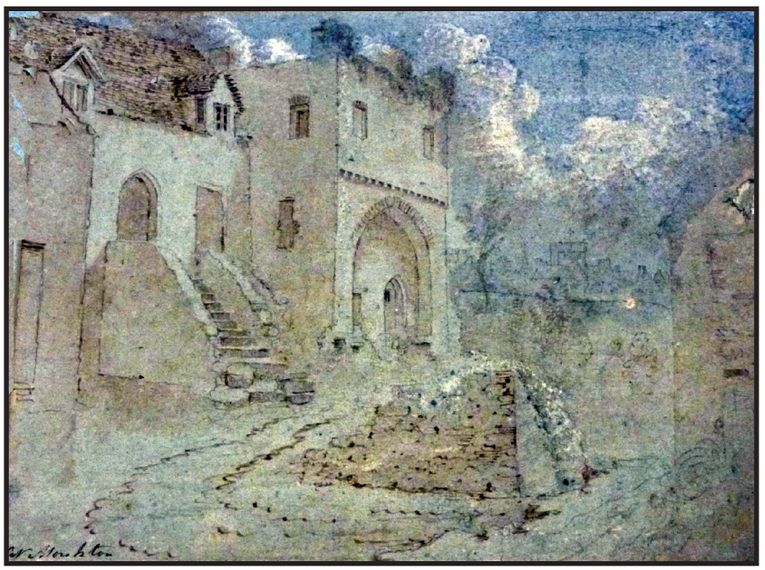
These pictures were copied by courtesy of Cardiff Central Library from their collection; there is an interesting note in the catalogue with reference to the Old Hall.

7th October 1837: Part of Monkton. Observe outdoor stairs and porches also the pig. Pigs ran at will in Pembroke until suppressed by J W Payntor, Mayor.

Many of Norris' original works are also kept by Tenby Museum and Art Gallery.







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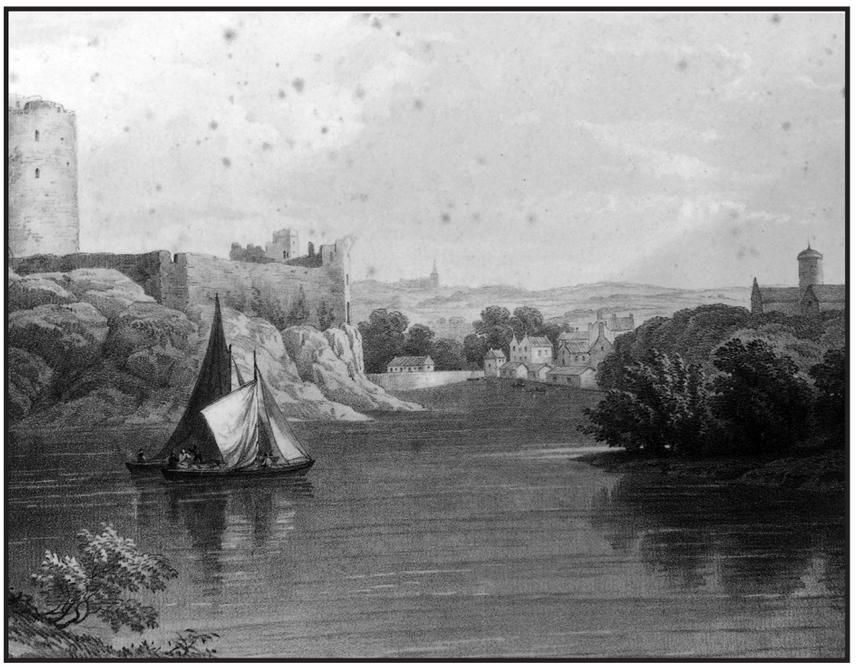
1854 Mrs William Crofton

FRANCES Emilia Crofton née Dunn (1822-1910), known professionally as Mrs William Crofton, was an Anglo-Irish landscape painter of the mid-19th century.

In 1854 she published Eight Views, a folio edition of eight lithograph prints of her own original landscape paintings of Britain.

One of these was of Pembroke Castle and it is interesting that the view of Monkton is almost identical to that depicted by the Buck brothers a century earlier.

The folio was published and sold in aid of the County Leitrim Protestant Orphan Society.



This print by Mrs William Crofton can be viewed in Pembroke Museum's collection.



This detailed depiction shows Pembroke Castle from the unusual vantage point of Bush Hill. One of the Hurlow fleet of ships can be seen in Monkton Pill, with a few houses visible in Church Terrace. This lithograph was published by Frederick Briggs who had a chemist's shop in Pembroke Main Street in the 1850s and was the inventor of Brigg's Cough Balsam. The artist is unknown, although the work has been tentatively attributed to William Spreat, an artist and engraver who was born in Exeter in 1816 and is best known for his many highly-accomplished lithographs of Devon scenes as well as being a pioneering photographer.

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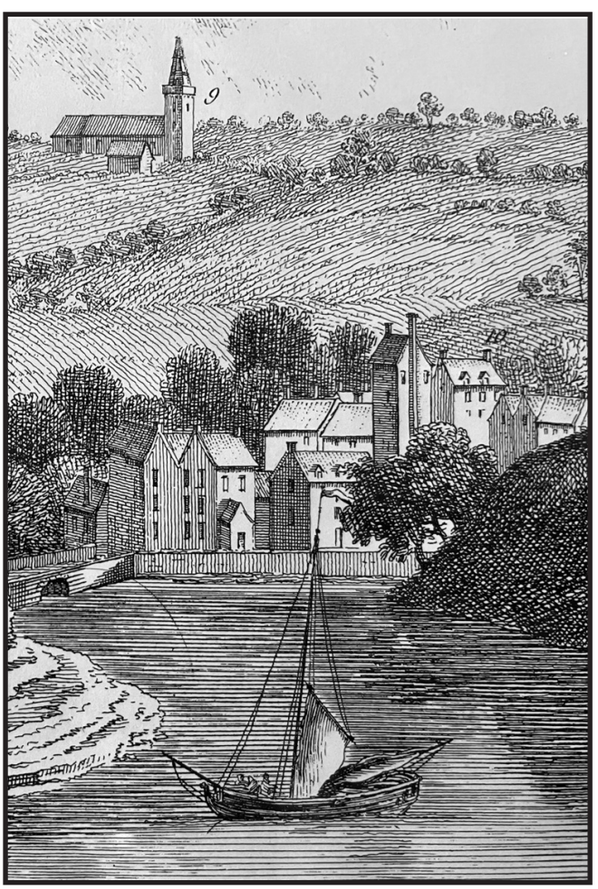
The lost mansion of Monkton bridge

BRIDGEND House is Pembroke's 'lost' mansion. Standing at the southern end of Monkton Bridge it appears from old prints to have been a substantial early Georgian double pile house, three storeys high, with its own small estate.

An advert in 1799 described it as 'a capital Mansion-house adjoining Pembroke town, most conveniently and beautifully situated on a branch of Milford harbour, having good Dining and Drawing rooms, nine very good Bedchambers, Coach-house, Stables, and all kinds of convenient Offices.' There were also two granaries, a stone quay, terraced walled gardens planted with fruit trees and a smaller house attached.





Bridgend House and estate can be seen in these details from 18th century prints by Paul Sandby (above) and Samuel and Nathaniel Buck (below).

The little estate appears to have been owned in the early 18th century by a family of wealthy mercers (merchants) named Ford. Alexander Ford was Mayor of Pembroke in 1686 and his son William, also a merchant, married Anna Cuny of Golden, Pembroke in 1724. Their marriage settlement mentions a 'new house, garden etc. in the Parish of Monkton', and it is tempting to presume that this refers to the mansion at Bridgend.

By 1770 William Ford had moved to the family seat at Stonehall near Letterston and was leasing Bridgend 'with adjoining house and granaries' to the Rev William Holcombe, whose first wife was Elizabeth Ford of Stonehall.

A son of Rear Admiral Essex Holcombe RN of Brownslate, Hundleton, William Holcombe was educated at Westminster and Christ's College, Cambridge and was ordained in 1759. He subsequently became Rector of Cosheston, Canon Residentiary of St David's Cathedral and Rector of Manordeifi and Mathry.

He was a founder of the 18th century Pembroke Society – a literary club for the local gentry – and he was also a musician, his father bequeathing him 'my fiddles and all my musick'.

This suggests that Bridgend House was a centre of culture and the arts at this time.

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It appears that at some stage the Rev William Holcombe acquired the freehold of the Bridgend estate. It formed part of a notable property portfolio, all of which was put up for sale in the years following his death at sea on board HMS *La Juste* from 'violent inflammation of the leg'.



Aerial view of the Bridgend site, probably in the i960s.

ONE OF the auctions took place in 1799 at the New Inn in Pembroke, better known in recent times as the Lion Hotel, and the highest bidder for the Bridgend estate was George Hurlow from Lawrenny, a shipwright, shipowner and timber merchant. It remained in the Hurlow family until the death of Captain Thomas Hurlow in 1867. (Their story is told in a separate article).

An inventory of the Bridgend property at that time noted that the house had nine bedrooms and two kitchens. There was a dairy, a brew-house, offices, two malt-houses with stores and a granary, a coach house and four stalled stable, two yards, a large shed, a boat house, wharf and foreshore. The terrace gardens were still well stocked with fruit trees.

After Thomas Hurlow's death, Bridgend mansion itself was leased for a time by Colonel Maunsell, commander of the 13th Regiment which was stationed in Pembroke Dock.

Meanwhile the timber yard and the ware-houses were taken over by a builder and government contractor called George Thomas who later farmed at Priory. He built a couple of schools in the area, including the National School in Main Street, now an antiques emporium, and he was also contractor for St Catherine's Fort in Tenby.



A recent view from the castle.

It seems that Bridgend House was left empty after Colonel Maunsell's fairly brief sojourn. George Thomas may have had plans for the old mansion but he was declared bankrupt in 1882.

In 1891 Edward Rooks, former licensee of the Apple Tree, was operating a coal merchant's business from the Bridgend yard, also running a grocery shop at the foot of Bridgend Terrace, but what happened to the old mansion isn't clear.

It appears that the building was left to fall into ruin, because a council report from 1894 noted that Bridgend House was in a bad state of repair, with slates coming off the roof.

Then, in 1902, the borough surveyor reported that: 'the ruins near Monkton Bridge are very dangerous and should be pulled down'. And that seems to have been the end of the mansion.

A coach-builder called John Morris operated out of the Bridgend Works in about 1904, while a house painter and coal merchant called William Hitchings occupied the site before WWI. More recently it was used as a workshop for Green's Motors and eventually became Castle Garage.

In 1957 the UK Fatstock Marketing Corporation opened a sales depot on Monkton Bridge, managed by Glyn Davies. This was in the building with a hipped roof next to the bridge which has also housed Stanley Raymond's butcher's shop and a farmers' union office.

This building, along with the terraced gardens and stone quay, appears to be the only survivor from the original estate.

The name 'Bridgend House' now applies to the property at the bottom corner of Bridgend Terrace; in 1909 the town council's surveyor reported receiving 'plans and specifications of a new house at Bridge End, Monkton' – presumably this building.

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Maritime Monkton

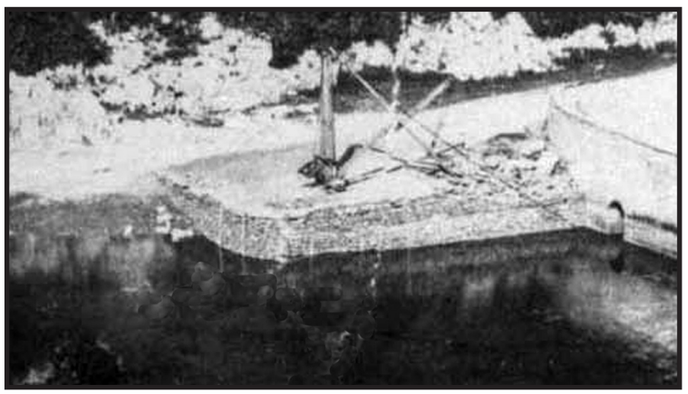
MONKTON has always been a maritime community, standing as it does alongside the tidal Pembroke River between Quoit's Pill (or Quoit's Water) and Monkton Pill.

The latter was navigable at high tide by quite large vessels as far as Monkton Bridge, where the main landing place seems to have been adjacent to the bridge on the Monkton side. Trading vessels would have beached here as far back as medieval times, perhaps served by a wooden jetty to aid the loading and unloading of cargoes for the town and Priory.

The present stone quay appears to have been built for wealthy merchant Alexander Ford who was Mayor of Pembroke in 1686. This quay at Bridgend later became central to the timber importing business of George Hurlow and sons, who also had a shipyard a few hundred yards along the Monkton shore.

The quay at Bridgend was privately owned, so an improvement to river trade came in 1856 when enterprising farmer and land agent Isaac Williamson of Greenhill built a new public quay on the Pembroke side of Monkton Bridge, the remains of which are still standing.

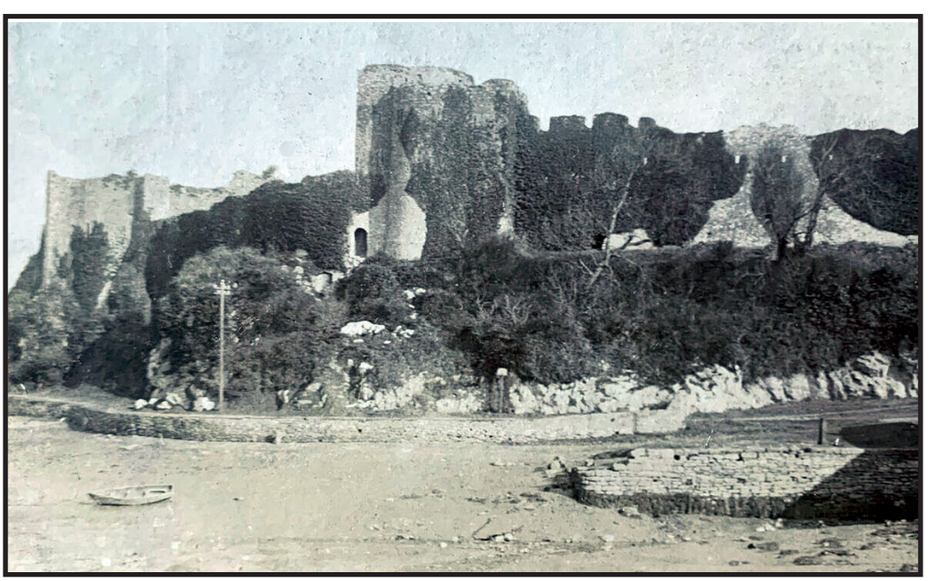
How much this quay was used is difficult to say, but it seems to have been utilised by small coasters bringing slates, housebricks, sand, coal and culm. In 1866 the master of the smack *Catherine* of Cardigan was taken to court for refusing to pay ten shillings in tolls owed for several cargoes of slates landed at Monkton Bridge Quay, while in 1873 a cargo of pig iron (salvaged from a wreck) was unloaded at the quay for the foundry at the nearby gasworks.



Monkton Bridge Quay in the 1860s, with a hand-operated crane for unloading cargo.

Many of the slates landed at Monkton Bridge Quay would have been destined for the new terraced estate of 'artisan houses' being being built on the south side of The Commons by Isaac Williamson. He called the estate Orange Gardens and named one of the streets after himself.

By 1890 it was reported that the quay at Monkton was in a poor state, so the town council – which collected the tolls by this time – arranged for its repair. Ships using Pembroke and Monkton quays in those days paid a toll of just eightpence per visit, regardless of size, so the council was reluctant to spend too much on repairs.



Monkton Bridge Quay in the early 1900s. One unusual cargo landed at the quay was the crown for the gasometer situated in the gasworks on The Commons. This was fabricated in Pembroke Dock and floated round by barge.

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THE substantial but fairly shallow inlet of Quoit's Pill to the west of the village was less used by shipping, although small sloops may have carried corn up to the mill at one time.

A couple of locally-owned coasting vessels were based here in the early nineteenth century, perhaps involved in the limestone trade. This was important at one time on the Pembroke River, with waterside quarries at the entrance to Quoit's Pill (Turkey Dock) and at Catshole, with others just across the river at Bush.

Small vessels from as far afield as Dale and even north Pembrokeshire and Cardigan would come up the river for a cargo of stone for building and for turning into lime in the many kilns around the coast. In 1847 it was reported that John Rossiter of Dale had drowned when his sloop the *Sarah Jane* went aground just off Catshole quarry and he fell overboard while trying to refloat her.

Vessels coming upriver would arrive empty apart from a couple of tons of ballast which would have to be discharged before they could be loaded with limestone.

A 'ballast bank' was established for this purpose on the shoals near Quoit's Pill, below Fleet farm, and a man named George James was paid for many years by the proprietors of the quarries to see that coasters threw out their ballast at the proper place.

Even so, unscrupulous or lazy skippers sometimes tipped their ballast of rubble and sand straight into the channel, threatening future navigation of the river, and in 1857 Captain Shadrach of the sloop *Mary Ann* of Newport was fined £5 for dumping ballast in the channel.

Catshole ferry

A PASSENGER ferry once crossed the Pembroke River between Imble Lane and the bottom of Priory Mains. The ferry was known as the 'Bush Ferry' or more usually the 'Catshole Ferry' after the nearby quarry and it was much used by the numerous Monkton men who worked in Pembroke Dockyard or the private shipyard at Jacob's Pill.

Before the establishment of a regular ferry service, dockyard workmen would use this as a crossing point in their own boats.

In 1855 a workman from Monkton named Thomas Howell drowned while rowing back across the river with three colleagues. 'Being intoxicated they by some means upset the boat' reported the local newspaper.

The official ferry was established by 1870 and from then until at least 1891 the service was operated by Richard Howells and his wife Maria who lived at the bottom of Priory Mains, next to the Ferryside Inn. Richard worked as a dockyard labourer until his retirement in about 1887, so more often than not it was Maria who rowed the ferryboat.

From 1893 to 1915 the ferryman was George Evans, assisted by his sons Robert and Harry. Robert was involved in a tragic incident in 1901, when he was 16. He accidentally shot dead a young girl named Martha Jane Owen, aged nine, while she was playing outside the hut used as a shelter by the ferrymen.

George Evans died in August 1915 and the ferry service appears to have terminated after his death.

Robert joined the South Lancs Regiment in WWI and was killed in action in 1917.



Just around the corner was the spot where the Pembroke River was crossed by the Catshole ferry.

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The Hurlow family of merchant traders

THE HURLOWS of Monkton Bridge were a family of shipbuilders and merchants. Wherever there was a cargo to be found, their ships would sail – coastwise initially, to Bristol and Ireland, but later to Rio for sugar, to the Black Sea for wheat and to Canada and the Baltic for timber.

The Hurlows were descended from Stephen Hurlow who was married in Lawrenny in 1763. Three of his sons moved to the Pembroke area and did well for themselves – George, Thomas and Stephen Hurlow.

Stephen Hurlow, the youngest of the three brothers, was primarily a farmer, although he also had shares in several ships. In 1803 he took out a lease on Lower Castleton Farm, near Hundleton, and lived there for the rest of his life.

The other two brothers, Thomas Hurlow and George Hurlow were closely involved in the maritime trade, both individually and as a family partnership.

Thomas was born in Lawrenny in 1771 and he became a sea captain and ship-owner, sailing out of Pembroke Quay.

George Hurlow was also born in Lawrenny, in 1764 or thereabouts, and in 1782 he is recorded as being indentured as an apprentice to a Garron shipwright named John Daniel.

By the mid 1790s, he had qualified as a ship-wright and moved to Pembroke where he married a lady named Mary. They had six children between about 1798 and 1807 – three sons called Thomas, George and William and three daughters, Mary, Elizabeth and Sarah.

It seems that George had moved to Pembroke in order to set up his own little shipyard near the town. He certainly leased land from the Bush estate in the 1790s which might have been the location of his first small shipyard, somewhere on the north side of the Pembroke River, perhaps around Rocky Park.

And George must have made a success of it, because in 1799 he was able able to buy the freehold of Bridgend House to the south of Monkton Bridge.



Painting of Monkton Pill in 1837 by Charles Norris, showing some of the Hurlow ships lying in the mud.

Along with the mansion itself, the property included useful warehousing, a cottage and walled gardens and a stretch of foreshore ideal for shipbuilding.

GEORGE was still in his thirties, but he was well on the way to becoming a successful ship-owner and merchant. As well as the fine mansion he had just bought, he also leased various properties in the town including granaries, storehouses and a brewhouse.

One such property in Westgate ran from the Main Street right down to a warehouse on the South Quay. This guaranteed a right of way across the Quay which was vital, because the Hurlows were engaged in shipping cargoes around the coast in their own vessels – built by George in many cases and often skippered by his brother Thomas.

One Hurlow vessel which had a long career in the coasting trade was the *Mary*, a sloop which was built in 1802. The newspaper reports show her trading regularly to Liverpool and Ireland and up and down the Bristol Channel, carrying oats to Chepstow and corn to Bristol, usually returning with 'sundry goods'.

Other Hurlow vessels mentioned in the early 1800s include the *Sally* sailing to Liverpool with a cargo of wool; the *Nancy* departing for Swansea with corn and cheese; and the coaster *Betsey*.

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After he bought Bridgend House, George Hurlow moved his shipyard to the foreshore near his home. According to the historian George Mason, writing 100 years ago, this was at a spot called 'Coneygar' opposite Pembroke Castle – which most people believe is the shallow valley in the foreground of the photograph below.

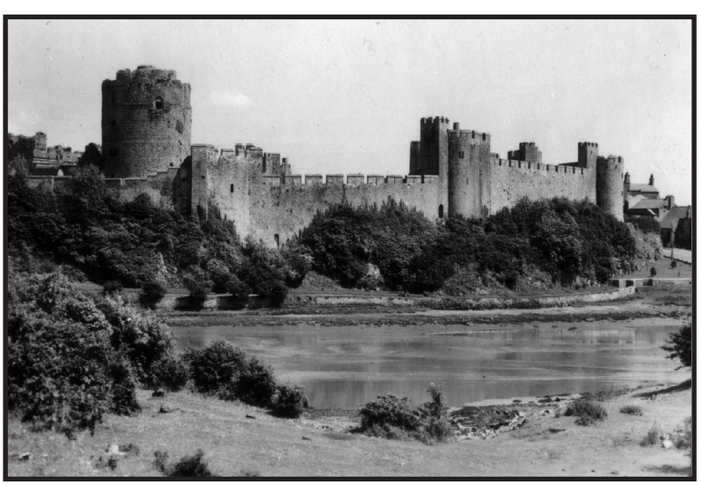
The first notable vessel to be built here that we know of for certain was the *Pembroke*, a coasting sloop of 58 tons which was launched in 1808. She was owned and built by George Hurlow and captained by William Barge, an old seafaring acquaintance from Lawrenny.

BY 1811, as well as having shares in various coasting sloops ands smacks, the Hurlows also owned two ships insured with Lloyds of London – the *Pembroke* and a 180-ton brig built in Ramsgate called the *Argo*. She was captained by Thomas Hurlow, George's brother.

In 1811 we read of the *Argo* arriving in Liverpool from Sicily and Malta with a cargo that included brimstone, madder, sumac, boxwood, valonia and fustic – all Mediterranean plants used for tanning and dyeing, probably for use in the textile mills of Lancashire.

Evidently the Hurlows were looking beyond the coasting trade by this time, and not just to the Mediterranean. The following year, the *Argo* – Thomas Hurlow again as master – sailed from Pembroke to Quebec for a cargo of timber.

This was George Hurlow's first venture in the Canadian timber trade, but it was certainly not his last. However, for some reason, the Hurlows didn't repeat these foreign adventures for quite a few years – perhaps the Napoleonic wars and their aftermath meant that trading conditions simply weren't favourable.



The valley in the foreground was almost certainly the site of the Hurlows' shipyard.

In 1818 the *Neptune*, a brig of 116 tons, was added to the fleet; the *Neptune* mainly traded between Pembroke and Bristol with Thomas Hurlow as chief share-owner and skipper.

Seafaring was a hazardous business, and in 1820 George Hurlow had his first major setback as a ship-owner when the little coaster *Betsey* was wrecked in St Bride's Bay, near Solva when homeward bound from Liverpool with a cargo of salt and shop goods. All the crew were saved, fortunately, and the *Betsey* was salvaged as well and repaired in the Hurlows' shipyard.

THE YEAR 1823 was a pivotal one for the Hurlows. For one thing, Thomas Hurlow – George's brother – died aged 52. The loss of such an experienced mariner must have been a severe blow to the Hurlow enterprise.

However this was cushioned by the fact that George Hurlow's three sons Thomas, George and William had all gone to sea, probably with their uncle, and were becoming old enough and experienced enough to start taking the helm of the family's growing fleet of sea-going vessels.

George senior continued to conduct operations from Bridgend House, where there were offices, warehouses, a wharf, a coal yard and a large and well-stocked timber yard and saw-mill across the road into Monkton, on the fringe of The Commons.

In 1823, another fine new vessel was launched at the Hurlows' yard at Coneygar. This was the *Bridgend*, a 192 ton vessel usually described as a brig but more accurately a snow. The *Bridgend* was captained by Thomas Hurlow junior, George's oldest son and she was soon crossing the Atlantic for cargoes of timber, because this was when the Hurlows became involved in the Canada timber trade in a big way.

THE city of Quebec was the main exporting place for the timber cut down by lumber gangs in the great Canadian forests and floated downstream as enormous rafts. Ports in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were also involved in the trade, because Quebec was icebound for about five months of the year.

Records of ship arrivals in what is now Canada show the *Bridgend* calling at the Nova Scotia ports of Halifax and Pugwash in 1823, 1824 and 1826. Sometimes she returned with a cargo directly to Monkton or Pembroke quays; at other times she discharged her timber in other ports including Bristol.

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The Hurlow family of merchant traders

Also in 1823, the Hurlows acquired another snow brig the *Union*, 105 tons, built in Appledore in 1810. The *Union* was captained by Thomas' younger brother, George Hurlow junior.

She made two crossings to Nova Scotia in 1823, on one occasion returning to Pembroke from Pugwash and on the other returning to Liverpool Docks, both times laden with timber.

Two years later the Hurlow family built and launched another splendid ship of their own at Monkton – a brig of over 200 tons called the *George and Mary*, obviously after George Hurlow and his wife. The launch must have been a wonderful sight; apparently 'she glided into her native element in fine style, amidst the acclamations of the assembled hundreds, and a discharge of cannon'.

In July 1825, the *George and Mary* made her maiden voyage. She sailed from Milford Haven for Cork where she picked up ten emigrants, arriving safely at the Port of Quebec on September 2nd – not the quickest of crossings.

She cleared Quebec on October 2nd, arriving back in Cork in early November. The captain was George Hurlow junior, aged about 25, promoted from the *Union* to skipper the family's new flagship vessel.

In 1827 we find the *George and Mary* sailing from Liverpool to Rio de Janeiro, returning with a load of sugar, while in early 1828 she sailed from London to Oporto to pick up a cargo of oranges and corkboard, again with George Hurlow junior as captain.

And that, sadly, is the last record we have of George Hurlow junior, because on the return voyage from Oporto the captain's name was Phillips, What happened to young George remains a mystery. Cholera was rife on the continent at that time and perhaps he died out in Portugal and is buried in Oporto.

SOON afterwards the *George and Mary* was put up for sale. Presumably it was a matter of finance, because late the previous year, 1827, the Hurlows had suffered a major setback with the loss of the Monkton-built *Bridgend*.

During the course of that summer, the *Bridgend* had made two uneventful crossings of the Atlantic, returning from Pugwash in August and immediately setting off back to Canada for a third time where she picked up a cargo of timber for Llanelli. She left the Port of Quebec on October 10th, which was very late in the season, with Capt Thomas Hurlow in command.

Halfway across the Atlantic a storm blew up, she shipped a sea that carried away her wheel and tiller, and she became unmanageable and water-logged. The master and crew were obliged to get into the fore-top, where they subsisted for three days on little more than a slab of raw beef. They were eventually picked off by another vessel, with the exception of one boy, who was drowned.

It must have been a massive double blow to the Hurlows, but life went on. The shipyard remained in steady production and as ship-owners they still had the *Union*, the *Friends*, the *Pembroke* and the ever-reliable little sloop, *Mary*.

To this had been added two vessels built and launched by the Hurlows' yard in Pembroke – the *Hebe*, a sloop of 43 tons, and also a brig of 100 tons launched in April 1826 and called confusingly, the *Mary*. (The Hurlows had limited imagination when it came to names, whether children or ships).

George's youngest son William was now old enough to have command of his own ship, and in 1827 he took the new brig *Mary* to the Baltic, returning to Liverpool with 300 bales of flax.

IN 1828 the Hurlows commissioned a new 88ft brig to be built – again technically a snow.

Called the *Pembroke Castle*, she wasn't built at their own yard but at Lawrenny Ferry by James Bevan. At 236 tons she was the largest ship ever built in Lawrenny and the launch in March 1829 was watched by hundreds of spectators, ashore and in boats. Once again cannons were fired, and, as always on these occasions, the day ended with a function at Bridgend House where the great and the good danced until dawn.

Thomas Hurlow was given command of the new vessel, and she sailed for Quebec on May 13, 1829 carrying an assortment of goods for Pemberton Brothers, who were prominent merchants over in Canada.

The *Pembroke Castle* was also able to carry passengers and 22 Pembrokeshire people, all of them emigrants, made that crossing from Milford Haven to Canada, where she arrived at Quebec on June 19. The crossing took just over a month – not bad against the prevailing wind.

She returned to Pembroke in August with a cargo of assorted timber and on September 4 she sailed from Bristol to Nova Scotia, riding the November gales to return to Milford Haven in just 27 days. But when Thomas Hurlow arrived back in Pembroke he was greeted by some tragic news – his brother William had drowned at sea.

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By 1829, William had taken command of the schooner *Pembroke*. He'd become a specialist on the Baltic run, and in August that year he sailed from London to the Baltic to pick up a cargo of Russian timber from Memel, a port in what is now Lithuania.

On the return voyage in September, the *Pembroke* ran into a terrible storm in the North Sea, and one of the crewmen was washed overboard, never to be seen again. And so, sadly, was the skipper, young William Hurlow.

The *Pembroke* limped back into Milford Haven with the first mate, named Beynon, in command. By 1832 she was back on the regular Pembroke to Pugwash run, under a couple of different skippers.

Meanwhile, a new 63 ton sloop built at the Hurlows' yard and launched shortly after William's death was christened *William* in his honour.

BY NOW, the *Union* was starting to show her age, so it was the flagship of the Hurlow fleet, the Lawrenny-built *Pembroke Castle*, which was bearing the burden of the timber trade, crossing the Atlantic two or three times a year for nearly 20 years.

However, it wasn't just across the Atlantic that the Hurlows traded in the *Pembroke Castle*. In 1831 she was one of two ships from Milford Haven in Sierra Leone, possibly loading up with teak and mahogany. And a couple of years later we find her returning from St Petersburgh, loaded with Russian timber.

By this time her skipper was no longer Thomas Hurlow, it was a master mariner from Milford called William Stansbury, He took command in 1830 and was to remain master of the *Pembroke Castle* for about 14 years.

Thomas Hurlow seems to have swallowed the anchor and retired from the sea to help his father run the business from Bridgend House because, by the early 1830s, old George Hurlow was beginning to take a back seat..

The year 1833 began in promising fashion for the Hurlows, with the *Pembroke Castle* sailing to distant ports; the sloop *Mary* arriving in Gloucester Docks with barrels of oats; the *Union*, the *Pembroke*, the *Hebe* and the *William* all flying the Hurlow flag around the coast.

But in March 1833, disaster befell the schooner *Pembroke* – the vessel from which young William Hurlow was lost in a North Sea gale. John Griffiths had become the master, and he was skipper when the schooner, laden with culm, was on a passage from Milford to Dundalk in Ireland.



Two of the Hurlows' ships can be seen in front of Bridgend House and quay in this early print.

A terrific gale blew up and she dropped anchor in Dundalk Bay, under instructions from a harbour pilot who was on board. But the anchors failed to hold and the *Pembroke* was driven on shore and dashed to pieces.

A small skiff, manned by four fishermen, put off, and managed to save the life of the master. However the pilot and five crewmen were drowned before the boat reached them.

If this wasn't bad enough, a couple of months later the *William* was wrecked near Strumble Head. On this occasion, the crew was saved.

None of these setbacks can have improved the health of George Hurlow senior, and in November 1833 he died at the age of 69. He was buried in Monkton churchyard, as was his wife Mary many years later; she lived to be 93.

THOMAS Hurlow was now in sole charge of the business. Apart from his uncle Stephen, still farming at Castleton, he was the last of the Hurlow line.

In 1839, Thomas Hurlow decided to pension off the old *Mary* of 1802, replacing her with a fine schooner of 146 tons, rated A1 at Lloyds, and built at the yard on Monkton shore. Yet another *Mary*, she was probably the last vessel ever to be built at the Hurlows' shipyard in Monkton.

Meanwhile the *Pembroke Castle* remained the main breadwinner of the fleet well into the 1840s, shuttling back and forward across the north Atlantic with emigrants and timber..

Continued

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The Hurlow family of merchant traders

Sadly the long and profitable career of the Lawrenny-built *Pembroke Castle* came to an end in 1847. Ironically, for a ship that had voyaged to distant ports from St Petersburg to Sierra Leone, she came to grief on a mundane voyage from Cardiff to Limerick with a cargo of iron.

Captain Thomas Williams was the master. It was two days before Christmas and the brig was rounding the Skelligs, a cluster of islands of the south west tip of Ireland, when she ran into a severe gale with huge waves and violent gusts.

Both topmasts came crashing down on the deck and the bowsprit was swept away, leaving the *Pembroke Castle* at the mercy of the weather. And of course she didn't have timber on board this time, she carried iron, which meant that she was in imminent danger of sinking.

Fortunately there were several ships in the area and, when the seas had abated a little, Capt Williams and his crew were all taken off safely.

IT SEEMS that Captain Thomas Hurlow didn't replace the *Pembroke Castle*. However, trade directories of the 1850s still describe him as a timber merchant and ship owner, and he was still trading with the schooner *Mary* and the *Union* throughout the 1850s. The old *Union*, dating from 1810, was by now increasingly confined to coasting duties, often turning up at Gloucester Docks with a load of wheat or corn.

But if the *Union* stayed fairly close to home, the *Mary* ventured much further afield, the Monkton-built schooner cropping up in New York in 1850 and also in Galatz, a port on the Black Sea in Romania.

Away from the sea and ships, it seems that Thomas, like his father, was a man of many parts. As well as being a timber and general merchant at Bridgend, he became a pillar of society as a council Alderman and a churchwarden at Monkton Priory.

BY THE 1860s, Thomas Hurlow was ready to retire. In 1861 the *Mary* was sold to a merchant and ship-owner from Waterford.

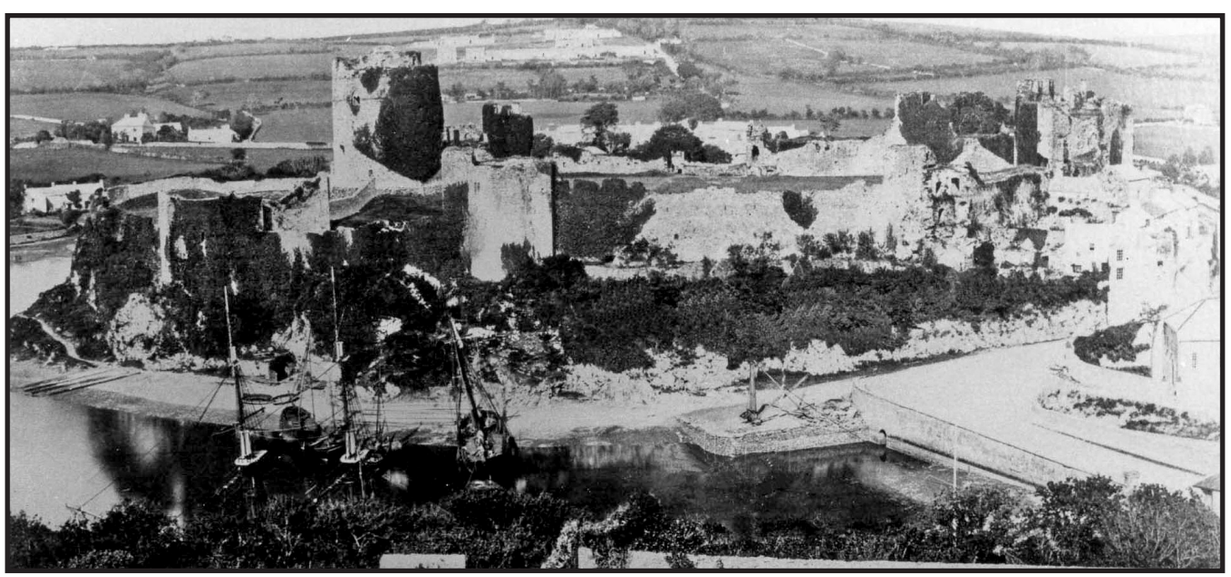
And in 1862 an advert appeared: *For sale, Brig Union of Milford with all her sails anchors and tackle. Apply Thomas Hurlow, merchant, Pembroke.*

It is not known who bought the vessel, but they didn't have much joy out of her because she foundered in a gale off Tenby in 1864.

Thomas Hurlow died unmarried in 1867. One of his brothers, William had drowned long before and the other brother, George, had apparently died in Portugal. None of the brothers seems to have had any children.

So with no-one left to carry on the family business, it was left to Thomas Hurlow's sister Elizabeth Scale and nephew George Hurlow Scale to dispose of the property.

It was the end of a brief but colourful maritime chapter in the history of Monkton, when ocean-going sailing ships were a familiar sight tying up at the quay below the Priory or being launched in splendid style at the Coneygar shipyard.



A sloop on the opposite shore and the topmasts of the brig Union at Bridgend quay can be seen in this photo from the early 1860s.

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The jinxed voyage

AMONG the many fine sailing vessels built in the Hurlows' yard at Coneygar was the brig *Russell* of 191 tons which was launched in 1825.

The *Russell* was built for a silk mercer and draper by the name of John W Russell who had inherited a thriving business in Pembroke Main Street from his father.

He decided to diversify into the timber trade and the *Russell* was soon importing timber from across the north Atlantic where the vast virgin forests of what is now Canada had a seemingly endless supply of this vital raw material,

To make these voyages more cost effective, the *Russell* would make the westward crossing carrying general goods plus a few dozen emigrants, most of them travelling steerage.

The *Russell* usually sailed from Bristol or Liverpool directly to New York with emigrants before stopping off to pick up a load of Canadian timber on the way back to Milford Haven.

One such passage began in Bristol on August 14th, 1831 with a mixed cargo and 40 emigrants on board. The *Russell* was bound for New York, the captain was a West Country man named William Perriam, and all seemed well as she was towed by skiff down the Avon Gorge and out into the Bristol Channel.

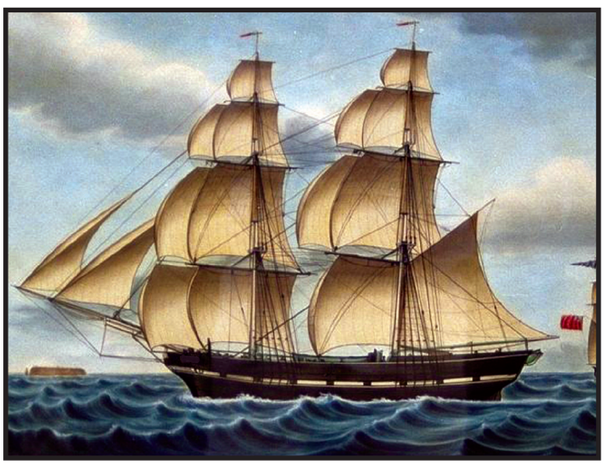
The first problem came when the ship was off southern Ireland and sprang a leak, returning to Falmouth for repairs. Duly patched up, the *Russell* set off again a couple of weeks later, but now found herself facing constant headwinds.

For five weeks the *Russell* battled against the elements, beating into the wind, and she was barely 650 miles west of Ireland and low on food when the decision was made to turn back.

On October 22nd, 1831 the *Russell* arrived in Milford Haven and continued up the Pembroke River to tie up at Pembroke Quay, The crew and passengers were in a state of near starvation by this stage, but the people of Pembroke came to their rescue and a fund was set up to purchase provisions. This raised over £50 which fed the ship's company until Mr Russell could be persuaded that it was his duty to supply the vessel with fresh provisions.

Fully stocked and apparently in good repair, the *Russell* set sail yet again on December 1st – only to turn round after a week or so of being battered by gales in the Irish Sea. Once more she limped back into Milford Haven.

Worse was to come. As the *Russell* headed up to Pembroke she ran aground on the mud-banks of the Pembroke River and keeled over.



A brig similar to the 'Russell'.

She was eventually refloated and spent January and February 1832 being repaired at the Hurlows' yard on Monkton shore. She set sail for the fourth time on March 25th, 1832 and this time made it across the Atlantic, finally arriving in New York on May 22nd, 1832, more than nine months after leaving Bristol.

WHEN the *Russell* returned to Britain, she was immediately sold by John W Russell. Having inherited several properties and a thriving drapery business from his father, he seems to have pretty much squandered his inheritance by diversifying into other fields for which he wasn't qualified.

Having given up the drapery business to become a shipowner and timber merchant, with limited success, Russell switched career again in the late 1830s to become a farmer, and the 1841 census found him farming at Oxlands near Maidenwells.

However, by the summer of 1844 he was so far behind with his rent to the Orielton estate that his furniture was seized and sold at auction.

By 1846 Russell had been evicted and was living in a terraced house in Monkton Lane with his wife Elizabeth and five children and was so destitute that he was in receipt of seven shillings a week parish relief.

In 1851 John W Russell was recorded on the census as 'pauper, formerly ship-owner and merchant'. He died three years later aged 67 and was buried in Monkton.

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Monkton farms and farmers

IN THE first few years following the Norman conquest, the establishment of isolated farmsteads in the untamed south Pembrokeshire countryside wasn't a good idea on safety grounds.

However, as historian Brian Howells has written: 'Soon after the need for collective security had passed, the first farmsteads held in severalty were established, These consisted of compact areas of land held in return for military service – the nucleii of many considerable freehold farms of the Tudor period.

'In Monkton parish there were four such tenements – Castleton, Moreston, Orielton and Yerbeston.

'Farmsteads of this sort were often found tucked away near the boundaries of parishes, some distance away from the main settlement centre; they were carved out of undeveloped land beyond the township fields'.



Ploughing at Orange Hall Farm.

IN MONKTON itself, a farmstead developed based on the old Priory buildings, its farmland chiefly comprising the former monastic demesne between the village road and the river. What may have been the Prior's house became the farmhouse and, over the years, various monastic buildings were converted to agricultural use.

South of what is now the Angle Road was mainly pastureland – strip-fields in monastic times but later meadows leased out by the owner of Monkton manor to a variety of people, mainly Pembroke merchants needing land for grazing or for growing root crops.

Some of these parcels of land or 'tenements' eventually acquired the name of the leaseholder, such as Poyer's Land, Gwyther's Land, Fletcher's Close, Butler's Park and Cook's Land.

Apart from Priory itself, there was no actual farmhouse in Monkton until Orange Hall was established in the 1830s, Consequently local grazier William Blethyn lived in a village cottage while renting three meadows and two pastures alongside Watery Lane.

(He also had the right to graze the churchyard, which was the recognised way of keeping the grass mown).

But if there was only Priory Farm in Monkton itself, the village was surrounded by a ring of historic farmsteads, some dating back to the 1600s. These included Barn House, Lower Fleet, Quoit's Hill and Bowett; their history is told overleaf.

Many men and women from Monkton worked on the land, if only on a seasonal basis. Although the new terraces of Priory Mains were built for Dockyard artisans, they were were more often than not occupied by farmworkers, at least in the 1840s and 1850s.

At the time of the 1841 census there were no fewer than 80 men living in Monkton village who were described as 'Ag Labs' – agricultural labourers.

This number fell steadily over the next 50 or 60 years, but agriculture remained important to the local economy for many years, not least because Monkton was the regular venue of street livestock fairs and fatstock shows.

To service the industry there were corn and feed merchants in the village,as well as slaughtermen and farriers, a corn mill and a pound for straying cattle.

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Milk production was an important aspect of the industry; Priory Farm and Orange Hall Farm were notable dairy producers with their own milk floats, while in 1901 Mary Lewis and Sarah Gwynne were both listed as 'cow-keepers' of Priory Mains.

Sarah Gwynne was described as 'milk vendor' in 1911, and other milk sellers included Thomas Henry Rogers of Willowsbrook House and Fred Roblin. Poplars was the Crofts' small farm and there were a couple of other smallholdings near the bottom of Priory Mains up until the redevelopment of the area in the early 1960s.



The Jenkins of Priory milk float being worked on at the Pembroke Quay coachworks.

WILLIAM and Martha Nicholas of Long Mains started one such smallholding in 1913 with about 14 acres on which they fattened pigs and kept half-a-dozen dairy cows.

William and his son Billy were both employed in the Dockyard, and the little farm provided a vital source of income for the family when the Yard closed in 1926. Recalled Billy:

As well as land at Long Mains, we had a field up near Hundleton which we had bought from the Orielton estate. We always took the cows up to this field in September or October, after the hay had been cut and the field had a good covering of grass on it.

It was my job, with my motorbike and sidecar, to take Mother and the two large milk churns up to the field every day, morning and evening, to milk the cows.

We sold milk in bulk to two local milk vendors and the spare to anyone else; about ten or twelve people had their milk every day with us. Any extra milk – and five cows gave quite a quantity every day – mother used to make butter and cheese for ourselves, and it was delicious.

Haymaking was quite an occasion at our place. We always had Mr Colley's men – a local contractor – to cut the hay and lead it into our field at the back of our house where a rick would be made. Colley had all the kit to do this work – horses, waggon, mowing machine, raking machine and the necessary men.



The Orange Hall milk float.

When 'all was safely gathered in' Mother would cook dinner for all the workmen, surely a dozen, and they would all have dinner in our kitchen in Long Mains, with good helpings of cooked ham and home-brewed beer etc.

THE following is a history of the farms in and around Monkton. As will be seen, they rarely followed the neat model of a farmer living in a farmhouse surrounded by his land; in many cases the person who leased the land from one of the big estates and farmed it actually lived elsewhere and the farmhouse was either empty or sublet.

Sometimes farms were combined for a period, making the picture even more complex.

Continued

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Monkton farms and farmers

Barn House

'BARNE House', just off Norgan's Hill, was recorded in 1662. It appears to have been divided into several 'tenements'; in 1794 Pearce Llewhellin and Joshua Allen both leased parts of Barn House from John Campbell of Stackpole, as did John Leach, George Williams and Margaret Allen in 1820.

Whitesmith George Blethyn lived at Barn House from 1817 to 1821, while the freehold had been acquired by the Orielton estate by the 1830s. Thomas Williams farmed 27 acres at Barn House, Norgan's Hill from 1841 until his death in 1856,

By 1871 Barn House cottages were in ruins and the land seems to have been added to other holdings; in 1880 William Thomas leased Orange Hall and Barn House.



Creeper-covered Bowett Farm. During WWII it was requisitioned as a residence for a Col. Skinner, with the family forced to live in an annexe.

Bowett (Bowood, Boughwood)

BOWOOD Farm was recorded in 1660 as part of the Priory estate owned by Viscount Hereford. At that time it was the home of Captain Francis Meyrick, a retired military man turned gentleman farmer

He wrote to Viscount Hereford pointing out that the short length of his lease gave him 'no encouragement either to manure, hedge or build' and complaining that Bowood was 'a bare, open place' with 'neither succour for young cattle or sheep'.

He asked for a longer lease, but apparently without success, because by 1662 William Holcombe of Brownslate held the lease to 'a farm called Bowood Farm and a wood called Quaytes Wood'. However the property was subsequently reoccupied by the Meyricks, because John Meyrick of Bowett was Mayor of Pembroke in 1699.

By 1790 Bowett was being leased to William Thomas and from 1793 to 1797 it was leased to John Garbutt, both of whom also farmed Priory. Along with the rest of the Priory manor, Bowett was acquired by the Owens of Orielton in 1810.

From 1841 to 1844 Bowett was farmed by Thomas Griffiths who held a lease for lives on the farm which by then spanned the 'upper road' from Monkton to Hundleton, with the farmhouse to the south and Bowett Cottages – the original farm – to the north of the road.

In 1848 Thomas Jones, a farmer from Linney, Castlemartin, took out a lease on Bowett for the lives of himself and his wife Martha and their son Thomas. It was for 110 acres at £124.10s per annum.

Thomas Jones never lived at Bowett Farm, however, because as well as being a farmer, he was a miller, corn-dealer and innkeeper, running the mill on Pembroke Mill Bridge for over 20 years and also keeping the Royal George pub. Consequently Bowett was unoccupied at the time of the census count in 1861 and 1871.

Thomas Jones (senior) died in December 1871 at Mill House, Pembroke, being succeeded in business by his son, also Thomas. Like his father, Thomas (junior) continued to live in Pembroke while also farming Bowett.

That Bowett was a well-stocked mixed farm is evident from a reduction sale which took place in 1879 which included 15 fat heifers, six fat steers, 48 fat ewes, 71 fat lambs 'in splendid condition', one Cotswold ram, 12 pork pigs, 11 store pigs and 'two very handsome fillies by Brigand, great bone and power and very promising for hunters'.

Thomas Jones and his family had to abandon Pembroke Mill House in 1885 following a fire which destroyed much of the mill premises, so they moved into Bowett

By 1898 Thomas was advertising for a man to operate a milk round, and he was still living at Bowett in 1911, being described as a 75-year-old farmer. He died at Bowett two years later.

Joseph William Morris was a farmer's son, born at Brownslate in 1902. He lived and farmed at Bowett from 1923 until 1978, being succeeded by his son Mr W W (Bill) Morris, a stalwart of South Pembs YFC and later Pembroke Farmers' Club.

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Fields Farm

FIELDS Farm was a smallholding near Taylor's Lake owned by the Harcourt Powell estate. William Jenkins from Stackpole was the farmer from 1851 to 1881, farming 12 acres in 1851 but 56 acres by 1881. William's widow Mary was living there in 1891, while it was let to James Rees of the Lion Hotel in 1909.

Rees was still there in 1918 when Fields Farm was sold by the Harcourt Powell estate to Thomas Arthur Powell of School Terrace, a cabinet maker who ran Lakefield Joinery. It was described at this time as 'a compact holding with suitable dwelling house, dairy, cowhouse, cart shed and pigs cots'.



Fleet Farm. Photo courtesy of Liz Halsted.

Fleet (Lower Fleet)

LOWER Fleet or Flitt was owned by John Meyrick in 1790 and leased to William Thomas. In 1820 William Powell was tenant of both Upper Fleet (Quoit's Hill) and Lower Fleet.

From 1844 to 1851 Henry Parker from Norfolk held a lease for lives on Fleet and was farming 114 acres. Pembroke merchant Daniel Sherwin Thomas held the lease from 1844 to 1862; the farmhouse was unoccupied at this time since he chose to live in town,

Next to live there was George Dawkins from Narberth who farmed 60 acres at Fleet in the 1870s. Rees Beynon, a former blacksmith from St Twynnell's, then leased Fleet and its 60 acres from about 1880 to 1891when he decamped to Merthyr Tydfil to work in a steel mill.

A former ploughman named George Phelps was farming Fleet from 1901 to 1911, supplementing his income by working as a Dockyard labourer. He died in 1911 and the farm was taken on by his son William. He and his wife Ada were still farming Fleet in 1938 when William died.

Ada carried on running the farm with the help of William's brother Thomas Phelps and his wife Sarah.

Margaret Phelps of Fleet Farm married Charles Catheral in 1941 but he was killed in action later that year and she returned to the family farm.

Ada eventually passed away in 1964 and is buried with her husband in Monkton Cemetery.

The farm was then run until at least 1974 by Ronald Phelps with the help of his sister Margaret Catherall.

Ronald was a great character, known to all as 'Bumpy'. He rode his own racehorse called 'Flit' in hs younger days; following retirement he lived at Fleet Cottage.

This historic farmstead is currently known as 'Greysilk Farm'.

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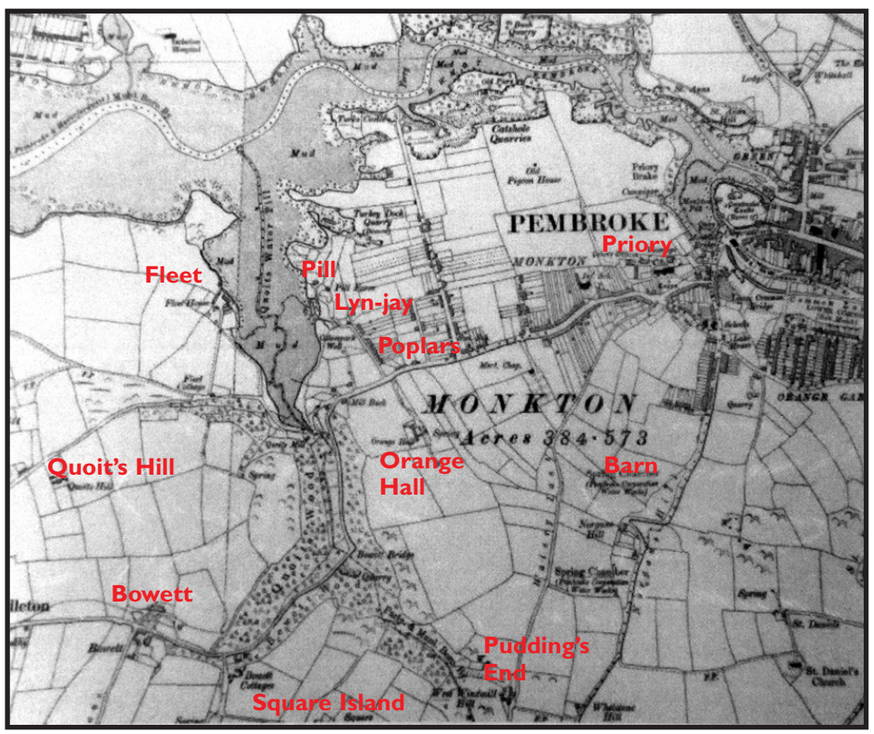

Map showing the distribution of farms around Monkton

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Monkton farms and farmers

Lyn-Jay Farm



Lyn-Jay farm, India Row. Photo courtesy of Lyn Smith.

LESLIE and Sheila Smith moved to 14 India Row in 1954; Sheila's maiden name was Hughes and she had previously lived at 47 Long Mains.

The property was at the bottom end of India Row and had a few fields attached which Les farmed as a smallholding.

Some of this land was lost when Monkton underwent redevelopment, so in 1964 Les began farming land at Square Island while still living at India Row,

He also opened a small caravan site in a field at India Row which is still thriving.

Les was joined in the enterprise by his son Lyn, and they increased their holding to include land at Sunny Bank, Hundleton which was previously owned by Grenville and Margot Barrett (née Reynolds). The Reynolds family ran a butcher's shop in Monkton.

The farm at 14 India Row is still going strong and is named 'Lyn-Jay Farm' after Lyn and his sister Jayne.

Orange Hall

A WILLIAM Welch of Pembroke married Joanne Llewhellin in St Mary's in 1726. He appears to have leased some land in Monkton which later became known as 'Welsh's Land'.

In 1821 Bosher's Park and Welsh's Land were held by Alexander Thomas of Priory; both tenements were being farmed by a widow named Mrs Elizabeth Phelps in 1827. (Her brother was John Thomas of Bangeston, Angle).

Mrs Phelps' 1834 will contains the first named reference to Orange Hall Farm, suggesting that the farmhouse was built around 1832, when the housing estate of Priory Mains was being developed. (The name may refer to the colour of the favours adopted by the landowning Owens of Orielton at election time).

According to William Miller, a local farmer, speaking in 1848: 'I know the land called Welsh's Land. To the best of my belief it is the same as that now called Orange Hall'.

Thomas Thomas farmed Orange Hall in the 1840s, the farmland including included fields known as East Well Hill, West Well Hill, Brothers Park and Furzy Park.

From 1851 to 1888 Haverfordwest-born William Thomas, auctioneer and farmer, made his home at Orange Hall. When he died in 1888, he was described as 'one of the best-known men in the county'. Twice mayor of the Borough, he had been a member of the Pembroke (Castlemartin) Yeomanry Cavalry for 50 years, and had seen active service at Tavernspite toll gate and elsewhere during the Rebecca Riots.

From 1891 to 1901 Orange Hall was farmed by Martha Elizabeth Thomas, daughter of William. However by 1911 she was licensee of the Royal George on Pembroke Quay and the farm was in new hands.

Robert George Ferrier was born at Coachland, Carew in 1879 and married Mary Ann Griffiths (Pollie) of Bubbleton Farm, Penally in 1906 when they moved into Orange Hall. In 1917 it was recorded that he was farming 62 acres, of which nine were under the plough.

Mayor of Pembroke in 1933, Robert George Ferrier died in 1939. Robert's son John Ferrier and his wife Winnie took over and they ran the farm until 1975.

In that year their son Robert Ferrier and his wife Daphne took over Orange Hall, having previously farmed for a few years at West Windmill Hill.

They became renowned for breeding pedigree Hereford cattle at Orange Hall and Daphne was secretary for many years of Dyfed Hereford Breeders Club. Robert passed away in 1988 and Daphne in 2006.

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Pill Farm/ Shore House

PILL Farm was an agricultural enterprise centred on a cottage right at the bottom of India Row, opposite Fleet Farm.

Known variously as 'Pill Cottage' and 'Shore House', the property was the long-time home of the Morgan family of mariners and labourers.

Isaac Morgan was the son of mariner and innkeeper George Morgan. For most of his working life he was a labourer in the Dockyard, but by 1911 he had become a farmer. The census shows him farming 'Pill Farm' with the help of his sisters Mary and Jeanette.

How long the farm lasted isn't known, but the property had reverted to the name Shore House by 1949 when William and Enid Morgan were living there. She was a dressmaker, but they also kept a few cattle.

Apart from the fields at the shore, the Morgans also owned fields opposire Long Mains, around Haven View. The cows often grazed these fields by day but were driven home to be milked.

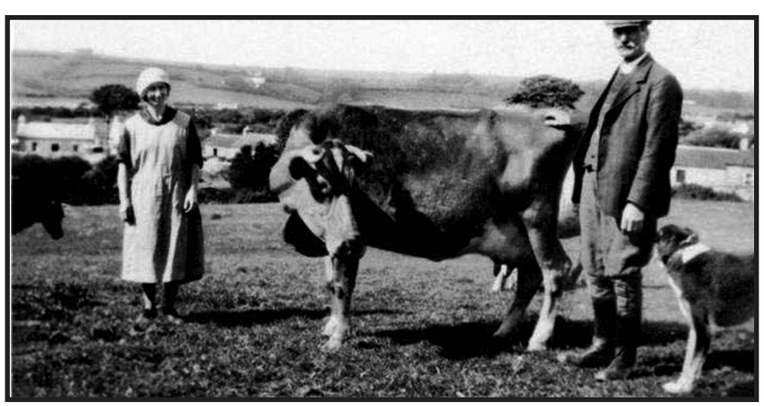
Poplars

THIS DAIRY smallholding near Mill Backs was run by Charlie Croft and family who later lived at 47 Monkton.

Griff and Mary Howells and family took over in the 1940s. They had a field adjoining India Row and fields at Long Mains, all of which have since been developed.

They had a milkstand on the side of the road which was shared by Orange Hall and Fleet Farm. Milk churns were placed on it every morning to be collected by United Dairies of Whitland, with the same number of empty churns being left for the next batch.

Griff had a full-time job as a rabbit-catcher, so Mary milked the cows and saw to the daily running of the farm until her retirement.



Charlie and Annie Croft at Poplars. Phoyo courtesy of Roger Thomas.

Priory Farm

THE EARLY history of Priory Farm is closely tied up with that of Monkton Manor and is dealt with in that chapter. By 1790 the farm was well established, being owned by Viscount Hereford and leased to William Thomas.

John Garbutt held the Priory on a lease from Lord Hereford from 1793 to 1801. He was also a cattle dealer and on one occasion was robbed of over £200 when returning from Templeton Fair.

Stopping for a few drinks on the way home proved his undoing, because he fell off his horse near Milton and was robbed of his gold as he lay comatose in the ditch. £200 was a big sum – half a year's rent for the farm according to Richard Fenton.

By the 1820s Alexander Thomas was living at Priory and also renting much of the old Priory estate from the Orielton estate, which had acquired Monkton Manor.

For a number of years he was the contractor supplying teams of two horses to the Dockyard and he also held the rights to collect the dues at Monkton fairs.

Alexander Thomas died in 1828 and the Priory farm passed to his daughter Martha and her husband George Griffiths who had previously farmed at Mellaston.

George was a keen rider to hounds and he was still farming at Priory in 1841 although he was a widower by this time. Martha having died in 1839. He had quit Priory and become a coal and potato merchant in Pembroke by 1851.

Charles Perry, market gardener, occupied 'a small farm called Priory' but gave it up in March 1849. It was taken on by Richard Harries, a mason from Redberth, who rented it from the Orielton estate for a couple of years..

A Monkton-born builder and contractor, named George Thomas took over Priory Farm in the 1860s and he was farming 70 acres and employing two farm labourers by 1881.

Fatstock shows were held at Priory in the 1860s in conjunction with the street livestock fair, and Pembroke Farmers' Club Show was held at Priory for several years, the sheep and cattle being shown in a paddock to the north of the church while the horses were in the stock-yard to the east of the farmhouse. The Farmers' Club sheep-shearing competitions were also held in the paddock.

Continued

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Monkton farms and farmers

George Thomas received a silver tea and coffee service in 1870 from 'the members of the Pembroke Fat Cattle and Farmers' Clubs' for allowing them to hold their annual show at the Priory.

Unfortunately George Thomas was declared bankrupt in 1882 and by the following year the farm was being rented by Thomas Griffiths. A native of Carew, where he was brought up at the French Mill,

Thomas Griffiths had previously been a farmer and miller at Kingsmill, near Castlemartin, and was a staunch member of Pembroke Farmers' Club.



Many Monkton residents went potato-picking or 'spud-bashing' in the early summer.

In 1886, while building some pigsties in the old hayguard adjoining Priory Farm, Thomas Griffiths and his workmen unearthed a barrel-roofed stone vault and a vast quantity of oyster shells, both relics of Monkton's monastic past.

By 1895, Thomas Griffiths had left the farm and had become a flour merchant at Barnard House, Pembroke.

Priory was taken over by his son Thomas John Griffiths, described in the early 1900s as as a corn merchant and farmer at Priory Farm and supplier of beef to the workhouse.

T J Griffiths remained at Priory until 1910. In March of that year the following notice appeared in the local press: *To Let Priory Farm, Monkton, with immediate possession, 52 acres or thereabouts. Apply J P Maitland, clerk to the Bush Estate.*

The advert was answered by George Henry Jenkins, whose family still live at Priory Farm. Born in 1878, George was a son of a haulier and contractor from St Daniel's Hill, also called George Jenkins.

Young George joined his father in the family haulage business. In 1907 he married Venetia Lloyd from Oxlands Farm and when his father died the following year he took over the haulage business and moved to Priory a couple of years later.

Over the course of the next five decades, George Jenkins built up a successful business as a haulier and farmer, while also becoming one of the great characters of the town, A notable sportsman who bred and owned racehorses and greyhounds, he was also a hard-working local councillor who was Mayor of Pembroke in 1943.

Notwithstanding this fine record of civic service, George was often in trouble with the authorities. He was regularly on the receiving end of summonses for petty misdemeanours such as allowing horses to stray, failing to fill in his milk returns on time or 'failing to immobilise a motor-car left overnight',

In January 1944 he was charged with allowing 21 cattle to stray on the highway. When the case came to court he was sitting on the Bench in his capacity as Mayor and he was obliged to step down briefly while his fellow magistrates fined him 10s 6d.

Despite these brushes with the law, as he pointed out in 1948: 'I was never guilty of any serious offence'.

George Jenkins, whose farming enterprise had spread to include pasture at Square Island and elsewhere, died in August 1957 and the farm and its ancillary businesses passed to his son Ernie.

Pudding's End (West Windmill Hill)

IN JANUARY 1813 the death was recorded of 86-year-old Thomas Morse of Pudding's End. William Miller took over and farmed there until his death in 1861.

John Watkins farmed 44 acres at Pudding's End (near Taylor's Lakre and later called West Windmill Hill) from 1871 until his death in 1914.

He was succeeded by his Penally-born nephew William John Watkins who was still farming there until at least 1955, helped by his son John Frederick Watkins.

John F Watkins was farming in his own right by 1965, while Robert G Ferrier and Daphne Ferrier were at West Windmill Hill from 1970 to 1975.

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Quoit's Hill (Fleet Hill)

THIS historic farm was on the south side of the Mill Backs road to Hundleton, just before the turning down to Bentlass. According to Michael McGarvie in *The Meyricks of Bush,* the property was originally known as Fleet Hill and was the home of Sir Francis Meyrick in about 1600.

The Meyricks leased much of the Priory estate from the Viscounts Hereford up until about 1660 when their lease was terminated. Fleet Hill was one of the few properties they continued to occupy in Monkton parish, eventually obtaining the freehold.

From 1790 to 1797 John Bedford was leasing Upper Fleet from John Meyrick, while in 1820 William Powell was the tenant of both Upper Fleet and Lower Fleet.

In 1836 Thomas Jenkins of Square Island took out a lease from Thomas Meyrick for Quoit's Hill and 55 acres for a rent of £40 a year, he still held a lease for lives in 1844.

Thomas Jenkins is best remembered in Pembroke for producing a dynasty of innkeepers at the York Tavern, notably his son William 'Billy the York' Jenkins and Billy's daughter the long-serving Maude Jenkins.

In 1851Quoit's Hill was home to three farm labourers and their families, the land being farmed with Fleet. It was restored to a holding in its own right in the 1850s and Henry Hitchings from Little Haven farmed Quoit's Hill (50 acres) from about 1861 until his death in 1897.

He was followed by his son Joseph Hitchings who farmed Quoit's Hill for many years, with the help of his sons Thomas and William and an adopted daughter Eliza Annie who ran the dairy.

Joseph died in 1937, but Thomas and William were still there in 1947.

By the 1960s the original farmhouse was empty and derelict. It was demolished and a new farmhouse built nearby by the present owner, Mr Richard Morris.

Square Island

A smallholding between Bowett and Taylor's Lake, Square Island was mentioned as 'The Island' in 1592, according to B G Charles.

In 1790 Lettice Morse leased Square Island from the Orielton estate and Thomas Morse held the lease in 1794.

Two legal documents dated 1806 and 1812, both mention 'Thomas Morse of Square Island, yeoman, and Mary Lawless of the same place, spinster'.

In the early 1830s Square Island was leased from the Orielton estate by Thomas Jenkins. A son of John Jenkins of East Orielton, Thomas moved to Square Island in 1831 following his marriage to Sarah Herbert. Six years later he moved to Quoits Hill,

From about 1839 to 1847 Square Island was the home of Captain John Bacon Harrison, a Commander in the East India Company's Navy, his wife Ellen and family. By 1849 the family had moved to County Cork.

By 1861 William Cole, a joiner from Walton East, and his wife Lettice were farming 43 acres at Square Island. He died in 1869 and between then and 1881 Rees Lewis from Orielton Mountain farmed the holding with the help of son Thomas, increasing his land to 70 acres.

Thomas had taken over by 1885 – his wife Frances was a daughter of John Stephens of the Apple Tree – but by 1901 they were living in London and Thomas was working for the LCC.

John Griffiths Lloyd, formerly of Oxlands, then farmed Square Island. His daughter Venetia had married George Jenkins of Priory and when John Lloyd died in 1924 he left Square Island to his grandchildren Ernest and William Jenkins. It was then farmed with Priory for a number of years, the house being let.

The freehold was for sale in 1952 when the property was described as a 'valuable TT attested agricultural holding comprising substantial dwelling house, also bungalow and farmery and 41 acres of fertile early production land'.

From 1955 to 1960 Francis and Josephine Kiln occupied Square Island farmhouse, while Mike Blinkhorn and family were there by the 1970s.

The land and the house had become separated by this time, and the Square Island land has been farmed since 1964 by Les Smith of India Row and his son Lyn.



Square Island Farm. Photo courtesy of Lyn Smith.

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The development of Monkton village

AS EARLY maps of Pembroke town indicate, the neighbouring 'ville' of Monkton was originally a sparse development with just a few buildings huddled between the 'Southbrigge' (Monkton Bridge) and the Priory precinct.

This area – Bridgend, Awkward Hill and Church Terrace – remained the focus of the early village, containing a cluster of modest dwellings as well as more notable properties such as the Old Hall and Prospect House, both of which still survive.

There were also a few cottages around what is now the Old Conduit, but most of the surrounding area remained pasture land until well into the 18th century, with just a scattering of outlying properties such as Barn House, Fleet, Quoit's Mill and a few shoreline cottages.

The town of Pembroke prospered in the 18th century, becoming 'the largest, richest and most flourishing town of all south Wales' according to Daniel Defoe. Much of this prosperity was due to the town's increasing importance as a port, which saw wealthy merchants settling in the town and building fine houses in Main Street.

For the first time, Pembroke began to spread outside its ancient walls and Monkton seems to have presented itself as an ideal development opportunity for local speculators.

Back Lane was recorded in the Orielton papers in about 1750 and houses with lengthy gardens began to be erected along this lane, on both sides of the junction with Watery Lane.

We know that two dwelling houses and gardens in the village of Monkton were held under leases granted in 1784 for the life of Nathaniel Phillips, a local banker. These were let to Joseph Price, tailor, and Elizabeth Barnes. Another house and fields in Monkton were let to John Vaughan.

In 1793 James Lloyd took out a lease from John Francis Meyrick on a plot of land in Monkton, previously the site of a house. The plot was 'next to land held by Evan Davies to the east and William Harries to the west' and the rent was £2.2s a year.

Lloyd built five houses on the plot and seems to have lived in one with his wife Jane until his death in 1837, sub-letting the others. Where these houses were built is difficult to say, but they seem to have been in the area of Back Lane/Church Terrace.

Certainly Monkton must have been a thriving little community by the 1780s with a number of tradesmen located there – mainly tailors, shoe-makers and carpenters – as well as boasting a couple of ale-houses which would have done a roaring trade on Monkton Fair days.



Bridgend, Awkward Hill and Church Terrace were the heart of the early village.

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A bit of old Monkton – The Old Hall and the top of Awkward Hill, pictured in about 1890.

SLOWLY the village crept further westwards, most of the development taking place along the south side of what is now the Angle Road.

The pace of development began to increase after 1810 when the Monkton Priory estate changed hands for the first time in several centuries, being purchased by John Owen of Orielton, later Sir John. In the late 1820s. as a means of recouping some of his outlay, he undertook the development the western part of the old Priory farm lands, north of Monkton Lane, leasing plots to house-builders and speculators.

He had little trouble finding takers for these plots, since the creation of Pembroke Dockyard in 1814 and its subsequent rapid growth meant a demand for housing in the area, both for shipyard workers and for the masons, joiners and labourers building the new town of Pembroke Dock.

Most of the land closest to the Naval Dockyard was owned by the Government which leased building plots for a set term of years. The land surrounding this was owned by the Bush estate which offered plots either for a term of 60 years or for a number of lives – the latter being much more favourable.

The Owen estate, meanwhile, owned Lower Pennar, Bufferland and Monkton, and offered plots with leases for three lives to encourage house-building.

According to local historian John Hogg:

The leases of most of the houses in Long Mains, Short Mains, Cross Mains, Priory Back Terrace and India Row dated from 1832 onwards and reflected the need for houses for Dockyard workers as the yard increased in size.

THE FIRST mention of 'Priory Mains' in the parish records occurred in 1832, the burial of a labourer named John Beynon. (The name 'Mains' is thought to derive from 'Mesne' – the demesne lands of the old priory).

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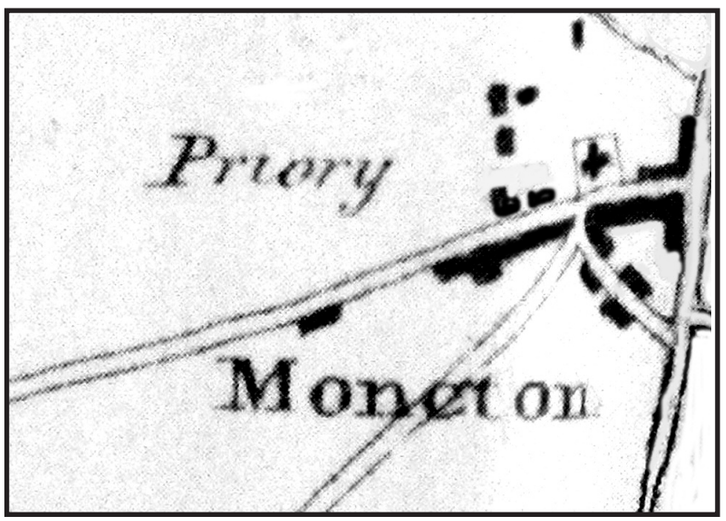

Monkton in about 1830 showing the village centred on the junction of Back Lane and Church Terrace.

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The development of Monkton village

The suburb grew quickly, so that there were about 65 houses and cottages in the Priory Mains area in the 1840s, mainly occupied by labourers. Many were from rural areas, and the homes they built were similar to the cottages of the Pembrokeshire countryside.

It took a while for the streets of this new development to acquire individual names. To begin with, all the new terraces came under the umbrella of Priory Mains and Priory Mains (west), or 'New Zealand' as it was often called as it was so far from civilisation (ie Monkton village itself).

Long Mains was once called Quarry Road, as it led to the quarries on the shore, but this name never caught on. The smaller streets became known as Short Mains, Cross Mains and India Row – the latter another transferred name indicating its remoteness,

Eventually there were some 50 properties built along Long Mains, with 13 in each of India Row and Short Mains and half a dozen in Cross Mains. Among those speculators responsible for building the new estate was Charles Perry, timber merchant of Pembroke who In 1836 built four houses in Priory Mains.



Mrs Mary Roblin outside her home in India Row in the 1930s. Born in 1864, Mrs Roblin had lived in India Row for many years; she was the widow of Dockyard employee William Roblin and had brought up a large family in the little cottage.

Priory Back Terrace formed the eastern edge of the new development. This cul-de-sac had eight or ten houses and there was also a scattering of houses built along Monkton Lane, including the nine houses of Priory Terrace .

Most occupiers of these new properties held a lease for lives on the house and garden – the electoral register for 1838 shows some 40 leaseholders occupying property in 'part of Priory' rather than the original 'Monkton village'.

These new Monktonians came from far and near to settle in the village, most drawn by the opportunities for work offered by the expanding town of Pembroke Dock. Many arrived from the Landshipping area where the coal industry was in sharp decline and where the landowner was also the Orielton estate, no doubt making it easier to transfer leases.



This photograph, dated 1916, shows William Hill and his wife Mary who lived at Orange Hall Gate in Monkton Lane.

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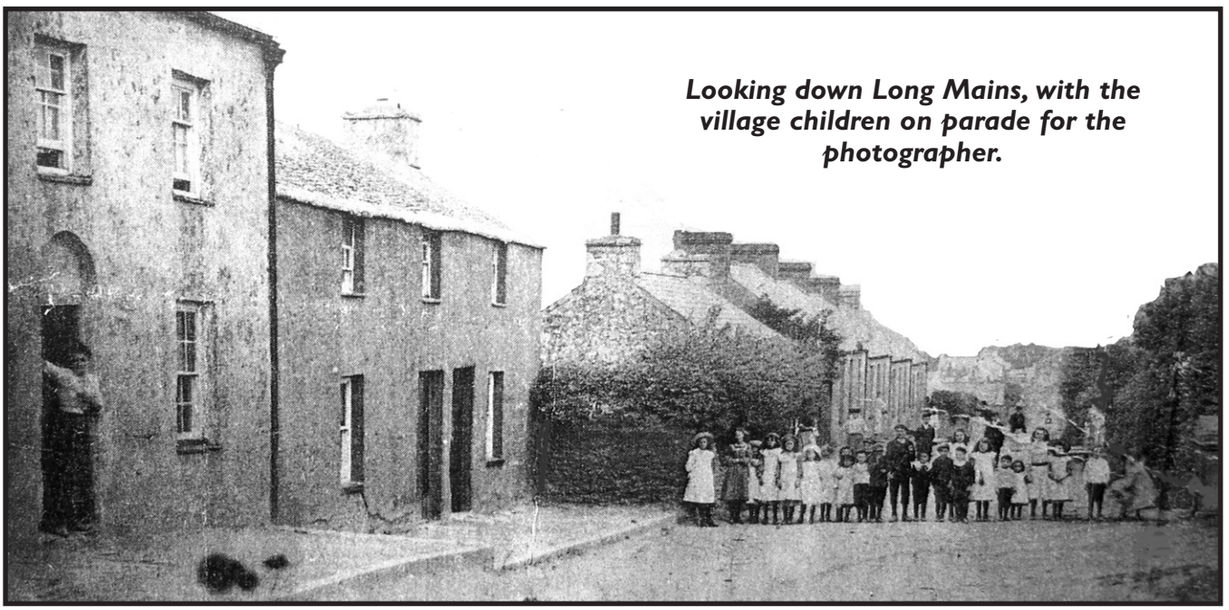

Looking down Long Mains, with the village children on parade for the photographer.

Many also gravitated to Monkton from the Castlemartin peninsula while others came from 'up the Welsh' and some from Devonport, Bristol and elsewhere in England, making Priory Mains a fairly cosmopolitan place in its early days.

WHILE the western part of the village was being transformed in the 1830s and '40s – with the creation of Orange Hall Farm another aspect of this change – the older part of the village also underwent development.

Opposite the foot of Awkward Hill – in St Mary's parish rather than Monkton – was built the terrace which included the Victoria pub. It appears to have been erected in the late 1830s/ early 1840s and went by various names including Victoria Terrace, Bridgend Terrace (East) and Monkton Bridge Lane.

Starting at the narrow lane next to the Hurlows' timber yard, it comprised about eight houses including a shop and pub, plus half a dozen cottages, most of the properties having remarkably long, thin gardens running back to the Commons marsh. Lake House appears to date from this time as well,

As noted elsewhere in this book, Sir John Owen found himself in financial trouble in the 1850s and much of the Orielton estate was auctioned off in 1856.

The Meyrick family of Bush acquired the lion's share of Monkton, thus 'inheriting' the leases of a large number of properties. Expansion soon followed, as the local press noted in 1861:

It is said the town of Pembroke is to be greatly enlarged by the building of some hundreds of cottage houses for Dockyard working people. Where the money is to come from doth not appear, but however that may be, the project is fairly launched,.

Firstly, the Agent of Bush Estate offers, on building leases of 99 years and three lives, at a very low ground rent, some eligible land at and near Monkton, having extensive frontage on the main roads and delightfully situated for buildings.

Continued



Elizabeth Skone at the door of her cottage in Back Terrace. Many of the early terraces in Pembroke Dock and Monkton were built by country craftsmen and followed the traditional pattern of Pembrokeshire village cottages with which the builders were familiar.

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The development of Monkton village

Secondly it is said Capt. Hurlow is about to allot a considerable portion of his land near Monkton, having extensive frontage on the main road from Pembroke to St Twynnell's and Stackpole, and well supplied with good water.

Thirdly, a field lately purchased from Sir John Owen's Trustees, by Mr Williamson, at the back of the town adjoining the Commons, has been marked out for building plots, and a model cottage is in course of erection. This field, with the exception of having very bad approaches and the water at a distance, is also well situated for cottage houses.

AS A consequence of the first part of this scheme, Monkton village spread along what is now Angle Road, but was then Monkton Lane, filling in gaps and creating new terraces. The Bush Estate gave its name to the terrace of about two dozen houses and shops which grew up in rather piecemeal fashion on the south side of Monkton Lane in the field known as Cistern Meadow, opposite Priory Terrace.

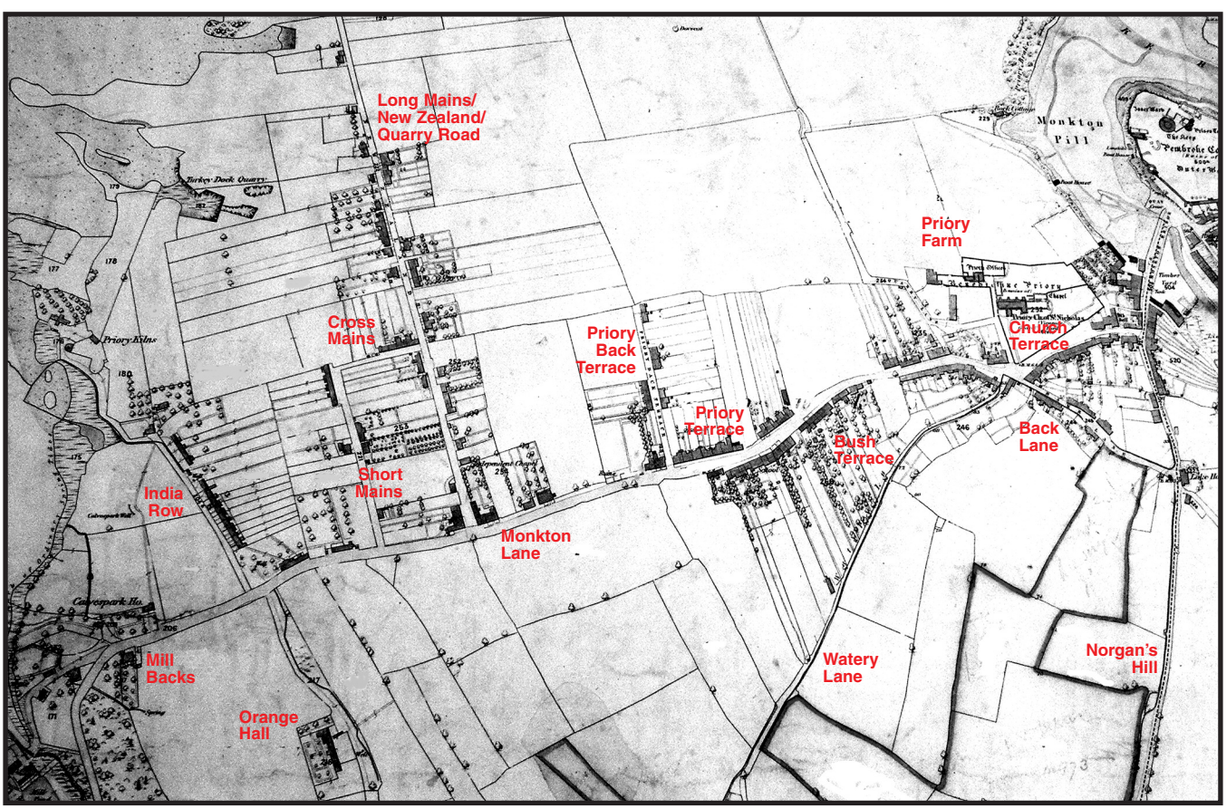
Across the road, meanwhile, was the row of tiny two-room cottages known as Priory Cottages. These appear to have been among the 12 cottages in Monkton leased by Miss Harriet Faddy and then sublet. Born in Calcutta, the daughter of an indigo manufacturer, Miss Faddy moved to East End House, Pembroke, lived off her investments and died in 1902 aged 99.

Alongside Priory Cottages were the three houses known as Trevor Cottages. This was probably a redevelopment of earlier buildings – certainly historian Arthur Mathias believed that the historic Coach and Horses inn once stood on this spot.

The second element of the housing scheme – the building of terraces on either side of the road to Maidenwells south of the Back Lane junction – was delayed for several years, possibly because of the death of Captain Thomas Hurlow.

However the third element of the proposed development went ahead, resulting in the building of the housing estate originally called Orange Town but later Orange Gardens,

THE opening of Monkton British School in 1866 was followed by the building of School Terrace immediately on the Pembroke side of the school and by the building of 'a very nice terrace of artisans' dwelling houses' adjoining the school in Back Lane; Monkton stonemason George Francis is known to have built at least one of these cottages.



Monkton in the 1880s, showing some of the street names.

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Priory Terrace. Among those who ran the bakery/grocery on the corner were George Naish, Herbert Fryer and Edward H Watts whose name is above the door in this old postcard view. The shop was rebuilt following a serious fire in 1893. Photo from the Owen Vaughan Collection

Eventually building work began on the long-planned terraces either side of the road to Maidenwells. Norgan's Hill Terrace was recorded on the 1881 census, but with only four houses.

It was complete by 1891, raised up on a bank above the stream or 'lake', its 19 well-built houses much populated by Dockyard shipwrights and other tradesmen 'of the better class'.

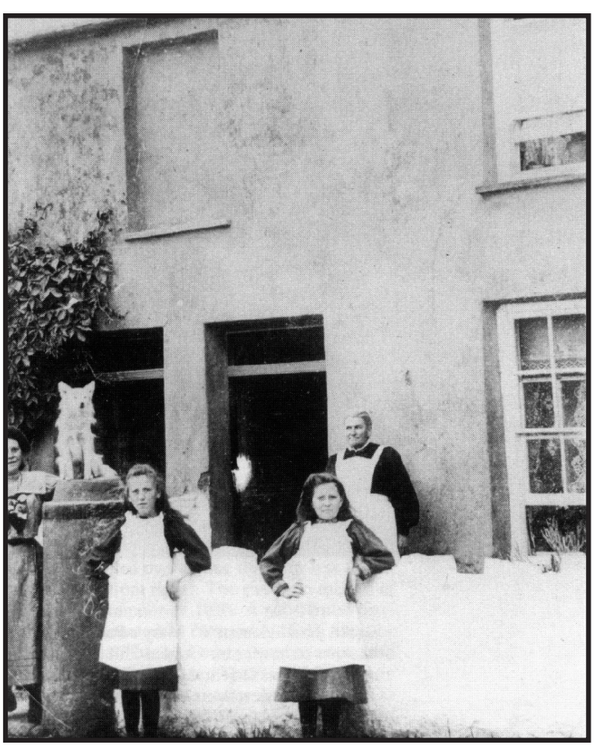
On the other side of the road, in St Mary's parish, was built East Terrace, a short terrace of nine houses later renamed Merchant's Park, possibly in honour of the Hurlow family.

South Terrace was recorded in the 1891 census when it was still being completed, with five houses unoccupied. North Terrace was the name given to the short row facing the school.

In the village, the five houses of Washington Terrace were also built in the 1890s. Joseph Lewis built the first house on his return from America and is said to have named the terrrace.

EVEN with all the new development, a few ancient cottages still remained in poor condition. In 1907 it was reported:

An elderly couple, living at Back Cottages, Monkton, retired to rest as usual on Sunday evening. In the night the ceiling, together with the woodwork, fell down in a mass. The frightened pair crept out and, except for the fright, were none the worse.



Members of the Harries and Reynolds families outside their adjoining houses in Monkton Lane, numbers 90 (right) and 92. By the blocked up window it would appear that this was built as a a single property and later divided.

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The Saurins of Orielton

By Bill Griffiths

AS SQUIRES of Orielton during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Saurin family had considerable influence over Monkton parish. But where did they originate?

A Hugenot family, the Saurins descend from Charles de Saurin of Calvisson in the French diocese of Nimes. One of his sons, Jacques, was Governor of Sommieres in 1601 and the family remained prominent in the town before Jacques' great-grandson Jean Saurin (born 1632) moved to Nimes where he became an advocate.

In the fateful year of 1685, when so many Protestant Hugenots were massacred in France, Jean and his wife Hippolyte de Tourniere escaped with their three sons to Geneva. The eldest son, Jacques, born 1677, entered the ministry and became a renowned preacher in The Hague.

His brother, Louis Saurin and his wife Cornet le Bretonier, moved to Dublin and became Anglicans. Louis attended Trinity College, Dublin and eventually became Dean of Ardagh and Precentor of Christchurch Anglican Cathedral in Dublin. He died in 1749.

He and Cornet had three daughters and a son, James (born 1729) who became the Rector of Belfast. James and his wife Jane had four children –- Louis, followed by William (a Privy Councillor and Attorney General of Ireland), Mark Anthony Saurin and James.

This James Saurin (born 1859) graduated from Trinity College, Dublin and rose through the Anglican ranks to become Dean of Derry in 1818 and Bishop of Dromore in 1819.

In May 1796 James married Elizabeth Lyster at St Thomas', Dublin, and they had 13 children, nine girls and four boys. The Bishop's eldest son, James, became Archdeacon of Dromore, while the second son, William, became a Colonel in the East India Company Service.

The youngest son, Mark Anthony Saurin (born 1815, educated at Trinity College, Dublin) became solicitor for the Inland Revenue Service in Ireland, living in Dublin. He was married twice, his second wife being Margarette Sutton Jones, daughter of the Rev John Jones of Penlan, Cardigan, Rector of Llanfyrnach.

She was also the niece of Morgan Jones of Cilwendage/ Kilwendeage, a large estate near Boncath, whose substantial fortune had been increased dramatically in 1836 by the sale of the family-owned Skerries Lighthouse on Anglesey to Trinity House for a reported £440,000.

Following his death, Kilwendeage passed to Miss Jane Martha Jones who purchased Orielton mansion and a considerable part of its estate at the sale in 1857 which followed Sir John Owen's financial meltdown over election expenses.

Mark Anthony Saurin and Margarette Sutton Jones were married in 1844 and when Jane Martha Jones died in 1864, it was her niece Margarette who inherited the Orielton estate, which included Pennar and parts of Monkton.

Thus Mark Anthony Saurin became squire of Orielton, where he and his wife subsequently resided. He was appointed JP and, became Sheriff of Pembrokeshire in 1867.

The couple had four children.

1, Lieut Col Morgan James Saurin JP, born April 1845. In 1873 he married Fanny Margaret Walker of Bossington Park, Stockbridge.

2, William Loftus Saurin, died 1852.

3, Capt Ernest Sutton Saurin. A barrister-at-law, he was a Major in the Pembroke Yeomanry in 1895. He died at Harrogate in 1913 aged 57.

4, Edith Mary Saurin who married Capt Walter More of the Derbyshire Regiment.

When Mark Anthony Saurin died in 1885 he was succeeded as squire of Orielton by his son Morgan James Saurin JP, In 1871 Morgan had joined the Castlemartin Yeomanry as Captain, becoming Lieutenant Colonel in 1878.

Morgan and his wife Fanny had three children:

1, Major William Mark Saurin, born 1877, educated at Eton and Trinity Hall, Cambridge. He served in the Boer (South African) War and also as a staff captain in WWI. He and his wife Apphia (nee Ainsworth) later lived at Penally Abbey.

2, Commander Gerald Louis Saurin RN, born 1880. He grew up at Orielton before embarking on a naval career.

3, Margaretta Kathleen Saurin who married Captain Neville Travers Borton, later Postmaster General of Egypt.

Morgan James Saurin died in London in 1922 and Orielton was sold the same year.

IT SEEMS that Mark Anthony Saurin brought his sister's son over to Pembrokeshire from Ireland in the 1880s to act as his land agent. This was Major Mark Saurin Wynne and we find him at Mellaston, Hundleton, in the 1901 census along with his wife Susannah, their son William Gifford Wynne (an articled solicitor, aged 18), and Mary Saurin Wynne, their daughter.

Another son, Major Francis D Wynne, DSO, a career soldier, died in action in WWI.

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A Dockyard village

THE SECOND half of the 19th century saw Monkton transformed from a village chiefly dependant on agriculture to one where a large percentage of the workforce was employed in Pembroke Dockyard.

The development of streets of terraced cottages such as Long and Short Mains in the 1830s was prompted in part by the need for 'artisan housing' for the men employed in the Naval Dockyard and their families.

However, as the 1841 census shows, the first tenants of these properties were overwhelmingly agricultural labourers, with a sprinkling of stone-masons, sawyers, carpenters and other trades.

As far as the Naval Dockyard was concerned, just one shipwright is recorded, plus three or four lads who were apprentice shipwrights. (If some of the numerous sawyers worked at the yard it isn't noted).

Ten years later there were some 30 men living in Monkton who crossed the river each day to work in the Dockyard, most of them labourers but also eight sawyers, two joiners, a blacksmith, two shipwrights and a lamplighter.

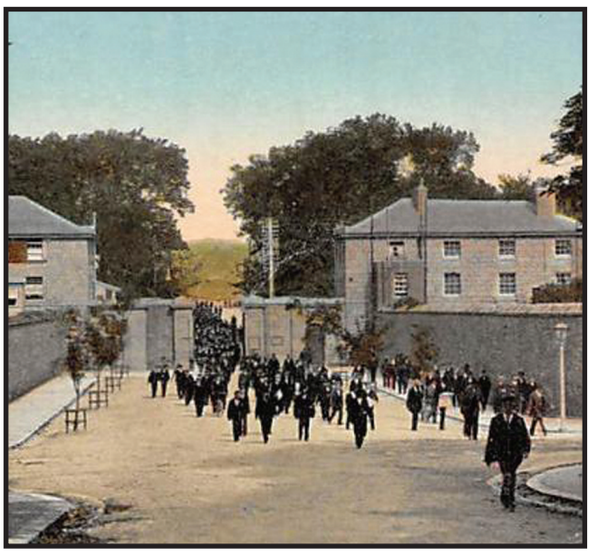
Both Monkton and the Naval Dockyard grew rapidly in the 1860s and, with the move from wooden sailing ships to iron steamers, so the required trades changed as well.

By 1871 there were around 50 Monkton men employed in local dockyards, about half of them shipyard labourers. (The census returns didn't always make a distinction between shipwrights etc employed in the Naval Dockyard and those working in the private yards at Front Street and Jacob's Pill).

Two Monkton men were still working as dockyard sawyers in 1871, but by now there was also an iron-moulder, two rivet-boys and four blacksmiths. By 1881 Monkton's dockyard contingent included two drillers, a rivetter, a furnace-man and six 'blacksmith's hammermen'. A couple of Dockyard Policemen also lived in the village.

OF THE 80 Monkton men employed in the various dockyards in 1891, around 60 were described as 'ship labourers' – a catch-all term which covered a multitude of mundane activities. Also listed were five hammermen, six ship-wrights, three fitters and a messenger.

By 1901 there were nearly 140 dockyard employees living in Monkton, so that the early morning sound of hobnailed boots tramping down Long Mains to the Imble ferryboat must have been a familiar one.



Homeward bound from the Dockyard.

Again the majority of these – over 70 – were dockyard labourers, while eleven men described themselves as 'skilled labourers'.

Of the other Monkton men employed in the dockyards in 1901, eight were hammermen, four were rivetters, three were drillers, three were iron caulkers and one was a wheelwright. There were also ten shipwrights, seven apprentices of various trades and a steam crane driver.

BY 1911 Monkton was still supplying around 150 men and boys to the dockyard labour force. This complement included 46 labourers, 18 skilled labourers, 12 rivetters and rivet-boys, six painters, three messengers, ten fitters and five joiners.

Most of the labourers tended to live in the cottages of Long, Short and Cross Mains, while the 14 Monkton shipwrights of 1911 could generally be found in the new terraces on Norgan's Hill.

Other trades practised by the Dockyard Monktonians in 1911 included rigger, foundry worker, caulker, machinist, hose-maker, boiler cleaner and plate-engraver's assistant.

It is plain that Monkton's fortunes were very much tied up with shipbuilding for the best part of 80 years. It must have come as a hammer-blow to the village when the Naval Dockyard closed in 1926 – a setback from which it took a long time to recover.

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Monkton fairs

ACCORDING to the Elizabethan historian George Owen, 'Monkton juxta Pembroke' was entitled to hold two livestock fairs a year, on Holy Rood days, May 3 and September 14.

The rights to these fairs were held by the Lord of the Manor – for many years the Viscounts Hereford – being sublet to a local tenant. In 1662 it was William Holcombe of Brownslate who was granted 'the benefit of the two fairs of Mouncton, lately in possession of Ernest Jackson'.

The Holcombes held the rights for a couple of generations, while the Land Tax Assessments for 1790 and 1791 show that William Thomas was paying nine shillings a year to Viscount Hereford in return for 'Profits of ye Fairs'.

It seems that whoever farmed at Priory thereafter benefited from the tolls at the two fairs. John Garbutt farmed Priory on a lease from Lord Hereford from 1793 to 1801, so he also collected the dues from those buying and selling at Monkton fairs.

By 1820 the rights to the two Monkton fairs were in the possession of Sir John Owen of Orielton who sublet them to Alexander Thomas of Priory. Alexander's son-in-law George Griffiths succeeded him as tenant of Priory and in 1830 he was paying Sir John Owen six shillings and tuppence-ha'penny a year for the profits from the fairs.

AS WELL as being major livestock markets, these fairs also had an increasing element of funfair, with stalls and sideshows stretching along the village streets. Two colourful accounts of these fairs give a good flavour of what they were like in their heyday.

Wrote the Rev D Howell Davies:

Two fayres used to be held annually at Monkton, namely Holyrood Fayre and the May Fayre,

Horses and cattle were sold at these fayres and the stalls and standings used to stretch from Bridge-end to Orange Hall. There were also stalls and standings around the buttresses on the north side of the Church and sometimes they would encroach even into the churchyard.

They had various side-shows – there was an 'Aunt Sally' in the part where we now have the Vicarage garden. A certain Bill Abrahams had a side-show in front of which he used to shout 'Hit the Pegs - Miss my Legs'. If the contestant were successful he was given a cigar.

Meanwhile local historian Mr Arthur Mathias recalled:

The May and Holyrood Fairs at Monkton were at one time something to look forward to.

You would see cattle on the pavements from the Old Hall to Bush Terrace, pens of sheep and pigs here and there; mountain ponies, too, were on sale.

Many of the inhabitants during these fairs had to put up shutters to save their windows from being broken.

There were shooting stalls with pipes twirling around to be shot at for nuts, sweets and fruit, and other stalls near the churchyard wall – and at one time in the churchyard and even in the church porch. At the 'Roebuck' you would see girls and boys dancing a jig to the tune of a fiddle, and you may take it they were thoroughly enjoying themselves in their own sweet way.

THE LOCAL newspapers often carried reports on the livestock trade at these fairs.

May 1858 - *The fair was held at Monkton on Tuesday and Wednesday last when the show of cattle was smaller than usual and consisted principally of stalled beasts. The number of sheep was small with an upward tendency.*

September 1859 - *On Thursday last Monkton fair was fully supplied with cattle, horses etc, the former half fat and store, but sales were slow. On Friday the pig fair was brisk and prices well maintained.*

September 1865 - *Prices high and cattle few.*

May 1870 - *The May Fair at Monkton was one of the quietest we have ever seen, from a business point of view, the prices of cattle ruling lower than the average of former occasions.*

May 1871 - *The weather was fine and a large number of farmers and dealers made it one of the best and briskest fairs for many years.*

As well as these two historic fairs there were two other annual fairs held in Monkton after the year 1847.

In that year Pembroke Town Council decided that both the St Peter's Fair in July and the St Andrew's Fair in December 'be in future held in the space opposite the churchyard in Monkton'.

These street fairs had previously taken place near St Mary's Church in the west end of Pembroke Main Street but had become a major problem, blocking the road to traffic.

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A Christmas fat cattle show would be held to coincide with the December fair, usually taking place in a meadow adjoining Priory (see panel below). In 1860 it was noted that the St Andrew's Fair took place, 'as usual, in the village of Monkton and on the Priory Green'.

The street livestock fairs ended when a new mart ground was opened near Pembroke Station.

AN OLD Monkton tradition was known as 'Tapping Sunday'; this was in the days when all the village pubs brewed their own beer.

When one of the big fairs was approaching a great deal of extra beer would need to be brewed, and naturally the barrels would have to be tapped and the beer tasted a few days in advance, just to check that it was all right.

By tradition this beer-tasting always took place on the Sunday before fair day, and 'Tapping Sunday' became renowned as a day of roaring drunkenness in Monkton – much to the disgust of the local vicar and churchwardens who fought long and hard to end the practice.

Meanwhile the local council also got in on the act, Pembroke Corporation accounts for 1827 including the entry: 'Paid Theodosia Howells her Bill for Ale for Holyrood Fair'.

Theodosia kept the Coach and Horses in Monkton Lane



This part of Monkton village was the focus of the two livestock fairs held every year. While the Old Conduit and Cresswell House (visible on the left of the street) are still with us, the cottages on the right and the terrace of houses in the distance have all been demolished. No images of the old street fairs appear to exist, but the excitement and bustle must have been similar to this scene, a Church Parade in 1910. Canon David Bowen of Monkton had recently been appointed chaplain to the local Territorial battalion and he took the opportunity to invite the military to a special service in the recently restored Monkton Priory Church. The parade to the church was a splendid one and people lined the streets to watch it pass. While the procession was being formed under the old Elm Tree in the centre of Pembroke, the band of the 2nd Welch Regiment from Llanion Barracks played musical selections under the conductorship of Sergt. Ashton. Also in the procession were the Pembroke Company of the Welch Regiment (Territorial), the Royal Garrison Artillery Terriers from Pembroke Dock and the newly-formed Pembroke Dock patrol of the Baden Powell Boy Scouts under Scoutmaster Underwood.

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Holy wells and drinking water

TURNING on the tap for your water is taken for granted today, but it was not so very long ago, within living memory, that this was not the case. Even as recently as the 1940s, many houses in Monkton had no running water and no sewerage system.

Fortunately, the area abounds in springs and wells, most of them along the Old Red Sandstone outcrop to the south of the village. These were once the only source of drinking water and continued to be in limited use up to the last war.

There are two notable wells which have played a part in Monkton's history and can still be seen – St Nicholas' Well and Norgan's Well.

There is an entry in a report of The'Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments in Wales for St Nicholas' Well which describes it as 'a copious spring at the end of Watery Lane'.



The Old Conduit dates from 1864.

Hidden in undergrowth between fields at the head of the spring, the well has a quite amazing, domed stone chamber.

It is believed that this well once served the Benedictine Priory and that the monks were responsible for tapping the source and directing the stream to the Priory along an open culvert.

It is this well that later fed into the 'Old Conduit' at the Watery Lane junction, opposite Church Terrace and the Priory Church. This is also described as the place where once drovers watered their cattle.

NOT too far away is Norgan's Well, which is rather better known. The structure is in a bad way, with a tree growing through it, and this has dislodged some of the brickwork.

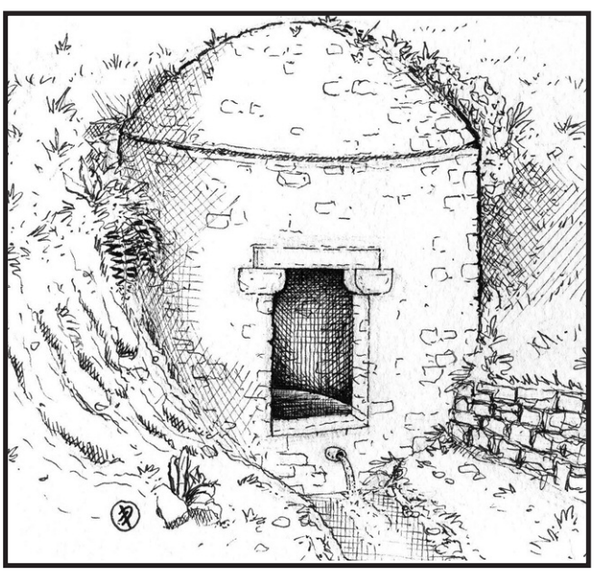
Breeze blocks have replaced the old iron grille which lies discarded on the ground beside it.

Water from this spring still flows through Monkton, being channelled down the side of Norgan's Terrace. This stream, or 'lake' in the local dialect, presumably gave its name to Taylor's Lake and Lake House.

At some stage Norgan's Well was incorporated into the Pembroke Corporation Waterworks Scheme, which was when it was given a stone and brick canopy and ironwork grille to prevent the water becoming fouled by animals.

MONKTON expanded greatly in the 19th century, with rows of terraced cottages built to house workers, many of whom were employed in the Royal Dockyard. With this rapid growth, concerns were raised regarding the water supply.

On 20th May, 1859 *The Pembrokeshire Herald and General Advertiser* reported



Impression of St Nicholas' Well.

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On Wednesday evening last at half-past seven o'clock, a great number of the inhabitants of the village of Monkton met for the purpose of considering the best means to be applied to obtain a supply of water – a thing greatly needed.

The following resolutions were passed; Moved by Mr William Grigg, and seconded by Mr William Vaughan, 'That this meeting views the present, destitute condition of the village of Monkton with feelings of surprise and alarm, seeing that it is entirely without a supply of spring water, the inhabitants being obliged to carry all the clean water they require from a great distance and this meeting pledges itself to use its best endeavours by all legal and honourable means, to obtain a full supply of pure water for the use of the entire village.'

Moved by Mr James Davies, seconded by Mr John Jones, 'That this meeting is of opinion that the best mode of proceeding will be to appoint a deputation of three persons resident in this village to wait on the owner of the land, (Thomas Meyrick, Esq,) and request his permission to allow two conduits to be erected – one at the lower end of Watery lane, and the other to the westward of Priory Terrace, with a permission also to lay down a sufficient length of lead piping for conveying the water to each conduit.'

Moved by Mr John Williams, of the Roebuck Tavern, seconded by Mr Robert Drinkwater, sen.



St Nicholas' Well at the top of Watery Lane.

'That this meeting is of opinion that the said deputation be also appointed to wait on Miss Jones, or her agent residing in this neighbourhood, with a request that the inhabitants of Monkton be allowed to form a reservoir on her land at St Nicholas Well, for supplying the aforesaid two conduits with water from the said well, for the use of the inhabitants of the village of Monkton.'

Continued

The castle's water source

NORGAN'S Well has an interesting egend attached to it, dating from the Civil Wars.

In May 1648 Pembroke was besieged by a Parliamentary force of around 6,000 men and for six weeks the castle, commanded by town Mayor John Poyer, held out against the might of Cromwell himself.

Legend has it that the castle was eventually forced into submission by the cutting off of its water supply.

In 1934, local archaeologist Arthur Mathias rediscovered the pipeline that had supplied Pembroke castle with drinking water. Earthenware pipes three inches in diameter had been laid in cement from Norgan's Well, passing over Monkton Bridge, up the face of the cliff under an archway in the Monkton Tower of the castle.

According to tradition, the location of this pipe was betrayed to Cromwell's Parliamentary forces by a Monkton man named Edmunds, and the pipe was smashed where it passed over the bridge.

Edmunds did not, however, benefit from his treachery: Cromwell abhorred traitors and had him hanged near the spot. A stone was set into the wall where the pipes were cut bearing a rough carving of a cat's head, a cat being once considered a symbol of betrayal.

This story may be local legend, but the cat stone does exist. It was later incorporated into the perimeter wall of the old Monkton School where, former pupil Wyn Jenkins recalled, school children would be taken to see it and told the story.



Following the demolition of the school, the stone (left) was saved and preserved in the castle.

It now forms an exhibit in Pembroke Town Museum.

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Holy wells and drinking water

Those resolutions were unanimously agreed to and action duly followed, because the following year, on 10th August, 1860, the *Herald* was able to report:

MONKTON WATERWORKS. We understand that three fountains are about to be erected at the expense of T. Meyrick, Esq, of Bush, for supplying the inhabitants of this village with water to be conveyed there by these new works.

It appears that a conduit was laid to convey water from the well, where there was a small reservoir, down to the the new fountains. You can still see the where two of these drinking water fountains were placed – at the Old Conduit and in Church Terrace, on the wall of the Priory Church. Another at the top of Long Mains has long disappeared, as have others installed in later years.



Norgan's Well.

AT SOME stage in the early 20th century Monkton was connected to the Pembroke Corporation's mains water system that was chiefly supplied from a large covered reservoir at Southdown. This was known locally as 'The White Elephant' because of its great cost and propensity for springing leaks.



The 'lake' running down Norgan's Terrace.

While the new mains system was a great improvement, it still didn't mean piped water in every home in Monkton

Bill Thomas grew up in India Row in the 1930s and early '40s and remembers a childhood without any of the modern conveniences. There was no electricity, no running water or flush toilet.

Water for washing was rain water collected in forty five gallon drums, while drinking water had to be fetched from Calvespark Well located in the field opposite India Row. This same well had been the subject of concern to the Town Council and in a meeting held in 1908 the following exchange was reported:

Mr Ward Davies drew attention to the state of a well near India Row. Monkton, which cows had access to and contaminated, whilst it was not railed off in any way. He suggested that the Surveyor inspect the place, and have it properly protected.

Mr. Tombs asked if this was part of the Monkton water system. The cry used to be "Hands off Monkton." (Laughter).

Alderman Dan Davies said that it was a delicate thing interfering with anything at Monkton. It was decided that the necessary work should be carried out.

The following year three cases of typhoid in India Row were attributed to the state of the well and further remedial work was carried out.

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Holy well or sacred spring

ACCORDING to some sources, St Nicholas' Well was a sacred spring or 'holy well'. Pembrokeshire has many medieval holy wells and while most are dedicated to a local saint, the name of St Nicholas' Well seems to have more to do with its connection with the nearby Priory.

Many of these wells, such as the ones at Gumfreston and St Govan's, had healing properties and were much visited by the sick. If St Nicholas' Well fell into that category it does not seem to have been recorded.

Ann Lankshear remembers a well at Orange Hall, where she grew up, as providing a pure source of water.

"The well at Orange Hall was situated under 100 yards up from the house, to the south," she recalled. "It had trees on two sides and quite an area was kept enclosed by a barbed wire fence.

"Care was taken to keep it clean and covered. It served the house and the animals on the farm and the excess water flowed down the hill to the main road where there was a drain.

"Watercress grew from the site of the well for quite a way down and was consumed by many locals. As testament to the cleanliness of the water no-one was ever ill from eating it!

"When people were sick or, in some cases, unfortunately dying they would send up for well water as it was renowned for its quality."



Map showing the springs and wells which once supplied the village with drinking water.



Privies like this were found throughout Monkton before WWII.

IT WASN'T until the late 1930s that mains drainage reached the terraces of Priory Mains. In June 1939, tenders were invited for the laying of house drains 'to connect to the new sewers laid by the Pembroke Corporation at Monkton, Pembroke'.

Contractors were invited to quote 'for the conversion of existing privies and pail closets to modern water closets, including the construction of approximately 173 new water closets'.

These new outside lavatories, complete with flushing toilets, were a great improvement on the old system which involved waste from the privies or earth closets being disposed of in cesspools.

Every garden had one of these less than attractive features, which could sometimes be a source of danger; in 1908 a young child called Freddie Longhurst sadly drowned when he fell into an unprotected cesspool in his parents' garden in Long Mains.

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Quoit's Mill

IN THE second Town Charter of Pembroke, granted by Henry II in 1154, one of the town boundaries within which the charter applied was 'The Great Ditch of Pentecoyte'. Some people have taken this to refer to the inlet of Quoit's Pill to the west of Monkton, although this interpretation has been disputed.

The first known reference to a mill at Quoit's Pill is in 1662 when a water-driven corn mill called 'Quayth Mill' was among the properties rented by William Holcombe. Like the rest of the former lands belonging to Pembroke Priory it was in the possession of Viscount Hereford, and it appears as 'Coyts' on a map dated 1693.

A smallholding as well as a corn-mill, Quoits Mill was one of several tenements leased from Viscount Hereford in 1790 by William Thomas and in 1793/94 by John Garbut. They sub-let the mill to Thomas Griffiths who was the miller from at least 1790 until his death in about 1798.



The old hydro-electric workings at Quoit's Mill.

It appears that his son-in-law, Carew-born Robert Day, then became miller. The mill would have been powered by the little stream running down the valley from Taylor's Lake, and it is possible that corn and flour might have been transported in small coasting vessels that could beach close to the mill at high tide.

William Stephens held a lease for lives on Quoits Mill from 1812 to 1823 and described himself as 'miller' at the birth of his daughter Anne in 1813. He was also a carpenter.

From 1831 until 1860 Isaac Lloyd from Manorbier held a lease for lives on Quoits Mill and land, initially from the Orielton Estate. As well as being a miller and smallholder he also held a number of official positions, being a highway surveyor, Poor Law Guardian for Monkton and a parish constable from 1855 to 1860.

Isaac moved to run the Carpenters' Arms in the East End of Main Street in 1860 and the mill was unoccupied in 1861.

William Griffiths, Castlemartin-born miller and flour-dealer, was at Quoit's Mill in 1871. A son of Owen Griffiths, the miller at Frains Mill, William had previously been a miller near Amroth. He ran the mill and farmed the land that went with it until his death in 1878 and there is no mention of the mill on the 1881 census.

This appears to have been the end of Quoit's Mill, both as a working mill and a smallholding. The census enumerator noted in 1891: 'Quoits Mill farm has ceased to exist as a separate farm. Quoits Mill no longer exists; there is a cottage generally called Quoit's Mill'.

IN 1896, Pembroke Borough Council gave the Pembroke Ward permission to introduce electric light to the town, noting: 'Motive power will be supplied by Pembroke mill owner Mr J T Ford who is going to lay down plant at his own risk'.

According to local historian David James, the main source of this electric power came from dynamos in the tidal mill on Pembroke's Mill Bridge.

"However, when the tide was at its height, there was a short period when the turbines could not turn," explained Mr James. "So a dam was built at Quoit's Mill with a reservoir behind it, and this was used to generate power when the main supply was out of action."

The system is thought to have supplied Pembroke Main Street with electricity up until the 1920s when the West Cambrian Electric Power Company took over.

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The lime industry

LIMESTONE was much in demand in the 19th century, both as a building material for the new towns on Milford Haven and also for burning in lime kilns in order to produce lime which would be spread on farmland to sweeten the soil and increase productivity.

Monkton was an important source of limestone, with well-established riverside quarries at Turkey Dock Quarry on Quoit's Water Pill and extensive workings alongside the Pembroke River, including Catshole Quarry and Dicky Darling's Quarry near Priory Cave.

The latter quarries were recorded in 1810 when Sir John Owen bought the Priory estate from Viscount Hereford, the property list including 'a limestone quarry on Priory Farm'.



The canal which once served Turkey Dock Quarry can still be seen.

All these quarries were connected with the main river channel by narrow canals cut into the mud, allowing small sloops and lighters to enter the quarries and load their cargoes on one tide and leave on the next. As the chapter entitled 'Maritime Monkton' reveals, coasting vessels came from as far afield as Dale and the north Pembrokeshire coast to collect limestone.

Little is known about Turkey Dock Quarry, but Catshole, on the Pembroke River, is better documented. By the 1840s, Catshole had its own quay, built by the owners, the Orielton estate. According to a contemporary account: 'The quay is built of stones and mortar and is 120 yards from the river.'

Interestingly, the account adds that the quay was not just used for shipping out stone but also for landing sand and manure 'or, in fact, whatever there was occasion for', suggesting that it was a handy little river port for the growing settlement of Priory Mains.

From about 1830 to 1850 the quarryman at Catshole was Richard Smith, leasing the quarries from the estate and blasting out the limestone. In 1846 it was reported that the powder house in the quarry had been broken into, 'and gun-powder to the value of £2 stolen therefrom, the property of quarryman Richard Smith'.



The Turkey Dock channel looking west with the Pembroke River in the distance.

Quarrying was a dangerous occupation and in 1855 an inquest was held at the Salutation Inn into the death of quarryman James Evans who died following a fall of stone at Ferry Wood Quarry – presumably one of the Catshole quarries.

Meanwhile labourer George Hill, 67, of Monkton was digging out stones at a small quarry on Norgan's Hill in 1886 when he was buried under a sudden fall of rocks. He was dug out alive but later succumbed to his injuries.

Continued

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The lime industry

Haulier W H Rogers of the Speculation Inn, Hundleton, leased Catshole in the early 1900s and held the contract to provide roadstone to various local councils, supplying Milford UDC with 1,250 tons of limestone from Catshole in 1904 at four shillings a ton. Some of this stone went by barge, while his steam traction engine was a familiar sight on the roads of Monkton, hauling waggons laden with limestone chippings.





Above: Recent views of the old lime kiln at the bottom of India Row. Below: Among many other occupations, George Jenkins of Priory was a stone, sand and gravel merchant.

JOHN Colley was a stonemason from Yorkshire who came to Pembrokeshire in the early 19th century to help build the fortifications in Pembroke Dock. He later lived in Pembroke's East End where he had a masonry business and launched a dynasty of stonemasons.

His grandson William was a monumental mason and marble sculptor in Twopenny Hay who died at the age of 50 in 1895. He was succeeded by his son Thomas W Colley, another stonemason, who expanded the business to include a builders' merchants and coalyard near Pembroke station.

He acquired three or four quarries, including Grove and Catshole, and supplied stone for the county council roads in the 1920s and '30s, as well as providing steam-rollers to crush the chippings and level the roads.

"When the County Council decided to do all the roads themselves he had to sell the quarries," remembered his daughter Joyce.

This seems to have marked the beginning of the end for Catshole quarry, and operations ceased in the early1950s.

REDSTONE Quarry, Bowett, was unusual for the area in that it produced red sandstone. This was much used in house-building and many cottages in the Hundleton area are built of stone from Redstone. It does not appear to have been worked after the end of the 19th century.

MONKTON also had its own lime kilns, one in Catshole Quarry and double kilns on either side of Quoit's Water. In 1862 there is a reference to a 'Tram Road from the quarry to the lime kiln near Priory Mains'.

Eddie Woolford, who moved to Monkton with his family after the last war, recalled: "Catshole quarry had reverted to nature and was a lovely place for a walk for many Monkton people.

"The lime kiln was still in operation. I have memories in the late 1940s of my father and Mr Taylor burning the limestone and shovelling it out of the bottom of the kiln onto horse-drawn carts for spreading on the local farms.

"The fire burnt for weeks and Monkton boys often sat around it at night, laughing and talking."



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Aerial view showing the extent of the former quarries on the Pembroke River. Catshole is the main quarry, while those at the top are on Priory Farm. The stone quay known as Colley's Landing is about two thirds of the way up the picture.

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A Crimea veteran

IF ONLY half the stories published about him in American newspapers were true, then George James could lay claim to being Monkton's most famous ever son.

For example, according to an article which appeared in 1910 in the *Ogden Morning Examiner*, a newspaper published in Utah:

George James was a member of the Scots Grays (sic) and one of the 600 who charged with the Light Brigade at Balaklava with such disastrous results during the Crimean War.

Another Utah newspaper, the *Salt Lake News*, repeated this story:

Having been one of the six hundred in the Light Brigade who made the famous charge in the battle of Bakalava, George James was one of the 25 who came out of the fiery furnace alive.

Elsewhere it was reported that George James was a commanding figure, six feet four inches tall, 'an excellent penman, a splended thinker and almost invincible in debate'; that he had spent eleven years of his life in Brooklyn, where he cast his vote for Abraham Lincoln; and that he once acted as baby-sitter to the future King Edward VII and chaperoned the young prince around the Great Exhibition of 1851.

But before anyone starts trying to find the birthplace of George James in Monkton with a view to placing a blue plaque on it, a word of caution – hardly any of the above is true.

All of these 'facts' were fed to the Utah newspapers by George James' son, John James. John was born at Lake House, Monkton and travelled to Utah as part of the Mormon emigration, becoming an important official in the legal administration of the county and a figurehead of the Welsh Mormon community in Salt Lake City. (See 'Monkton Mormons').

Whether he made up these stories to give himself a more interesting back story, or whether he was merely passing on the tall tales his father told him, no-one really knows. Either way, the Utah newspapers lapped it up and printed every word – no-one seeming to notice that the Scots Greys didn't actually take part in the famous charge, whether or not George James was serving with them at the time.

IT SEEMS fairly certain that George James was born in Monkton, though exactly when that was is far from clear, since either he couldn't count or else he delighted in misinforming the census enumerators about his age.



Monkton-born John james with wife Jennie and baby. After moving to Utah he fed tall stories to the local paper about his father George (headline and photo opposite).

For example, in 1861 he gave his age as 30; ten years later he said he was 44 and in 1881 he gave his age as 61. However, when he died in Swansea in 1882 his age was recorded as 64, so it seems he was actually born in 1818.

Family history researchers such as Gordon Reese are pretty sure he was baptised on August 7th, 1818, being a son of John James of Monkton Lane, a labourer, and his wife Elizabeth.

Gordon, who lives in California and is a descendant of George James, has discovered that his ancestor enlisted in the Corps of Royal Sappers and Miners in about 1835. The Corps, which came under the control of the Board of Ordnance, specialised in wartime construction and destruction – building bridges, digging trenches and undermining enemy fortifications.

At the Great Exhibition of 1851the sappers were summoned to London and deployed to carry out various engineering duties around the Crystal Palace site; they also assumed responsibility for security throughout the event.

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John James, Son of Hero Who Was in Battle of Balaklava

The idea that Private George James from Monkton would be entrusted with showing the heir to the throne around the exhibition is pretty far-fetched, but George was certainly on the spot since he is known to have received the Crystal Palace Medal. This was awarded to all the sappers who served at the Great Exhibition, while George also received an inscribed writing case presented to those men who showed particular zeal and attention to duty.

THERE is also a grain of truth in the story about the Crimea, since George James appears to have been with the 1st Company Royal Sappers and Miners which arrived at Balaklava in 1855 in order to carry out vital engineering work around the port, later playing an important role in the siege of Sebastapol.

However, this all happened well after the ill-fated Charge of the Light Brigade, the 30-odd survivors of which have been well-documented anyway, with no mention of a George James among their number. He did, however, receive the Crimean War Medal with clasp.

George James seems to have served the full 20-year term in the Corps of Royal Sappers and Miners, returning to Pembroke in about 1857. Two years later, when about 40, he married Elizabeth James (possibly a relative) in Castlemartin.

They set up home in The Green, Pembroke, where George worked as a joiner – presumably the trade he followed as a sapper. A son named William was born in 1860, shortly after which the family moved to lodge at Lake House, Monkton. This was the home of Benjamin and Elizabeth Davies, again possible relatives of George since her maiden name was James.

Two more sons were born here, John and George; sadly their mother died while giving birth to a fourth son, Thomas, who also died soon afterwards.

Some time in the 1870s George remarried, his second wife being Mary Lang. By 1878 George and Mary were living in Swansea, together with his two younger sons. (William had joined the Royal Marines and was serving aboard the guardship HMS *Indus* in 1881. He died in hospital in Devonport in 1883).



In 1878 George James encountered Mormon missionaries in Swansea and was baptised into the faith, together with his wife Mary and son John. Old George died in 1882 and not long afterwards John, his wife Jennie and his stepmother Mary emigrated to the Mormon colony in Utah.

And it seems that as John carved out an increasingly prominent career for himself in the county legislature, eventually being elected County Clerk, so he began to embroider his family history to befit his new status.

In a series of press releases he claimed to be descended from one of Wales' oldest families; that he had graduated from college in Swansea (he was a hairdresser); and that his brother William had died in action in Alexandria, Egypt, rather than in hospital in Devonport.

None of this, however, compared with the stories he told about his father George who was elevated from being a sapper and joiner to a figure of near mythological status – part Welsh bard and part dashing cavalryman and war hero.

As Gordon Reese notes: 'Most everything that is recorded about George James has been by word of his son and my 2xgreat grandfather, John James, who was a loquacious and ambitious character. While John spoke expansively and boastfully of his Welsh heritage after moving to Utah, I believe that many of his stories did contain at least a nugget of truth and that George did serve his country faithfully in the 1850s at the Great Exhibition and in the Crimea.'

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Law and order

MONKTON has long had a reputation for being a proudly independent community, but also one with a slightly feisty edge. While never being a notably violent or crime-ridden village, it certainly seems to have produced its fair share of petty rogues and ruffians who have kept the local magistrates courts busy over the years.

From the late eighteenth century until the introduction of the police force, law and order in Monkton was maintained by a succession of Parish Constables. These were appointed annually, with six serving the two Pembroke wards, Monkton being part of the West Ward.



George Griffin was Constable for Monkton in 1800, followed by William Griffiths. Abraham Russan and William Rees were Constables in 1842 followed by George Truscott (1847), Richard Jones (1850) and Isaac Lloyd of Quoit's Mill (1853).

Few serious crimes seem to have troubled them in Monkton, although in 1801, at the Great Sessions, John Phillips, a Monkton labourer, was charged by Maria Sayer with attempting to murder her by shooting at her; the verdict was 'No true bill' and the case was dismissed.

In 1843, Robert Gwyther was charged with the manslaughter of his brother Benjamin, a local butcher, who had turned up drunk at his home in Monkton Lane, demanded the repayment of a debt and slapped Robert's pregnant wife.

Robert hit his brother over the head with a smoothing iron and he died soon afterwards. Pleading self-defence, Robert was acquitted of the manslaughter charge at the Quarter Sessions in Carmarthen.

A sad case occurred in 1861 when the body of a baby boy was found outside Monkton Church. It was thought that the child had been born alive but had died soon afterwards and the body left in the churchyard. The mother was never identified.

Minor assaults and brawls were fairly common in 19th century Monkton. A case which must have aroused great local interest occurred in 1814 when Robert Davies charged brothers Thomas and Stephen Hurlow, both gentlemen of some standing in the parish, with assault. The brothers were bound over in the sum of £20.00.

While most assaults were relatively minor (and in several instances involved women defendents), a few turned nasty.

A case in point occurred in 1850 when Constable Richard Jones was set upon by a gang of youths who had gathered on Monkton Bridge at around midnight.

As Jones – who was a Mormon preacher as well as a Constable – was walking past the youths on his way home to Monkton Lane he was struck down from behind and kicked.

Covered in blood, he managed to get away and hide in the grounds of the Great Hall. When his wife came to find him, she too was attacked and the mob threw stones at the couple as they tried to make their way home.

The youths were finally made to disperse by a local carpenter and poacher named William Richards who threatened to load his gun and fire at them.

Two of the gang – James Nicholas and Thomas Devonald – were later given stiff fines.

POVERTY and hunger often prompted petty crime, such as stealing turnips from a farmer's field or apples from a tree. Break-ins and burglaries were more unusual: however a few break-ins were reported in the press.

One evening in 1832 the shop of Elizabeth Harries near Monkton Bridge was broken into, and a quantity of groceries and four pounds in silver stolen. 'The thieves got off and it is feared will not be discovered', reported the press.

Much alarmed by this incident, Miss Harries armed herself with a fowling piece and took instruction from a neighbour in how to use it.

Happily it seems that she was never required to fire a shot in anger (although her fiancé, John Tennant did borrow it to go after wood pigeon on Lord Cawdor's estate).

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SOMETIMES the punishment for crimes could be harsh, certainly by today's standards. In 1842 a servant girl named Frances Lewis stole a basket and a candlestick from her employer, blacksmith Griffith Rees of Monkton; for this she was sentenced to three months' hard labour.

For stealing a flannel shirt, two handkerchiefs, a knife and a tea-caddy from the house of George Lawrence in Monkton in 1863, William Henry Swann, a 63-year-old labourer, was sentenced to 12 calendar months' hard labour.

In 1868 a lad named John Harries, aged 12, son of stonemason William Harries, was found guilty of stealing a purse containing a £5 note from Monkton grocer George Naish. Young John was sentenced to one month in the House of Correction and ordered to be whipped with 12 strokes of a birch rod.

(Perhaps it did the trick, because he seems to have gone straight thereafter, eventually becoming a carpenter on the Bush Estate).

SOME names crop up time and again in court reports. Nathaniel Rudd was born on Caldey before moving to Monkton, marrying Sarah Slocum and becoming a labourer.

He was a poacher and an occasional petty thief, being sentenced to six months in Swansea gaol in 1884 for stealing a copper boiler owned by Sir Thomas Meyrick.

William Robinson, a mason from Long Mains, was also a poacher but he usually found himself in front of the magistrates for another crime that was all too prevalent in Monkton, that of being 'drunk and riotous'.

By 1869 he was being referred to regularly in press reports as a 'notorious character' for his unruly behaviour. By 1881 the magistrates were becoming fed up with him and sentenced him to seven months with hard labour for assaulting two police constables who were trying to arrest him for being drunk and disorderly.

His female counterpart was Jane Brown, a pickpocket and petty thief from Monkton who collected a string of convictions between about 1870 and 1882 in which year she was sentenced to one month's hard labour for being drunk and disorderly in Monkton and causing a disturbance which attracted a mob of about 100 people.

Meanwhile Monkton boys could play cruel tricks In 1895 it was reported: *It appears that at Monkton a lot of boys have been amusing themselves lately by putting a rope across the street after dark in the evenings and upsetting passers-by. One elderly lady from the Mains was thrown down in this way and greatly frightened and hurt the other evening. These jokers will be looked after.*

AS THE chapter on Monkton pubs reveals, licensees in the village tended to have a healthy disregard for the licensing laws, and the authorities seem to have had a full-time job clamping down on after hours drinking

The New Inn in Monkton Lane was a pub with a tough reputation; when police officers went there in 1864 to evict some after hours drinkers, one of them drew a knife. The police responded by hitting him over the head with a truncheon after which a riot erupted which only ended when police reinforcements arrived.

Transported to Australia

THE only Monktonians that we know of who were transported for their crimes were a married couple, a labourer named Henry Gwyther and his wife Anne (née Richards). According to historian Richard Rose, both were born in Monkton and they were married in 1831.

Henry was a petty criminal and had already served time for theft. Anne, meanwhile, was imprisoned for a month in 1833 for being 'idle and disorderly'.

Soon after her release, she and her husband were drinking in an alehouse in the East End of Pembroke when they were at the centre of a violent disturbance.

The Constables were called and, when one of them attempted to arrest Gwyther, Anne stabbed him three times with a knife.

The Constable survived, but Anne was later sentenced to death for the attack. This was reduced to transportation for ten years, and she was one of 140 female convicts who landed at Sydney in June 1834.

Her husband was jailed for 18 months for his part in the fracas and not long after leaving prison he was arrested once again, this time for the theft of metal from a Pembroke blacksmith.

For this he was sentenced to seven years' transportation, landing in Sydney in late 1837. There is no evidence that he and his wife were ever reunited.

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Monkton poachers

POACHING rabbits (coneys), hares and game birds on the Orielton, Bush and Stackpole estates has been a popular – if illegal – way of putting fresh meat on the table for generations of Monkton men and boys.

The rabbits and hares could also be sold for their pelts to one of several rabbit merchants who collected locally and usually didn't ask too many questions about the source of the merchandise.

The Greyhound pub in Bush Terrace was well known as a meeting place for the local poaching gangs in Victorian times and the landlord could generally be relied on to provide an alibi when suspicion fell on one of his regulars (in return for a brace of hare or pheasant).



A scene from 'A Desperate Poaching Affray', an early silent film by pioneer Pembroke film-maker William Haggar. Perhaps he was inspired by the exploits of the Monkton poaching gangs.

We only know the names of the poachers careless enough to get caught, but among those Monkton men who regularly fell foul of the keepers were butcher Bennie Gwyther, labourer William Hill, blacksmith Charles Harries and stonemason, William Robinson, together with various members of the Nicholas and Richards clans.

While the magistrates may have taken a dim view of poaching (many of them being land-owners themselves), as long as nobody got hurt there was never any real stigma attached to this particular crime. In 1909 George Jenkins, 29, of Monkton was found guilty of being involved with a party of poachers going after coneys on Gupton Burrows, but it didn't prevent him becoming Borough Mayor in 1943.

NATHANIEL Rudd lived with his wife Sarah in Back Lane in 1861, later moving to Priory Mains and then Bankers Row – the latter being home to several poachers.

And Rudd himself was one of the most prolific of the Monkton poaching fraternity. Many's the time he was nabbed by gamekeepers while prowling Stackpole Warren or the Orielton plantations with gun and snares, a hare or two hanging from his belt.

For his first few offences Rudd was fined; he was later given a number of short prison sentences, but it doesn't seem to have deterred him – and indeed most Monkton poachers seem to have shrugged off the odd fine or week in prison as an acceptable occupational hazard.

His son John followed in his father's footsteps, being twice charged with poaching by the age of 16 (when he was described as 'a forward customer'). He was jailed for a month for the second offence after he was arrested while trespassing on land at Castleton with a lurcher, a terrier, a ferret and nets.

John Rudd's regular partner in crime was Charles Nicholas from Cross Mains, son of blacksmith John Nicholas, a gentleman not unknown to the keepers himself.

Charles' first encounter with the law came when he was about 12 and was charged with assault after throwing stones at a neighbour. By the time he was 20 he had several convictions for poaching to his name and these continued throughout the 1870s.

Since he usually opted for prison time rather than paying a fine he was familiar with the inside of gaols from Haverfordwest to Swansea and it was noted in 1881 that he had spent the past four Christmas Days in prison.

In 1882 Rudd and Nicholas seriously overstepped the mark, being charged with shooting a gamekeeper named Tippin, 'with intent to do him grievous bodily harm'.

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The petty sessions in Pembroke heard that Tippin and William Raymond, both keepers on Lord Cawdor's estate at Stackpole, had been on duty in the early hours of the morning when they spotted the two Monkton poachers emerging from a covert.

Stated Tippin: 'We then ran towards them. They ran away. Rudd jumped over a slop, and I went after him. As soon as he jumped the slop he turned round and fired the gun. It was pointed towards me, and I received the charge in my hand and arm.

'Just as he fired I slipped with my foot, which threw me sideways, otherwise the shot would have taken effect in the front of my body. After the prisoner had shot at me he ran away, and I followed until I got faint and then had to stop.'

Both prisoners, who said they were in bed at the time the affair took place, were committed to the Assizes in Haverfordwest. At this hearing the judge directed the jury that there was no evidence against Nicholas, and he was discharged.

However the jury found John Rudd guilty of 'shooting with intent to resist his lawful apprehension'. He was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment with hard labour.

THE BRAVE but unfortunate keeper Tippin was also the victim in the most notorious affair involving a Monkton poaching gang.

This occurred in 1894 and involved a gang of poachers led by Monkton chimney sweep John Glass, aged 40, of Bush Terrace. His partners in crime were labourer John Skone from Orange Gardens and three men living in Bankers Row – John Tunster, an Irishman named Jeremiah Mara and general labourer Larry Mahaney.

Glass was a notorious poacher and easily identifiable by gamekeepers since a drunken accident with a gun a few years earlier had blown off part of his left hand and badly disfugured his face.

Under the headline 'Poaching Affray Near Pembroke – Murderous Attack on Gamekeeper' the *Pembrokeshire Herald* reported what had happened:

On Sunday morning, about half-past six o'clock, Henry Tippin, the under-gamekeeper, was at Chapel Hill, about four miles from Pembroke, when he saw five men with bags and nets.

He accosted them, and said he should follow them to Pembroke. Not being a constable, he had no right to search them on the high road.

When he said that, they set upon him with bludgeons, and beat him very badly. Some men came to his assistance and he was taken to Dr. Anderson, who at once ordered him to bed, as his condition was very bad indeed.



Another still from 'A Desperate Poaching Affray'.

The men were watched to Glass's house, and there apprehended by the police, At Glass's house the police found 30 rabbits and rabbit nets, and the rabbits were evidently freshly killed.

The five men – described as being of 'rough, unkempt appearance' – were remanded in Carmarthen Gaol and some time passed before the case could be heard, Tippin being too weak from his wounds to give evidence.

When the prisoners finally appeared in court in Pembroke their passage from the station – manacled together on one long chain and accompanied by two warders – attracted a huge and hostile crowd. The magistrates duly remanded the men to stand trial at Carmarthen Assizes

Here three of them pleaded 'Not guilty', while Skone and Glass – the two who led the assault – said they were guilty in self-defence.

All five prisoners were found guilty. Glass was sentenced to 18 calendar months, and Skone to the same term. Mara and Tunster were each sentenced to six calendar months, and Mahaney, whom the judge recognised as having talcen a less prominent part in the assault, was sentenced to three calendar months.

It wasn't the end of Glass' criminal career – he was jailed in 1901 for stealing fish in Milford Docks and again in 1904 for poaching rabbits.

Skone's main claim to fame in later life was being the father of James Skone, executed by a firing squad in WWI for shooting dead a superior officer. By keeping the manner of James' death quiet, John Skone ensured that his son's name would be recorded for posterity on the Pembroke War Memorial.

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The eventful career of William C Harris

FROM Victorian times onwards, Monkton has been noted for its gardeners; the houses built in the early 19th century all had large and productive cottage gardens in which the villagers took great pride.

The annual show organised by the Monkton Garden and Industrial Society included prizes for the best-kept vegetable and flower gardens, and there was always fierce competition for this honour.

Supplying the village gardeners with seeds, bulbs and plants for over fifty years was the Harris family – three generations of nurserymen, seedsmen and market gardeners with their business in the heart of Monkton.

The enterprise was founded by Monkton-born John Harris, recorded as a gardener living in Priory Terrace in 1841.

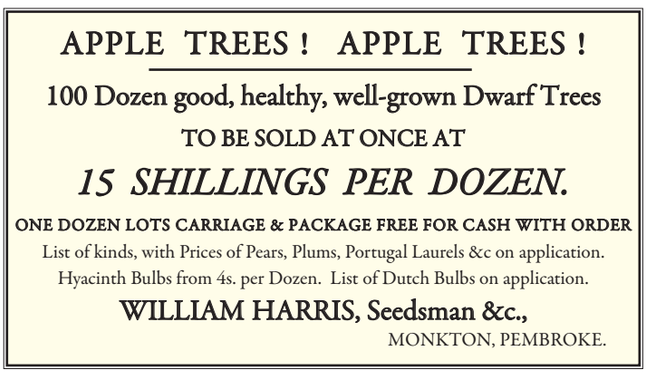
He continued to run a market gardening business into the 1860s when it was taken over by his son William who appears to have moved across the road on his marriage to live in Bush Terrace.

Under William's supervision the business thrived. He produced a seed catalogue every year and – as the advert above shows – he was able to supply a wide range of products, from fruit trees to Dutch bulbs.

WILLIAM and his London-born wife Sarah had a son called William Cowper Harris. He was baptised in Monkton Church in 1857 and joined his father in the family business in the 1870s; in 1880 they were styling themselves 'Harris and Son, Seedsmen and Nurserymen'.

However it seems that William Cowper Harris' ambitions lay in a different direction. In 1882 he married Carmarthenshire farmer's daughter Jane Letitia Samuel, who was employed as a governess by a family in Tenby, and when their first son Edgar was baptised the following year William C Harris gave his occupation as 'reporter'.

It appears that he had left the family firm in order to become Pembroke correspondent for the weekly *Pembrokeshire Times, Tenby Telephone and General Advertiser* which had been founded in 1879,


APPLE TREES ! APPLE TREES !

100 Dozen good, healthy, well-grown Dwarf Trees

TO BE SOLD AT ONCE AT

15 SHILLINGS PER DOZEN.

ONE DOZEN LOTS CARRIAGE & PACKAGE FREE FOR CASH WITH ORDER

List of kinds, with Prices of Pears, Plums, Portugal Laurels &c on application.

Hyacinth Bulbs from 4s. per Dozen. List of Dutch Bulbs on application.

WILLIAM HARRIS, Seedsman &c.,

MONKTON, PEMBROKE.

He also secured another post in 1884, being appointed Clerk to the Pembroke School Board, an important position for which he was paid £100 a year.

William C Harris and his wife continued to live in Monkton in the 1880s and they had three more children – Gladys, Astley and Daisy – all baptised at Monkton Priory.

WILLIAM Harris the elder, seedsman and nurseryman, died in 1893 aged 71. By this time his son William Cowper Harris was becoming a figure of some standing in the south Pembrokeshire community.

As well as continuing in the role of Clerk to the School Board, he had risen to become editor and part owner of *The Pembrokeshire Times*. He was a member of the Castlemartin Lodge of Freemasons, a churchwarden of Monkton Priory, helping raise funds for the church restoration, and in 1893 – still only 36 – he was elected to the Town Council.

William and his family moved into a house in Eaton Place, Pembroke Main Street, and it seemed that everything was coming up roses for the gardener turned newspaper proprietor.

Which made it all the more shocking when he was arrested in 1898 and charged with defrauding the Pembroke School Board of £5.2s.

As Clerk to the School Board, W C Harris was responsible for sending out wage payments to staff at the schools under the Board's control. At the annual audit in 1898 it was discovered that a cheque for £5.2s had been made out to a non-existent teacher and that the money had found its way into Harris' account.

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Harris explained that it was a simple mistake on his part and he immediately repaid the Board. Despite this, in April 1898 he was arrested at his home and charged with falsifying accounts – 'A Pembroke Sensation – Clerk to the School Board Apprehended' as the Cardiff *Evening Express* headlined it.

Harris was bailed to appear at the Quarter Sessions in Haverfordwest, with the Vicar of Monkton, the Rev David Bowen standing surety. By the time the case came to trial Harris had resigned from the Town Council and had been relieved of his position by the School Board.

At the Quarter Sessions in the Shire Hall, Harris pleaded not guilty to deliberately falsifying accounts, maintaining that it was simply an error that had occurred during a period of ill health. After a lengthy hearing, the jury found him innocent of all charges – a verdict that met with applause from the public gallery.

WILLIAM Harris might have been acquitted, but he no longer saw any future for himself in Pembroke – or Britain, for that matter. The following year he and his family emigrated to Canada.

They first settled in Rapid City, Manitoba, where William worked as a printer, before moving further west, to Vancouver in British Columbia. Then a young port city of some 25,000 people, Vancouver was in the process of expanding rapidly following the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Here William set up his own business as a printer and publisher, which he called The Citizen Printing and Publishing Co. His two sons were also part of the enterprise; Edgar died in 1916, aged 32, but Astley remained involved in the print industry until his death in 1945.

As well as being a printer, William Harris produced – and probably edited – a popular weekly newspaper called *The Citizen* which was published between about 1908 and 1922.

In 1915, William C Harris made a lasting contribution to rural life in British Columbia. Drawing on his horticultural roots in Monkton he launched a monthly magazine called *Garden, Orchard and Farm*, designed to appeal to farmers, gardeners and ranchers throughout the province. Renamed *Country Life in BC* in 1919, the magazine proved a great success, especially with farmers' wives. "I received the most flattering letters of appreciation," noted Harris in later life.



Monkton boy who made good – William C Harris. The magazine he founded in 1915 is still going strong (below).



LAW BC needs stronger deterrents against trespassers 7
OBIT Bert Miles remembered 11
CROPS Field day yields more than spuds 17

COUNTRY LIFE IN BC

The agricultural news source in British Columbia since 1915 | SEPTEMBER 2022 | Vol. 108 No. 9

Weather extremes keep coming

Different year, new challenges

PETER MITHAM

Hard labour for a good cause

Blueberry land jam

PETER MITHAM

It continued to be published by The Citizen Printing and Publishing Co until about 1923 at which time W C Harris sold the title to George and Margaret 'Ma' Murray, editors and publishers of numerous newspapers and magazines in Canada. Under them, *Country Life in BC* went on to become the province's leading source of news and features on rural issues.

Remarkably, the magazine that William Cowper Harris founded is still going strong, and *Country Life in BC* received a special award in 2015 from the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture to mark 100 years of continuous publication.

The other contribution that William Cowper Harris made to horticulture in Canada came in the form of a book which he wrote, published in January 1925, called *All the Year Round Gardening – A Manual for Amateur Gardeners*.

Containing a calendar of garden activities for every month of the year, with special articles on trees, flowers and shrubs, it ran to 56 pages.

William Cowper Harris died later that same year of 1925, aged 69, and was buried in Mountain View Cemetery, Vancouver. His wife Jane Letitia Harris outlived him by 15 years while their unmarried daughter Gladys passed away as recently as 1970, aged 86. Their other Monkton-born daughter Daisy married a man named Redpath and died a widow in 1965.

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The man who found a fortune in America

IN HIS unpublished memoirs, Arthur Arlow recalled growing up in Monkton in the 1890s. He wrote: *In No. 5 Washington Terrace lived our local butcher, Mr Joe Lewis. Before he became a qualified butcher he went to America and secured a job as a cattle drover.*

He is reputed to have driven the cattle to mart one day, sold them and absconded with the money. He returned to Monkton eventually and started business as a butcher.

With his supposedly ill-gotten money from the sale of the cattle he purchased a sailing ketch and named it after his daughter, Mary Jane.

Older residents of Pembroke may recall the 'Mary Jane Lewis' discharging her cargoes of Irish potatoes and general cargoes from the various Bristol Channel ports at Pembroke Quay.

JOSEPH Lewis was born in Monkton in 1845 to Mary and Joseph Lewis, his father being a joiner and shipowner.

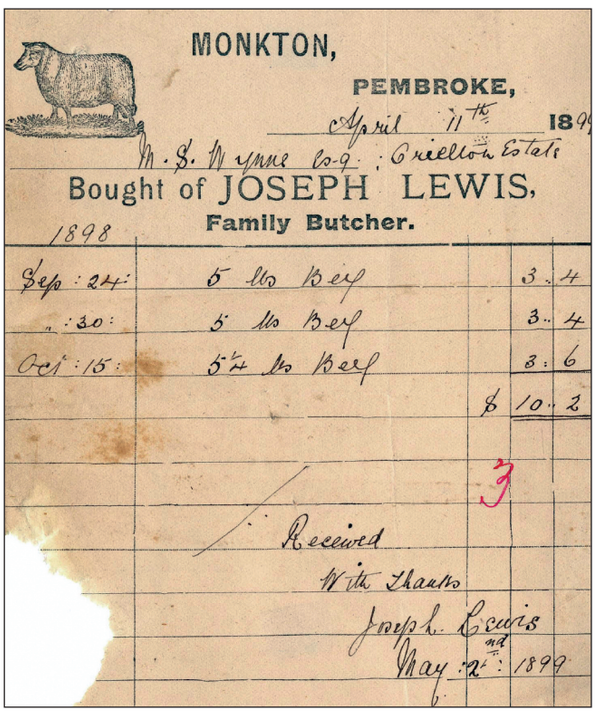
In 1866, when young Joseph married Margaret Rees, he described himself as a mariner, probably aboard his father's coaster *Lively*. However he was a labourer in 1871, living a few doors from the Dragon Inn.

A couple of years later Joseph and Margaret emigrated to America and the records show that they were living in East Orange Township, New Jersey in August 1874. Their daughter Mary Jane was born in New Jersey and was baptised in 1875 at the Dutch Reformed Church, East Orange.

No other record of the family's time in America seems to exist, so it is impossible to confirm the story about stealing the cattle-men's money. However, for some reason, the family's stay in America was brief and by 1881 Joe was back in Monkton.

He seems to have learned the butchery trade in America because he set up in business as a butcher in Bush Terrace, living with Margaret, son Joseph and daughter Mary Jane Lewis. In the 1891 census, by which time the family had settled in the newly-built Washington Terrace, Mary Jane is described as being of 'weak intellect'.

Joseph is believed to have built the first house


MONKTON,
PEMBROKE,
April 11th 189
M. S. Wynne Esq: Griellon Estate
Bought of JOSEPH LEWIS,
Family Butcher.
1898
Sep: 24: 5 lbs Beef 3.4
" :30: 5 lbs Beef 3.4
Oct: 15: 5½ lbs Beef 3:6
£ 10.2
Received
With Thanks
Joseph Lewis
May 2nd 1899

in Washington Terrace, while according to other accounts he actually had the whole terrace constructed, which he then named after the US President to recall his time in America.

In 1884 Joe Lewis stood for the local council and was returned unopposed. At the contested election in 1888 it was reported:

There was a good deal of excitement towards the close of the poll, which was a very heavy one. Alderman R. George, returning officer for the Pembroke Ward, declared the numbers at 10 o'clock as follows: Joseph Lewis 329, John Rixon 314, E. Rooks 207, T. W. Young 196, George Price 107.

Mr Lewis was chaired, and was conveyed home accompanied by a great crowd and preceded by a band of music.

As Arthur Arlow noted, Joe was indeed the original owner of the well-remembered ketch *Mary Jane Lewis,* named after his daughter and launched in 1899 (see panel opposite).

The sturdy little vessel long outlived Joseph Lewis who died in 1908 aged 64.

He remained a town councillor until his death but was always overlooked when it came to appointing the Borough Mayor – this oversight

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being attributed by his supporters to his relatively humble Monkton background.

However his funeral in Monkton churchyard took place with full civic honours. His obituary noted: *We regret to announce the death of Mr. Joseph Lewis, a gentleman widely known in the town and district, and a respected member of the Town Council.*

Mr. Lewis, who was 64 years of age, was born in Monkton, but for some years was abroad in the United States.

He returned about 30 years ago, and since then had carried on business as a butcher at Monkton. For thirty years he never missed attending Pembroke Dock and Pembroke markets each week until a fortnight ago.

For 24 years he was a member of the Pembroke Council, and his speeches on various topics were a fruitful source of amusement at the deliberation of that body. He had a style of oratory which was peculiar to himself, and when he championed a cause he threw himself into it heart and soul.

He was perhaps at times rather too outspoken as to his convictions, and at the time of his death an action for libel was pending against him, which would have been tried in November.

In politics he was a staunch Conservative, but he had attended both the Wesleyan Church and Monkton Church and on Sunday was prayed for in each.

Often called 'The King of the Market' for his lengthy career as a stallholder., Joseph was survived by his second wife, Mary, by his son Joe who carried on the butchery business, and by daughter Mary Jane.

Joseph Lewis left an estate valued at £3,718, most of which went to his son Joseph. He also left £100 'to the churchwardens of Monkton to provide an annual pleasure trip for the choir'.



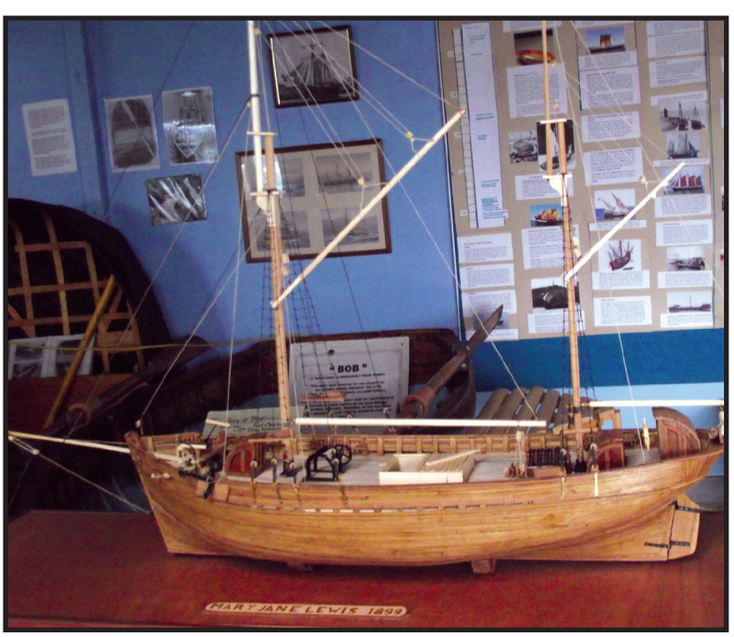
The imposing monument to Joseph Lewis still stands in Monkton churchyard.

The *Mary Jane Lewis*

PICTURED right is a model of the ketch *Mary Jane Lewis* made by local historan David James and on display in the maritime museum in Front Street, Pembroke Dock.

Built for Joseph Lewis and named after his daughter, the *Mary Jane Lewis* was launched in 1899 from James Evans' yard at Jacob's Pill on the Pembroke River.

Her maiden voyage was from Pembroke Quay to Ireland with a cargo of turnips. This was the first of countless voyages undertaken by the long-serving coaster, carrying everything from slates and limestone to sand, coal and animal feedstuff.



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Religious life

PEMBROKE was well served through most of its history by its three Norman churches: St Mary's and St Michael's in Pembroke Main Street and the Priory Church in Monkton.

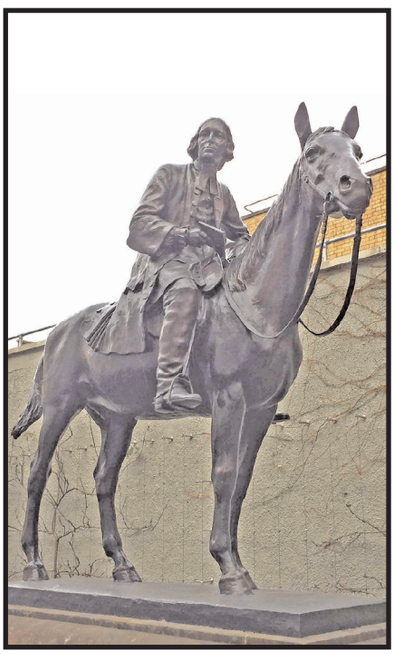
However, the late 18th century saw changes in religious practices with the coming of nonconformity and the flowering of a new religious zeal in the 19th century, which resulted in chapel building as well as church renovation.

In the second half of the 18th century, Methodist preachers began to visit Pembrokeshire, the first being Thomas Taylor who came on a preaching tour in the summer of 1761.

John Wesley himself paid the first of his 14 visits to Pembroke on August 21st 1763 when he noted in his journal that he 'preached in the evening. A few gay people behaved ill at the beginning, but in a short time they lost their gaiety and were as serious as their neighbours.'

On his second visit July 28th 1764, he wrote that he 'the minister sent me word that I should preach in his church, but before service began, the Mayor of Pembroke sent to forbid it, so he preached a good sermon himself'.

However, Wesley was not without support. He added 'The Mayor's behaviour so disgusted many of the gentry that they resolved to hear where they could and, accordingly, flocked together in the evening from all parts of the town, and perhaps the taking up of this Cross may profit them more than my sermon would have done.'



Statue of John Wesley outside the New Room in Bristol.

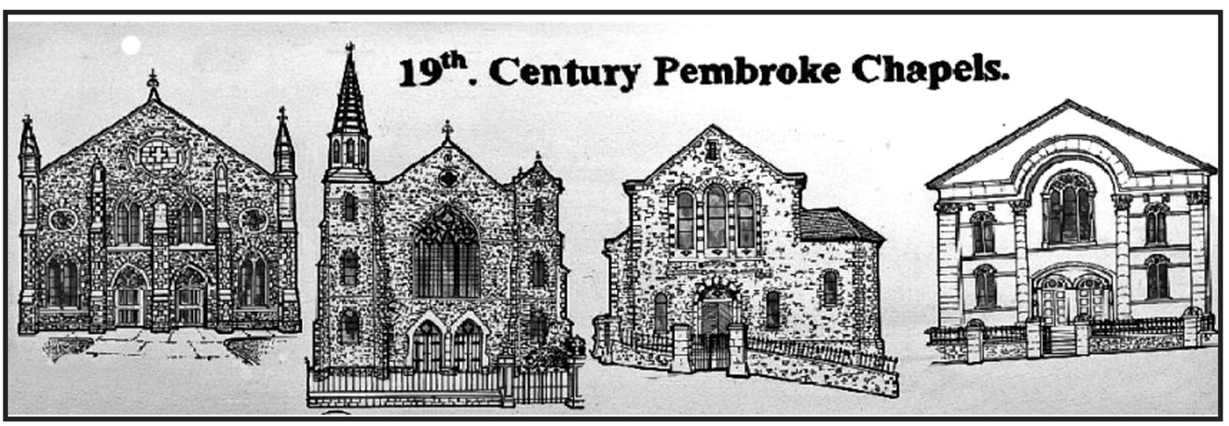
Support was growing for, on a later visit, in September 1st 1767, he wrote 'I rode into Pembroke and on this and the next evening preached in the Main Street to far more than the house could have contained.'

The house referred to was the building behind what used to be the York Tavern –- now a private house called the Medieval Chapel. It had opened as a preaching place before this visit and Wesley is said to have stayed here during his visits to Pembroke, where he appears to have been treated with great respect by 'elegant and fashionable audiences'.

Wesley would preach often at St Daniel's, which he greatly favoured, the town hall and also 'Monktown' Church which he described as 'a large, old, ruinous old building'.

He commented 'I suppose it has scarce had such a congregation in it this century.

'Many of them were gay and genteel people; so I spoke on the first elements of the Gospel. But I was still out of their depth; O how hard it is to be shallow enough for a polite audience.'



Pembroke's four great chapels – Westgate, Tabernacle, Mount Pleasant and Wesley.

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THE MID 19th century saw the building of four great chapels in Pembroke; one of these, the Tabernacle, also established a small chapel in Long Mains, Monkton.

John Harris has researched the history of Pembroke's Tabernacle, a history which began in 1800 when two Congregationalist preachers, Richard Morgan of Henllan and Morgan Jones of Trelech, made several preaching tours of the county and, where they could, formed small societies.

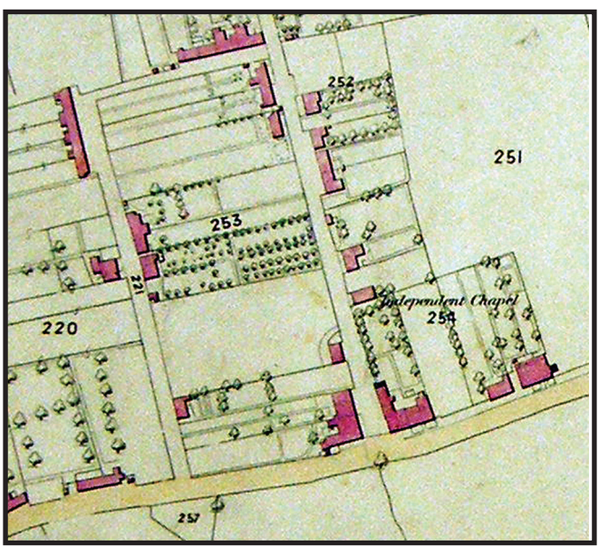
A Congregationalist Society was founded at Manorbier Newton, then relocated in 1802 to Lamphey where a house was purchased and converted for public worship.

In 1811 the church moved to Pembroke, where a piece of land at the bottom of the New Way was purchased from Sir John Owen on which to build the first Tabernacle. It is still there, although now a private dwelling renamed Chapel House.

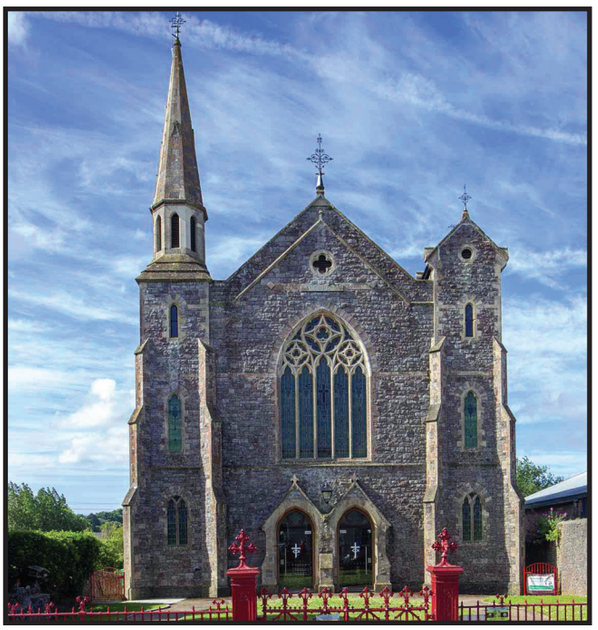
Under the ministry of the Rev W Harris, the congregation steadily grew, aided by the influx of workers to the new dockyard of Pembroke Dock. This was to lead to the foundation of a new chapel there in 1824: its congregation would later build the Tabernacle on Albion Square.

It was at this time too that Monkton rapidly spread westwards as rows of terraced cottages were built to house the workers of the Dockyard and their families.

Mr Harris died in 1845 and it was the Rev W C Fisher in 1847, who was instrumental in building a small chapel in Long Mains, Monkton – the only nonconformist place of worship to be built it the village. It accommodated a small Sunday School and held occasional services.



Map showing the site of the little chapel at the top of Priory Mains.



Pembroke's Tabernacle Chapel once had a a satellite chapel in Monkton.

Eventually, the old chapel on the New Way was found to be too small to accommodate the congregation. This led to the erection in 1867 of the present, impressive Tabernacle chapel in Main Street with seating for 500 people. The Rev David Salmon was pastor at the time, a time when all the aonconformist chapels were rebuilt – Westgate Chapel in 1866, the Wesleyan Chapel in 1872 and Mount Pleasant in 1877.

The 20th century saw a decline in the church. Depression following the Great War and economic hardship with the closing of the Dockyard saw many leave the town in search of work elsewhere.

Following the second world war, chapel congregations continued to decline, which eventually led to the closing of the Tabernacle's sister church at Pembroke Dock.

The Mains chapel also closed at this time after serving the community of Monkton for a hundred years. William Nicholas (see Memories) recalled: 'I started Sunday School at the little chapel in Long Mains which was attached to the Tabernacle Congregational Church and was well attended by the majority of the children in Long Mains and district'. It was demolished in the redevelopment of Monkton in the '60s.

On October 5th 1972, the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregationalist Church of England and Wales joined to form the United Reformed Church.

Happily the Pembroke Tabernacle, having undergone recent renovation, continues to be an active church.

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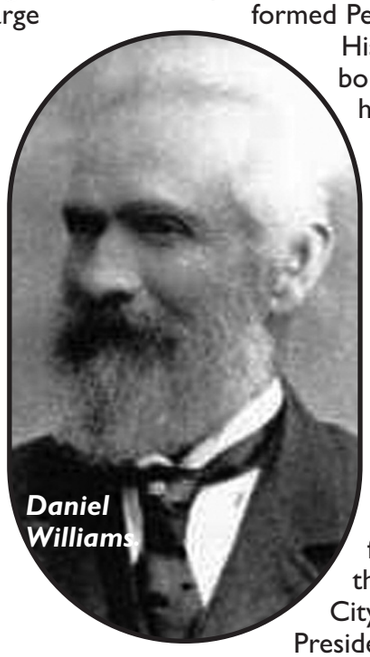
Monkton Mormons

ONE aspect of Monkton's history which has been largely forgotten is the strange fact that for over a decade from the mid-1840 the village was a centre of the Mormon religion.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints had been founded on the east coast of America in about 1830 by Joseph Smith as a Christian-based religion whose gospel was The Book of Mormon – a text apparently based on a mysterious book with golden pages which had been revealed to Smith by an angel.

The new faith soon attracted a large number of adherents, though it was often subject to criticism by those outside the church, mainly due to its acceptance of polygamy. These critics could turn violent and Smith (who had an estimated 28 wives) was murdered by an anti-Mormon mob in Illinois in 1844.

By this time, partly due to persecution, the Latter Day Saints were migrating westwards. This process was completed under their new leader, Brigham Young, who led his people through a barely-charted wilderness to the Great Salt Lake where they settled and began to construct a society based on the beliefs and values set down in The Book of Mormon.



Daniel Williams

They also began a missionary campaign, mainly in northern Europe, with converts being encouraged to leave their homes and cross the ocean and the Great Plains to help build the Mormon community in Utah/Idaho.

Apart from the Scandinavian countries, Wales supplied the greatest number of emigrants from any European nation, and among these Mormon pioneers was a large contingent from south Pembrokeshire.

This was thanks mainly to the efforts of two Mormon Elders from east Wales called John Morris and John Price who had been sent separately as a missionaries to Pembrokeshire in the mid-1840s by Captain Dan Jones, President of the Welsh Mormon Conference.

That there was already a Mormon presence in Pembroke is revealed by Elder Morris in his journal for December 1846 in which he noted on his first visit: *Arrived in Pembroke the same night and was kindly received by the Saints.*

Morris preached the Mormon gospel tirelessly all over Pembrokeshire, being welcomed in some places but heckled and ill-treated in others. His journal shows that he preached to a group of Mormons in west Monkton, calling it by the old local name of 'New Zealand':

October 22nd, 1847. *I visited some Saints in New Zealand and enjoined with them in prayer.*

He visited Monkton again in 1848, in which year he became the first President of the newly-formed Pembrokeshire Mormon Conference. His chief Counsellor was Penally-born Daniel Edward Williams, who had been baptised into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Merthyr in 1847 before returning to his native county as a preacher and helping establish the Stepaside branch – the first in Pembrokeshire.

Elder John Morris married Mary Ormond in Pembroke in 1847 and settled in Monkton where their second child Hyrum was born; sadly he only lived a few weeks and is buried in Monkton.

In 1850 Elder Morris and his family left for Liverpool to begin the gruelling journey to Salt Lake City and he was succeeded as President of the Pembrokeshire Conference by fellow missionary John Price, once a miner in Nantyglo.

LIKE John Morris, Elder Price travelled and preached extensively around Pembrokeshire in the late 1840s and early 1850s, paying several visits to Monkton which he referred to in his journals, for example:

I baptised Eliza Lewis and Prisilla Baker at Monkton and confirmed them on the 5th. While baptising them my hat was blown away by a gust of wind and I narrowly escaped from drowning by trying to recover it.

Baptised Mary Jones and Eliza Jones her daughter and confirmed them on the 24th at Monkton Saints' meeting.

However it was his Counsellor, the hard-working Elder Daniel Williams, who seems to have done most to foster the cause in the Monkton area,

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His journal for spring 1850 illustrates the rapid growth of Mormonism in Monkton and Hundleton.

February 1850. *On Sunday 12th preached at Priory Mains, baptised Thomas Rees and Thomas Harris of Manorbier. Held a Saints' Meeting at Mr. George Sinnatt's. Confirmed Thos. Rees and Thos Harris; had a good meeting, full of the Spirit of God.*

Monday 13th*. Preached at John Bagshaw's at Hundleton, to a large congregation.*

Tuesday 14th. *Continued at Monkton, conversing with many about the gospel. Baptised Mary Ann Griffiths of Hundleton.*

Wednesday, 15th. *Baptised John Bagshaw and John Hopla of Hundleton; confirmed them that evening in Saints' meeting held at William Davies', Priory Mains.*

Thursday 16th. *Preached at Square Island.*

Monday 20th. *Baptised Mary Howells, Catherine Hopla and Harriet Dawkins of Hundleton.*

Wednesday 22nd. *Saints' meeting in Monkton, confirmed the above three Sisters.*

Sunday 3rd March. *I preached at Priory Mains and attended Saints' Meeting; confirmed Ann Lawrence.*

Monday 4th. *Preached at Hundleton. Tuesday 5th at Square Island. Wednesday 6th, Saints' Meeting at Monkton.*

Sunday 10th. *Preached at Monkton at 10 o'clock, Saints' Meeting at 2:30 o'clock, confirmed Thomas Griffiths, Elizabeth Lewis and William Griffiths. The Holy Ghost was poured out on all the Saints. The gift of prophecy fell on Thomas Griffith while I was confirming him.*



John Price.

SUCH was the enthusiasm in Monkton for the religion that one of Elder Price's first moves when he replaced Elder Morris as President of the Pembrokeshire Mormon Conference in 1850 was to create a Pembroke Branch, centred on Monkton. As he wrote in his journal:

October 11th 1850. *In council at Monkton I commenced organising and officering that Branch and council which till then had been watched over by the presidency of the Conference. Here I ordained Priest John Hopla an Elder and set him to preside over the Pembroke branch.*

James Bridge, a shoemaker from Hundleton, was later made an Elder. George Sinnatt (or Sinnett), a grocer from Monkton Lane was made a priest and Thomas Griffith was made a teacher. in the Pembroke branch,

William Davies, a mariner whose house in Monkton Lane had been registered as a place of worship in March 1850, became a deacon.

And, such was its high standing in the Mormon Church that Monkton was chosen to host the first ever meeting of the Pembrokeshire General Council of the church on November 22nd 1850.

This burst of Mormon activity in Monkton seems to have aroused an amount of ill feeling in the area, particularly among the nonconformists of Pembroke. Daniel Williams recorded a violent disturbance at the home of John Hopla and his wife Catherine in Monkton Lane in the early hours of New Year's Day, 1851.

I returned to Pembroke and found that the Saints were all well, but had been greatly annoyed early that morning by a group of Wesleyans returning from their Watch Meeting. They had attacked Elder Hopla's house with a design to murder some of us.

About 1 o'clock in the morning Sister Hopla was awakened by a tremendous crack at the window, she distinctly heard one of them swear "We'll have 'em out directly."

Another tremendous crash at the door with some heavy weapon started one of the planks of the door and nearly drew the staple which received a large iron bolt which fastened the door.

They made another rush at the door with their shoulders, but failed to get it open; they then tried to force open the shutter of the window. While they were at this Elder Hopla mustered and called out "What do you want?" which frightened them and they ran away cursing and swearing like madmen!

On another occasion he noted:

The people about Monkton getting very mad would frequently surround the house in the night, roar like bears and beat the doors and windows til we expected they would have been smashed to pieces.

JOHN Hopla, the first President of the Pembroke branch, was an agricultural labourer born near Pwllcrochan in 1820. In 1846 he married Catherine Edwards and they made their home at Guilderoy, near Hundleton.

Ordained a Priest in the Mormon Church by Elder Morris, John Hopla was soon preaching at Wallaston Cross and Angle, the latter involving a 16-mile round trip on foot.

Continued

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Monkton Mormons

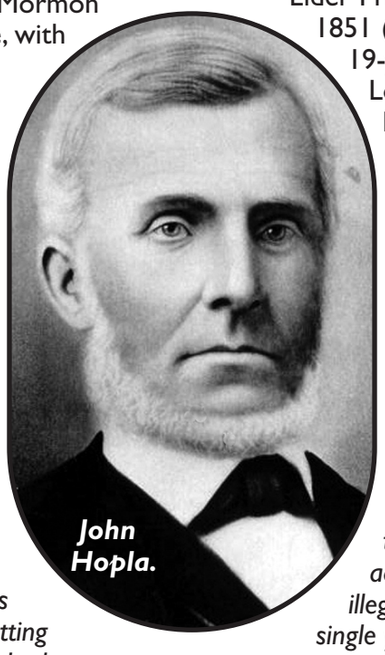
In his Record Book, compiled in 1853, Hopla noted: *'In October 1850 I removd from Huntleton to Monkton to live, on the purpose to have a house to preach and hold Saints meetings in and a place for Elders to lodge. John Price, president of Confrance, and Daniel Williams his Counsellor used to lodge with us and vittle for a long time'.*

It was soon after his arrival in Monkton that the Pembroke Branch was formed and John Hopla was made President by Elder Price. He and his wife proved to be particularly devout and hard-working members of the Mormon community in south Pembrokeshire, with John tramping the countryside to preach at places such as Lydstep, Lawrenny Ferry, Jameston and Carew Cross, while Catherine washed shirts and mended socks for the Elders.

According to the journals of John Price and Daniel Williams, however, the appointment of John Hopla as President didn't go down well with some members, notably Isaac Morgan from Quoits Water. Wrote Williams:

About this time Satan found that persecution from without could effect nothing. He stirred up Isaac Morgan, a teacher in the Pembroke Branch, to fight against us, by finding fault with us for ordaining Elder John Hopla, and setting him to preside over the branch at Pembroke.

He succeeded in influencing some of the young Saints, and winning them over to his views, many of them with himself staid away from the meetings. In council held at Monkton Nov 8th at which I was present, a stop was put to his proceedings.



John Hopla.

EXCEPT that it wasn't, and Isaac Morgan and his son George continued to stir up trouble for the Monkton Mormons for months to come.

At a court hearing in Pembroke in early 1851, at which George was charged with damaging a window at the home of a widow named Mary Howells in Monkton (while calling her 'a damned old Mormon'), Isaac Morgan told the court his real reason for opposing the church:

I have been to Latter Day Saints' meetings at the house of the complainant. I belonged to their society for eighteen months. I left them because of their immorality. I kept a sharp look-out after them and caught some of them committing adultery.

MORGAN was stopped from naming names by the Bench, but it's probable that his accusations would have gone right to the heart of the county organisation.

And shortly afterwards the Pembrokeshire Mormon Conference was shaken to the core by news that a member of the Pembroke Branch, an unmarried woman from Hundleton called Eliza Lewis, was expecting a baby and it was Pembrokeshire President John Price that she named as the father.

Elder Price denied the charge, so in August 1851 (two months after his marriage to 19-year-old Margaret Edwards of Long Mains) a hearing was held in Pembroke Town Hall to determine the paternity of Eliza's baby, which had recently been born.

The courtroom was packed, with Mormon supporters on one side being outnumbered by their opponents on the other. Reported the press:

John Price, a solemn, saintly-looking personage, who is known as 'the Morman Prophet', was summoned to appear on Friday before the magistrates at Pembroke, to show cause why he should not be adjudged to be the father of the illegitimate child of Eliza Lewis, a single young woman, a member of his congregation.

ELDER Price continued to deny paternity but was found guilty and ordered to pay maintenance. for the child.

However in the eyes of Daniel Williams and most of the Pembrokeshire Mormons he was an innocent man, more sinned against than sinning, and it was all a plot of the 'evil one' to stop Elder Price doing God's work.

Eliza Lewis was excommunicated, a few members of the Branch who sympathised with her were 'cut off', but otherwise it was business as usual for the Monkton Mormons.

And with Elder John Price having settled in Priory Mains following his marriage, and Daniel Williams marrying the widow Mary Howells of Monkton on January 1st, 1852, the village remained very much the hub of the religion in west Wales.

Daniel and Mary moved into a house in Pembroke Dock early in 1852, but he never had

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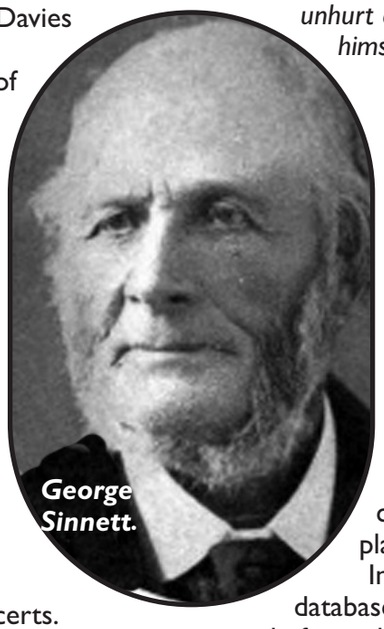
a great deal of success preaching in 'Pater' with its devoutly chapel-going population of dockyard workers. Consequently he was regularly back and forth to Monkton, attending Saints' meetings which were soon to be held in a newly-built and formally registered Mormon chapel erected in the garden of George Sinnett's house.

IT WAS rare for the Latter Day Saints to build places of worship in Wales; because so many of the early Mormons were preparing to emigrate it did not seem worth the cost and effort.

Instead, private houses were registered as places of worship, as was the case with the home of Monkton mariner William Davies in 1850.

However, such was the strength of the cause in Monkton that in 1852 it was decided to build a chapel on land behind George Sinnett's grocery shop – along with Llanelli and Abergele, one of only three places in Wales where Mormon chapels are known to have been built at that time.


George Sinnett.

Surviving accounts for the building of the chapel show that on March 20th, 1852 Thomas Rodgers was paid 12 shillings for carpentry work and Thomas Reid was paid 5s 8d for hauling stones.

The little tabernacle opened on May 23rd, 1852 and was soon being used for worship, meetings and concerts.

The Sinnetts lived in Bush Terrace so the chapel stood at the top of their long garden, with an access onto Watery Lane. Scant ruins of the old stone building, covered in ivy, were still standing until recent years, being finally demolished as recently as November 2021.

AS MIGHT be expected, this chapel provoked the rage of anti-Mormon elements in the area. Wrote Daniel Williams:

August 23rd, 1852: *At 7 o'clock we held a concert, which went off well. We all rejoiced together, but a mob gathered outside and attacked the house with stones, bawling like madmen. They tried to force the doors but failed. At half past nine o'clock the concert closed with prayer.*

When the brethren were going home peaceable, the mob followed them, tripped the heels of Wm. Hart and William Thomas and beat them, also Elder George Gibbs, pelting the men, women and children with stones while they offered no resistance, but took shelter in the house of Bro. Richard Jones, a priest.

When they had entered, the mob threw stones through the windows, breaking every window in the house, but the brethren received no more hurt. They staid there until morning.

24th. *I walked to Monkton to see if we could find out who had done the mischief on the previous night. We found out several who were the ringleaders of the mob, but could not find who beat the brethren or broke the windows.*

I returned to Pater about 10 o'clock, followed by parties from Monkton who went another way through the fields, and one of them got before me.

When he saw me he whistled on his comrades, but they did not come on in time, so I had to pass unhurt as he was afraid to attack me by himself.

DANIEL and Mary Williams sailed for America in February 1853 and survived the hardships of the overland trek to reach the 'promised land' in Utah where they set up home in the new Mormon settlement of Tooele.

Their departure must have come as a blow to the Mormon organisation in Pembrokeshire. However there were many faithful brethren still left in the county, dozens of whom were planning their own journey to 'Zion' In fact, the Welsh Mormon History database contains the names of 281 people from all over the county who emigrated to Utah and Idaho, mainly in the 'harvest years' of the 1850s.

The Pembroke Branch was weakened further in 1856 when John Price, the Sinnetts, John Hopla and several other of its leading lights set out on their own journeys to Utah. Here Price happily embraced polygamy by acquiring three more wives, all of them Pembrokeshire-born.

It didn't quite spell the end for the Latter Day Saints in Monkton, since Richard Jones was still living in Monkton Lane, aged 60, and describing himself as a Mormon Preacher in the 1861 census. He died in 1867, while a Monkton family named Hitchings was the last to leave the village for Utah two years later.

Thus in 1875, a missionary returning to Wales from Utah reported that there were no Saints left in Pembroke, save a widow woman named Jones – presumably the relict of Elder Richard Jones. Mrs Jones told the missionary that she had been a Mormon for 25 years and that she was very pleased to see him.

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From Monkton to Utah

NUMEROUS members of the Monkton Mormon community set sail for the 'Promised Land' in Utah, and many managed to complete the arduous journey. Here are some of their stories:

The Axton family: John Axton was born in Monkton in 1846 to Thomas Peter Axton, an agricultural labourer from Cheshire and his wife Elizabeth Sinnett (sometimes Sinnet, Sennatt or Sennett) who were married at Warren in 1835. Thomas and Elizabeth – who was 30 years younger than her husband – lived in Priory Mains from 1841 to 1856. Her brother George Sinnett became a leading figure in the Monkton Mormon community and Elizabeth was a staunch member of the Pembroke Branch.

John Axton and his parents emigrated aboard the *Samuel Curling* in 1856 when he was just eleven years old. Unable to afford an ox-cart, they set out to walk 1,000 miles across the Great Plains as part of a handcart company. Thomas Peter Axton died en route and was buried at Laramie, Wyoming, while Elizabeth died just five days after reaching Salt Lake City in October 1856, leaving John an orphan. Cared for by fellow Mormons, he grew up to work in the freight industry and was with the Union Pacific Railroad Company for many years.

He married Matilda Webb in 1866 in Utah. Their six children included Col John Thomas Axton, Washington-based Chief of Chaplains of the United States Army from 1920 to 1928. Matilda died in 1886 and two years later John married Harriet Leah Bell Axton. He died in 1926 in Salt Lake City.

J**ames Bridge:** James Bridge, born about 1807, was a shoemaker who lived in Hundleton between 1841 and 1851. He became an Elder and teacher in the Pembroke Branch and also presided over the Stepaside Branch at one stage. By 1870 a man of that name, born in Wales in 1807, was living in Tooele, Utah Territory, where he died in 1887.

John and Eliza Eynon: John Eynon was from Lawrenny and his wife Eliza was from Bristol. As Mormons they gravitated to Monkton and in 1851 were living three doors above the Victoria pub in Victoria Terrace. The following year they decided to make the journey to 'Zion'; however, with John being in the Navy and having three more years to serve, it was decided that Eliza would go on ahead with their three young children.



John Eynon.

Eliza was pregnant when she and the children set sail from Liverpool to New York aboard the *Cynosure*; she gave birth to a boy, Willard, aboard ship, but the child did not survive for long and was buried at sea.

After reaching New York, the family travelled on by train and steamer to Nebraska where they joined a wagon train of 102 carts pulled by oxen to cover the final stage of the journey to Salt Lake City. Sadly one of the children, Monkton-born George, died on the journey and was buried on the Plains.

John was able to join his family a year later. In 1867 they were sent to help create the new Mormon community of Hyde Park in the Cache Valley, where John found work as a carpenter and painter. John and Eliza moved to Teton, Idaho in about 1900; it was here that they died, John in 1908 and his widow nine years later.

Martha Eynon: Martha Eynon was a 17-year-old servant girl in Monkton in 1851 lodging with George and Martha Sinnett in Monkton Lane. She was a daughter of coal-miner Richard Eynon from Landshipping and his wife Sarah. A devout Mormon, Martha once faced up to a stone-throwing mob in Pembroke's East End during an open-air address by Daniel Williams.

Martha Eynon emigrated to the USA aboard the *Chimborazo* in 1855. According to one account, she met fellow Mormon David Lewis Reese from Monmouth on board and they were married at sea. They settled in Willard, in Box Elder County on the shore of the Great Salt Lake, where they ran a bakery business. and had six children. Martha died in 1923.

Her sister Margaret Eynon emigrated in 1866 and in December that year she became the fourth wife of the polygamous preacher, John Price.

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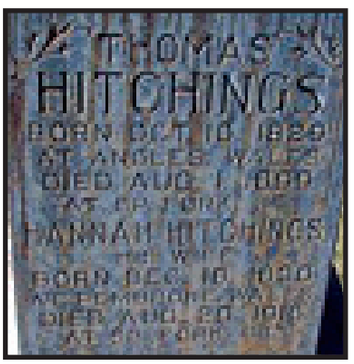
Thomas Hitchings and family: Thomas Hitchings was a member of a musical family. Born in Angle in about 1830, he was a son of George Hitchings who was a fisherman in his younger days before moving to Monkton to earn his living as a fiddler. In 1851 he was residing in Monkton, between Lake House and the Victoria pub, with his wife Ann (described in 1861 as a 'fiddleress'). Their daughter Martha and son Thomas were also fiddlers, probably playing at country weddings and street fairs. George was an unsavoury character and in 1852 he was jailed for two months for assaulting his wife; however by 1861 George and Ann had patched things up and were living in Pembroke's East End.

In 1852, Thomas Hitchings married Hannah John, the illegitimate daughter of Dockyard shipwright John Phillips who lived in Pembroke Main Street. Thomas and Hannah set up home in his parents' old house in Victoria Terrace, Monkton where they had five children between about 1856 and 1866, one of whom, Martha died at an early age.

In 1869 the family joined the Mormon Church; this was a decade after the main body of Monkton Mormons had left for Utah, and suggests that missionary preachers were still visiting the village. The Hitchings sailed in September 1869 aboard the steamer *Manhattan* from Liverpool to New York along with many other Mormon emigrants, Thomas no doubt entertaining his fellow passengers with his fiddle-playing.



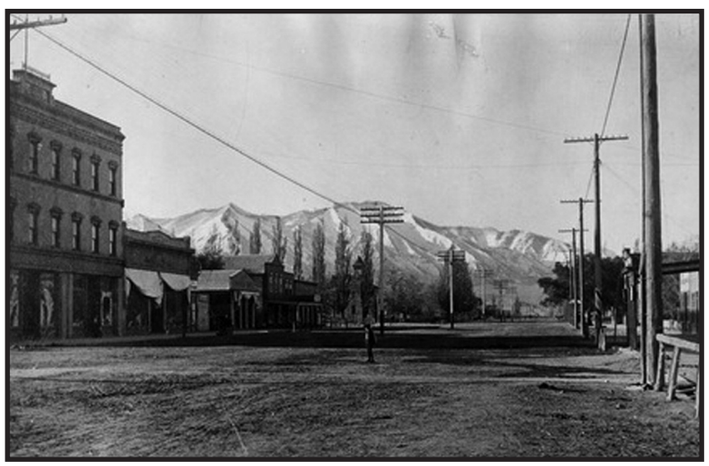
The gravestone of Thomas and Hannah Hitchings in Spanish Fork.

On arrival in Utah, Thomas and Hannah headed straight for Spanish Fork with their surviving Monkton-born children Jane (12), Margaret (11), Ellen (5) and George (3). Here they joined a well-established ex-Monkton community in the little Mormon settlement which had a population of about 1,400. Two more children were born in Spanish Fork, Elizabeth and Hannah, while the 1870 US Census shows Thomas earning his living as a violinist.

Thomas died in August 1899. He is buried in Spanish Fork alongside Hannah who died in August 1916; a newspaper obituary described her as 'one of the early settlers of the city'. She was survived by four children – George, a shoeshop manager who died in Los Angeles in 1954 and was buried in Spanish Fork, perhaps the last of the Monkton-born Mormons; Mrs Jane Armour who died in Salt Lake City in 1946, aged 90; Mrs Ellen Harrison of Salt Lake City and Mrs Elizabeth Bringleson of Spanish Fork.

John Hopla and family: John Hopla was born in June 1820 at Wallaston. An agricultural labourer, he married Catherine Edwards at Pwllcrochan in 1846 and both were converted to the Mormon faith in about 1848. John Hopla was ordained a Priest and in 1850 they moved to Monkton; when the Pembroke Branch was formed he became its first President and his house in Monkton Lane became a centre for preaching and prayer meetings.

Setting off for 'Zion', John and Catherine and their three young children left Liverpool in April 1856 aboard the *Samuel Curling*, arriving in Boston five weeks later.



Spanish Fork as the Monkton emigrants would have known it.

Capt Dan Jones, Welsh Mormon President, was a fellow passenger, as were the Axtons from Priory Mains and Elder John Price and family.

For some reason the Hoplas did not start the long wagon train trek across the Great Plains until 1859, during which journey Catherine Hopla gave birth to a child at Fort Laramie, Wyoming. Sadly both died soon afterwards.

John Hopla completed the journey with his three children and found work as a quarryman in Salt Lake City where he married a widow, Harriet Scratchard. They subsequently moved to Spanish Fork, Utah, where John died in 1892.

Continued

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From Monkton to Utah

Of the children who travelled, John Hopla junior, born in 1852 at Monkton, died in 1911 at Spanish Fork. (The 1900 Census described him as a farmer living a few doors away from Thomas Hitchings, above). Lorenzo Hopla, born in 1855 at Monkton, killed himself at Mapleton, Utah in 1916, suffering depression following the death of his wife. Jane James (née Hopla), born in 1848 at Hundleton, died in 1921 at Spanish Fork – the local paper noted 'Pioneer Choir Singer Passes to Reward'.

John James: John James was probably the last of the Monkton Saints to be 'gathered in'. He was born on St David's Day 1864 at Lake House, Monkton to a joiner named George James and his wife Elizabeth. John and his two brothers, William and George, would have attended the new British School just across the road.



John James.

By 1878 John James had moved to Swansea where he was employed as a hairdresser and the following year he married a Swansea girl named Jennie Williams. The Mormons were still sending missionaries to Wales at this time and John was converted to the faith in 1878. He and Jennie sailed to America, arriving in Salt Lake City in July 1885.

Here John found work on one of the local newspapers, specialising in court reporting. This gave him a taste for the law and he enrolled in law school in Michigan, graduating in 1896. Returning to Salt Lake County, he was appointed to a series of increasingly important positions within the legal department of the county administration, eventually being elected County Clerk of Salt Lake County and Clerk of the District Court; he was also British Vice-Consul in Salt Lake City for 20 years.

An Elder in the Mormon Church, he was the long-serving president of the Utah Cambrian Society and a proud Welshman, organising eisteddfoddau and concerts by the Welsh Mormon Choir. John James and his wife Jennie had six children, including a son called Harold Pembroke James.

Following his first wife's death he married Eliza Anna Merrill in 1899 in the Temple Church in Salt Lake City; their children included Glyndwr Tudor James (who wisely called himself Glenn).

John James, the Monkton boy who made good in Utah, died in 1954, aged 90.

The Price family: John Price was born in Nantyglo in 1820, After working as a miner for some years he became a Mormon missionary, settled in west Wales and was made President of the Pembrokeshire Mormon Conference.

In 1851 Elder Price, 32, married one of his flock, 19-year-old Margaret Edwards of Priory Mains, whose father was a Dockyard carpenter. The Prices lived in Monkton 'in an apartment above Mrs Sinette's grocery store for about five years' according to one account. Their first son, John William Price was born in March 1852 in Monkton and, when he was four years old, he travelled to America aboard the sailing ship *Samuel Curling* with his parents and two-year-old brother Joseph, Sadly Joseph died and was buried at sea one day before landing.

From Boston, the Price family travelled by cattle cars on the railroad to Iowa City, Iowa. Here they purchased a two-wheeled handcart for their baggage and joined a handcart company for the 1,000 mile trek to Salt Lake Valley. They arrived safely, and in 1857 John Price married a second wife in Salt Lake City; she was Susannah Thain, 24, from Amroth, and they eventually had five children.

The family later moved moved to Willard, Utah, where Margaret Edwards died in childbirth, in February 1866, aged 34. In December of that year, John Price (senior) acquired two more wives from Pembrokeshire on the same day – Margaret Eynon from Landshipping and Jane Lallis (or Lawless) from Camrose; by one account he fathered 16 children in his lifetime.

In 1867 the extended family moved further north to Malad City, just over the Idaho border, where John Price (senior) died in February 1883. His Monkton-born son, John William Price, married Sarah Millie Richardson on her 17th birthday, March 22, 1883, in the Salt Lake Temple. They had ten children, five boys and five girls. They bought a farm at Deep Creek, (a farming territory a few miles from Malad) and farmed there until John's death on October 1, 1909, at the age of 57. He was buried in the Malad Cemetery.

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Mary Scourfield: Born in Monkton in about 1802, Mary Scourfield was a daughter of Henry Scourfield, labourer. She married William Howells in 1828; they lived at Brownslate Gate, Hundleton in 1841 with children Lewis (11) and John (9). Widowed in the 1840s, she became a milliner and was baptised and confirmed into the Mormon faith by Daniel Williams in February 1850. She moved back to Monkton, where her house was regularly used for prayer meetings, and she often supplied meals to travelling Mormon preachers and washed and mended their clothes.

Daniel Williams was a regular visitor and he and Mary Howells were married in Pembroke Register Office in 1852; he signed, she made a cross. They lived for a year in Pembroke Dock and then sailed from Liverpool to New Orleans in 1853 aboard the *Jersey*, crossing the Great Plains by covered wagon. They helped create the Mormon settlement of Tooele, where there were only 30 families when they arrived in 1854, many of them from Wales. Mary Williams died in 1874; Daniel Williams died in 1882 in Tooele, 'perfectly resigned and willing to make the change'.

George and Martha Sinnett: George Sinnett was born in Angle in 1816 and his first wife was Elizabeth Ormond, a member of a Mormon family from Marloes, who had moved to Pembroke, She died after only a few months of marriage and the following year, 1841, George married Martha Watkins, a native of Landshipping. They settled in Bush Terrace, Monkton not far from where George had previously been lodging with his sister Elizabeth Axton in Priory Mains.

George was an agricultural labourer, while his wife ran a small grocery shop. Early converts to Mormonism, they were stalwarts of the cause in Monkton and George filled a string of senior roles in the Pembroke Branch, becoming its second President. Their house in Monkton Lane was a regular meeting place of the Saints, and in 1852 a Mormon chapel was built behind the property.

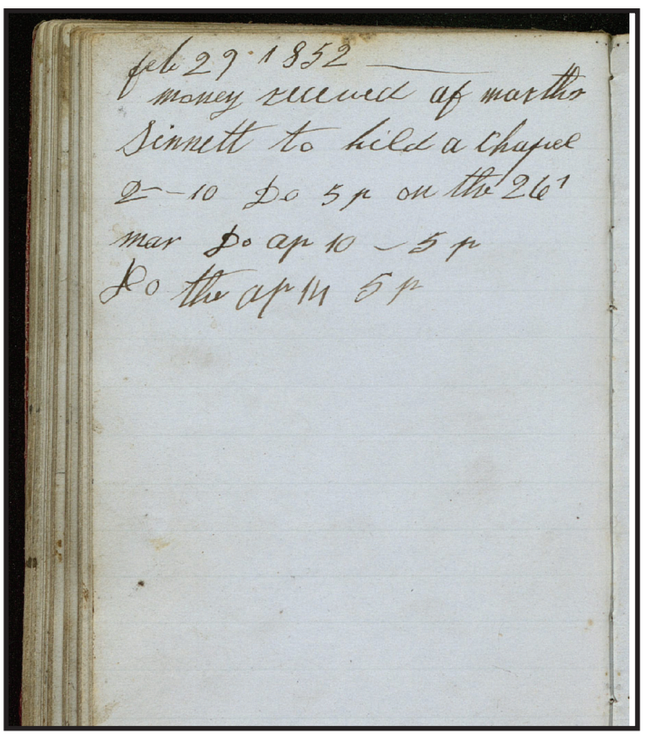
According to one published account: 'They emigrated with the Saints in 1856, bringing with them twelve other Saints who were too poor to pay their passage'.

George and Martha were early settlers in Spanish Fork, Utah, also to be home of the Hoplas and Hitchings who were once neighbours in Monkton. The 1870 and 1880 US Census returns both give George's occupation as 'farmer'.

George embraced the Mormon practice of polygamy, because in 1863 he took as his second wife a Danish woman named Kjerstine Nielsen who had arrived in Spanish Fork the previous year.

Martha Sinnett died in July 1892, aged 82. Speakers at her funeral in Spanish Fork – which was attended by 350 mourners – included Elder Thomas Martell, originally from Cenarth, who recalled the hospitality he had received at the Sinnetts' home in Monkton when travelling around west Wales as a preacher 40 year earlier. As he said of Martha: 'She was full of the spirit of God and very happy at all times and her house was ever open to the elders'.

George Sinnett died in 1895 aged 79, leaving an estate worth $12,000, mainly to his third wife, Kjerstine, who died in 1915. He had no children.


feb 29 1852
money received of martha
Sinnett to hild a chapel
2–10 Do 5p on the 26th
mar Do ap 10 – 5p
Do the ap 14 5p

Page from a donations book dated 1852 showing three contributions by Martha Sinnett towards the building of a Mormon chapel in Monkton.

Image courtesy of Jill Morgan/ Church History Library, Salt Lake City

Acknowledgements: The author of this chapter is grateful for the help of LDS historian Jill Morgan of Swansea. Much of the information comes from Brigham Young University website/ welshmormon-history and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Pioneer database.

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Vicars of Monkton

FOR many years the presentation of the vicar of St Nicholas' Church was vested in the Priory, although in practice it was often the King that made the appointment since the French wars regularly led to the 'alien' Norman Priory being taken over by the Crown.

Following the suppression of the monasteries, by Henry VIII, the living became the gift of whoever owned Monkton manor at the time.

For over 200 years, from about 1668 to 1877, the vicar of Monkton also held St Mary's and St Michael's in Pembroke, the parishes being united. St Nicholas' was usually under the pastoral care of a Curate-in-charge.

St Nicholas' church served a large rural parish, but one which became increasingly populous in the 19th century. In 1901 it was reported that during the previous century 3,016 baptisms, 658 marriages and 3,057 funerals had been conducted at the church – although many of these would have involved residents of the new town of Pembroke Dock in the years before Park Street Cemetery opened and St John's Church was built.

In recent years the church of St Nicholas has united with St Mary's in Pembroke and St Faith's in Lamphey under one vicar; the group makes up part of the Monkton Rectorial Benefice inaugurated in 2004.

The following list of Monkton vicars is derived substantially from an article by historian Francis Green, with the more recent incumbents taken from the framed list within the church.

Philip de Gardino. Presented in 1347 by the King, the Priory being in the hands of the Crown at that time due to the French wars.

Adam Page. Presented in March 1348 by the King (as above).

Philip Roland. Presented in December 1349 by the King (as above).

William Corlard (or Arlard). He was presented in July 1349 by the King (as above).

Walter Griffiths. He is known to have been in post in 1385.

David Popton. Presented in June 1385 by the King (as above).

Philip Mylet. He is known to have been vicar in 1495.

Philip David. Presented in February 1495 by the Prior of Pembroke.

David Philip. Presented in 1497 by the Prior of Pembroke.

John ap Morgan. Presented in 1534 by the Prior of Pembroke, he signed the Abjuration of Papal Authority the same year.

David Carold. Presented in 1554 by Sir John Vaughan of Whitland and Carmarthen, first squire of Monkton manor.

John Jones. Presented in 1562 by Sir John Vaughan (above).

Francis Owen. Known to have held the living in 1621, he was Rector of Hodgeston in 1631.

Peregrine Phillips Puritan preacher, known as 'The Apostle of Pembrokeshire', he was Priest in Charge of Monkton in the 1640s. Cromwell requested him to preach to his men during the siege of Pembroke.

John Mountford. He was presented in 1665 by Viscount Hereford and died in 1668.

Nicholas Stokes. An Oxford graduate, he held Monkton, St Mary's and St Michael's in 1668. He was also Vicar of Gumfreston in 1685.

Owen Jones. Presented in 1690 by Viscount Hereford.

Henry Poole. Presented in 1695 by Viscount Hereford, he also held St Mary's and was a schoolmaster in Pembroke.

Gilbert Jones. Presented in 1722 by Viscount Hereford, he also held St Mary's and St Michael's.

Peter Courtney. He is known to have held the living for a brief period in 1743.

David Lewis, Presented in February 1743 by Viscount Hereford, he also held St Mary's and St Michael's.

George Seall. Presented in 1770 by Viscount Hereford, he was another who also held St Mary's and St Michael's. He appears to have been a non- resident, preferring to live in Shropshire.

Thomas Powell. He was presented in 1790 by Viscount Hereford.

John Hughes. Presented in 1795 by Lord Viscount Hereford, he also held St Mary's and St Michael's. He died in 1809.

Charles Philipps. Presented in 1809 by Lord Viscount Hereford, he also held St Mary's and St Michael's (which he rebuilt) and was Pembroke Mayor on several occasions. He was briefly vicar of St Twynnell's in 1837, being re-presented to the Pembroke churches by Sir John Owen of Orielton. He was a Canon Residentiary of St David's and died in 1853.

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The Rev Martin Cox takes part in Royal Jubilee celebrations at Monkton Church.
Photograph by Martin Cavaney.

Charles Bissett Douglas. Presented to the living in 1854 by Sir John Owen of Orielton, he was vicar of the three Pembroke churches. He was born in Middlesex and died in Cheltenham in 1877, aged 57.

David Bowen. Presented in 1877 by Morgan J Saurin of Orielton, he made the restoration of the church his life's work. The first to live in the Vicarage, he was also Rural Dean and a Canon of St David's.

Tudor Moses Evans. Born in Brynamman, he served from 1926 to 1948 and was a Canon of St David's. He died in Riverside in 1953.

Ernest Stanley Michael. Previously at Hendy, he was vicar of Monkton from 1948 to 1953 before becoming an Army Chaplain.

D Hywel Davies. Vicar of Monkton from 1953 to 1967. He wrote a booklet on the history of Pembroke Priory and hosted the Queen Mother's visit.

Daniel Austen Bowen. He held the living 1968-1978.

Hughie Graham Roberts. Vicar from 1978-1982 when he became vicar of Llansteffan with Llanybri..

Roger Anthony Williams. Held the living 1982-1986.

Andrew John Sidebottom. Vicar from 1986 -1990.

Robert Graham Lloyd. He was the vicar in 1991.

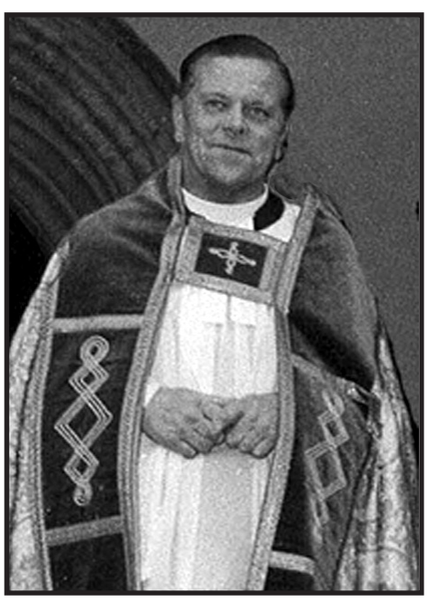
Martin L Cox. Vicar from about 1996 to 2011, he later moved to Gorseinon.

Paul Nash. He was the vicar in 2011.

Peter Jones. Since 2017 he has been vicar of the united churches of Monkton, Pembroke and Lamphey.

Curates

1770 Joseph Hughes
1775 George Williams
1795 Thomas Woods
1802 Nicholas Rood
1812 Thomas Dalton
1818 William Lloyd
1841 James Dalton
1843 Octavius Leach
1845 Essex Holcombe
1855 Henry Williams
1857 Thomas Crichley
1859 E Edwards
1860 Thomas Fauvel
1861 Tobias Gardner
1862 J Propert Williams
1865 D W Morris
1870 Henry Simpson Blink
1893 Samuel Davies
1897 William J Price
1898 D A Rowlands
1899 Thomas Jones
1907 A S Thomas
1908 J A S Howell
1915 H J Evans
1916 William Davies
1927 Ivor Evans
1930 John Dewi Griffiths
1931 W R Lloyd-Jones
1940 William T Evans
2020 Joan Allen



The Rev D Hywel Davies.

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Monkton Priory Church restoration

FOLLOWING the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the monastic element of the imposing Church of St Nicholas suffered considerable degradation, along with the rest of Pembroke Priory.

The nave, to the west of the tower, was spared serious damage in order that it could continue to serve as a parish church for Monkton, being walled off from the adjoining choir or Lady Chapel where the monks once worshipped. This chapel and the large Prior's Chapel were stripped of their roofs and left to fall into ruin.



The ruined choir and Prior's Chapel (right).

Richard Fenton, in his *Tour of Pembrokeshire* early in the 19th century, wrote of Monkton as follows: "The priory church of Monkton, taking in the unroofed old chancel or Virgin's Chapel, making nearly half the building, was of great length, and is a mixture of the Saxon and Pointed orders of architecture.

"The nave is vaulted with stone. The pointed arch which led to the unroofed part must have been stopped for centuries, as it incorporates a monumental recess neatly wrought, to which were formerly affixed brasses of figures and coats of arms, long since stripped off, now forming the back of the communion table.

"The church is partly paved with glazed bricks, having arms, mottoes, and flowers on them, as at St David's and Carew. In the unroofed chancel there are four handsome windows on the south side and one in the east end.

"On each side there is a canopied recess as for a recumbent figure, but now unoccupied; on the right of the altar stone are stalls of neat workmanship for two officiating priests. Parallel to this on the north side is a building of similar dimensions, separated by an open passage."

Writing in *Archaelogia Cambrensis* in 1852, Edward Freeman noted: "The church is not of the genuine cruciform shape but consists only of the nave of the parishioners and the choir of the monks, with certain smaller adjuncts.

"The nave is simply one of the Pembrokeshire village churches on an exaggerated scale, with the usual vaulted roof, but perhaps a little more pretence than usual may be discerned in its windows. The large west window is irretrievably lost, but two beautiful incipient Geometrical ones, of two lights, remain, though blocked, on the south side.

"A single small Norman window, now also blocked, is all that seems ever to have lighted the north side, which is propped by three vast buttresses.The south side is broken by the usual large porch and a tower of the usual sort, but small in proportion to the church.

"The choir, which is now roofless, is merely a parochial Decorated chancel on an unusually large scale. The east window, from the size of its opening, we should expect to have been one of great magnificence. Over it externally is a niche with the four-leaved flower."

WHILE basic repair work to the nave and tower was carried on intermittently over the centuries, enabling the church to be used for regular worship, the portion east of the tower remained roofless and masses of ivy clung to the tottering walls.

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This was the condition in which the Rev David Bowen (right) found his parish church when he became Vicar of Monkton in 1877. A native of Llanelli, he had previously been curate of Penally Church and Holy Trinity, Swansea.

He made the repair and eventual full restoration of the church his life's work.



Initially he set about restoring the nave which formed his parish church, beginning in 1879 by unblocking the windows and replacing them.

A restoration fund was launched, with the additional aim of building a schoolroom, and by 1882 there was enough money in the kitty to fund stage two of the work.

This consisted of repairs to the porch and lower tower and new plastering, pews, pulpit and floors in the nave. 'The woodwork is of well-seasoned English oak and the style is Early English', noted the local press.

The architect was John Prichard, architect to the diocese of Llandaff, and the contractor was Kenneth McAlpin of Pembroke Dock.

'The pulpit is of simple, neat design, and was presented by Mrs. Bowen, wife of the vicar', continued the press report.

'The artistic reading-desk was the work and the gift of Mr Geo. Lewis, Monkton.

'The lectern was given by "A Friend," and a Bible for the same was presented by Miss Bridges, Pembroke.

' Two Prayer books for the holy table were given by ex-mayor, Mr. Robert George. The font, which is a massive affair, is the design of Mr Prichard. It was carved by Mr Clarke of Cardiff, and forms the munificent gift of Mr and Mrs Hurlow, West Gate House.'

Of the original font only the foot remained, and this was found buried under a pile of bricks. Before the restoration of the nave, the font consisted of a slab of slate upon which was placed a common flower pot!

The church was closed for several months to allow the restoration work to take place, being reopened for worship by the Bishop of St. David's.

Fundraising continued, with local land-owners providing substantial donations, so that by 1886 there was enough money available to start the next phase of restoration.

Not only that, but as a public meeting in the new schoolroom heard, there were also plans in the pipeline for the building of a new church at Hundleton and a vicarage alongside the Priory Church.

Continued



According to Richard Cobb, the ivy-covered choir where the monks once worshipped was used as a ball court in later years. It was restored as the church chancel.

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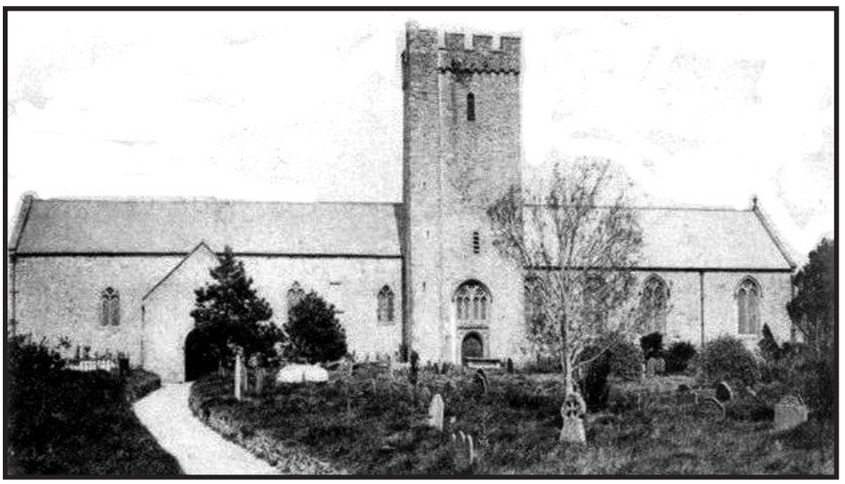
Monkton Priory Church restoration

For the Rev David Bowen, restoration of the parish church took priority over these other projects, and his next objective was the roofing of the choir, and its conversion into the chancel of the church.

It was reported early in 1887: 'The foundation stone of the partial restoration of the Monk's Choir at Monkton Priory Church was laid on Saturday evening by the Rev D. Bowen, vicar. The present section of the work will take in about 40ft of the ruin, which will form a chancel to the present building.

'The work is to cost about £600, the contractor being Mr Kenneth McAlpin, architect and builder, Pembroke Dock. The cost of the chancel arch (about £150) will be borne by the Misses Hurlow, of West Gate).'

This arch was needed to replace the wall that had divided the nave from the choir for the past 350 years. This phase of restoration, which also saw the upper part of the tower fully repaired, was completed by the end of the year, and again the local press was enthusiastic:



Monkton Church soon after restoration.



The Rev David Bowen consecrating a new preaching cross outside the Priory Church in September 1909.

'The want of a chancel has been much felt, and now this has been supplied by the restoration of about 40 feet of the old monks' choir, adjoining the nave on its east side.

'This latter work has been carried out most satisfactorily by Mr Kenneth McAlpin of Pembroke Dock, from the plans of Mr Parry Moses, of Cardiff.

'A very beautiful chancel arch has been put in at the expense of the Misses Hurlow, West Gate. Three side windows have been inserted, the centre one being of stained glass, in memory of the late Mrs Bowen, wife of the Rev. David Bowen, vicar of the parish.

'The roof of the chancel is an open one of varnished pitchpine, and from the centre hangs a very beautiful corona for lighting the chancel, the gift of the Castlemartin Lodge of Freemasons.

The squint

IN THE wall on the north side of the church can be seen a narrow aperture known as a 'squint'.

This rare feature was rediscovered by Canon Bowen at the time of the restoration, being then filled with rubbish.

The infirmary of the Priory was once situated where now is the organ loft, and by means of this 'squint' the sick monks were able to look down upon the high altar and observe the Elevation of the Host.

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'A new and substantial organ has also been erected in the new chancel by Messrs Wade and Meggitt of Tenby, of two manuals, with a choice lot of stops.

'Services were held in the morning and evening, which were largely attended, and collections were made in aid of the restoration fund. At the morning service there was a very large muster of the Masonic brotherhood from Tenby, Pembroke Dock, and Pembroke in honour of the vicar, who is a prominent member of the home lodge, "The Castlemartin".'

INSUFFICIENCY of funds meant that only about half of the old ruined choir was restored and re-roofed in 1887, a temporary wall blocking off the still derelict east end.

However Mr Bowen and his tireless fund-raising committee were able to raise enough money over the next decade or so to complete the restoration of the choir/chancel and also to fully restore the large and ruined Prior's Chapel alongside it to the north.

The stained glass windows of this chapel were the gift of the Castlemartin Lodge of Freemasons, and as well as showing Old Testament figures they incorporate masonic symbols.

Meanwhile the impressive East Window, designed by Herbert Davies of London, was dedicated in 1904 and commemorates the visit to the church of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra (see 'Royal Visits').

Continued



The Masonic window.

The hidden room

IN 1869 the Rev Henry Simpson Blink was curate-in-charge. One day he noticed on the south wall of the nave, near the porch, a mark which made him think there was a niche that had been covered with plaster.

He wrote: "On scraping away the white-wash and mortar, I very soon found traces of an arch two feet in width and eight feet six inches from the floor of the church. I then removed some pieces of stone embedded in the mortor, and saw beyond a black hole, to the extent of which I could not penetrate, it being so dark.

"Pulling away more stones, I soon perceived that I was working through an old door-way leading somewhere into the thickness of the wall, which appeared to be about six feet in substance.

"When the aperture was sufficiently large, by the aid of a candle I examined the interior and saw a flight of stairs leading up to another doorway closed like the first, the walls being whitewashed and looking as fresh as though recently done."

On breaking through the second door, Mr Blink came into a recess above the porch where he found human remains. He wrote: "On looking carefully over the rubbish which had been removed, sundry pieces of human bones were discovered consisting of portions of ribs, arm and leg bones, and fragments of skull, one being a section of the lower jaw containing the sapienta, or wisdom tooth only partly developed, certainly proving the remains to be those of a young person.

"Amongst this accumulation were also a piece of round-of-beef bone, and one from a leg of mutton; also a broken Dutch tobacco pipe."

While some people leapt to the conclusion that the bones were those of a young monk or nun, walled up alive for some crime, Mr Blink was not one of them.

"Although I know such barbarities were practised, I think the closing of the stair-case was done at a much later date when such atrocities were not the custom (the pipe favouring my assumption)," he wrote.

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Monkton Priory Church restoration

Each major phase of work was duly accompanied by a special service of reopening and the consecration of the newly-restored part of building by the Bishop of St David's. On his third or fourth visit he remarked jokingly that Monkton must be the most consecrated church in his diocese.

Work did not come to an end with the restoration of the fabric of the Priory Church. As well as the new church at Hundleton the parish rewarded their vicar by building an attractive new vicarage on the footings of the old monastery.

Further restoration work on the tower allowed for the hanging of a new peal of eight bells. The original bells had been a gift of the Owen family in 1810. In 1897 – the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee – new bells were cast by Carr of Smethwick; they bear the inscriptions 'John Carr made me' and 'Holy Trinity 1897'.

Meanwhile in 1907 there was another consecration by the Bishop of St David's, this time of a new clock set into the tower, with two dials each six feet in diameter.

In all, the work commissioned by the Rev David Bowen cost an estimated £10,000 – a remarkable fundraising achievement for a parish with a population of around 2,000.

There is a brass plaque to the memory of Canon Bowen in the chancel. It is engraved with the Latin words ' Si quaeris monumentum circumspice', meaning 'If you are searching for his monument look around you'.



The choir with its splendid East Window. Note the decorative motifs on the walls, since painted over.



Monkton Vicarage was built in the 1890s on the site of a ruined monastic building known locally as 'The Monkey House'. Previously the Rev David Bowen had lived in the Old Hall, moving to Priory Farmhouse when the Old Hall was undergoing restoration. When he retired in 1926, Canon Bowen was allowed to carry on living in the Vicarage until his death in November 1928, with new Vicar, the Rev Edwin Tudor Moses Evans residing in the Old Hall.

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Laid to rest

DURING the restoration of Monkton Priory Church in the 1890s, a large number of human bones were discovered buried under the nave, one account stating that over 300 skulls were discovered. These bones were reinterred in the churchyard.

It is probable that these were the remains of monks, although benefactors of the Priory were also buried within the parish church,

The will of Richard Newton, who died in 1501, is held in the National Archives at Kew. It begins: 'I, Richard Newton of the parishe of Seynt Nicholas, Monkton, being mighty of Mynde and whole of Remembrance, make my testament in this wise.

'First I bequethe my soule to Almighty God my maker and my body to be buryed in the Chancell before Seynt Nicholas in the said Church of Monkton'.

His bequests to 'the Prior and Convent of Monkton' included 20 shillings, 'a basyn and an ewer of white silver' – no doubt guaranteeing him a favoured plot within the Priory church.

From the late 16th century onwards, gentry families established burial vaults within their local parish church. Monkton is the final resting place of many of the Owens of Orielton, the Meyrick family and the Leaches of Corston, one of whom was Abraham Leach, who died in 1843.

He specified in his will that 'he be buried privately and secretly in Monkton Church in a leaden coffin near his departed son William, the grave to be lined with bricks and large enough to take his beloved wife and any of his children who so wished'.

The less well off were buried in the churchyard, an area of consecrated ground surrounding the parish church. Baptism in the church and burial in the churchyard were the right of every parishioner, whatever their religious views or social standing.

As the population of Monkton grew in the nineteenth century, so the churchyard began to fill with graves, most of them by now marked by headstones or other funerary monuments.

Continued



The churchyard had become so overcrowded by the 1890s that a new burial ground had to be found.

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Laid to rest

The pressure on space was exacerbated by the fact that the new town of Pembroke Dock did not have its own burial ground for its first two decades, so that many early settlers in the dockyard town were buried in Monkton, most notably Nelson's boatswain Joe King (see opposite).

By 1891the situation had become so critical that a parish meeting was called at which it was decided to close the churchyard for burials, except for those who had a family grave or for those who had reserved a plot.

The meeting also voted in favour of seeking land for a new cemetery. Negotiations with the Meyrick estate for a suitable plot led to the creation of Monkton New Cemetery to the west of Bush Terrace, complete with an attractive little mortuary chapel bearing the date 1894.



The mortuary chapel in Monkton New Cemetery carries the date 1894.

Apparently church-goers were buried on one side of the cemetery path and nonconformists on the opposite side – 'separating the sheep from the goats' as local wisdom had it,

This cemetery was extended by half an acre in 1947, the land being donated by Bush estate.



At one time the Monkton Priory churchyard was kept tidy by a flock of sheep, the grazing rights being let to a local herdsman. In later years the work fell upon a group of willing volunteers, men and boys, who are pictured above about to tackle the churchyard while the womenfolk clean the church. More recently the decision was made to move most of the headstones and prop them against the boundary wall, allowing the churchyard to be levelled and thus mowed more easily by machine.

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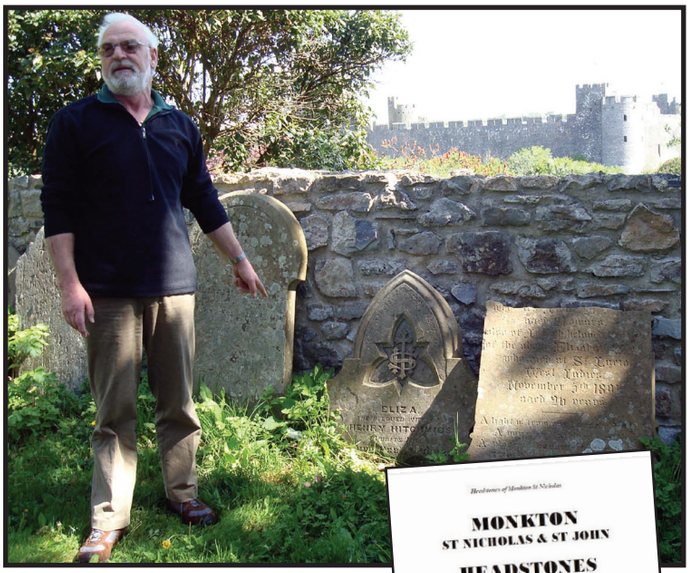
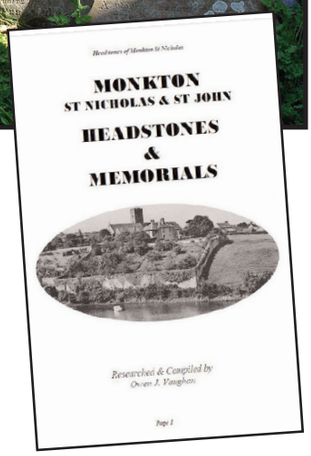
History man





PICTURED (right) in Monkton churchyard is the late Owen Vaughan of Pembroke, a tireless researcher into many aspects of local and family history.

Always ready to share the fruits of his research, either on-line, through talks or publications, Owen was never happier than when he was scouring church-yards and recording fading inscriptions. These he would add to his remarkable database, often adding background information to tell 'the stories behind the headstones'.

In Monkton, Owen photographed, recorded and researched all the pre-1950 headstones and memorials in the parish, including those in the new cemetery and in the church itself.

This invaluable resource (in CD format) is available from pembrokehistory@live.co.uk.

Sadly Owen passed away in January 2015 after a long illness.

Nelson's Boatswain

THE FUNERAL took place in Monkton on June 10th, 1829 of Joseph King, aged 60. He had been Boatswain at Pembroke Dockyard from about 1821 to 1826.

Portuguese by birth, he joined the Royal Navy where his British shipmates struggled to pronounce his real name of Joachim Mendoza.

Joachim became 'Joe King', and he spent the rest of his life as Joseph King. Certainly this was the name that Horatio Nelson knew him by when the great man was Captain of HMS *Boreas* and King was his loyal Boatswain.

Nelson was a great admirer of King's courage and his practical skills as a seaman and sailmaker, referring to him as 'my old and valuable friend King'.

King later served for a period as Boatswain of Gibraltar shipyard. In 1821 he was appointed Boatswain at Pembroke Dockyard.



He did not live in Monkton, being buried in the village only because Pembroke Dock had no graveyard at that time. His headstone (left) was rediscovered in recent years thanks to the detective work of Owen Vaughan (above).

Although Joe King was not resident in Monkton, it seems that his naval officer son William Edward Alphonso King RN had a home in the village.

When William's wife Charlotte gave birth to the sadly short-lived Mary Nelson King in February 1837, she was reported to be living at 'Monkton Abbey, Pembroke'.

Charlotte herself died in 1840, aged 34, and is buried in Monkton.

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The Meyrick tomb

THE most interesting tomb within the Priory Church is probably that of Sir Francis Meyrick of Fleet House, Monkton, who died in 1603.

A soldier and Deputy Lieutenant for the county, Sir Francis married Ann Laugharne of St Bride's and they had eight children. Only three survived infancy, but all eight are depicted as mourners on the tomb, kneeling in prayer. A plaque above the monument carries the following inscription.

Here lyeth intombed the body of Sir Frauncis Meyrike, knight, who departed this lyfe on Fridaye, the XXIXth day of July, Anno Domini 1603, being the sonne of the Reverend Father Rowland Meyrike, late Bishop of Bangor, and Katherine Barret, his wife.

He marryed Anne Laugharne, the daughter of Francis Laugharne, of St. Brides, Esquire, and Iennet Phillips, his wife, and had issue, Gelly Meyrike, Frauncis Meyrike, William Meyrik, Henry Meyrike, John Meyrike, Frauncis Meyrike and Jane Meyrike.



For some reason only seven of the children are named on the plaque, Richard being overlooked.

The tomb was apparently vandalised by Cromwell's troops during the Civil War, but it remains in sound condition.

The Owen vaults



OPPOSITE the Meyrick tomb and situated in the southern transept below the tower, is a recess in the northern wall. Here can be found the vaults of the Owens of Orielton, which date back to the early 17th century.

The most impressive of the monuments reads:

JOHN OWENS, Heire of SR HUGH OWEN of Bodeon in Anglisay KT & ELIZABETH, daughter and sole heir of GEORGE WIRRIOT of ORIELTON, Erected by DOROTHY his wife, the doughter of ROWLAND LAUGHARNE of ST BRIDES ESQR & LETTICE his wife, have gave this monument to be erected here

He died in 1612 aged 35 leaving three sons and four daughters. Dorothy was interred here in 1653 aged 70, 'having lived a widow above 41 years'.

There are monuments above and to the right of this one, but the text is barely decipherable.

• For information about the Owen family see page 32

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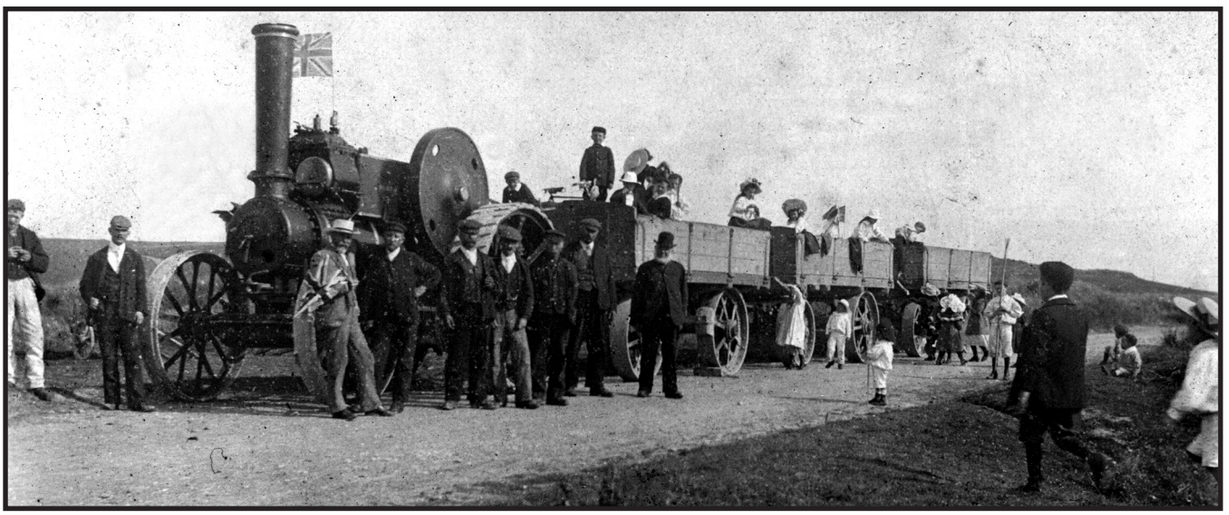

The Sunday School party at Freshwater West in 1909, an outing that was marred by tragedy.
Photo: Roger Thomas

Church Sunday School

IN 1883, as well as rebuilding work being carried out on Monkton church, alterations were also undertaken on the schoolroom in Church Terrace. This involved extending the boundary wall by 20 feet, lengthening the main hall and erecting a short wall with iron railings at the front to create a little courtyard.

There was a thriving Sunday School at the time, and that year the Sunday School treat was held at Orielton by kind permision of the occupier M A Saurin who provided one of the conveyances to take the younger children. The elder ones had to walk, led by the school band.

The event finished at 7.30pm when the drummer sounded the 'alarm' and, as the children marched out of the field, each was presented with two buns. The church was reached about 9pm and, after a few words from the Vicar and the singing of the National Anthem, the children dispersed to their homes.

IN THE summer of 1909, a party of children and adults connected with Monkton Priory Church Sunday School set off on their annual outing to the beach.

For the past couple of years it had been the practice to visit Freshwater West and, to add to the excitement, the Sunday scholars were conveyed in three open waggons towed by a steam traction engine, all the property of haulier and quarryman William Rogers who held the lease of Catshole Quarry.

Sadly the 1909 trip was to end in tragedy, as the local press reported:

A distressing accident which had fatal consequences occurred at Freshwater West, near Pembroke, on Friday last.

For years past it has been the custom for the children attending Monkton Church Sunday School to be conveyed in trucks, driven by a traction engine, to Freshwater West, a pretty and popular seaside place near the famous Stack Rocks.

Everything passed off most successfully until preparations were being made for the return journey, and it appears that whilst coupling the trucks, which were filled with a happy throng of children, one of the men in charge, named William Thomas, of Orange Gardens, Pembroke, was accidentally crushed between two of the trucks, death being almost instantaneous.

Witnessed as it was by so many, the sad event caused quite a painful sensation, and one that can be better imagined than described.

The unfortunate man leaves a widow and two young children. At the inquest on Monday, a verdict of accidental death was returned.

The accident actually happened on the return journey, at the junction with the Angle Road. This was such a tight corner that the last truck had to be uncoupled then recoupled using a chain, and it was during this operation that William Thomas – a former soldier who had survived the siege of Ladysmith – lost his life.

Continued

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Church Sunday School

THE Sunday School has continued to thrive, enjoying a heyday in the 1950s, a period recalled by Dot Lloyd:

"When I was young we had a marvellous community which was very much centred on the church – the place where we were christened, confirmed, then married.

"Most of Sunday was spent in church. We didn't just go in the mornings but we all went to Sunday School, then church again at 6 o'clock. About 80 children went to Sunday School – it was the highlight of our lives.

"The Christmas party was looked forward to – jelly and blancmange, a film show and a present. Then in summer there'd be the Sunday School trip, come rain or shine – a couple of buses waiting outside the church and off we'd go to Angle or Saundersfoot – what excitement!

"Youth organisations like Brownies, Guides, and Boys Brigade were connected to the church and, after having married and raised a family, we became involved with the Mothers' Union."



Children leaving Sunday School in the 1950s.



Right: Members of Monkton Priory Church Mothers' Union pose for a group photo in the churchyard.



Left: Monkton Church Hall. Sunday School is no longer held here, but the Hall continues to serve the community of Monkton.

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Sunday School children take part in a Nativity play in the 1980s.

St Joseph's R C Church

ST JOSEPH'S Roman Catholic Church is one of Monkton's landmark buildings.

For two decades before the church opened in 1977, the town's Catholics worshipped in the tiny 'Ranters' Chapel' in The Green, later the printing works of Dimond Press.

This became too small for the congregation, so funds were raised for a fine new church in Monkton, designed by architect Patrick White in keeping with the reforms of the Second Vatican Council.

While modern in design, St Joseph's retains several links with the past, notably the stained glass and round window behind the altar rescued from an old London church.



St Joseph's under construction. Photo and information courtesy of Mr Tom Rawlins.



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Royal visitors to Monkton Church

MONKTON Priory Church's east window is impressive and it was erected in commemoration of a great event – a Royal visit by King Edward VII in 1902.

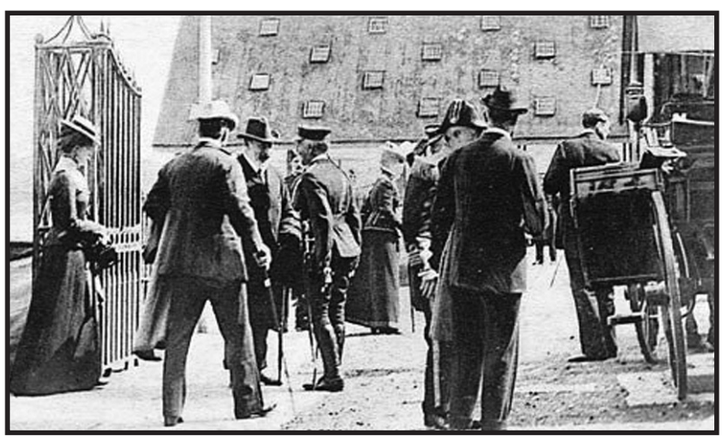
A Royal visit was a huge occasion and, whilst several had been made to the Royal Dockyard and hence to Pembroke, Monkton had never before been so honoured.

Accounts of this visit can be found in local press reports as well as in Elizabeth Peters' 'History of Pembroke Dock' written shortly after the event in 1905.

The visit began in Pembroke Dock. The Royal party sailed into the Haven on the Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert* (launched in Pembroke Dock in 1898) on the evening of Friday August 22nd 1902 having set out from the Solent on an extended cruise around Britain to aid the King's convalescence following a serious illness.

At Pembroke Dock the ship needed to re-fuel and stack up on provisions, so a tour was organised for the Royal party.

The King, Queen Alexandra and Princess Victoria were accompanied by distinguished guests who included the Marquis de Soveral (Portuguese Minister), Mr Austin Chamberlain (Postmaster General), Sir Francis Laking (King's Physician) Mrs Derek Keppel, Miss Charlotte Knollys, Mr Sydney Hall (artist with the *Daily Graphic*), Captain Fortescue and Commander Hedworth Lambton, captain of the Royal yacht.



The Royal party arrives in Pembroke Dockyard.



The impressive east window commemorates the first Royal visit to Monkton church

Mrs Peters tells of excited crowds gathering outside the Dockyard gates hoping to glimpse the Royal party and how, following the royal salute from the guns at the Defensible Barracks to announce their landing, 'cheer after cheer arose from nearly 3,000 men within the Dockyard wall, their faces lit up with the fervour of intense loyalty. The spontaneous and thoroughly hearty welcome, she added, seemed greatly to please Their Majesties'.

Mr John Elliot of Dimond Street had the honour of driving the King and Queen's carriage, which set out in the direction of Brownslade where Commander Lambton had arranged lunch for the party. Brownslade was the residence of his cousin Colonel Francis Lambton.

First stop however, was Pembroke, where Their Majesties and the Princess were escorted round the ancient historic castle by Mr Robert George, an ex-Mayor of the borough. The Mayor (Mr Davies of Alleston) and the Town Clerk (Mr R D Lowless) were also present.

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His Majesty, it was reported, was greatly struck with the grandeur of the old ruin while Her Majesty the Queen showed much interest in the Castle's white peacocks, thought to be almost the only – if not the only – specimens of the breed in England and Wales.

Before leaving Pembroke Castle the Royal party signed the visitors' book. His Majesty shook hands with Mr George, and said: 'I am delighted with your beautiful castle and am much obliged to you for showing us round.'

A local press report tells how, after visiting the castle, 'the party re-entered the carriages and went down over Westgate Hill and over the bridge to Monkton, where a brief halt was made to see the wonderful old Priory Church, with its arched roof of stone, and beautifully painted frescoes'.

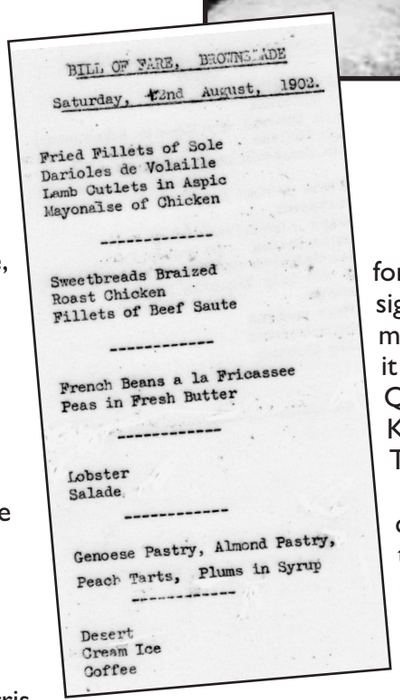
It added that 'it was a pity that the Rev. David Bowen, Vicar, was from home at the time and was thus debarred from describing the great object of his life's work.

'The Rev. gentleman is so well acquainted with the archaeological features of the interesting old edifice, at one time a cell to St Albans, and is so conversant with its different styles of architecture etc that their august majesties were considerably the losers by his absence.

'However, after being conducted within the sacred portals by Mr Robert George, the Royal party were taken round by Miss Jane Morris (housekeeper at the Vicarage) who did the best she could under the circumstances'.

The party was suitably impressed and, at the end of the tour, Miss Morris





BILL OF FARE, BROWNSLADE

Saturday, 42nd August, 1902.

Fried Fillets of Sole
Darioles de Volaille
Lamb Cutlets in Aspic
Mayonaise of Chicken

Sweetbreads Braized
Roast Chicken
Fillets of Beef Saute

French Beans a la Fricassee
Peas in Fresh Butter

Lobster
Salade

Genoese Pastry, Almond Pastry,
Peach Tarts, Plums in Syrup

Desert
Cream Ice
Coffee

The royal visitors take their leave of the church. Left: Lunch at Brownslade included 'Desert'.

fortunately requested that they sign the visitors' book. After much searching around for a pen, it was signed by the King and Queen, Princess Victoria, Mrs Keppel and Charlotte Knollys. Their signatures can still be seen.

On the north side of the chancel, next to the doorway to the Lady Chapel, is a glass case which proudly displays the visitors' book containing the signatures.

Leaving Monkton, the carriage proceeded to Brownslade, the residence of Colonel and Lady Lambton. An impressive lunch was served and the menu has survived.

Afterwards, King Edward expressed a wish to see the famous Castlemartin Black cattle, so about 30 of these fine creatures, belonging to Mr Thomas of Bulliber, were driven in front of Their Majesties. The scene was captured by Sydney Hall (left) and subsequently published in the *Daily Graphic*.

The King, it was reported, admired them exceedingly, and the Queen accepted a bunch of garden flowers which Mr Thomas' little daughter had gathered for Her Majesty.



The King admires the Castlemartin Blacks at Bulliber.

Continued

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Royal visitors to Monkton Church

OVER THE downs to Stack Rocks was the next part of the journey. Coincidentally, the Dockyard choir were having their annual outing and upon arrival of the royal party they sang the National Anthem, which the King and Queen smilingly acknowledged.

St Govan's Chapel was next where, strange to say, there was another choir party from Pennar Church and they also sang 'God Save the King' while the Queen and the Princess went down over the rocky way and broken steps to see the quaint little chapel. The King remained in the carriage.

From this point the horses were turned towards that fine mansion, Stackpole Court. Earl Cawdor was in Scotland, but two of his sons were at home to welcome the Royal guests, who were offered tea in the drawing room. It was a brief visit, however, as it was getting late and the party had to return to the ship.

The return route to Pembroke Dock was taken over St Daniel's Hill through Pembroke Main Street, round Ferry lane to Dimond Street, and up Commercial Row to the Dockyard. The party re-embarked on the *Victoria and Albert* which steamed out of Milford Haven early on Sunday morning, bound for the Isle of Man.

FOR THE people of Monkton, however, the visit made such a great impression that they wanted to commemorate it.

Reported in the *Pembroke County Guardian* of 11th October 1902, the Vicar 'received the gracious permission of His Majesty to place a brass tablet in the church recording the Royal visit. The inscription has been submitted to the King and has received his approval'.

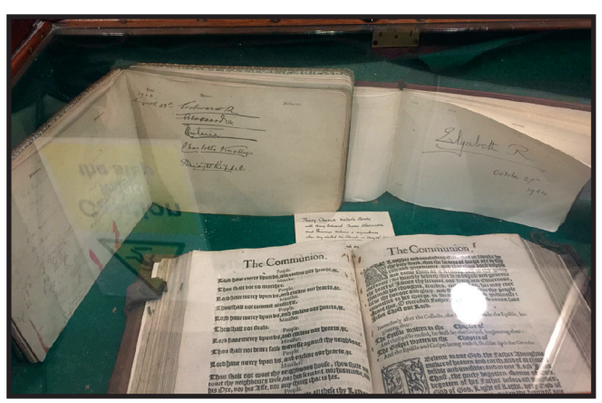
Visitors to the church can see the brass plaque, mounted on a marble background, on the north wall of the chancel. The inscription reads

The church was visited by their Majesties King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra with Princess Victoria on Saturday August 23rd 1902. Their Majesties were much interested and graciously expressed their pleasure with the Restoration of the Antient Temple of Worship.

The article adds that the Vicar 'has excellently lithographed copies taken of the autographs in the visitors' book and is disposing of them at one shilling and sixpence each, the proceeds to be devoted to a fund for putting stained glass in the East Window'.







Top to bottom: The plaque commemorating the 1902 Royal visit; the cabinets displaying the Royal memorabilia; the signatures in the visitors' book.

It was decided to commemorate the visit still further with a beautiful, stained glass East Window. A substantial sum was raised and Herbert Davies of London was commissioned to design it. It was dedicated by the Bishop of Swansea on August 3rd 1904 in the presence of a large congregation.

A GUIDE book to Pembroke Priory, written in 1955 expressed regret that 'Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh are visiting the Castle this summer and it is a great disappointment to many that another Royal visit will not be made to the Priory on this occasion.

'However, we earnestly hope that some day, in the not too distant future, members of our Royal Family will again visit our Priory Church and see the beautiful East Window which the local inhabitants and many others caused to be bought and erected in commemoration of the Royal visit of his Majesty King Edward VII'.



The Queen Mother alights at Pembroke Station to be greeted by the Lord Lieutenant of Pembrokeshire, the Rt. Hon. Hanning Philipps and Mrs Philipps. Local dignitaries lined up on the platform include Mayor of Pembroke Ald. Ernie Morgan and Mrs Morgan, Town Clerk R.D. Lowless, Mr Desmond Donnelly MP and Mrs Donnelly.

That hope was realised some nine years later when, in 1964, the Queen Mother visited the Priory Church. The visit is described in detail in a souvenir edition of the Pembroke Priory Guide, with an introduction by the Vicar, the Rev D. Hywel Davies.

The visit obviously made a great impression on him. He wrote

'Tuesday, October 27th 1964 was an unforgettable day for us all at the Priory Church, and the day that will go down as one of the most outstanding in the already famous annals of the parish.

'On this day we were privileged to witness and to share in the latest of a line of Royal visits to this ancient church and, for some present that day, it was the second Royal visit in a lifetime'.

Continued



The Queen Mother arrives at Monkton Church accompanied by the Rev D Hywel Davies.

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Royal visitors to Monkton Church

THERE HAD been great excitement in the parish and in the locality ever since the Lord Lieutenant of Pembrokeshire, the Right Honourable Hanning Philipps, had informed the Vicar, the Rev. D Hywel Davies, a few months previously, that he had been commanded by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother to let him know that she would visit the Priory Church on Tuesday October 27th 1964, on the same day as her Majesty would be opening the new Regent Oil Refinery at Pwllcrochan.

The Parochial Church Council unanimously agreed to spend £1,000 on the church within and without,



The Queen Mother leaves Monkton Church flanked by the Rev D Hywel Davies and Mrs Davies.

Continued the Rev D Hywel Davies: 'Parishioners also voluntarily gave of their time to whatever needed doing, both within the church and also in the churchyard and its surrounds, besides this the Borough Council and the County Council showed a willingness to help in any way they could, and the Regent Oil Refinery Company spontaneously helped with a financial gift of £150. Thus, when October 27th came we were able to show the Priory Church in its true beauty to Her Majesty the Queen Mother'.

THE VISIT began with the Queen Mother's arrival at Pembroke Station. As she alighted from the train, she was greeted by the Lord Lieutenant of Pembrokeshire, Colonel the Hon. Hanning Philipps and Mrs Philipps.

Also present were the Mayor of Pembroke Ald Ernest Morgan, the Town Clerk R.D. Lowless, Mr Desmond Donnelly MP and Mrs Donnelly.

From Pembroke Station, the distinguished visitor was driven to Monkton where she received a warm welcome and this is described in the church guide

'When the Royal car, a maroon-coloured Rolls-Royce with Her Majesty's standard flying, approached the main gate of the Priory Church, amidst a tumultuous ovation of the vast crowd which had come from far and wide, the sun shone upon it and upon its Royal occupant, dressed in a kingfisher blue velvet coat with a matching petalled hat, and wearing a diamond shoulder brooch and a triple rope of pearls. It was a resplendent scene, almost like a picture in a fairly tale'.

The Rev Hywel Davies was there to greet the Queen Mother and accompany her into the church, where he gave a guided tour showing off the many points of interest things including, of course, the East Window commemorating the Royal Visit of 1902.

The Queen Mother was said to have responded 'how kind of the parishioners to commemorate the Royal visit in that way' and, like King Edward before, she consented to sign a special visitors' book purchased for the occasion. This can still be seen in the church displayed alongside that of King Edward VII.

On leaving the church, Her Majesty paused on the outer step of the Porch for a prearranged private photograph to be taken of herself together with the Vicar and Mrs Hywel Davies.

Then, as she proceeded along the path, among the cheers and the flag-waving, she stopped to talk to people along the way waving farewell to all around as she got into the waiting Royal car, declaring that she had thoroughly enjoyed her visit and the warmth of her welcome.

After the departure, crowds flocked into the church to see its beauty, enhanced as it was that day by the profusion of flowers given as gifts by many in the parish, and there were great queues to see the latest Royal signature.

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Royal visit re-enactment

These photos were taken at an event re-enacting the first Royal visit to Monkton. Brian Elliot portrayed the King, with Mrs Rock as Queen Alexandra.









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Monkton at war

BOTH world wars had an impact on Monkton, with many men from the village taking part in the fighting,and a number falling in the service of their country.

World War One

WHEN Britain declared war on Germany on August 4, 1914, and vowed to come to the assistance of France and Belgium, it was apparent that many more military recruits would be needed.

Within two days Lord Kitchener had started a recruitment drive for 100,000 volunteers under the slogan 'Your Country Needs You'.

Among the first to enlist from Monkton were James House from Mill Backs and Ernest Davies from Prospect House, Awkward Hill.

Both men were sent to the Front and both posted letters home to their families in November 1914 detailing their experiences.

In the days before such correspondence came to be recognised as damaging to morale and recruitment – being full of the horrors of warfare – these letters were published in full and without censorship in the local press.

Private Davies, 23, a Sapper in the Royal Engineers, had been in France since August 23. He wrote:

We (the R.Es) are very lucky so far. We bivouac mostly in towns. We go out on night work, barbed-wiring in front of the first line of trenches, also dislocating railway lines and barricading streets.

Nearly all this has to be done at night in the dark, but our worst job is pontooning, when the enemy's guns are about ranged just right, and drop a few shells on the bridge, until our guns fire and drive them out of action.

We had a marvellous escape at Soissons, where we tried to lay a bridge but had to abandon it. They dropped a huge 12 pounder about eight yards from 20 of us who were standing on the bank, but the bank was soft and it buried itself before exploding.

We all huddled up in a heap, and the mud was lifted about 30 feet, falling on us. You should have seen the hole it made in the bank, large enough to bury a horse and waggon in.

Pte Davies ended with a plea for more volunteers to rally to the cause.

Why are the fellows so long in coming out? It would be a bad day for England if the Germans do happen to come across, which is by no means impossible. I don't suppose it's right that they are going to force conscription on Great Britain, but they may have to do it yet.



The World War One memorial in Monkton Priory Church records the names of 27 men of the parish who died in the conflict.

PRIVATE ENOCH James House of Mill Backs was a reservist employed as a labourer in Pembroke Dockyard. At the outbreak of war he rejoined his old regiment, the Wiltshires, and went out to France with the British Expeditionary Force of 120,000 men.

Private House saw plenty of action at the battles of Mons, Charleroi, the Marne and the Aisne, during which his regiment suffered severe casualties; by November only 200 men remained unscathed out of the original 2,000 who went out with the battalion.

Pte House took part in four bayonet charges, and was in the trenches for seventy-five days and nights before being invalided home with bullet wounds in both hands and an injured back. He received these injuries at Armentieres.

With some others, I was in a trench dug across a road for the purpose of holding the road, which was the key to the position. The German infantry were only 70 yards away, and were well supported by heavy artillery.

About four o'clock in the afternoon the artillery commenced shelling us out, and a 'Jack Johnson' burst a few yards in front of the trenches. So terrific was the force of the explosion that we were buried alive in the trenches. and had to be dug out.

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Private House was the only man to survive, the incident, though his back was severely bruised and strained. He had received the bullet wounds to his hands a few minutes before the explosion happened.

AS THE dreadful stalemate of trench warfare in western Europe led to an escalating number of British casualties, so more manpower was needed at the Front. However, following the first surge of enthusiasm to enlist, the number of volunteers fell sharply as people became aware of the inhuman nature of modern warfare.

As Pte Davies surmised, Britain was forced to introduce conscription in January 1916, initially of single men aged 18 to 41 but with the net widened in May 1916 to include married men.

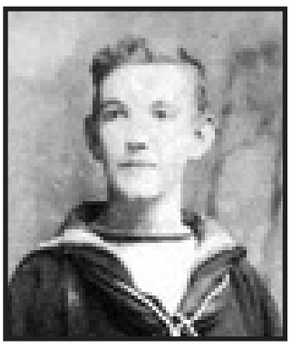
Qualified tradesmen who worked in key roles in the Naval Dockyard in Pembroke Dock were exempt from the call-up, which excluded a good number of Monkton shipwrights and smiths. However well over 100 men from Monkton village served in some capacity during WWI.

Not all of them were willing conscripts. In 1917, Mrs Batchelor, a widow from 10, Bush Terrace, appealed to the local tribunal against the conscription of her son John, 24, a boilermaker's helper in the Dockyard.

She pointed out that her other son was in the Flying Corps, while her son-in-law was at the Front , but her appeal was turned down. Happily both her sons survived the war.

This was not always the case, and about 18 men from Monkton village paid the supreme sacrifice. Most of the fallen are listed on the parish war memorial in Monkton Priory Church, although some didn't succomb to their war wounds until a later date.

The war was particularly cruel on William and Mary Hill of Orange Hall Gate who lost three







Three of the Monkton men who died in the War: Clockwise from top left: George Hill, Private William J Vaughan and Private William E Davies.

sons. One son, George Henry Hill, had joined the Navy as a young man. He was serving at HMS *Victory*, the Naval Barracks at Portsmouth when he died on July 27, 1918.

Alfred Hill enlisted into the South Wales Borderers and took part in the campaign in Mesopotamia, later being posted to France and serving there until being wounded by shell fragments at Ypres in July 1917. He survived the war, but it had taken its toll on his health, and he died at Pembroke in the summer of 1923.

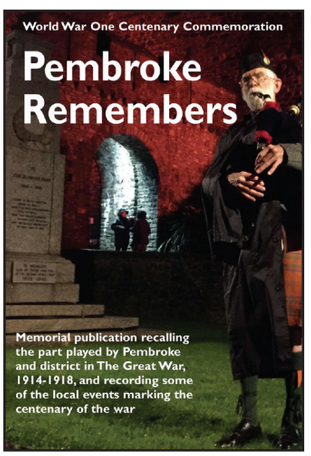
The third brother, Hugh Hill, joined up at the beginning of the war, joining the 1st Battalion, South Wales Borderers. His Division was one of the first to arrive in France, fighting at the Battle of Mons and taking part in the retreat to the Marne, where the Germans were stopped.

Hugh was killed in action at Passchendaele on November 10, 1917. He was 34.

Centenary commemoration

In 2018, Pembroke & Monkton Local History Society, with Heritage Lottery funding, undertook a multi media WW1 project for the centenary commemoration. The result was an exhibition, a valuable archive of stories, photographs and artefacts, filmed interviews and a book 'Pembroke Remembers' – a comprehensive study of Pembroke and District in WW1. This is available to purchase from Pembroke Museum and from the Society's website.

The Society also researched the names listed on Pembroke Cenotaph and war memorials and has gathered these together in a Book of Remembrance which can be accessed online on its website www.pembrokeandmonktonhistory.org.uk.



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Monkton men in World War One

Baskerville, John Thomas	Church Terrace	Driver, 1/4th Welsh Regiment
Batchelor, John Frederick	10, Bush Terrace	Gunner, 106 Brigade, Royal Field Artillery
Batchelor, Walter Owen	10, Bush Terrace	Chief Mechanic, RAF (Air Force Medal)
Beeton, William Charles	Victoria Terrace	Reserve Regiment of Cavalry
Blunsden, Albert Edward	Short Mains	'Repairer', HMS *Victorious*
Blunsden, George M	Short Mains	Able Seaman, HMS *Europa*
*** Brickle, Herbert James**	Monkton Lane	Lance Corporal, Welsh Regiment.
Canton, Sidney	Monkton Lane	Sergeant, Machine Gun Corps
Cole, Albert	Mill Backs	Private, 1/4th Welsh
Cole, Henry	Priory Mains	Labour Corps
Cole, Stanley John	4, Priory Terrace	Private, 1st Welsh
Cole, William George	Cross Mains	Stoker, HMS *Apollo*
Cooke, Ernest Norman	Orielton Road	Private, 1st Somersets
Couch, William	8, Priory Terrace	Private, Labour Corps
Davies, David John	b Monkton	Driver, Army Service Corps
Davies, Ernest	Prospect House	Sapper, Royal Engineers
*** Davies, John Henry**	Long Mains	Sergeant, South Wales Borderers
Davies, Sidney	Long Mains	Corporal, Royal Flying Corps
*** Davies, William Ernest**	Long Mains	Private, Middlesex Regiment
*** Davies, William Herbert**	Prospect House	Shipwright 1st Class, Royal Navy
Davies, William Thomas	Norgan's Terrace	Shipwright, 1st Class, Royal Navy
Evans, Alfred George	Long Mains	Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery
Evans, George	Bush Cottage	Private, 3rd Cheshires
Evans, Henry	Long Mains	Private, Monmouths
*** Evans, Robert**	Long Mains	Private, South Lancashire Regiment
*** Eynon, Thomas**	India Row	Private, Welsh Regiment.
Griffiths, James	Back Terrace	'Ship Repairer in Fleet'
Griffiths, Sidney Robert	Washington Terrace	RAF
*** Griffiths, Stanley John**	born in Monkton	Royal Welsh Fusiliers
Griffiths, William	15, Bush Terrace	Stoker, Royal Navy
Gwyther, Albert John	Cross Mains	Welsh Regiment
Gwyther, John Henry	Trevor Cottages	Able Seaman, *Idaho*
*** Hiatt, Robert**	Long Mains	Private, Gloucestershire Regiment
*** Hill, Alfred**	Orange Hall Gate	Private, South Wales Borderers
*** Hill, George Henry**	Orange Hall Gate	Petty Officer Stoker, HMS *Victory*
*** Hill, Hugh**	Orange Hall Gate	Private, South Wales Borderers
Horn, William James	born in Long Mains	3rd Welsh Regiment (deserted)
Howells, Charles	1, Bush Terrace	Driver, Royal Field Artillery
House, Enoch James	Quoits Mill	Private, Wiltshires
Hughes, John Morgan	Norgan's Hill	Private, Royal Welsh Fusiliers
Hughes, Thomas	1, North Terrace	Private, Welsh Guards
James, Daniel	India Row	Sapper, Royal Engineers
James, Thomas	Cross Mains	Private, 24th Rifle Brigade TF
James, William	India Row	Sapper, Royal Engineers
James, William	11, Bush Terrace	Smith, Army Service Corps
Johnson, George	18, Bush Terrace	Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery
Jones, James Harold	Priory Terrace	Air Mechanic 3rd Class, Royal Flying Corps
Jones, William	Monkton Lane	Sapper, Royal Engineers
Leonard, Albert Edward	Long Mains	Corporal, 1/4th Welsh Regiment
Leonard, Arthur	Ferryside House	Quartermaster Sergeant, 3rd Devons
*** Lewis, Edgar**	Quarry Cottage	Sergeant, Royal Field Artillery
Lewis, John Cyril Morgan	Merchant's Park	Lieutenant, Royal Welsh Fusiliers
Lewis, Llewellyn James	Long Mains	Private, Royal Welsh Fusiliers

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Longhurst, James Henry	Long Mains	Driver, Royal Garrison Artillery
Longhurst, Richard	Monkton Lane	Private, Monmouths
Longhurst, Sidney George	Long Mains	Private, 1st Welsh
Mahaney, Harold George	Long Mains	Sapper, Royal Engineers
Markham, William	Short Mains	Driver, Royal Garrison Artillery
Morris, Alfred George	Back Terrace	Lance-Corporal, Royal Welsh Fusiliers
*** Morris, James**	17, Bush Terrace	Private, Welsh Regiment
Morris, Philip John	Back Terrace	Private, 1/4th Welsh Regiment
Morris, William	Back Lane	Sapper, Royal Engineers
*** Nicholas, Hubert John**	9, Priory Terrace	Private, Welsh Regiment
*** Nicholas, John**	21, Long Mains	Aircraftsman 3rd Class, Royal Flying Corps
Nicholas, Thomas	Long Mains	Private, Royal Welsh Fusiliers
Noot, James Arthur	17, Norgan's Terrace	Sergeant, 1/4th Welsh
Owens, William John	Cross Mains	Corporal, Tunnelling Co, Royal Engineers
Phillips, John	8, Priory Terrace	Royal Field Artillery
Phillips, Thomas John	Cresswell Buildings	Sapper, Royal Engineers
Powell, William Ernest	4, South Terrace	Private, 6th Welsh
Powis, Owen	Bush Terrace	Private, South Wales Borderers
Prosser, John Francis	Monkton Village	Private, 29th Machine Gun Corps
Rathbone, Thomas	Mill Backs	Lance-Corporal, Labour Corps
Raymond, Sidney George	Bush Terrace	Private, Army Ordnance Corps
Richards, John	Bush Terrace	Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery
*** Richards, John**	b Monkton	Private, Welsh Regiment
Richards, Charles Redvers	7, Norgan's Terrace	Private, King's Shropshire Light Infantry
Roach, Alfred William	2, Washington Terrace	Aircraft Mechanic, RAF
Roach, Sydney John	2, Washington Terrace	Engine Room Artificer, Royal Navy
Roberts, John	Long Mains	Private, Royal Field Artillery
*** Roberts, John**	Taylor's Lake	Private, Welsh Regiment.
Roberts, Walter	Long Mains	Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery
Roblin, Owen	Mill Backs	Signaller, 1/19th London Regiment
Roch, William George	Long Mains	Private, Royal Defence Corps
Rock, John Wilfred	Dragon Stores	Private, Machine Gun Corps
Rowlands, John Stanley	Norgan's Terrace	Lieutenant, 3/4th Welsh
Rowlands, John Stanley	Norgan's Terrace	Lieutenant, 3/4th Welsh
Rudd, Robert	Church Terraces	Private, Royal Welsh Fusiliers
Seabourne, Edward G	Long Mains	Private, 573rd Co, Army Service Corps
Skone, Hubert George	Short Mains	Driver, Royal Field Artillery
Skyrme, James	Merchant's Park	Leading Shipwright, Royal Navy
Smith, Walter Ralph	Short Mains	Sapper, Royal Engineers
Stephens, Norman Benj	4, Washington Terrace	Sergeant, Army Ordnance Corps
Thomas, Fred John	Back Terrace	Private, 23rd Welsh
Thomas, John L	Mill Backs	Sapper, Royal Engineers
Thomas, Walter John	Back Terrace	Private, 3rd South Wales Borderers
Torrington, Charles	Quarry Road	Sergeant, 1st Welsh
Trodd, Fred Alexander	Quarry Road	Sergeant-Major, Royal Garrison Artillery
*** Vaughan, William James**	India Row	Private, Welsh Guards
Verge, Thomas	Bush Terrace	Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery
Washington, James	Monkton Lane	Private, Labour Corps
Welby, Albert George	9, Church Terrace	Driver, Royal Field Artillery
Welby, Robert	9, Church Terrace	Pioneer, Royal Engineers
Willars, Edward Thomas	5, Church Terrace	Sapper, Royal Engineers
Willars, Walter	Monkton Village	Lance-Corporal, 1/4th Welsh
Williams, William Evan	9, South Terrace	Private, 18th Welsh
*** Williams, William**	b Monkton	Private, Welsh Guards
Wogan, Edward	Back Terrace	Royal Field Artillery

*** Died in action or as a result of war injuries or illness.**

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Pembroke War Memorial

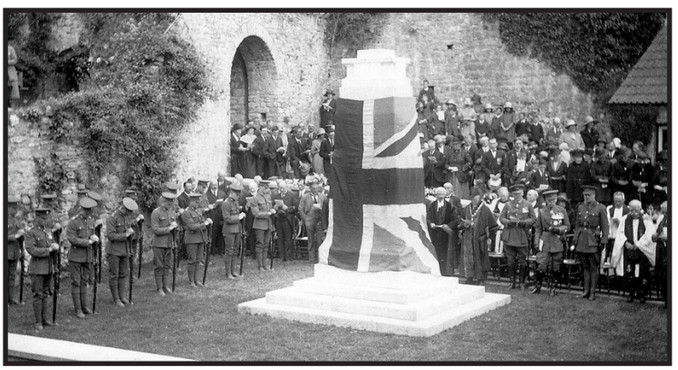
IN Pembroke Museum can be found the Roll of Honour of local men who served in WW1 plus a fine monument to those who served in the Royal Dockyard.

WW1 had been the most destructive conflict in history; its consequences were catastrophic. The war claimed a death toll of nine million, while millions more had been wounded: hardly a family escaped the loss of relatives and friends.

Public commemoration played a vital role in acknowledging their sacrifice whilst offering some consolation to the bereaved, an assurance that their loved ones had not died in vain defending King and country.

To the many that fell, never to return, an impressive war memorial was erected in Pembroke – a replica of the national Cenotaph at Whitehall.

In June 1924, following a service of commemoration conducted by Canon David Bowen of Monkton, Pembroke's Cenotaph was unveiled by General Sir Francis Lloyd, first commander of the Welsh Territorial Division, as soldiers gave a military salute.





The Rev David Bowen of Monkton conducts the service at the unveiling of Pembroke War Memorial in 1924. The names of the Fallen of three parishes are engraved on the monument, a staggering number for so small a town.
Photographs from the C N Thomas Collection.

WWI Fallen of Monkton parish

Herbert James Brickle, Lance Corporal, Welsh Regiment.
W Cole.
Benjamin Davies, Private, Royal Welsh Fusiliers.
George Davies, Petty Officer Stoker, Royal Navy
John Henry Davies, Sergeant, South Wales Borderers.
Joshua Davies, Private, Welsh Regiment.
William Ernest Davies, Private, Duke of Cambridge's Own Middlesex Regiment.
William Herbert Davies, Shipwright 1st Class, Royal Navy
C. Evans.
Robert Evans, Private, South Lancashire Regiment.
Thomas Eynon, Private, Welsh Regiment
William George Greenslade, Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery.
William Harries, Private, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.
Robert Hiatt, Private, Gloucestershire Regiment.
Alfred Hill, Private, South Wales Borderers.
George H Hill, Petty Officer Stoker, Royal Navy.
Hugh Hill, Private, South Wales Borderers.
Owen Kennea, Sapper, Royal Engineers.
Edgar Lewis, Sergeant, Royal Field Artillery.
R. Lewis.
John Mason, Stoker 1st Class, Royal Navy.
John (JJT) Morris, Private, Welsh Regiment
Hubert J Nicholas, Private, Welsh Regiment.
John Nicholas, Aircraftman 3rd Class, Royal Flying Corps.
David Reynolds, Corporal, Welsh Regiment.
John Roberts, Private, Welsh Regiment.
Thomas G Roberts, Private, Welsh Regiment.
Sydney J Thomas, Lance Corporal, Welsh. Regiment.
William J Vaughan, Private, Welsh Guards.
Nurse Williams.
George Wiltshire, Sergeant, South Wales Borderers.
Francis George Wynne, DSO, Major, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.

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Monkton at war

A GENERATION after the end of 'The war to end all wars', the world erupted into conflict once again. Pembroke – unlike nearby Pembroke Dock with its flying-boat base – emerged largely unscathed from the German bombing raids of World War Two. However, as Bill Thomas recalls below, there were a number of wartime incidents that affected Monkton, one of them involving a German bomb.

World War Two

By Bill Thomas

I LIVED at 11 India Row. During the war years my aunt and uncle from Pembroke Dock, Lizzie and Freddie Forward, would stay with us at night to escape the bombing of Pembroke Dock, because Pembroke was never a target for the German bombers.

I remember one night the siren went because Pembroke Dock was being bombed and we all went outside the house. Looking over the water, you could see all the flashes of the incendiary bombs.

My father didn't like it because it was a high spring tide and a moonlit night. He was always afraid that the German planes would follow up the Haven in a direct line to the Dockyard in Pembroke Dock, where the Sunderland planes were based.

On this particular night the Pembroke River was in flood and was illuminated by the moon. So he said "we are not staying here, we're going up to the fields".

There was a ritual when we left the house because of the bombing or whatever. On the kitchen table there was a bottle of whisky and a big old OXO tin with all the worldly goods in. It was the responsibility of my sister Peggy to grab the whisky bottle and my sister Joan to take the tin while my mother looked after me.

So we left India Row and gathered people as we went. They followed father as he explained that the bombs would drop somewhere around us and we headed for Orange Hall farm.

When we got to the farm we heard loud explosions and we went to a clearing behind the farm and sat in a huddle, all of us from India Row.

When the 'all clear' went my father says to Peggy "pass me the whisky bottle" and she passed him the whisky bottle but there was only about a third of a bottle full. That night there were two bottles; one full and one part full. My sister picked up the wrong bottle.



This aerial photo illustrates how close the bombed oil tanks at Llanreath were to Monkton village, across and a bit further up the Pembroke River.

So after some time my father and Freddy Scourfield, our next door neighbour at number 12, went down to see what had happened and if there was any damage to the houses.

What they found at the top of our garden, which was a very long garden, was a crater where the bomb had landed.

It was fortunate that my father had the knowledge to get away from the houses and up to the fields: my uncle Freddy Forward had suggested previous to our going that we go up to the top of the garden instead of up to the fields. If we had, I wouldn't be here telling you the story today.

ON AUGUST 19th 1940 the Llanreath oil tanks were bombed. I remember it well. It was a Monday because I recollect that it was washday and all the clothes were hung out on the line.

Continued

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Monkton at War

We were watching these planes coming over Orange Hall towards Pennar and thinking nothing of it as we didn't recognise them, but the next thing we heard was explosions. That was the blowing up of the oil tanks at Llanreath.

We had already built an underground shelter between numbers 11 and 12 India Row and we were ushered down there by my mother and next door neighbour Mrs Scourfield.

There were five of us children all huddled down there in the shelter and, when the all clear sounded, we came up to see one great black cloud over the whole of Monkton. My mother's words to us were 'this is what the Germans are doing to us'.

I remember also the oil and burned metal falling like snowflakes out of the sky. It fell on the washing and stained the clothes, much to the annoyance of my mother and Mrs Scourfield; these clothes had to go into the wash tub all over again.

At night the blazing oil tanks illuminated the whole of Monkton.



Bill's father Jack Thomas in Home Guard uniform.

DURING the war my father was in the Home Guard but he never told us much about it. He'd go out at a night driving Simon's van. It was Dad's Army.

Catshole Quarry was the shooting range for the Home Guard and I used to go down every Sunday morning carrying a .303 rifle and father would be carrying two rifles.

One was from a carpenter working on war damage, so he couldn't go down to fire the rifle; the other was from John Ferrier and he couldn't leave the farm. So we went down there to join the rest of the Home Guard for target practice in the Quarry.

The Home Guard meeting place was in Pembroke Main Street behind No.26 where their ammunition was stored. At the end of the war this ammunition had to be safely destroyed.

THERE were barrage balloons all over the country. One became detached from its guy rope and was dragged across the gardens of Monkton ending up at the Shore House, India Row. We all ran after it and cut the nylon ropes off and it got lodged at the cow sheds and that's where it stayed until the services came along to detach it.

The Old Hall was occupied by the army during the war and there was an air raid shelter on Monkton Bridge.

When tank regiments took over Castlemartin during the war many soldiers were befriended by the people of Monkton and surrounding area, and they used to come in by truck in the evenings, bringing with them sugar, rabbits and butter which supplemented our rations.

I still have a model tank which was given to me by one of the tank regiment carpenters by the name of Freddie Kutz.

AT THE end of the war we had a party in Charlie Croft's field at Poplars. It was a miracle he let us, as he was always chasing us out!

My friend next door, Clifford Scourfield and I had to go to East End Square where we collected a freezer box full of ice cream for the party. This was a rare treat which we enjoyed along with games to celebrate the end of the war.



The toy tank given to Bill as a present by a soldier stationed at Castlemartin.

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The Ferrier family outside the Dockyard Chapel in Pembroke Dock at the christening of the baby son of an RAF couple, Mr and Mrs Williams, who were billeted at Orange Hall.

Orange Hall farm in wartime

By Ann Lankshear



BECAUSE of the air raids, lots people from Pembroke Dock used to come up to our farm, especially in the summer evenings, to take refuge on the hill behind the house.

My father, John Ferrier, had a cousin who was stationed with the RAF in Pembroke Dock; and he and his friends spent most of their off-duty nights at the farm. I think that they must have dossed downstairs as all the bedrooms were full.

There was an RAF couple and their baby billeted with us who had the one double bedroom and the sitting room. Our aunt came to live with us and also occupied a room.

My brother and I shared a room with my mother and father. We also had two Land girls who shared another room, which was the warmest as it was over the kitchen.

We usually had two but Betty, our favourite, stayed on after the scheme finished until she got married to Bert Harries of Monkton.



Above: A Land girl milking at Orange Hall. Left: Land girls Renee Williams and Betty Harries.

One date in particular stands out in everyone's memory and that is August 19th 1940 – the day the oil tanks at Llanreath were bombed.

The oil burst out from the tanks, up into the air and landed on the hill behind our house and covered all our cows. Although it was a frightening experience, the cows still got milked as usual.

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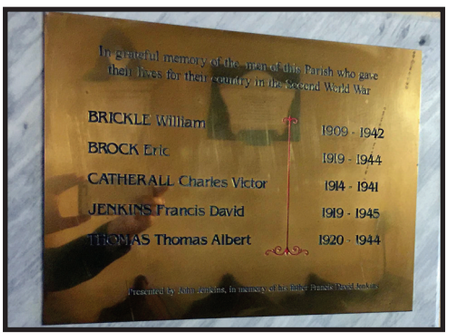
Casualties of WWII

WHILE the number of Monkton men serving in WWII was far less than in WWI, several made the supreme sacrifice, with their names being included on the church war memorial (right).

Behind each name is a story, the life of a brave man who died serving his country.



William George Brickle, Canteen Manager, Royal Navy

WILLIAM was the son of William and Sarah Brickle of Monkton and lived at 27 Monkton Lane with his wife Mary

He served in the Royal Navy as canteen manager aboard HMS *Walney*, a former US Coastguard cutter, which had been leased to the Royal Navy.

As part of Operation Torch, the Allied invasion of North Africa, she sailed to Gibraltar from the Clyde on 26 October 1942.

Here she embarked troops to carry out a landing inside the harbour of Oran in Algeria . The operation commenced on 8 November 1942, but rapidly ran into trouble, when *Walney* came under heavy fire from shore defences.

She sank after being struck by shells from the sloop *La Surprise*. Over 80 of her crew and most of the troops being carried went down with the ship.

William was one of the men killed. He was 33 and is commemorated locally and on the Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent.

Eric Brock, Lance Corporal, 284 Assault Squadron, Royal Engineers

ERIC was born on September 19th, 1919 in the village of Milton, to William and Elizabeth Ann Brock. It was here that he grew up with his four sisters and brother, enjoying the rural life in a close-knit community.

His schooldays were spent at Carew Cheriton, and it was from here he started his working life serving his apprenticeship as a carpenter with T.W. Colley in Pembroke.

He married Lucy Harries from Monkton on March 23rd 1940 and they made their home at 92 Monkton where their daughter Ann was born.

While working on the construction of the army camp at Manorbier, Eric was called up to the Royal Engineers.

It was on August 8th 1944 that Eric, now attached to 284 Assault Squadron of the Royal Engineers, landed with their tanks at the Mulberry Harbour at Arromanches in France. Their first engagement with the enemy was the silencing of the German gun emplacements on the French coast at Calais.

284 Assault Squadron was attached to the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division, part of Operation Switchback which was tasked with clearing the German pockets of resistance from the area south of the Scheldt Estuary in The Netherlands. The Canadian and British forces experienced fierce resistance, especially crossing the Leopold Canal.



Lance Corporal Eric Brock.

During the morning of Friday 20th October 1944, the Assault Squadron personnel were loading thier flame-thrower tanks with nitro-glycerine. At this point one of the vehicles exploded killing 46 and injuring many more.

There was a second explosion, and it was this that killed Eric as he and a number of other engineers tried to help those caught in the first explosion only to be killed by the blast wave.

Eric was laid to rest in the Canadian Commonwealth War Cemetery at Adegem just outside Brugge in Belgium.

Deric Brock

Charles Victor Catherall, Sergeant (Observer), RAF Volunteer Reserve.

CHARLES was born in Pembroke Dock and married Margaret Phelps, of Fleet Farm, Monkton, early in 1941.

He served as an Observer with 37 Squadron, RAF, a heavy bomber squadron equipped with the Vickers Wellington. In November 1940 the squadron was transferred to Egypt where it took part in the campaign in the western desert,

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supporting the Eighth Army against Rommel and the Afrika Korps.

In November 1941, Charles was killed in action in Libya. Aged 27, he is commemorated locally and on the Alamein Memorial,.

Francis David Jenkins, Sergeant, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers.

ALWAYS known as David, he was born on 15 December 1918, the youngest son of George and Venetia Jenkins of Priory Farm.

In 1939 David married Celia Hobbs and set up home with her at 137 Main Street Pembroke. David worked at Priory Farm, delivering milk as well as using his mechanical skills to maintain farm equipment.

Although he was in a reserved occupation (farming) David volunteered for military service. In 1942 he became a Sergeant in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and was sent to Java with the Cambridgeshire Regiment.

In May 1943 Celia was informed that David had been captured by the Japanese and was in a prison camp in Fukuoka, Japan. It was here that he died just before the end of the war; his name appears on the official roll of honour and he is buried in a war grave in Japan.

Some information about his death was brought back by his best friend in the camp, Sergeant Hurst from Preston, Lancashire. He wrote to Celia from Preston on 21 November 1945. Here are two extracts from his letter.

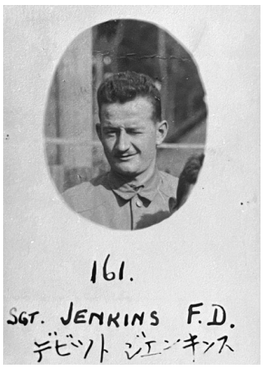
"David and I were inseparable companions from our arrival in Java where we met, right through to 5th April 1945 when he met with the accident which caused his death."

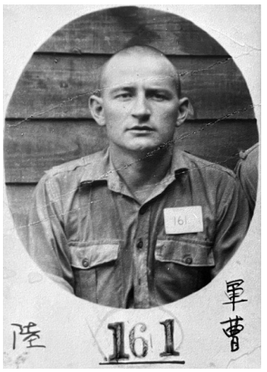
"David and I made a promise to each other to communicate with our loved ones in the event of anything happening to either of us."

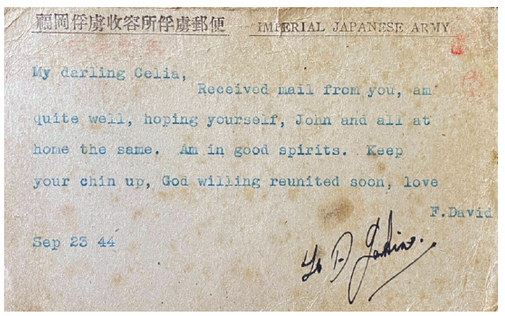
Sergeant Hurst said he was happy to meet Celia to answer any questions she wished to ask him. Celia did not take up this offer but



David Jenkins with wife Celia and son John.







Photos and a card sent by David Jenkins during his time as a Japanese PoW.

David's father George travelled to Preston shortly after the letter arrived.

He learned that the fractured skull which is recorded as the cause of his son's death happened as part of a punishment beating, after which David was cruelly left to die in the open air outside the prison barracks.

Thomas Albert Thomas, Guardsman, Welsh Guards.

THOMAS was a son of William and Elizabeth Thomas of Pembroke, and served with the 3rd Battalion, Welsh Guards in north Africa and Italy. Thomas died during the fighting at Monte Cerasola on 11 February 1944. He was 24.

His name is included on the Monkton war memorial, although his connection with the parish is not clear.

Charles Albert Henry Ayling, Sergeant (Pilot), Royal Air Force.

ORIGINALLY from Hampshire, Charles Ayling married Joan M Morris at Pembroke in 1939, and at the outbreak of war volunteered to serve with the RAF, training as a fighter pilot.

He was killed during a 'dogfight' over Kent on 11 October 1940. He was 29 years old, and his body was brought back to Pembroke at the request of his widow and is buried at Monkton Cemetery.

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Anti-aircraft defences

AT THE outbreak of the Second World War and for many months thereafter, anti-aircraft defences in south Pembrokeshire were non-existent.

Initially it was considered that the Luftwaffe posed no threat, west Wales being beyond the range of their bombers.

However the occupation of France gave the Germans access to airfields much closer to Pembrokeshire and to targets such as RAF Pembroke Dock and RAF Carew Cheriton.

Air raids on Pembroke Dock began in the summer of 1940 with the devastating bombing of the RAF oil tanks at Llanreath taking place in August of that year.

It was partly as a result of this horrifying incident that anti-aircraft batteries were established at key sites around Pembroke Dock.





St Daniel's Church can be seen at the top of the postwar image of the gun battery (above) and top right in the image showing the battery and hutted encampment (below). Photographs courtesy of Roger Thomas

Since the planes which bombed the oil tanks had flown over Monkton on their final approach to their target, a heavy anti-aircraft battery was located at Whetstone Hill to the south of the village.

A large hutted encampment ran along the east side of the road from Monkton to Maidenwells, with the gun emplacements located down a lane leading towards St Daniel"s Church. Here there was a brick and concrete command post ringed by gun pits, bomb shelters and ammunition lockers.

The battery was armed with 3.7 inch Mk II heavy anti-aircraft guns and is believed to have been garrisoned for about three years.

FROM about 1945 to 1948 the hutted encampment was pressed into service as temporary civilian accommodation – presumably for people made homeless during the war.

The electoral roll for Whetstone Hill Camp for 1947 lists the following residents: Josephine M Bolland, Edward Brinn, Elsie Craig, Alice Drew, James Drew, Daniel Evans, Ellen Evans, Ronald Feuer, Margaret Griffiths, Jessie Hulbert, Victor Hulbert, Margaret Lacon, Douglas Mends, Dorothy Roberts, Moses Roberts, Donald Robertson, Alma Rossiter, Margaret Rossiter, Bessie Russ, Thomas Spencer, Christine Ward and Fergus Wood.

The camp had been vacated by 1950 and little trace now remains.

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A wartime upbringing

By John Thomas

MY mother and father and I all lived with my grandmother, Mrs Pattie Harding at 2, School Terrace, Monkton. I did not know my grandfather James Harding; he died before I was born. He had been gassed in WWI and had always been in poor health.

My gran was a marvellous cook, and had been cook to 'Bomber' Harries, when he was in charge of the Flying Boat base at Pembroke Dock, before he went to Bomber Command. After that she became cook at the Old King's Arms Hotel in Pembroke.

It was the Second World War and although there was food rationing I always had a tasty treat and was thoroughly spoilt by my grandmother.



John Thomas in later life when he was the Town Crier of Tenby.
Photo: Martin Cavaney

The domestic arrangements at 2, School Terrace were as follows:

The first room as you entered from the front door was on the left; this was called the 'best room', or the 'parlour', and only used on special occasions – weddings, funerals or for receiving important guests.

On the right was a staircase to the upstairs. Under the stairs was a large space; it had a door and the inside contained a number of chairs. It was where we all went when the air raid siren sounded, and we stayed there until the all clear siren was heard.

The passage led through to the kitchen, dining, cooking and living room – which was all in the same room. There was a cast iron range with an open fire, oven and hob. All the baking and roasting was done in the oven. All the water was boiled on the hob, for making tea, or heating the water for a bath. The hob was also used for frying the bacon and eggs and making marvellous stews.

There was a Welsh dresser with rows of matching jugs in various sizes, plus a large ceramic bread dish, plates and cutlery for our use. The cupboards were for foodstuffs, which because of food rationing were rather sparse. There were, however, a tin of salmon and a tin of fruit; these were being saved for a special occasion.

We had a scrubbed wooden table on which we had our meals; there were four chairs around the table and there was another one for my grandmother near the fire.

Upstairs there were two rooms. I slept in the big room with my mother and father; my grandmother had the smaller room to herself.

There was no bathroom, but we did have the luxury of an outside flush toilet. The original non-flush toilet was at the top of the garden; it was now used for keeping gardening tools in.

One task I remember well. As there was a great shortage of toilet paper, I spent a lot of time cutting newspaper into squares for use in the lavatory.

Occasionally the corner shop would have a delivery of oranges. There would be a rush to the corner shop, not only for the oranges, but for the blue tissue paper they were wrapped in; it was a great luxury compared to newsprint.

The crates were also in great demand. I remember having one which my father painted for me; it had a partition in the middle and when stood on its end it became a bedside table and bookcase. It was perfect and I used it until I was conscripted to do my National Service.

THE RADIO was our mainstay during the war years, for news bulletins, children's tea time, with Larry the Lamb, Workers Playtime, Dick Barton – Special Agent, Tommy Handley and the Itma Show, Charlie Chan, The Billy Cotton Band Show, and 'The Man In Black, Valentine Dyall'.

During the evenings the family would sit around the fireside, knitting, reading the daily paper, or listening to the radio. We all took turns in helping to make rug mats.

We would obtain a hessian, potato or grain sacks and a bunch of old rags which we cut into strips, about six inches long. A single strip was placed through a hole in the sacking, then a metal tool with a hook on it would be placed into the next hole retrieving half of the rag and pulling it back through the hole; you continued to do this until all of the sacking was full.

Some great patterns and colour schemes were achieved, and the rag rugs never seemed to wear out.

John 'Yobbler' Thomas passed away in 2011

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Monkton schools

BECAUSE of its monastic heritage, Monkton has a long history as a place of learning; indeed, according to one tradition, the future King Henry VII received an early education from the Benedictines of Monkton Priory, although that seems rather far-fetched.

The first educational establishment that we know of in the village was a private school, recorded by historian Francis Jones and in operation around 1620,

There was no national system of schooling in the17th or 18th centuries, nor any state funding for education. A few Grammar schools were available for the children of wealthy families, while private tutors were another favoured option of the rich.

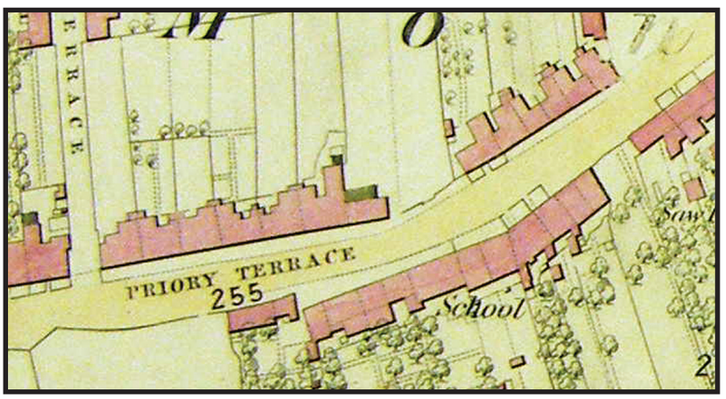
The less well-off inhabitants of Monkton and elsewhere who wanted their children taught to read and write had to rely on philanthropy. There were two or three charity schools in Pembroke in the 1700s, supported by voluntary donations from sympathetic landowners or run by the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge (founded in 1698).

The famous circulating schools started by the Rev Griffith Jones of Llanddowror in the 1730s, made two visits to Monkton Parish and must have helped raise standards of literacy, if only slightly. These schools visited communities for periods of about three months, using the Bible as a basis for teaching children and adults to read.

This situation changed somewhat in the early nineteenth century, with those who could afford it being able to send their children to private day schools and academies such as those which opened in Pembroke and, later, Pembroke Dock.

Children of labourers etc were still reliant on local charity if they wanted to learn to read and write. However the government was beginning to recognise that localised, voluntary provision was inedequate and that a more centralised approach was needed. As a result, it became possible for poorer children in the Pembroke area wanting to receive an elementary education to attend either the National School or, later, the British School in the town.

National Schools were Church schools and were run by the National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church.



This map of 1864 shows a school in Bush Terrace.

Historian Richard Rose has suggested that Pembroke had a small National School by 1819. At one time this school was held in a house in the town, hired for the purpose, which was also used as a savings bank. Over 200 children of both sexes attended the school. After 1861 it occupied a new building near the top of the New Way, known at one time as Elm Tree School and now an antiques emporium.

British Schools were established slightly later and were non-denominational, a fact that would have appealed to the largely non-conformist population of Wales.

Both British and National Schools were still charity-run, but on a nationwide rather than local basis, and both had access to central funding. Other income came from parents who paid a few pennies a week to send a child to these schools, any shortfall in funds being met by donations from tradesmen and landowners.

RUNNING alongside these schools were the private schools mentioned earlier. An early one in Monkton was run by George Raymond who was 'of the parish of Monkton, school-master', when he married Mary Gilbert in 1814. He was buried in the parish churchyard ten years later, aged 62.

In Pembroke there was a variety of private education on offer and in 1830 the choice included a day school run by George Miller, a boarding school run by Elizabeth Pykes and a ladies' boarding and day school run by Mary Ann Burt. By 1835 the Mesdames Preece were also running a ladies' boarding school in the town,

In 1846, concerns about the poor state of education in Wales led to a public inquiry.

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This was carried out by three English commissioners who visited every part of Wales collecting evidence and statistics.

Their work was completed in 1847 and printed in November of that year in three large blue-covered volumes. The report was detailed. It concluded that schools in Wales were extremely inadequate, concluding also that the Welsh were ignorant, lazy and immoral, and that among the causes of this were the use of the Welsh language and nonconformity.

The report was greeted by uproar and has been forever referred to as 'The Treason of the Blue Books'.

This damning *Report on the State of Education in Wales 1847* conceded that most farmers in Monkton parish were able to read and write, but that many children were without education.

The Report recorded one private school in Monkton village, run by a William Thomas.

This school is kept upstairs in two rooms of the master's house which is in good repair except the windows. There is a door to each room from the landing at the top of the stairs, but the master cannot see all the scholars from one room while they are in the other.

He generally sits with the elementary classes. The furniture consists of one master's desk, two long desks and twelve benches, no maps, prints nor cards of any description. The master, who seemed to be well informed, had been for 10 years conducting the National school at Tenby.

He devotes his whole time to his school. His wife sells bread. The scholars are tradesmen's, mechanics' and a few labourers' children, but the inclement weather prevented many from attending.

December 1846

A trade directory for 1858 shows that there were two private schools in Monkton by that time, one run by Richard E Harries and the other by Jane Thomas – evidently one for boys and one for girls. The latter was known as a 'dame school'; these were run by women who taught a little reading, writing and arithmetic.

A map of 1864 (opposite) shows a school in Bush Terrace which presumably housed one of the above establishments.

THERE was a British School for nearly 100 junior pupils in Pembroke by 1861, located somewhere in The Green. An infants' class was added a couple of years' later, but the modest schoolroom couldn't cope with the rising number of pupils.

The growth of Pembroke beyond its walls in the 19th century, with new terraces at Monkton, Orange Gardens, Golden Hill and elsewhere, meant that a new school was needed to help with 'furthering the education of the humbler classes', and the local committee responsible for running the British School worked tirelessly to bring this to fruition.

The site chosen was opposite Lake House in Monkton, on land given by Thomas Meyrick of Bush, and the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the new British School for Pembroke, was performed in July 1865 by Mrs Meyrick.

It was a splendid occasion, full of Victorian pomp and ceremony, beginning with a procession of schoolchildren from St Michael's Square led by the Band of Hope fife and drum band and culminating in Monkton.

Pembroke Mayor Jonas Dawkins was master of ceremonies.

Continued



Pembroke's new British School was built in Monkton in 1865.

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Monkton schools

He said he was convinced that it was the duty of the public to provide education for the children of the poor, 'so that when the present generation shall have passed away a better and wiser one shall take the place of it'.

A bottle, cased in lead, was deposited beneath the foundation stone. Noted a press report:

'The contents of the bottle are as follows: A list of the names of the Trustees:- Mr. Thomas Esq, J Dawkins, Esq, mayor, W. Hulm Esq. Messrs B Powell, S W Willing, J. Beddoe, W H Warden, H P Thomas, John Simon, and Geo Thomas.

Copies of the *Welshman* and *Pembroke Dock Gazette* were also deposited in the bottle'.

The estimated cost of the building was about £550; a Government grant of £150 was supplemented by donations from local people and the proceeds of various fund-raising events. The architect was Kedgwin Ladd of Pembroke Dock and the building contractor was John Jenkins.

When completed the following year, the school had room for about 150 pupils. School fees were twopence, threepence, and fourpence per child per week, according to the circumstances of the parents.

The first headmaster was Swansea-born John Lewis Danford, but he soon moved on to become headmaster of Barn Street School in Haverfordwest, to be succeeded by the long-serving William James.

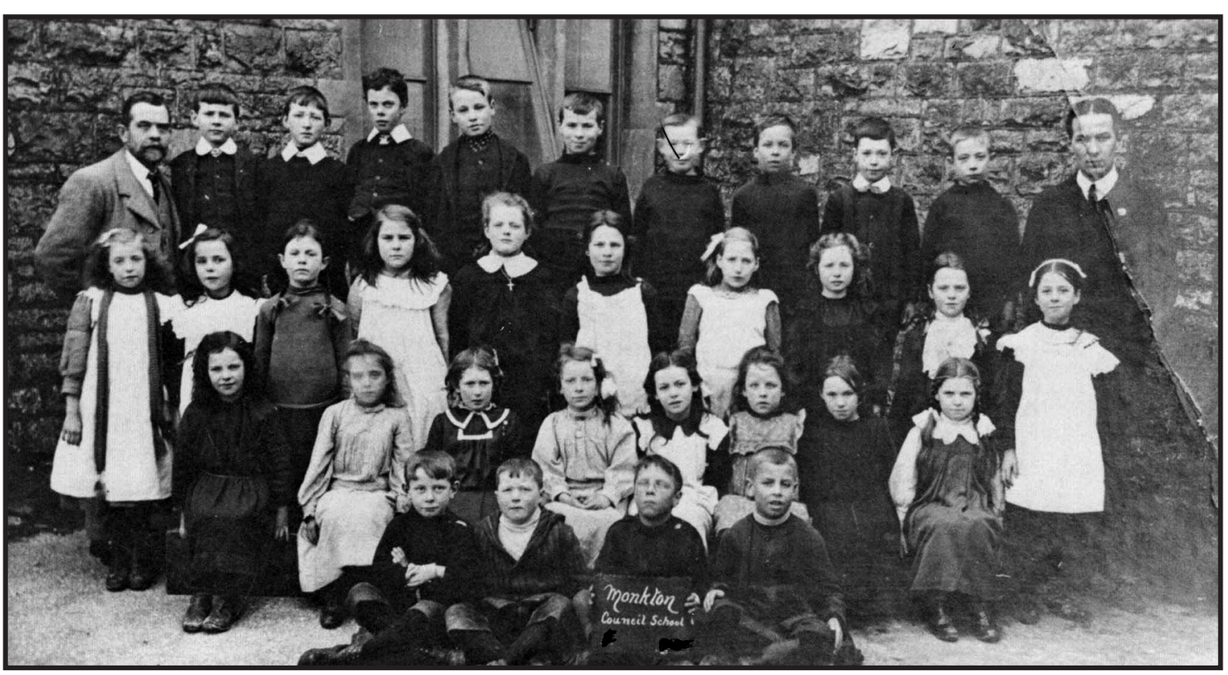
FOLLOWING the passing of the Education Act of 1870, the school at Monkton became Pembroke Board School. The new School Boards had the power to raise money through the local rates, so the schools they ran were no longer reliant on charitable donations.

One of the the first tasks of Pembroke Borough School Board was to build another school in Pembroke. The one at Monkton was already becoming badly overcrowded – there were 186 pupils there in 1872 – and there were complaints of inconvenience from people in other parts of the town whose children had a long walk to school.

The problems were partially solved in 1873 with the opening of East End Board School, initially a separate boys' and girls' school with accommodation for infants. The school at Monkton thereafter became known as Monkton Mixed School.

In 1875 plans were drawn up for a separate infants' section alongside Monkton Mixed School and Miss Mary Mathias became headmistress. Pupil numbers continued to grow in both sections and more classrooms were added in 1879 and 1884 to cope with the demand.

Elementary schools had to be non-denominational and could charge a weekly fee not exceeding ninepence. However, not until 1880 was school made compulsory for five to



Monkton Mixed School 1913. Headmaster William James is back left and Stanley Rowlands is back right. He later became headmaster of the school.

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ten year olds, later raised to age 12 in 1899. And school was not free, except for the poorest children, until 1891 when fees were abolished.

A report of 1884 stated that Monkton Mixed Board School could accommodate 187 boys and girls, with an average attendance of 160. William James was still headmaster, while Miss Mary Mathias was still mistress of the infants' section which could accommodate 140 pupils, average attendance being 125.

Thus it seems that a school site originally intended for 150 pupils now had to cope with twice that number.

By the 1890s, the School Board was actively trying to obtain land to build a completely new Infants' School in Monkton, to relieve the pressure.

This time Sir Thomas Meyrick, as he now was, proved unwilling to donate land, and he was also reluctant to sell the roadside plot of about threequarters of an acre next to Monkton Mixed which the Board had identified as a site for the proposed new school.

In this case Sir Thomas had a number of supporters of the local council; as one said, "It is intended to carry on the building of a very nice terrace of artisans' dwelling houses on this site, a thing greatly needed."

Eventually a compromise was reached, and a one acre plot for building the school was obtained further west, on the north side of Monkton Lane; for this the Board paid Sir Thomas Meyrick £450.

In June 1899 Mr. Albert Legard, chief inspector of schools for Wales, opened the new Infants' School. The cost of the building was £2,278 and it could accommodate 350 pupils.

Builder and contractor was Charles Young – a future mayor of the Borough – who had also built the Coronation School in Pembroke Dock.

The Infants' School headmistress was Miss Florence Maud Logan from Pembroke Dock and the assistant mistresses were Miss C L Thomas, Miss S A Kenniford and Miss M G Norris.

Monkton Mixed became Monkton Junior, and in 1904, the headmaster was still Mr. William James and the assistants were Mr R Owen and Miss Catherine Treharne, daughter of Pembroke blacksmith Whitlock Treharne.

Continued

Notes from the school register

PEMBROKE Museum possesses two registers dating back to the earliest years of the British School in Monkton.

The first is dated 1869, only three years after the school was opened in 1866, when the Principal was John L Danford. The second register dates from 21st July 1876 and Monkton School had now become Monkton Mixed Board School.

The 1869 register differs from the later one in that it does not record the parents' details other than their occupation, which is interesting in that it sheds light on trades from that era: masons, stonecutters, blacksmiths, shipwrights, tailors, shoemakers and rabbit sellers to name a few.

It also lists the type of instruction previously received by the pupils, which ranged from none, women's or dame schools and private schools to the National Schools, one of which was in Pembroke, the other in Pembroke Dock.

Tucked inside one of the registers is a scrap of paper on which are written some notes of events that took place in 1912-14. The head teacher was Mr William James and a note made of pupils who numbered 240.

Dec 20th 1912: Broke up for Xmas Vacation at noon on account of Xmas Market at Pembroke Dock.

April 1913: James Morgan of Std 11 fell over Monkton Quay while returning to school in the afternoon and was drowned

April 18th 1913: Half holiday for launching of HMS Nottingham at Pembroke Dock by Miss Violet Asquith daughter of the Prime Minister.

October 1913: Friday given as a whole day's holiday for Michaelmas Fair Day. Attendance Officer (Mr Hay) called at least once a week.

W/e March 27th 1914: Attendance low on Wednesday – Horse Races at Alleston.

May 15th 1914: Number on roll (not infants) 172.

June 8th 1914: Mr Alfred Bevan commenced duties as Temporary Head Teacher. No stationery whatsoever in the school.

Oct 27th 1914; School closed to make preparations for school's concert in aid of the Mayor's War Fund.

7th June 1914: No children to be transferred to East End because of overcrowding at East End.

Mr A Bevan appointed as permanent Head on 1st June 1915 to effect from 1st April 1915.

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Monkton schools



The opening of Monkton Infants School in 1899.

The old infants section found a new use. According to historian George Mason, writing in 1905, it was 'fitted up for teaching ecology'. It later became the Monkton Combined Domestic Science Centre.

School Boards were abolished in 1902 and the onus for providing elementary, secondary and technical education fell on local authorities; thus Monkton Junior School was sometimes known as Monkton Council School.

In about 1969 Monkton Junior closed and pupils combined with East End to form a new school called Grove. Sadly the old Monkton school building was demolished for road improvements and a grassy space remains where it once stood.

The need for a Junior school in the newly-developed Long Mains area was met by the new Priory Junior School which opened in January 1981. Monkton Infants School continued to operate, and In September 1998 an Early Years Unit was added to the school.

In September 2001 Monkton Infants and Priory Junior School amalgamated to create Monkton Priory Community Primary School. This initiative was led by the schools' governing bodies as it was felt that a single entity would better serve the needs of the community.

The school consists of three different buildings, though it has worked hard to make the connection between them fluid. The school boasts extensive grounds that house the play areas, outdoor classrooms, play parks, sports fields, planting area, well-being garden, woodland, and orchard.

Monkton Priory C P School has two Learning Resource Centres for pupils with severe and complex needs. A department for Gypsy traveller pupils aged 11- 16 who do not attend the local comprehensive is situated at the school and a wide-ranging adult education programme is available evenings and weekdays with a focus on getting adults back to work.



Monkton Infants School, 1968. Back row, left to right: Carolyn Lewis, Caroline Lewis, Richard Poulston, Stephen Williams, Debbie Dow, Jayne Smith, Miss Phelps (teacher). Middle: Christopher Morris, Carrie Roberts, Denise Weatherall, Tracy Williams, Kathryn Powell, Jayne Owens, Wendy Evans, Morwydd Edwards, Mark Meaney. Front: Andrew Bearne, Mark Ewings, Trevor Randall, Philip Scourfield.

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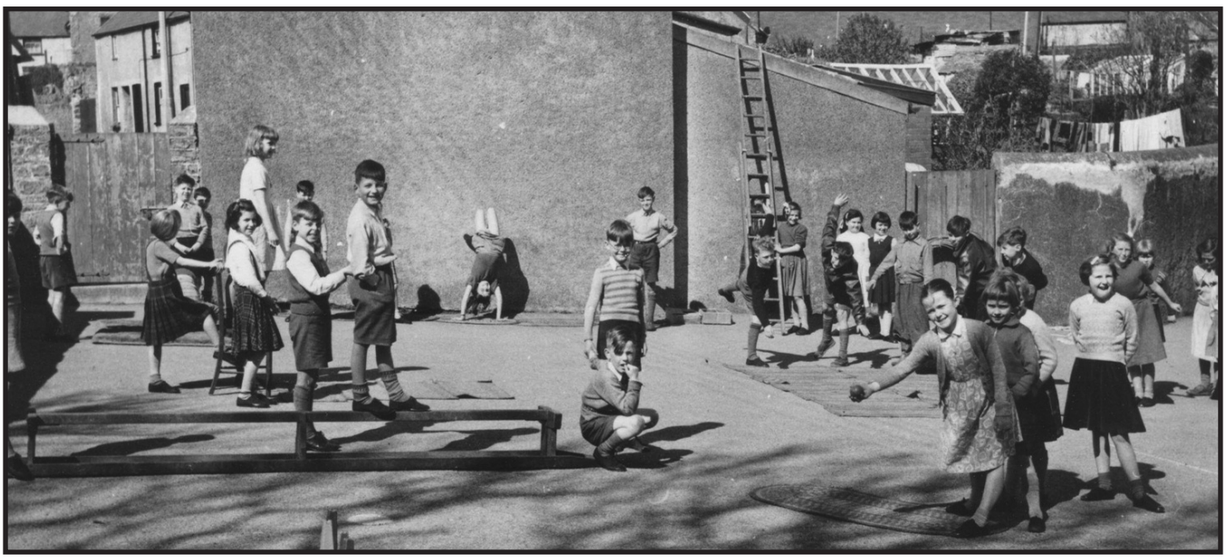

Playtime in 1957.

Monkton schooldays

Memories of Monkton Mixed Junior School by Margaret Thomas – aka 'Faggots' – later Mrs Margaret Luke of Saskatoon, Canada.

MONKTON School was situated at the south end of School Terrace. There were six houses in the terrace; we were No.4.

The school was a stone building that housed seven classrooms, several cloakrooms and a dental clinic. Boys' and girls' lavatories were separated. (I sometimes found it necessary on weekends to crawl across the roof of these 'out houses' to retrieve a ball which had strayed from our garden and was lodged in the gutters of the roof).

The school gates were locked on weekends but I and the other four kids of School Terrace could easily climb into the yard and make it our own private playground. This we did often.

In fact in later years, when I wen to Grammar School I would take my tennis racquet and a ball and climb into Monkton School yard to use the bumpy stone walls as a backboard for practising my shots. That way I never knew which way the ball would come back at me. It was very good practice!

The school was in many ways an extension of my home; it was always there. When it was in session, the sounds from the school could be heard very clearly in our house – the ringing of the handbell that punctuated the beginning and end of lessons, the chanting voices from the skipping games, the tormented voices of those who were losing the soccer game, the songs from the music room, the teachers who taught the alphabet and the times tables by rote, and the rise and fall of the children's responses.

These I heard as an infant and as a toddler and cried to my mother to let me join in. When the teachers and the children passed on the narrow pavement that ran the length of School Terrace, I stood in the front room window with tears in my eyes.



Stanley Rowlands who was head of Monkton Junior School from 1925 to 1955.

The Infant class teacher, Miss Lifton, saw this and asked my mother if she could take me to school 'for afternoons only'; thus it was that I began to attend school at the age of two years four months and it so happened that I loved it and stayed.

The teachers were: Standard 1, Miss Bessie Lifton; Standard 2, Miss Bevan; Standard 3, Miss Brace (the one who thumped the student who was inattentive on the shoulder with the knuckles of her right hand); Standard 4, Miss Thomas; Standard 5, Mr Roblin; Standard 6, (The 11+ Class) Mr Bert Lewis and Standard 7, Mr Stanley Rowlands who was school headmaster.

Continued

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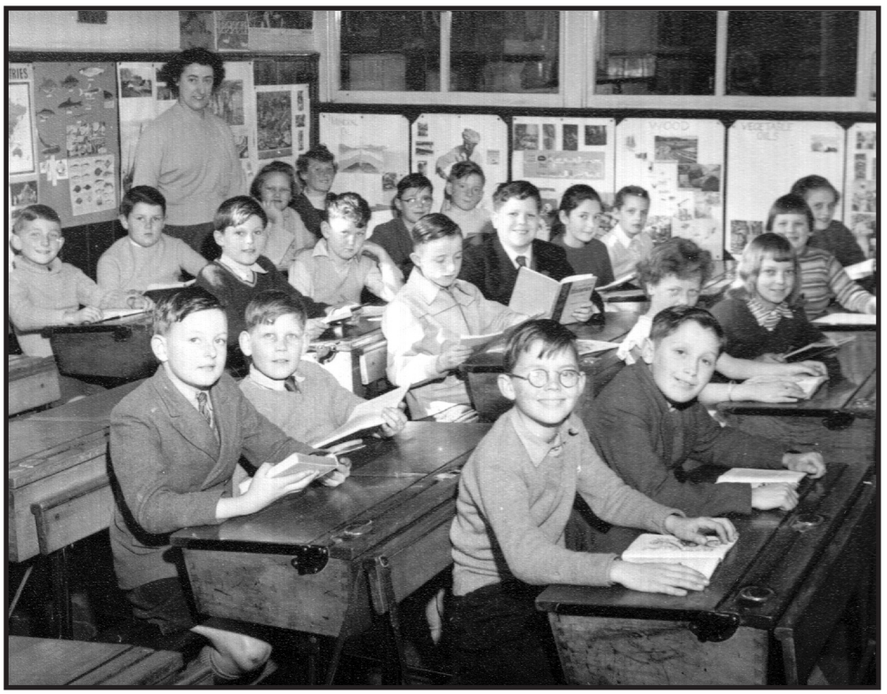
Monkton schooldays

I excelled in English and related subjects, but was abysmal at 'problems'. Maths was divided into three categories; Mechanical Arithmetic, Mental Arithmetic and Problems.

If it had not been for my mother, neither I nor my best friend Jean Devote would ever have passed that part of the exam. My mother was a whizz at maths and gave Jean and I extra home coaching to get us through that part of our education.



Miss Peggy Thomas' class in the mid 1950s.

THE largest room in the school held two classes; Miss Thomas' at one end and Mr Roblin's at the other. Each morning, in that oversized room, the whole school would meet for morning assembly.

There we would sing two hymns, recite the Lord's Prayer, hear a Bible reading and any school announcements that were relevant to that school day. The headmaster would lead this service from Miss Thomas' end.

My friends and I were usually scrambling to be there in time for the start of school. We only had twenty steps to take to get from home to school yet, as so often happens, the three students who lived closest to the school were always late.



Miss Bessie Lifton's class, 1957.

One morning, we were too late. I can still remember the look as Mr Rowlands looked right across the assembled school over the rim of his glasses.

"Would you three girls who have just slid into the back row please wait outside in my office. I'll see you at the end of Assembly".

Fifteen minutes later I was – being the shortest – the last one in a line-up of miscreant students as the headmaster worked his way toward me. He was wielding a bamboo cane, which he brought down unmercifully onto the outstretched hand of each student. I was sweating!

Fortunately when he arrived in front of me, my guardian angel was working overtime. The cane went up, and half way down with great gusto but was restrained at the last moment and ultimately merely brushed my palm. It was enough to put the fear of God into me. I was never late again.

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I must admit that I remember much more about what went on in the playground than about my experiences in the classroom. We played games such as hopscotch, whip and top, donkey, conkers, marbles and skipping.

Marbles was our version of outdoor pool, played with a keen eye and an accurate flick of the thumb. We gambled daily with these glorious beads of multi-coloured glass; were sad indeed to lose our favourite 'alley', but gloated greedily over a full bag in the evenings like little Scrooges with the crown jewels!

Colour and design were a big part of my attraction to the game of whip and top. This was my favourite. A top was a wooden mush-room with a flattened top and pointed stem.

The stem had a rounded nail driven through the point to better the chances of a long and successful spin. With just the right touch, you could keep that top spinning for three or four glorious minutes of technicolour magic.

Games of tag in the school yard usually involved one child at home base. This person was 'It'. 'It' had complete control, while the other players ran around wildly trying to avoid a tag on their way to home base, or tiptoed with heart in mouth trying desperately not to be seen before they were 'safe'.

For games like 'What's the time Mr. Wolf?', 'LONDON London' or 'Hide and Seek', the controller turned away from the mob and counted or spelled out the magical words. Then, spinning around, would try to catch someone off guard.

IN THE girls' playground there was an alcove created by two buttresses, this was on the south side of the school. It seems as though it was always sunny there. My friends and I would use this area as a makeshift stage and would perform mini concerts there.

The school itself held an annual concert in the Drill Hall. On one occasion, when I was probably around nine years old, I was prepared to recite 'The Lamb' by William Blake.

Unfortunately, I was not prepared enough, because halfway through I forgot it. After a few tears, I left the stage.

A little while later, when I was being made up for a bit part in a Chinese Pageant, Chun Shi, I remembered the lost lines. The lady who was working on my face said she would give me a shilling if I would go back on the stage and re-do my recitation. I did so and she did. It was a happy day after all.

Continued



A classroom photo from 1961. Among those in the photo are Philip Brown, John Asparassa, Malcolm James, Malcolm Mathias, Gerald Taylor, Gareth Fortune, Philip Powell, Jennifer Hughes, Jeanette Hopkins, Olwen Avis, Carol James and Pat Sture.

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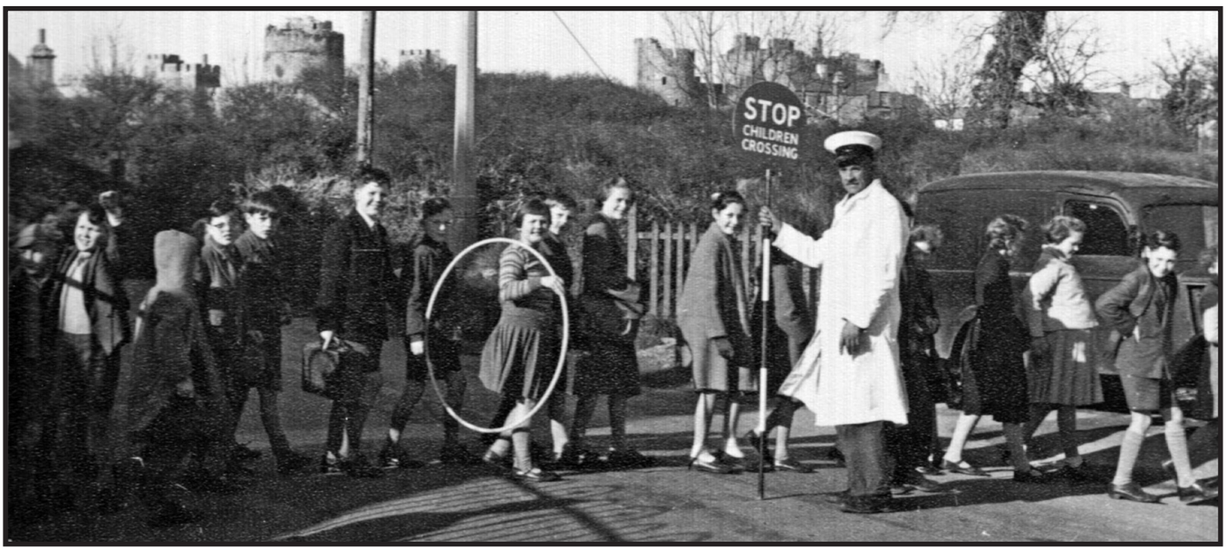
Monkton schooldays



The 'Lollipop Man' ushers children across the busy road outside the school.

My Dad's sisters, Connie and Dolly both taught in the other Junior School in the town of Pembroke, East End.

Dolly was the scholarship class teacher, and East End had a much higher percentage of their students get into the Grammar School than Monkton did.

In the Star Supply Stores, the grocery chain which my Dad managed for forty years and Mam managed when Dad was in Italy during the war, customers kept telling my parents to send me to East End.

East End was about a mile and a half away and right over the other end of town. I bet I would never have been late for that school. Hopping into Monkton at three minutes to nine was much more fun! Even though we had to put up with rhymes like "Monkton Water rats sat on the wall, East End Bulldogs came and ate them all".

MONKTON School was a rough-tough school. Many children who attended there were very poor. There were kids from 'Banker's Row'. This was a row of houses to the east of Westgate Chapel.

The houses in this row were often flooded out from the overflow of the Commons stream at high tide or after long rains. The floors were earthen and the one up, one down houses had no indoor plumbing. Children from Banker's Row were often seen in dirty clothes and they usually had runny noses.

The times were hard. This was the 40s. The school organised paper drives. We brought our newspapers to school to be recycled; although I can't remember what it was used for, I can remember mountains of old papers in the Standard Six cloakroom.

The Education Authorities supplied every child with a third of a pint of milk each day; this began after the war in 1945. The older students would be the milk monitors, and would leave class about ten minutes before morning recess then bring the crates to each classroom.

I hated milk, and had many arguments with the teachers because I refused to drink it.

School dinners were cheap, under a shilling a day. The whole school would march in twos over to the Infants School in Monkton to be served dinners. For the most part, I went home for my dinner, since my house was much closer. Also Mam and Dad were coming home from the shop to have their dinner, so we could all be together.

We also had a health clinic at the school where orange juice, cod liver oil, Marmite etc. was distributed free to pregnant women and to mothers with children under ten years of age. Free dental work was done for all the children of the school – the school dentist was Mr Harding.

This was the first environment in which I was educated for seven and a half years. We were in many ways deprived, but we were also quite free spirited and much more 'worldly' than our counterparts of today.

Today's kids have more knowledge of the world, yet we were more at home than they appear to be in the adult world.

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Road transport

THE FIRST evidence we have of any form of road transport in Monkton that wasn't horse-powered appeared in the *Cambrian* newspaper in 1819:

Mr Daniel S Thomas of Pembroke recently rode a Velocipede from the milestone at Hundleton to the one at Quoit's Mill in the short time of four minutes, being at the rate of 15 miles per hour.

A Velocipede was an early form of 'walking bicycle' and this was good going on the rocky roads of the day, even if it was nearly all downhill.

Despite this pioneering exploit, there appear to be no more references to cycling in Monkton until a report of an accident which befell a young man named William Phillips who broke his arm in 1889 when he had a puncture going down Mill Backs hill.

In Victorian times, most people walked everywhere they needed to get to and, with Monkton being largely a self-contained community, there was little need for residents to venture further afield.

Those who could afford to, or needed to for business, travelled by pony and trap or dog-cart. Most of the horse-drawn transport seen in the village comprised delivery carts or else belonged to farmers and country squires passing through or attending a livestock fair or church service.

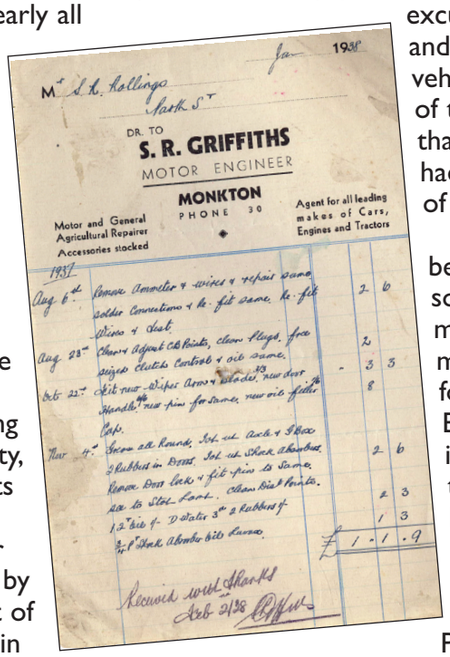
The village was well served by resident carters and hauliers, but public transport was more or less non-existent, the long-distance stage coaches that served Pembroke coming no closer to Monkton than the coaching inns of the Main Street.

A more local service was provided for a time by Edward Jones, landlord of the Apple Tree Inn from 1875 until about 1880. Before taking over the pub he had kept a horse-drawn omnibus at Monkton Bridge which shuttled between Pembroke and Hobb's Point. 'Sixpence all the way, and cheap too!' he would declare.

THE ADVENT of steam power saw traction engines being used on the village farms and in the quarries, with steam-powered vehicles towing waggons being the most convenient way of transporting the quarried stone.

By 1902 Pembrokeshire had finally started to embrace the 'horseless carriage' age, with members of the gentry lining up to copy the King by owning one of the new-fangled motor cars.

It was reported early that year that there were at least two motor cars based in the county, plus a three-wheeler, and that several excursionists had visited Tenby and St David's by petrol-driven vehicle, despite the dire condition of the roads. By November of that year George Ace of Tenby had started selling his own make of car, the 8hp 'Ace', for £235.


DR. TO
S. R. GRIFFITHS
MOTOR ENGINEER
MONKTON
PHONE 30
Motor and General Agricultural Repairer
Accessories stocked
Agent for all leading makes of Cars, Engines and Tractors

As motor-cars gradually became more widespread in south Pembrokeshire, and also more powerful, so attempts were made to safeguard the highway for other road-users. In 1910 a Board of Trade inquiry was held in Pembroke Dock Market Hall to consider an application by Pembroke Town Council 'for powers to limit the speed of motors to ten miles an hour in a number of streets in Pembroke'.

The streets in question included the stretch from Westgate Hill through Monkton. Pembroke Town Clerk R D Lowless told the inquiry that Westgate Hill was 'a very steep declivity with a curve at the bottom' and thought that 'it would scarcely be safe for the motorist himself to proceed at a speed greater than ten miles an hour down the hill'.

He added: 'Then they come to a corner and there is a school right at the point and there is also a cross roads. This is a dangerous spot and there have numerous accidents here, not to motors as yet but involving carts and cycles.'

Pembroke Mayor, Ald Rees Phillips, also gave evidence concerning Monkton. He considered the junction by the school to be particularly dangerous and pointed out that 'in Monkton, the children play in the street to a great extent'. He thought that ten miles an hour was a safe speed limit through the village.

Continued

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Road transport

An interesting point that emerged from the inquiry was the sad fact that many Dockyard workers, especially the rivetters, had become stone deaf as a result of their work. Walking to and from the Dockyard they were unable to hear a motor vehicle approaching from behind.

Col Mirehouse of Angle – a keen pioneer motorist who often drove through Monkton in his car, registration DE 1 – told the enquiry: 'One day I was behind a man and I hooted and hooted and he never moved out of the road, so presently I got out of my car, took off my hat and said "Will you allow me to pass, sir?"

The application for powers to enforce a 10mph speed limit was refused.



The Jenkins family of Priory and friends enjoy an outing in the Grey Goose, a Pembroke charabanc.

BY THE time WorldWar One broke out, motor vehicles would have been a fairly common sight passing through Monkton.

Not only did the local squires all have cars (and chauffeur/ mechanics), but car ownership was spreading down the social ladder to include doctors, clergymen and well-to-do tradesmen. Motor charabancs would also have been a fairly regular sight, packed with day-trippers en route to the Pembrokeshire coast, while the officers who manned the forts at Angle and Popton travelled in staff cars.

Several Monkton men served as drivers or motor mechanics during the war, and some of them put their experience to good use when back in Civvy Street.

One such man was Sidney Robert Griffiths who took out a 35 year lease on a garage alongside West End House, Priory Terrace In May 1922.

Born in Washington Terrace in 1895, Sidney was a son of Dockyard blacksmith Robert Griffiths and his wife Eva. He had served as a mechanic in the RAF during World War One, returning to live in Washington Terrace.

Sid's garage business in Monkton flourished, and by the 1930s he was describing himself as



Griffiths' Garage in Monkton repaired everything from cars and tractors to boats and trailers.

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'motor engineer, agricultural repairer and agent for all leading makes of cars, engines and tractors'.

The garage was also a popular social centre for the mechanically-minded men of the village who would drop in for a chat and often lend a hand with the tinkering.

In 1934 the garage was the scene of a tragic accident when an 18-year-old mechanic named Bert Nethell was fatally burned while bravely trying to avert a major disaster by carrying a tub of blazing oil out of the garage.

By 1945 Sid Griffiths was living in The Bungalow next to the garage with his wife Constance and son John. He died in 1967, the business being carried on for many years by his son John.

The premises are still being utilised for motoring purposes, being a tyre-fitting centre.





Griffiths' Garage with John Griffiths (below) photographed by George Lewis in 1999.

ANOTHER motoring enterprise in Monkton was the taxi business started by former Dockyard shipwright William 'Billy' Nicholas in 1929.

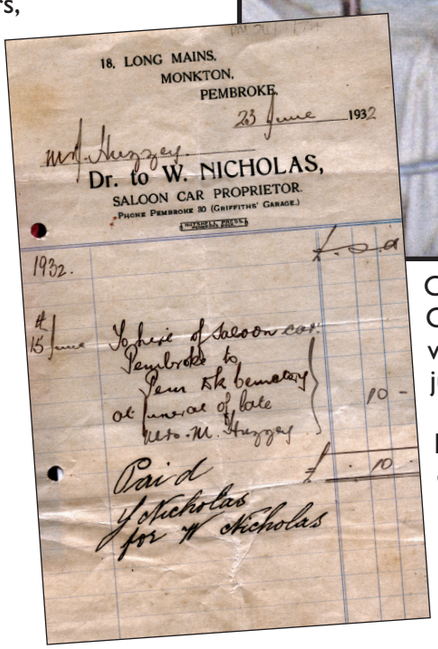
Billy lived at 18 Long Mains and built a garage 36ft by 20ft to house his small fleet of taxis – initially two Austin 12hp five-seater saloons but later featuring a seven-seater Crossley limousine that had originally belonged to the whiskey magnate Sir John Dewar.

In the early 1930s, Billy added a hearse to the fleet. As he recalled: 'Sid Griffiths got an Austin 20 Landaulette from Evans Motors, Carmarthen for £50, gave the car a detailed overhaul and brought her over to Harry Davies, the Quay. He did coach-work and he put a hearse body on the chassis and made a really nice looking job.

'This cost me £145 and I was now fixed up to do funerals with a hearse and two cars if necessary; Edwin, my brother, helped with the driving.

'For the next few years I did nearly all the Pembroke and district funerals and also did work for undertakers in Tenby and Manorbier.

'It was the Second World War that put an end to the business.


18, LONG MAINS.
MONKTON,
PEMBROKE.
23 June 1932
Mrs. Huggey
Dr. to W. NICHOLAS,
SALOON CAR PROPRIETOR.
PHONE PEMBROKE 20 (GRIFFITHS' GARAGE.)
1932.
15 June To hire of saloon car Pembroke to Penalk Cemetery at funeral of late Mrs. M. Huggey 10 -
Paid
W Nicholas
for W Nicholas

Conditions became impossible. Only a small quantity of petrol was allowed for taxi work and just sufficient for the hearse.

'Also the cars had to have all lights dimmed by Government order – only about a quarter of the beam to be used, the rest blanked off. This was a terrible strain on the eyes, so I decided to pack it all in.'

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The travelling community

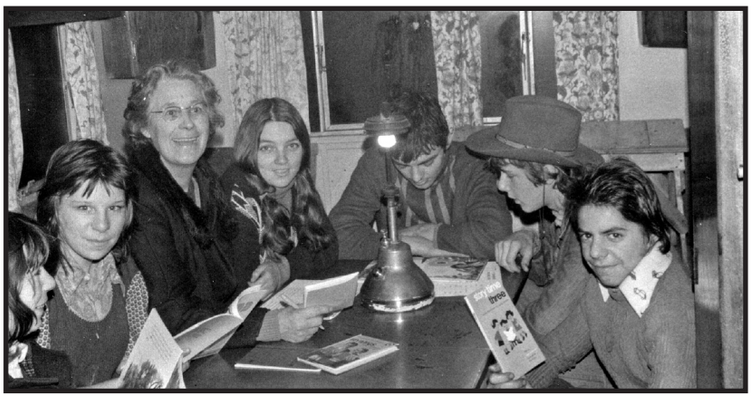
SINCE the last war, Monkton has been home to a significant community of Gypsy travellers, with the main settlement being in the abandoned quarry at Catshole.

There was a small encampment of Gypsies just off Watery Lane from 1947 to 1960 – mainly members of the Roberts and Herrin families – while Thomas and Joanna Boswell were recorded as living in a caravan at Redstone quarry, Bowett, in 1952,

The Electoral Roll for 1951 shows Catshole being occupied by four familes of travellers. These included Sakewell and Mary Herrin (see opposite) who had previously been encamped on Fairwood Common, Swansea, together with families named Hearne (a variant of Herrin), Woolford and Roberts.

John Elias Roberts was listed as a scrap dealer in the quarry in 1954, while the Electoral Roll for 1955 shows four travellers living at Catshole – Sidney (*sic*) and Mary Herrin, May Roberts and Leonard Price. Many more camped there on a temporary basis in the potato-picking season.

The number of residents gradually increased and in 1958 it was reported that local councillor Ernie Morgan was spearheading a campaign to clear Gypsies from the quarry following a few complaints from Pembroke residents.



Sunday School in one of the Catshole caravans.

This controversial campaign led to a number of Gypsy families being temporarily evicted from Catshole quarry by the Borough Council.

They were soon reinstated and the quarry caravans were home to 20 adults in 1960 (half of them surnamed Roberts) and 37 adults in 1965, plus children.

Numbers in the quarry fell over succeeding years, as several of the families were housed in the new Monkton council estate. From 30 permanent resident adults in 1970 the number fell to just 14 in 1975 and 18 in 1978.



Children in the quarry in the early 1970s.

Nowadays Catshole is one of four designated Gypsy Traveller Sites managed by Pembrokeshire County Council (which for some reason prefers to call it 'Castle' quarry!).

There are hard-standings for a number of caravans and mobile homes as well as a utility building with toilets and washing facilities. Also in Monkton is a small private site with five pitches at Romany Way, just off Adams Road.

Continued

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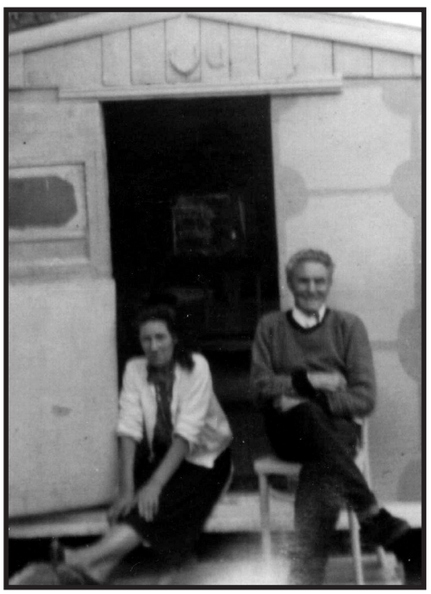
Sakewell Herrin

By Eddie Woolford

I WAS born in London in 1937; after the war we moved to Monkton where we had family and my father found work with Mr Jenkins of Priory.

My Aunt Mary's partner was Sakewell Herrin, a very kind man and a real Gypsy. They lived in Catshole quarry; just a couple of families lived there then, and the folk respected their surroundings.

Uncle Sakie was a self-taught tinsmith, basket-maker and carpenter, and highly skilled in all.



Eddie's Aunt Mary with Sakewell Herrin.

At 12 years old I would go with him to Pontardulais on the train and, at the local tinworks, he would buy two or three hundredweight of tinplate, borrow the station-master's cart and wheel it to the station.

Then back to Pembroke, borrow the station hand-truck and push it to the quarry. Over the next couple of weeks, by an open fire with his specialist tools, he would make water cans, milk jugs and buckets which were popular around Pembroke. Not many houses had running water in those days.



Sakewell operating his home-made grinding machine.

Another skill was knife-grinding. Uncle Sakie had a grinding barrow that he made himself and at specific times we would work in Pembroke, Neyland and Milford. We would start on Monday in Monkton, calling at the butchers' shops where Uncle Sakie would sit on his machine and would collect whatever the shopkeepers wanted sharpened – one shilling for a carving knife, sixpence for smaller items such as scissors.

Next would be Mr Raymond on Monkton Bridge and then through the Main Street, from Simon and Sons, the biggest store in town, up to Melias' opposite the Post Office, then on to the butcher's on the New Way.

Thursday we would be in Pembroke Dock, then on Wednesday morning we would take the Cleddau Queen from Hobb's Point to spend the day in Neyland. We would leave the machine with a shopkeeper in Neyland and collect it the next day, walking on to Milford. We would spend two days there, it being a busy fishing port at that time.

Across the front were the big houses of the trawler skippers. They had nice lawns and hand-mowers and, sitting on the lawn, I would clean and Uncle Sakie would service the machines.

My wages were five shillings a day, plus my dinner. It doesn't seem much, but for a twelve-year-old I was doing okay...

My uncle taught us to fish by hand in the Pembroke River and catch congers where the Power Station now stands. He had a green walking stick and, when walking out in the country, he would suddenly say 'Quiet, boy', pull a butt out of his coat pocket, screw it onto the 'stick', take aim and fire. 'That's our supper' he would say, as a rabbit bit the dust.

He had a wonderful knowledge of nature. Elderflowers would be picked in season and boiled as a hot drink for colds etc, the leaves used as a poultice.

An honest, hardworking, kind old man, I never heard him use a swear word. We had a lovely relationship and he taught me much about life.

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The Priory Learning Centre

By Mr D H Lawrence
Headteacher
Monkton Priory School

Gypsy, Roma and traveller parents are more likely than parents from other communities to opt for home education after their children leave primary school.

Monkton Priory has always worked hard with the local Gypsy traveller community to build trust, gain a high level of attendance and raise standards for pupils up to the age of 11.

However, what was evident was that a large number of those pupils would then drop out and work with families, rather than attend the local comprehensive school.

It was under the supervision of the then Headteacher Mr W S Rees, with support from the local authority, that the school set up a provision for pupils who were not taking up the natural transition to Pembroke Comprehensive School, but still sought education.



Mr William Rees. Pic: Martin Cavaney

The Priory Learning Centre was established in 1996. Based at Monkton Priory Community Primary School, it provides full time education for Gypsy traveller pupils aged 11 to 16 from Monkton and surrounding area who are reluctant to attend Ysgol Harri Tudor due to cultural beliefs and historical issues with secondary education.

While the project has worked tirelessly over the last number of years to see an increase in pupils from year 6 transitioning to Ysgol Harri Tudor. those pupils that remain at the Priory Learning Centre are supported into Pembrokeshire College and Further Education.



The traditional 'Varda' wagon at Priory School.



A more recent view of caravans at Catshole.

The whole aim of the Priory Learning Centre is to ensure equality of opportunity for Gypsy traveller pupils within an integrated society. Thus objectives are always set with integration in mind.

THE Priory Learning Centre has always had a dedicated staff that works closely with the community and has celebrated a number of awards and accolades for progress within Gypsy traveller education.

Pupils, ex-pupils and staff have delivered speeches to local councillors at the town and county halls, to AMs in the Senedd.and to MEPs at the European Parliament.

Much work is carried out by staff and pupils in helping others to develop knowledge and understanding of an often misunderstood ethnic culture of the Gypsy and traveller community.

This is done through leading training with the Dyfed Powys Police Forces, University of Wales Trinity St David and local authority representatives. We hope to educate minds and to quash stereotypical ideas and preconceptions

The Priory Learning Centre prides itself on valuing and promoting independence and responsibility among its pupils, providing a curriculum which enables pupils to become active citizens of the future.

The pupils celebrate their culture and beliefs and showcase work in whole school events. Most recently pupils have worked hard to create a well-being area that houses a Gypsy 'Varda' wagon to help all pupils enjoy and understand the rich, diverse culture of the Gypsy traveller pupils.

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Monkton pubs

THERE ARE no pubs in Monkton these days, but in years gone by it was a very different story. As well as a large resident population of thirsty quarrymen, shipwrights and farm labourers, Monkton was also the first (and last) port of call for the farmers and drovers herding their flocks to market from the Castlemartin peninsula.

It was traditional to water the flocks at the conduit in Monkton Lane, and if the sheep and cattle needed a drink, then so too did the drovers.

There is a reference to a 'bruery' in Monkton as long ago as 1665, while local historian Arthur Mathias believed that the **Ferry Boat Inn** dated back to the days before Monkton and Westgate were connected by a bridge and travellers would be ferried across the inlet by coracle at high tide. 'One of the oldest hostelries [in Pembroke] was undoubtedly the Ferry Boat Inn, Awkward Hill, which was a going concern in Cromwell's time. Its last landlord was a John Gwenilla', wrote Mr Mathias, an enthusiastic recorder of old Pembroke inns and customs.

He placed the Ferry Boat at Prospect House – the Grade II listed medieval building looking down on the junction of Awkward Hill and Bridgend Terrace.

Another ancient pub in Bridgend Terrace, the **Old Flag**, was licensed as far back as 1756 when a seaman named Henry David or Davies was the landlord.

According to Richard Rose in *Pembroke People*: 'Henry Davies was the master of the sloop *Catherine and Margaret* and had been in the coasting trade for upwards of 60 years. He was probably Old Henry Davies, The Flag, buried 8 Sept 1788, mentioned by Aaron Game'.

'Widow Davies' leased the Flag from the Orielton estate in 1790 while Catherine Davies, probably a daughter, lived at the Flag in 1801.

The inn was described by Mr Mathias thus: 'Ye Old Flag with its canopy over the front door at Bridgend was a bit of old Monkton. In the 18th century a John Tennant was landlord and he was followed by James Phillips who afterwards kept a grocer's shop'.



Although in St Mary's parish, the Vic, with its distinctive 'half-timbered' frontage, was very much a Monkton pub.

From its name, one suspects that the **Anchor** in Monkton parish, kept by William Hinton in 1756, was also near the quay in 'old' Monkton. However no other information has come to light. Meanwhile William Edmond, corvisor, and James Truscott each held an alehouse licence in Monkton in 1811 and 1812 but neither of the signs under which they traded is recorded.

OF ALL THE many ale-houses that once flourished in Monkton, the last to close was the **Victoria** at 7, Bridgend Terrace which, as its name indicated, dated from just after the coronation year of 1838, at the time the terrace was being built.

David Thomas was the first landlord and he and his wife Elizabeth kept the Vic through the 1840s and 50s, imitially, leasing it from the Owen family of Orielton. Following the break-up of the Orielton estate, the Vic was sold by auction in 1857, while David Thomas died in 1860.

Retiring as landlord in 1867 was John Rodney, formerly of the York Tavern. From that year until 1884 the landlord was a carpenter named David Evans, while in 1891 the pub was kept by Robert and Elizabeth Hay from Grove. Their son John was a noted breeder of greyhounds.

A police pensioner from Wiston called Thomas Griffiths ran the Vic from 1901 to 1912 and in the 1920s the landlady was his widow, Mrs Mary Griffiths.

Continued

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Monkton pubs

In 1931, John Goverd of the Victoria Inn was advertising for a barmaid as follows: 'Help wanted immediately; pianist; good home'.

George Onions from Rose Valley was landlord in 1939; he died in 1942, aged 80. Among post-war licensees was John George Davies who ran the pub from 1945 to 1962 before handing on to Billy and Pat Scourfield who were succeeded in turn by Billy and Winnie Wheeler in the 1970s.

In 2004 the Vic was acquired by two partners, one of whom was tiler Stephen Ashby of Luton. In 2010 he was charged with upholding the fine old Monkton tradition of serving after hours and lost his liquor licence as a consequence. Sadly this popular village local was closed and boarded up a few years later.

CHURCH Terrace is nowadays a picture of respectability; there is nothing to show that this part of town was once awash with pubs and ale-houses. One reason for this was the presence near the top of the terrace of the old conduit – the trough of springwater where drovers would water their flocks before heading out into the country.

But another reason for the concentration of pubs hereabouts was the fact that this part of Monkton regularly hosted street sales of cattle and horses as well as the two great gatherings that were the May Fair and the Holyrood Fair.

Arthur Mathias recorded an ancient pub called the **Bushes**, which he placed 'opposite the cemetery'. This must have been in Church Terrace, but no records survive.

However the **Brown Cow** in Church Terrace was recorded in 1816 when Mary Prickett was landlady. From 1824 to 1831 the licensee was Elizabeth Hitchings and in 1835 it was James Williams.

The landlady in 1844 was Ann Stephens who ran a grocery shop in tandem with the pub, as did Mancunian Joseph Lockett who was the landlord in the 1860s.

It seems to have closed by 1871, as Mr Lockett was described in that year's census as a Dockyard clerk and there is no mention of an inn. It became a private house and, according to Arthur Mathias writing in the 1920s, the home of a Mr Welby.

Since the Welby family occupied both numbers 8 and 9 Church Terrace, this narrows the site of the pub down to these two houses.

Towards the top of Church Terrace was the **Apple Tree**, the longest surviving pub in an area that once boasted half a dozen ale-houses in a small space. George Perkins was the landlord from 1835 to 1844 followed by his widow Mary in 1850.

Between 1851 and 1861 Mr Edward Rooks from Castlemartin and his wife Mary were roosting in the Apple Tree. They eventually left the pub and went into the grocery business; perhaps they were fed up with being fined for serving out of hours – a regular occurrence during their tenure.

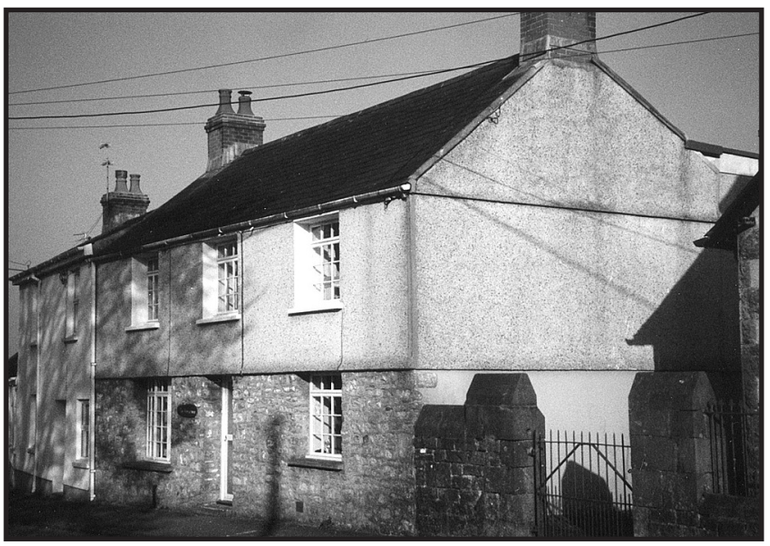
John Stephens was landlord from 1865 to the early 1870s, followed in rapid order by Peter Lloyd, Martha Biggs, James James and Sarah James, while Edward Jones was the colourful landlord from 1875 until about 1880.

An ex-Navy man, 'Ted of the Apple Tree' had been part of an expedition sent to suppress an uprising in 1869 when settlers on the Red River in north America rebelled against plans to transfer their land to Canadian ownership.

He was followed at the Apple Tree by John and Rebecca Rossiter and later by their daughter Miss Eliza Rossiter who was landlady by 1891.

She died in 1897, aged 45, and Thomas Stephens from Carew was the publican from 1901 to 1912, while Swansea-born Albert Rabbetts kept the pub from 1920 until 1926. In that year the Apple Tree was given the chop by the licensing authorities who felt there were too many pubs in Monkton.

They withdrew the licence, handing out compensation of £315 to be shared between MrRabbetts (who went on to run the South



The former Apple Tree in Church Terrace.

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Wales Hotel in Neyland) and the ground landlord who was Sir Frederick Meyrick of Bush.

Nowadays the Apple Tree is a private house which – happily for historians – still retains the old pub name.

A popular place on fair days, the **Roebuck** seems to have stood on the corner of Church Terrace, where it meets Monkton Lane. William Williams and his wife Elizabeth kept the pub from 1824 to 1844. After William's death, his widow kept the pub going until the 1860s, with the assistance of her son John, a sawyer.

In 1859, John Williams of the Roebuck was one of those who led a successful campaign for a conduit to supply fresh water to the village of Monkton. He seems to have kept up the licence of the Roebuck until at least 1873.

IT WAS once thought that the Masons' Arms and the New Inn were also in Church Terrace. However as more archive material has become available it appears they stood facing one another in Monkton Lane, close to the junction with Church Terrace and Watery Lane.

On the north side, on the corner of the lane to Priory Farm, was the **Masons' Arms**. This was a short-lived cottage beer-shop, run as a sideline by stonemason John Tasker from 1858 until his death in 1867. His widow Betsey was in charge by the time of the 1871 census but there are no more references and it has long been demolished.

Opposite, near Cresswell House, was where the **New Inn** stood. This was kept by James Vaughan and his wife Phoebe from 1824 to 1851 and later by George Morgan, a timber-yard foreman by day. It was a notoriously unruly pub in his time and Morgan was accused of running a 'badly conducted house' in 1866 and had his licence suspended for a time. He must have cleaned up his act, because he remained there until his death in 1874 when his widow Mary Morgan took over. She handed over the reins to John Brickle in 1878, but the New Inn seems to have closed soon afterwards.

Another pub which would have been found in the older part of the village, but cannot now be identified, was the **Red Cow**, briefly recorded between 1803 and 1808 when James Lloyd held the ale-house licence. This was probably the James Lloyd who took out a lease from John Francis Meyrick in 1793 on a plot of land in Back Lane, where he built five houses.

Nothing else is known about this early ale-house, although the name was once commonly applied (with grim humour) to pubs frequented by butchers and slaughtermen.

FOR SOME reason most of the pubs in Monkton Lane were on the right hand side as one headed out of town. The first was the **Rope and Anchor** at number 28, the middle of a row of three houses which stood about 50 yards past the Church Terrace junction.

This beer-house was run between 1835 and 1844 by a mariner's widow named Ann Brown – hence the nautical name. Thomas Williams seems to have been the innkeeper in 1851 running the pub with his wife Hester.

Blacksmith Thomas Saunders and his wife Rebecca kept the pub from 1858 to 1868, which is when Thomas died. His widow took over the licence and subsequently married a gardener from Monkton named Charles Harries who remained landlord into the 1880s.

The Rope and Anchor seems to have closed following his death. The Hooper family lived here in later years but the whole row has been demolished.

THE **Coach and Horses** was a prominent inn in its day and may have been one of the two anonymous pubs recorded in the parish in 1784; it was certainly up and running in 1789 when Richard Howell was landlord.

He died in 1813 and was succeeded by his widow Theodosia Howell who remained the landlady until about 1833, when she was 77. The Pembroke Corporation accounts for 1827 include the entry: 'Paid Theodosia Howells her Bill for Ale for Holyrood Fair'.

William Millard was landlord in 1835 but there is no further mention. According to Mathias, this ale-house was at 'Trevor Cottages' and had a horse-block or 'upping-stock' outside. 'In the time of Cromwell it was the parsonage', he wrote. 'Trevor Cottages' was a row of three houses on the north side just along from the Rope and Anchor – numbers 32, 34 and 36 Monkton. The row was demolished in 1971.

A couple of doors along was the **Dragon** which was also demolished in the 1970s as part of a road widening scheme; a grassy area by the school car-park marks the spot.

The Dragon was first mentioned as a pub in 1871 and was gradually extended over the years to incorporate three properties in the row,.

Between the 1870s and the 1890s it was run as a pub-cum grocery-shop by town councillor John William Penney and his wife Sarah.

John and Annie Rock from Ireland took over the Dragon from J W Penney in the 1890s and like the Penneys they also operated a grocery shop and bakery – Dragon Stores.

Continued

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Monkton pubs



Exit the Dragon – a warren of a building that comprised both shop and pub.

The Rocks had a large number of children and campaigned successfully for a Catholic School in the Borough to send them to. These children kept the business going after their parents' day, notably John Wilfred (Jack) Rock, Kevin Rock, his wife Dorothy and Miss Eileen Rock.

The latter trio were still running the shop and pub when the Dragon was demolished in 1971, Eileen having been licensee since 1944.

THE **Bunch of Grapes** stood at 5 Priory Terrace near the corner with Back Terrace. (Mathias placed it at West End House, Priory Terrace). It was run between 1859 and 1868 by former Dockyard messenger Thomas Phillips who was fined 2s 6d during that year for serving beer during the hours of divine service.

Thomas' choice of career was apparently frowned on by the rest of his family who were all chapel-going Rechabites. The great-grandfather of former Pembroke Mayor Melanie Phillips, Thomas was succeeded at the Grapes by his widow Esther and their daughter Emma.

William Johns was the innkeeper between 1881 and 1909, but did not bother to renew the licence at that year's brewster sessions, perhaps because he was nearly 80. The whole of Priory Terrace was demolished in the 1960s.

Across the lane was the **Carpenters' Arms**. Joseph Lewis, who ran a pub of that name in 1820, was one of many carpenters and joiners in the village. Another was John Jones who is known to have kept a beer-house from 1858-1860 which may well be the same place.

He lived in Bush Terrace and since Mathias placed the Carpenters' Arms in what was later Monkton Post Office, this would mean that the pub stood at 7 Bush Terrace/ 47 Monkton Lane.

A bit further along was the **Greyhound**, a beer-house notorious as a hangout for poachers who set their snares on the nearby Orielton estate. There was a Thomas Williams in charge in 1867 – possibly the chap who later ran the Salutation (below). The evidence points to the Greyhound having stood at 20 Bush Terrace/ 73 Monkton Lane.

All that is known of the **Farmers' Arms** in Monkton Lane is that it was kept by Abraham Lewis who died in 1835.

ON ARRIVING in Monkton, people coming from 'down country' would be greeted by a **Salutation**. The 'Sally' stood at the junction of Monkton Lane and Long Mains and appears to have dated from the early 1850s.

The name 'Salutation' often appears on pubs at the gateway to towns, such as at the entrance to Haverfordwest. Originally however it referred to the biblical greeting of the Angel Gabriel to Mary – 'Hail Mary' or 'Ave Maria'; as the first recorded landlady of the 'Sally' was Maria Lloyd, a gentle pun may well have been intended.

The first record we have of the Salutation is as the venue for an inquest in 1855 held on a labourer who died in a quarry accident, while the landlady in 1858 was still Maria Lloyd.

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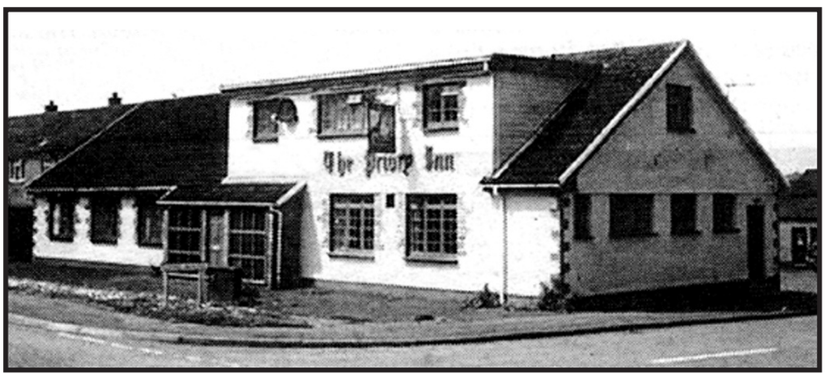
She was succeeded by Mary Price who retired as landlady in 1868 and from that year to the 1890s the Salutation was kept by a tailor from Haverfordwest called Thomas Williams and his Monkton-born wife Ann (Griffiths).

Their daughter Elizabeth Ann had taken over by 1899 and shortly afterwards she married William Hill from India Row, a labourer 17 years her junior. Despite this age gap, Elizabeth was a widow by 1911; she herself passed away in 1917 at the age of 62, having given up the pub a few months earlier.

The 'Sally' was run in the 1920s by Mrs Caroline Williams and by Henry and Florence Rawlings from about 1941 to 1955. Billy Rossant was licensee from 1958 until 1964 when the Salutation was sadly demolished as part of the redevelopment of the area into a council estate.





The Salutation (above) was replaced by The Priory Inn (below)

This new estate had its own purpose-built inn, the smart, functional **Priory**, which was erected on the site of the old Salutation but couldn't match the old pub for character. Run by David and Glenys Tucker in 1975 and by Reg and Sheila Tyrrell in 1978, the Priory was never a great success and closed after some 25 years; in early 2000 the building became a Pentecostal church and is currently being converted into apartments.

AT THE other end of Long Mains, close to the shore, stood the **Ferry Side** ale-house, sometimes called 'Ferry House'.

A rowing boat ferry crossed from near here to the Pennar shore at the bottom of Imble Lane, a route much used by dockyard labourers who would no doubt break both their journeys at the Ferry Side.

Landlords of this ale-house all seem to have shown a healthy disregard for the licensing laws, perhaps because the Ferry Side was in such a relatively remote spot.

Thomas Wells, landlord and stonemason, was fined £1 for serving late in 1871 and the inn was described by police as a 'badly conducted house' in 1873 when new landlord William Smith was forced to pay £2.10s for serving out of hours – a stiff fine by the standards of the day.

He soon left and, after a short stay by Peter Lloyd, Martha Biggs arrived from the Apple Tree. When she married in 1874, the licence passed to her husband Charlie Harris, a shipyard blacksmith and incorrigible poacher.

He was landlord until 1884, his inevitable brush with the licensing law coming in 1879 when he was fined forty shillings and costs for poor timekeeping. He was jailed for 14 days for failing to pay the fine.

In 1887 the premises fell foul of the 1881 Sunday Closing Act when George Gwyther and William Hill were caught having a drink on the Sabbath. The fact that it was Boxing Day failed to impress the Scrooge-like magistrates who fined the two tipplers five shillings apiece.

The Ferry Side closed soon afterwards; it was located in a building formerly known as 'Quarry Cottage' and later had the address 47 Long Mains. When this building was demolished a bungalow was built on the site and called 'Ferryside' in memory of the pub.

George Harris was an innkeeper in Monkton 1858-1860. This may have been a sawyer named George Harris (father of Charles, above) who lived at Turk's Cottage, but the name of his inn hasn't come down to us.

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Sporting life

Monkton Swifts AFC

MONKTON sports a thriving and well-established football team – the Swifts – but the origins of football in Monkton are rather obscure.

Before the Swifts came into being, there was a football team called Monkton United; the photograph (right) dated 1926 confirms this, but little seems to be known about United and the team ceased to exist, perhaps because of the War.

The origins of the Swifts were inauspicious. "We'd play in the cemetery field" recalled founder member Charlie Blunsden. "Off we'd go to Bowett Wood, cut four goal-posts and with a bit of string make our own goals.

"We'd play against Hundleton boys every Sunday and that's when it all started off, with boys like Norman Cooke, Edgar Lewis, David and Selwyn Owen, John Howells and Albert Lewis."



Long before Monkton Swifts there was Monkton United, pictured here in 1926. Back row, left to right: Walter Raymond, Howard Kenna, Tommy Ray, Wilf Gwynne, Fred Roberts, Sid Longhurst, Herbert Gwynne. Seated: ? Bateman, Sam Hayward, Norman Owens, Bert Greenaway (captain), Jack Rock, Alf Evans and Jim Rossiter. The mascot was Master Bateman. Team captain Berthold Austin Greenaway came to Pembroke with the Royal Army Medical Corps before WWI and lived in Long Mains after the war.



The Monkton Swifts team that won the Second Division in the 1960s. Back row: Graham Chapman, Billy Harries, Kenny Hughes, Alan Hughes, Graham Shepherd and Frank Harries. Front: Charlie Blunsden, Bobby Barker, Albert Thomas, Ricky Hill and Ray Asparassa. The old clubhouse and changing rooms are in the background.

In 1955, a meeting was called, as a result of which a football club was formed under the new title of Monkton Swifts AFC. The Minutes Book dating back to this historic meeting records that it was held at Monkton Church Hall on Monday 5th December at 8.30pm 'in order to form a Football Club and Team which it is hoped will be entered in the Pembrokeshire League for the 1956/57 Season'.

Eighteen members attended the meeting and the officers elected were: Chairman, Mr Ronnie Thomas; secretary, G Richards; treasurer, Ernest Jenkins.

They certainly didn't waste time. Two weeks later, at a meeting held on Monday 19th December, C. Skone was elected

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captain, an entertainments committee was appointed and a membership recruitment campaign organised. Mr Wynne of Mellaston was invited to accept the position of president of the club.

"At this time Pembroke Town team was still playing and I played for them initially" continued Charlie. "My father was chairman.

"Then Les Cole moved from Pembroke Town to Monkton to help form the team and when Pembroke Town disbanded most of their players came to play for Monkton. There was Les Thomas, 'Pop' Willington, Russell Martin and Jim Stephens.

"Then we had players like Ricky Hilll, Kenny Hughes, Ray Asparassa, Chris Lloyd and Bobby Barker, with 'Ginger' Thomas as manager."

AND SO the Swifts were born. Not all plain sailing in those early days though – apparently they had to share the Monkton Lane pitch with the cows. Before the match the players would have to drive the cows off the field and go round with a sheet of zinc on a rope to scoop up the cowpats before they could begin the game.

The field was later bought by the club from the Meyrick estate for £2,300.

Facilities were somewhat primitive too – no showers in those early days, just a tin bath at Willers' Cottage or hot water supplied by Mrs Verge at Fountain Cottage after the game.

As Pauline Waters of Priory recalled: "When Monkton Swifts first started, Mrs Verge opened her house at 13 Monkton to the boys to wash and change after a game, as all they had was a hut then."

After a quick scrub down, it was off to the Dragon pub run by Mrs Rock – a strict lady by all accounts who would allow no swearing.

Later the Swifts built their own hut with a concrete bath – although the story goes that the last one into bath came out dirtier than when he went in!

The first clubhouse was built in the 1960s when Raymond Howells was the energetic chairman. This was originally a canteen at the Power Station, offered to the Swifts free on condition that they would dismantle it and take it away.

The team kit was second hand too. Unable to afford a new strip the club gratefully accepted a second-hand kit from Merrion Camp. That was why the team were called the 'Blues' – army colours!

In 1981 the present clubhouse was built. While the club paid for the actual erection of the building – which was done by Garfield Thomas – all the internal work was carried out voluntarily.

"Clifford Cole became chairman, supported by an enthusiastic committee who all worked hard to make it a success; volunteers worked every night on the building from 6-10pm. and no one took a penny," recalled Charlie.

Continued



Building the clubhouse.



To improve the facilities a new shower block, was built with a grant from the Welsh Sports Council. The photograph shows Mr and Mrs Bert Edwards of the Sports Council congratulating Cliff Coles on the completion of the shower block. Also in the picture (left to right) are 'Ginger Thomas, Mike Harries, Hughie Hill, Les Cole, Charlie Blunsden, Terry Davies, Richard 'Stretch' Evans and Len Sturley.

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Monkton Swifts AFC

Terry Davies became treasurer of the social club, succeeded by Bernie Lee. Paul Bargery was secretary and the late Brian Scurlock and wife Shirley, were the dedicated bar staff.

Club stalwart Les Thomas started the Monkton Tote in the early days of the club, going on to serve as treasurer and secretary and being honoured by being made a life member of the Swifts.

The Tote was later taken over by Lou Davies and Gary Lewis, raising large amounts of money for the club.

Charlie added that there was also a ladies committee, which he described as "brilliant, absolutely brilliant.

"Under the leadership of Jenny Hill they organised the Sunday night cabaret and put on shows. The club would be packed out and before long we needed to expand our facilities so we built a large function room. We never shut the club once," he said.



Youth team 1981-1982: Back row: Tony Beer, Raymond Groves, Eamon Thomas, Jimmy Waters, Brian Cremin, Phillip O'Donnell, Tony Thomas. Front row: Kevin Watts, Haydn Webb, Philip James, Mark Thomas, Peter Manning, Tommy Morgan.

THE CLUB has been just as successful on the field as it has off, chalking up a string of notable achievements.

Having become established in the First Division of the Pembrokeshire League in the 1960s, and with a Reserve Team also joining the league, Monkton began to taste success in the 1970s. With a strong squad that included players such as John Asparassa, Charlie Evans, Roy Davies, Paul Bargery and Dave Dickenson, the Swifts were twice Division One runners-up as well as losing Senior Cup finalists in 1975.

Two years later, supported by over 200 people who travelled in four busloads to cheer them on, the Swifts finally won their first major silverware when they captured the coveted Senior Cup at the Bridge Meadow..

The Swifts won the cup again three years later, beating Goodwick 5-1 at Marble Hall thanks to four goals from Kenny Lawrence, but the 1980s saw the team decline from these heady heights.



Players and officials gather at the clubhouse before travelling to the 1975 Senior Cup final in Haverfordwest. Among those in the back row are Ray Smith, Les Thomas, Russell Martin, Hughie Hill, Terry Davies, Charlie Hier, Colwyn Evans, Charlie Blunsden, Mike Harries, Les Cole, Garfield Thomas, Len Sturley, Malcolm Davies, Harry Dodds and Cliff Cole. Front row, left to right: Harry Hanger (manager), Paul John, Paul Bargery, John Asparassa, Peter Hughes, Dave Dickenson, David Brown, Kenny Phelps, Ricky Hill (with son), Colin Evans, Keith Leonard, Archie James, Haydn Phillips and Charlie Evans.

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The club's fortunes were revived under the management of Richard 'Benno' Jones who was in charge of the first team for over 20 years, supported by his brother Billy and wife Lal who ran the seconds.

By 1993 the club was back riding high in the Pembrokeshire League, and the bold decision was taken to enter the Welsh League Third Division. As the late Vernon Scott enthused in one match report:

"Benno's braves served warning that not only are they ready for Welsh League football, but in the mood to win silverware as well. Everything about the set up at Monkton is impressive; from the club's superb facilities to the exciting squad Benno Jones has built."

Boosted by several players with experience of Welsh League football with Pembroke Boro', the Swifts spent six seasons in the Welsh League Third Division. finishing fifth on two occasions.

Dropping back into the Pembrokeshire League in 2001, the club's experience in a higher level of football saw it complete the remarkable feat of winning the Division One title four years in a row. The Swifts also did the cup and league 'double' in 2006/7.

Now running two senior sides and several junior sides, Monkton Swifts remains one of Pembrokeshire's foremost football clubs, while the club's function room is the social centre of the village hosting regular events such as the ever-popular 'Monkton's Got Talent'.



Paul Blunsden raises the Senior Cup, a trophy the Swifts have won four times.

Junior school sports stars



The Monkton Junior School team that competed in the District Schools Sports at Bush Camp in 1963. Back row: Headmistress Miss Peggy Thomas, Joan Davies (now the Rev Joan Allen, curate of Monkton), Olwyn Avis, Middle row: Hazel Scourfield, Marlene Morgan, Carol James, Molly James, Marilyn Jones, ???, Pat James, Myfanwy Griffiths, Jacqueline Davies, Angela Powell and Jennifer Hughes. Front row: Kenny Phelps, Malcolm James, Lyn Smith, Stephen Bowen, Malcolm Mathias, John Woolford, Trevor James, John Asparassa, Brian Hooper, Alan Searle, Philip Brown. Photo courtesy of Lyn Smith

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Norgan's Terrace RFC



THIS TEAM picture shows Norgan's Terrace RFC photographed in the studios of S J Allen in about 1907 – all twelve of them.

Very little is known about the team, but the names given include Gilbert Jones, Ron James, Cyril Lewis, Charles Davies, G Sutton Thomas, Nigel Horsborough (*sic*) and Billy Williams.

Several of these names can be traced on the 1901 census.

Cyril Lewis was born in 1896 and was a son of tailor and draper John Lewis and his wife Kate of 12, Norgan's Terrace.

Billy Williams was born in 1895 and was a son of Dockyard blacksmith William Williams and his wife Grace. They lived at 9, South Terrace and Grace was a sister of Amina Horsburgh, a single mother who spent a lot of time in Monkton, even though her family home was in Edinburgh.

Amina's son Nigel was baptised in Monkton Church in 1898 and Nigel obviously became such a familiar figure in the village that he joined his cousin Billy Williams in the rugby team.

George Sutton Thomas was born in 1899 and was a son of Dockyard fitter Francis Thomas and his wife Sarah.

The others came from further afield. Charles Davies, born in 1896, seems to have been a son of shipwright William Davies of Bridgend Terrace, while George Gilbert Jones, born 1889, was from Priory Mains and Ronald James may have been from Cross Mains.

Monkton rugby players

MONKTON has produced a number of excellent rugby players who made their mark with the Pembroke club and beyond.

Most notable of these was Mike 'Fred' Knill (right) who was born in Back Terrace, Monkton in December 1941.



He began playing club rugby with Pembroke RFC before moving to Cardiff at 19 to start a career in the Police Force, serving for 32 years until his retirement in 2001.

After a couple of seasons with Canton RFC, Mike joined Cardiff RFC where he played 212 games for the Blue and Blacks between 1967 and 1978 and gained a Welsh cap against France in 1976.

He also made 12 appearances for the Barbarians between 1975-78 and later moved to Penarth RFC where he skippered them in their centenary season.

As a prop, Mike was one of the most renowned scrummagers in Welsh rugby and highly respected by colleagues and opponents alike.

OF THE many other Monkton - born players, none made a greater contribution to rugby in Pembrokeshire than the three brothers Ivor, Eddie and Morgan Lewis who were born at Haven View, Monkton Lane.

All three captained Pembroke and played for Pembrokeshire, with Morgan being a member of the side that won the Welsh Counties Cup in 1971. Eddie represented Wales against Belgium in a Junior Union international.

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Greyhound racing

MANY Pembroke and Monkton people owned greyhounds – locally known as 'long dogs' – and racing them at the greyhound track was a very popular sport. The track was situated on Upper Lamphey Road, Pembroke, and was known as the White City, after the famous stadium in London.

White City was owned by that well known Monkton character, George Jenkins of Priory Farm, who ran the track until well into the 1950s, and it was very much a family affair.

His daughter-in-law Lilla Jenkins would take the gate money and betting would take place in the tin shack, a lean-to building with cubicles inside for the bookmakers – there'd be as many as six to eight bookies in there, never fewer than four.

To the dog owners it was a serious business; some people would stoop to doping to get their greyhound to win.

One of the stars of the track was Rex, owned by Wyn Jenkins, who trained him by riding around the Priory fields on his bike, the dog trotting after a rabbit fur.

Rex was raced by Wyn's mother, Lilla, who gave the dog the racing name of Rolls. He was so fast, the only time he was beaten was when he was doped and became ill. He lived to the great old age of 19/20 years and was a fantastic dog – everyone in Monkton knew Rex.

Pembroke Museum has some of White City's programmes dated 1948-9. Then the races were held on Saturdays and Wednesday evenings at 7pm and there would be six heats and a final.

Prizemoney was: 1st £3.00; 2nd £2.00 and 30 shillings for third place. £1.00 went to the heat winners. But, of course, these sums were worth a lot more in 1948.

Cheating apart (forever the curse of sporting life) White City appears to have been well organised and run and governed by strict rules, which were printed on the programme.

IT HAS not been possible to discover when dog racing began at the track, but Mr Colwyn Walters provided the following memories of the track in 1932 when he was a child of eight or nine.

"As children we lived on the Lower Lamphey Road and we would walk across to see the greyhound racing which took place in the field which lay behind the present rugby field.



A young Wyn Jenkins of Priory with Rex, the family's prize greyhound

"In its day it was immensely popular, attracting greyhounds and bookmakers from all over Pembrokeshire and Carmarthen. Usually, as I recollect, race meetings were held on Saturday afternoons.

"We children were allowed to help taking the hare, which was a ball of rabbit's fur on the end of a piece of rope, right round the oval track. The mechanism used to pull the rabbit around was a car which stood four feet above the ground on a big, wooden platform. It was a Lanchester limousine as I remember.

"They'd taken the back wheel off and replaced it with a drum around which the rope for the hare would be attached. When the car was started and put into gear the drum would wind up the rope and pull the 'rabbit' right around the track.

"However, the car would only pull the hare one way and it would be fetched back by a pony called Blue Mist after the race to the start position ready for the next race.

"In charge of this was a man called Sid Hay, a man who was quite well known at the time having played rugby for Pembroke and Llanelli Scarlets.

Continued

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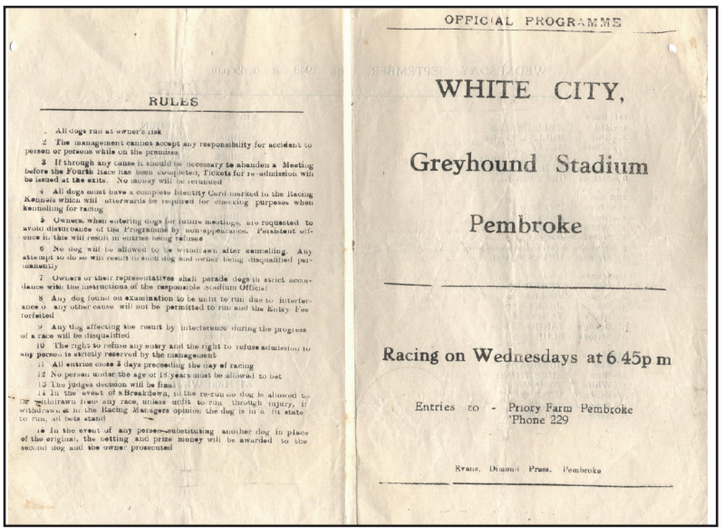
Greyhound racing

"There were six stalls or traps for the dogs to go in and when they were put in there by the handlers, the doors were shut; when the car was started off they'd go chasing the 'hare' around the track.

"The favourite dog in Pembroke at that time was owned by Mr Handley who owned a shoe repair business and his dog would win everything. It was a white greyhound, which was called Cobbler's Wax.

"It was rumoured at the time that there was a lot of cheating going on and that the people who put the dogs in the traps would, for a monetary consideration, put an elastic band around the front paws of the favourite. The band restricted the dog in extending its claws so that when it came to taking a bend, the poor dog couldn't turn and ran straight on.

"This allowed one of the other dogs to knock out the favourite and win. It became a matter of great concern and discussion and my father said to me that under no circumstances was I or any of my friends get involved with the dogs."



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

RULES

1. All dogs run at owner's risk.
2. The management cannot accept any responsibility for accident to person or persons while on the premises.
3. If through any cause it should be necessary to abandon a Meeting before the Fourth Race has been completed, Tickets for re-admission will be issued at the gate. No money will be returned.
4. All dogs must have a complete Identity Card marked in the Racing Kennels which will afterwards be required for checking purposes when kennelling for racing.
5. Owners, when entering dogs for future meetings, are requested to avoid disturbance of the Programme by non-appearance. Persistent offence in this will result in entries being refused.
6. No dog will be allowed to be trained away after kennelling. Any attempt to do so will result in such dog and owner being disqualified permanently.
7. Owners or their representatives shall parade dogs in strict accordance with the instructions of the responsible Stadium Official.
8. Any dog found on examination to be unfit to run due to interference or any other cause will not be permitted to run and the Entry Fee forfeited.
9. Any dog affecting the result by interference during the progress of a race will be disqualified.
10. The right to refuse any entry and the right to refuse admission to any person is strictly reserved by the management.
11. All entries close 3 days preceding the day of racing.
12. No person under the age of 18 years must be allowed to bet.
13. The judges decision will be final.
14. In the event of a Breakdown, in the return no dog is allowed to be withdrawn from any race, unless unfit to run through injury, if withdrawn or in the Racing Managers opinion the dog is in a fit state to run, all bets stand.
15. In the event of any person substituting another dog in place of the original, the betting and prize money will be awarded to the second dog and the owner prosecuted.

WHITE CITY,

Greyhound Stadium

Pembroke

Racing on Wednesdays at 6.45p m

Entries to - Priory Farm Pembroke
'Phone 229

Evans, Diamond Press, Pembroke

One of several White City programmes preserved in Pembroke Museum.

BOTH parents of former Pembroke Mayor Melanie Phillips were born in Monkton, and she grew up hearing tales of how nearly all the men of Monkton either possessed a long dog or had a part share in one.

As Melanie recalled, many of these tales concerned nefarious practices aimed at helping a particular hound to win.

She said: "My great uncle Bertie had a part share in a greyhound. Mam used to work in Mendus the chemist in those days and he used to go in and whisper 'Got anything behind the counter, Nancy, to make a dog go faster?'

"There were claims that punters painted the dogs, swapped them over and put lead in their muzzles to slow them down.

From the *Western Mail*, January 26, 1950:

WHILE being shaved in a Pembroke barber's shop yesterday, Alderman George Jenkins, a former Mayor, was bitten on the forehead by a greyhound which entered the shop and sprang at him. Alderman Jenkins had to receive treatment at Pembroke Cottage Hospital.

"The men kept the greyhounds hungry to make them run faster after the hare – a piece of rabbit fur cut from an old coat.

"There's a tale I remember concerning a Monkton long dog that was being led up Station Road towards the White City. There was a cat snoozing on a windowsill, minding its own business and this hungry long dog 'Et'n whool and turned'n insid out.'"

WYN Jenkins' brother Colin Jenkins tells an amusing story involving Dr Thomas Downes, a Pembroke medical practitioner who was quite a character.

"He was a Protestant from southern Ireland and was my doctor for a number of years prior to retirement. He could be very talkative and once regaled me with this story," said Colin.

"He and his wife kept greyhounds at their house and surgery in 106 Main Street – next door to what is now 'The Room'. I think that they must have had six or eight hounds.

"For some reason they employed Elwyn Jordan to 'train' the greyhounds. It was an interesting choice as Elwyn only had one leg!

"Dr Downes told me that one day the whole pack of dogs somehow managed to escape from his house and rushed out into Main Street. The pack headed east, then straight into the Royal Oak causing some mayhem.

"Out of the Oak they headed, in and out of the Eastgate, then across the square and into the Hope. Leaving the Hope they headed down Gooses Lane to the Commons.

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"Dr and Mrs Downes chased after them, managing to catch one or two before they scattered.

"I believe that Elwyn lived over at the Grove. They roused him and set off together to find the remaining dogs. All areas of the town were visited but by the time dusk fell there was still one hound missing.

"Worn out by the search, Dr Downes decided to try again the following day and took Elwyn home.

As he got out of the car his wife came to the front door and shouted 'Come here, Elwyn, and get this dog off our bed!'.

"It seemed from the evidence that Elwyn's training regime consisted of visiting the three pubs followed by a stroll across the Commons and a lie down! Needless to say Dr Downes decided to change trainers,"recalled Colin.

The White City is no more – racing ended there some time in the 1950s and the track was sold. St Michael's Road housing estate was built upon it and the era of greyhound racing at the White City is now a mere memory.



Greyhounds were the pride of Priory Farm.

HOW far do greyhounds go back in Pembroke? Well the town's most famous son, Henry Tudor, had for his emblem a white greyhound which supports the Tudor coat of arms along with the red dragon of Wales.

And, if you take a look at the statue of Henry VII on Pembroke's Mill bridge, you will see Henry's greyhound there, sitting proudly by his side.

Priory Sports

IN the early 1920s, the annual Athletic Sports on Priory Fields were hugely popular. A programme (right) for the 1921 event, on display in Pembroke Museum, reveals that George Jenkins and his committee oversaw a packed programme of foot races, horse and pony races.

More than 100 competitors from as far afield as Haverfordwest and Tenby paid a couple of shillings to enter the various running races in hope of winning a £5.00 prize.

Meanwhile the showpiece of the seven equine events was the Two Mile Open Handicap for a silver cup presented by The Tradesmen of Pembroke.

PRIORY, PEMBROKE

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME OF

Athletic ✦ Sports

FOOT, HORSE AND PONY RACES

SATURDAY, June 18 (Weather Permitting) 1921

Chairman of Committee – Mr G Jenkins.
Joint Hon. Sec.'s – Messrs. H. Jenkins and F. S. Evans.
Starters – Messrs. W.O.Harries and J.Reynolds.
Handicappers – Messrs. W.O.Harries and B.Hooper.
Judges – Messrs. T.Evans, W.Jones, Jabez Roberts and R.Hughes.
Gate Keepers – Messrs. D.Jones, D. Grant Jones, W.Sharp, G.Phelps, F.Lewis and E.Bowen.
Clerks of Course – Messrs. A John, T.Phillips, E.Nicholas, S.Hughes, F.Slocombe and W.Morris.

TENBY TOWN BAND WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE

First Race 2 p.m. **Refreshments on Field**

ADMISSION (including Tax) Adults, 1/3, Children, 8d.

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Priory racetrack

GEORGE Jenkins of Priory Farm was a great sportsman, with a particular interest in horses. He kept a string of about 30 and, as well as a riding school, he had a number of horses and ponies which he entered in galloway and trotting races throughout south Wales. (A 'galloway' was a small horse).

This popular form of horse racing was sometimes known as 'flapping' and it was not run under Jockey Club rules. If a horse won a race it would be handicapped by having to start 50 yards back, twice would be 100 yards; this was before handicapping with weights.

In the 1920s there were 'flapping' meetings at various venues in Pembrokeshire, including Priory, where pony and horse racing and trotting events were a feature of the annual Sports Day.

However the Priory horses would also travel further afield in search of the better prizemoney at bigger meetings. In 1921, at Ammanford Races, George Jenkins' 'Priory Boy' performed well in the one mile gallop with son Ernie in the saddle.

'Priory Boy' was a WW1 war horse, one of several ex-army mounts bought by George after the war.

George had a good eye for a horse and 'Priory Boy' proved to be an exceptional racer. At the end of his days, the gallant horse was buried in the walled garden at Priory Farm.

Another from the Jenkins stable, 'Blue Mist', came third in the Pembrokeshire Derby in 1921, a two mile open galloway race held in Haverfordwest every year.



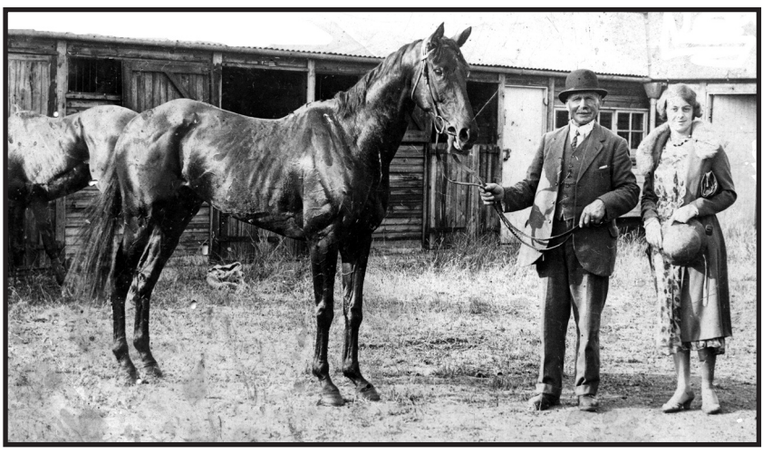
George Jenkins with former warhorse 'Priory Boy'. Ernie Jenkins is in the saddle.

At PRIORY COURSE, Pembroke.
Grand Horse Race Meeting
On Saturday, Sept 30th.
Over £160 in Prize Money.
ENTRIES to Sec: S.Crook,
8, Norgan's Terrace Pembroke

Advert, Western Mail, August 1944.

Over the following years, further success for the Jenkins family came at race meetings as far afield as Llantrisant, Llandrindod Wells and Clyne Valley.

And horses from the Jenkins stable continued to compete after WWII, with Ernie Jenkins now doing the training. At the annual Galloway and Trotting races at Haverfordwest Racecourse in 1946 and 1947, several horses from the Priory stable performed well, notably 'White Knight', 'Beauty' and 'Silver Bar'.





George Jenkins in the stable yard at Priory.

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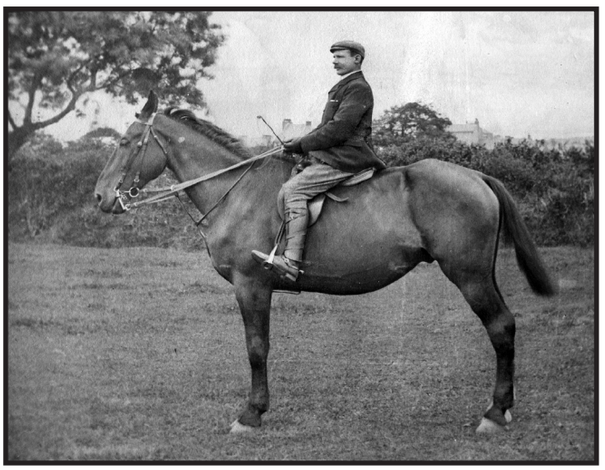


Venetia Jenkins riding sidesaddle (left) and (right) her husband George.

The latter enjoyed a successful career. winning the one mile open at Ammanford in 1948 and the prestigious Princess Elizabeth Stakes at Bridgend the following year.

THERE was also a formal racetrack at Priory by this time, laid out by Ernie Jenkins. The track extended about a mile over two fields, one being around the Dovecote.

Many people attended Priory races. It was a popular course because spectators could see the whole track, including the start and finish, from almost anywhere on the field.

Spectators had to pay to enter. Bertie Leonard would be posted by the stile leading up from Monkton Bridge to collect the money.

The other entrance was from the main road through Priory Farm, but many people sneaked in over the hedge at Long Mains without paying. They considered it a rightful perk after helping with the hay during the season.

Race secretary was Sidney Crook of Norgan's Terrace and some of the jockeys who competed were Ernie Jenkins, Bruce Preece, Alan Hughes and his brother Reggie.

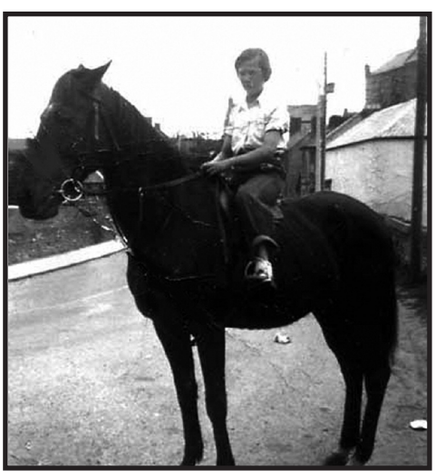
One former jockey, Mr Ivor Squelch described 'flapping' as "a rogues' game with owners doping horses and instructing jockeys to hold back".

It is thought that these gambling scams and the resultant outbreaks of fighting contributed to the demise of many of the local races.

The last race at Priory Farm was held on August 21, 1947. It was well known that George Jenkins disapproved of any kind of doping – his horses won on their own merits and he never, ever placed a bet.



Lloyd Jenkins with one of the Priory horses.



Pauline Jenkins aboard her pet horse Parasilk, a retired racer that had performed well in galloway races around south Wales in the years after WWII for owner D. Fox.

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Through the seasons in Monkton past

New Year

SINGING in the New Year was once a popular tradition in Monkton, although now very much a thing of the past.

Many have memories of Jack Thomas, nicknamed Welshy Thomas who, at midnight on New Year's Eve, would stand at the top of India Row and sing 'The Old Rugged Cross'. He had a lovely tenor voice and would then walk around Monkton singing up as far as Norgan's Hill.

For Monkton youngsters, New Year's morning was an occasion when they would get together and sing to their neighbours with the following song:

Happy New Year to you, Happy New Year to you
Come friends and relations we wish you, we wish you a happy New Year.
The cocks are all a-crowing upon this New Year's morning
Rise up, rise up, look at the stars and moon.
My boots are very dirty, my shoes are very clean
We wish you a happy New Year and please to turn us in.

This would end at midday.

Easter

MANY of the old traditions revolved around the Christian year, beginning with Easter although in the modern day, as with Christmas, Easter has become secularised and commercialised, its true meaning obscured.

After Christmas, the Easter eggs and bunnies appear in the shops and have now become synonymous with this time of year.

Why eggs and bunnies? Well, it would appear that we can trace their origins back to folk customs and springtime fertility celebrations – rabbits and eggs were symbols of fertility and rebirth.

As well as receiving chocolate eggs, it was customary for children to decorate hard-boiled eggs, roll them down a slope, then shell and eat them.

This was done in Monkton, as Pauline Waters of Priory Farm recalled:

"We would pick gorse, which was a beautiful yellow colour, and then boil it with the eggs to stain them yellow. When they were cool, we would decorate them.

"This was done usually on Easter Saturday ready for Easter Monday, when Vergie (Mrs Verge) would take a gang of us children down Priory fields to troll (roll) our egg and cake – the cake was actually hot cross buns left over from Good Friday.

"Eggs and buns would all end up at the bottom of the fields where we would sit and thoroughly enjoy the treat, ending the day with games like hide and seek etc.

"This ritual carried on until Vergie died. She was a great character, still remembered in Monkton as she was so kind and generous.

"Vergie would help anyone in sickness, and in death as she was often called upon to lay out the dead. This was done in the home in those days. She always seemed to be present at parties and weddings."



A Passion Play, with Keith Wheeler as Christ.

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The cast of one of the Passion Plays.

Meals eaten on Easter Sunday were very traditional – boiled, coloured eggs for breakfast and yellow crochet covers on them. Lunch was always roast leg of lamb with vegetables from the garden, followed by rhubarb pie (often first if the season to be picked if Easter was in March).

Tea was an elaborate Simnel cake: a rich fruitcake cooked with a layer of marzipan in the middle. The top was marzipan with eleven balls around the edge to represent the twelve apostles – minus Judas.

AT EASTER, the parish church would be beautifully decorated with primroses and violets in preparation for the Easter Sunday celebration of the Resurrection. Church attendance was high.

Dot Lloyd remembers the church absolutely packed out at Easter with three morning services and people queuing to get in.

"When coming out of church after the 7.30am service, you would be greeted by a queue of people waiting to enter the church for the next service at 8.15, a queue which reached right down to the gates.

"Preceding Easter Sunday, we would have a Maundy Thursday vigil and a three hour service on Good Friday.

"At that time also, religious observance of Easter was reflected in the law. No shops were open on Good Friday, or on Easter Sunday and Monday.

"The church concerts and Passion Plays were also hugely popular. We would practise during the whole of Lent for the Passion Play which was acted out on Good Friday evening either in the Church Hall or in the Church itself.

"The Rev. Andrew Sidebottom revived the Passion Play in the late 1980s when we performed numerous plays, some of which were performed during the whole of the week from Monday to Good Friday."

Continued



The cast of 'Pilgrim's Progress', an Easter production in the church in the late 1980s. Front Row: Richard & Jonathan Williams,? Boyle,?, Caroline Griffiths. Second Row: Brian Elliot, ?, Mr Boyle, Keith Wheeler, Mrs Boyle, Pauline Owens, Michael Burton. Back Row: Barbara Ambrose, Sandi Sinclair, the Rev Andrew Sidebottom, Liz Jenkins, Pauline Griffiths, Richard Wearing, Georgina Wheeler, Christine Bolger, Dorothy Lloyd, Pauline Waters, Joan Davies, Ruby Shepherd, Mrs Burton, Vera John, Janet Williams, Sonia Griffiths.

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Through the seasons in Monkton past



Beating the Bounds of the parish was a popular annual event.

Rogation Sunday

THE Beating of the Bounds on Rogation Sunday – celebrated on the fifth Sunday after Easter – is no longer practised in Monkton.

Rogation days were traditionally observed by fasting and abstinence in preparation to celebrate the Ascension. Farmers often had their crops blessed by a priest at this time.

A procession of parishioners, led by the minister, would proceed around the boundary of their parish and pray for its protection in the forthcoming year.

As Dot Lloyd recalled: "We used to beat the bounds up as far as Hundleton with the Vicar on Rogation Sunday, blessing the wells and crops, then back to the Hall for tea".



The Rev Martin Cox blessing the crops on Rogation Sunday.

Summer

SUMMER was the season for community carnivals and fetes, many of them held in Priory Fields to raise funds for the church.

Without doubt, the best remembered events were the ox-roasts of the 1950s (see overleaf). Like many of the events in Monkton, these attracted people from all over the county and were a great success.

Continued



A summer fete outside the church.

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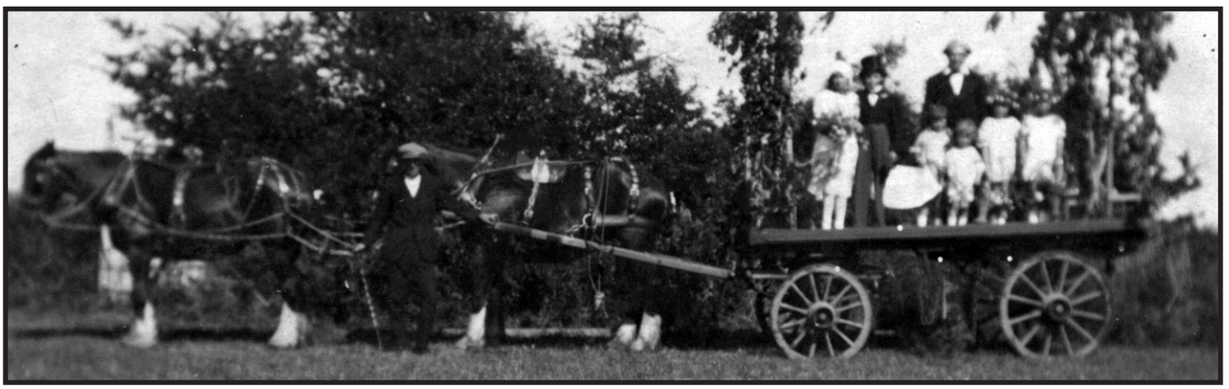
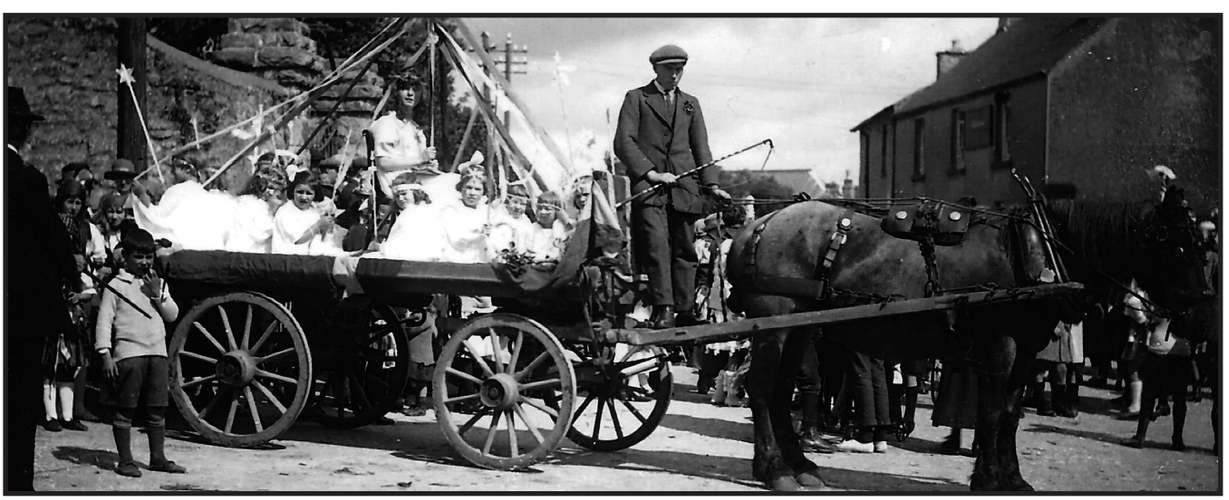






Summer carnival time in Monkton, dates unknown.

The picture at the top is courtesy of Pauline Waters. The other images come from the C M Thomas Collection of glass negatives.



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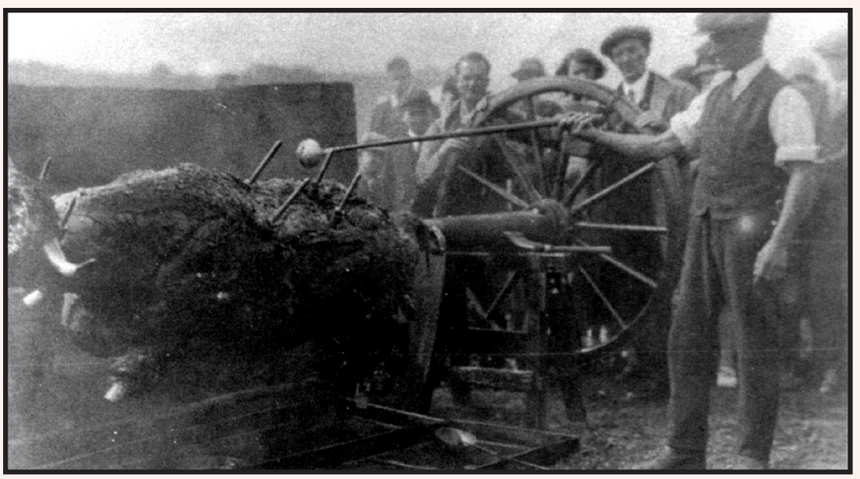
Roasting the ox

Although we can't be certain, it is believed that the photograph on the right shows a whole ox being spit-roasted in a paddock next door to Monkton vicarage at a church fund-raising event in the 1930s.

A brick wall was built to create the fire-pit.

The event was revived in June 1955 after a gap of 20 years (below).

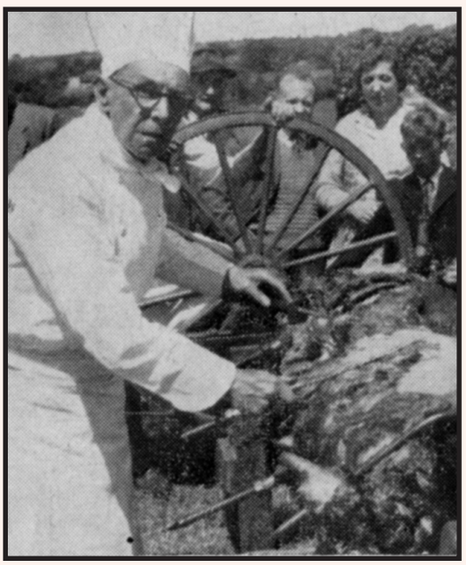


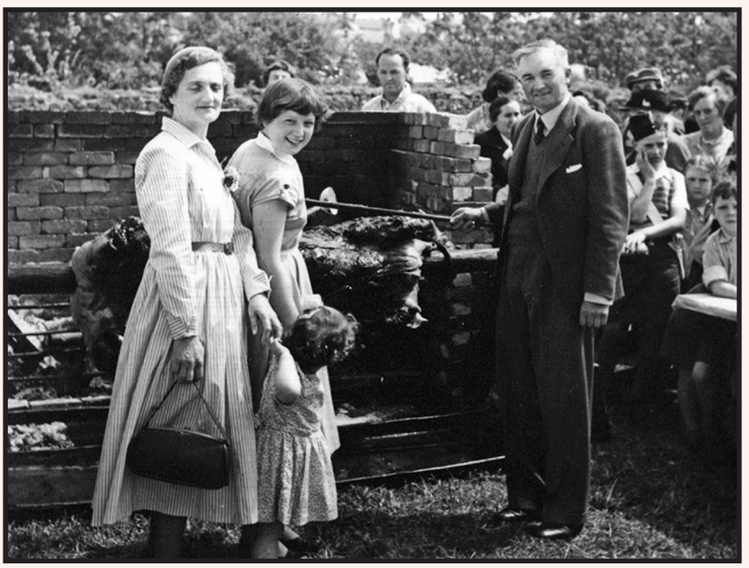


It was attended by over 1,000 people who admired the skills of Mr Fred Tyler of Stratford-on-Avon, billed as 'The Champion Ox Roaster of England'.

The ox-roast was organised by the Vicar of Monkton, the Rev D Hywel Davies and his wife as part of a fete to raise funds for the parish.

This popular event was repeated over the next few years, with a special edition in 1958 held to coincide with The Festival of Wales and the Pembroke Pageant.





Left: Mr Fred Tyler. Pictured right are Ann Lankshear with her father and mother, Mr and Mrs John Ferrier of Orange Hall, enjoying one of the ox-roasts at Priory in 1955.

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Through the seasons in Monkton past

Harvest Festival

HARVEST Festival was another grand church occasion which attracted huge support.

For farmers, harvest was the most significant festival when they could sing "all is safely gathered in'. Sheaves of corn were put in a mound in the chancel and surrounded with vegetables and fruit.

Children would be given a box of produce to take up to the altar where it would be blessed by the Vicar, then given to Riverside (then a Nursing Home) and the former orphanage, Croft Court.

There would be an auction after Harvest when the produce would be sold to raise money for church funds.



Harvest Festival display.

Bonfire Night

HALLOWE'EN on October 31st was never celebrated. The big autumn event eagerly looked forward to was Guy Fawkes Night, which was always held on November 5th.

The tradition dates back to the plot by Catholic conspirators to blow up the Houses of Parliament during the state opening, intending to kill the Protestant King, James I and members of Parliament in order to re-establish Catholic rule.

Fortunately the plot was betrayed and Guy Fawkes was discovered hiding in the cellar where the explosives were stashed. The other conspirators were either killed resisting capture or—like Fawkes—tried, convicted, and executed.

In the aftermath, Parliament declared November 5th a national day of thanksgiving, and the first celebration of it took place in 1606.

The event was celebrated annually and every-one knew the traditional rhyme

Remember, remember the fifth of November
Gunpowder, treason and plot
I see no reason why gunpowder treason
Shall ever be forgot.

A guy would be made from old clothes stuffed with newspaper and carted around perhaps in an old pushchair to collect 'a penny for the guy' while youngsters got together to build bonfires.

Money collected would buy fireworks and these were easily obtained from local shops – jumping jacks, Catherine wheels, rockets, bangers and the lovely Roman candles, which would burn bright with an array of colours.

There would be a big bonfire on Priory Fields in which chestnuts and potatoes would be roasted whilst the guy was consumed by fire. Burning the guy – a human effigy – on the fire would perhaps not appeal to modern sensibilities and that has certainly disappeared!

John Thomas remembered Guy Fawkes' Night in the 1950s as an important date in the calendar of the Monkton Gang of his youth,

"In October we started to collect rubbish to build our bonfire. We collected anything that was flammable – cardboard, old furniture and car tyres. Sometimes the bonfire was stacked so high that we would have to borrow a ladder to place the guy on top. I remember one of our fires was still smouldering a week after bonfire night.

"All the other Pembroke gangs had also built their own bonfires. So raiding parties would be send out to collapse them, steal material and sometimes even set them alight; this meant they would have to start again and rebuild the bonfire.

"What we did to other gangs, they would do to us. So when it came close to bonfire night we would have to place guards; we did this on a rota system. If we were attacked, it could end up in a physical fight. It was usually on a one for one basis, a few bloody noses but no real harm done. We all survived to fight another day!"

A controlled firework display, held on the nearest weekend to November 5th, is really all that is left of this once popular tradition.

Continued

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Through the seasons in Monkton past

Christmas

THE LAST event of the year, and the most celebrated, is Christmas. Its character has changed in that it has become overly commercialised and secularised and the church is no longer central to celebrations.

However, much survives in the decorations, Nativity plays and concerts, children's parties and carol singing.

Christmas was always much anticipated and village children eagerly took part in the preparations, making their own decorations. Decorations adorned the parish church and the Sunday School pupils looked forward to the Christmas party, with jelly and blancmange, a film show and a present .

Carol singing was popular, more so in the past. Dot Lloyd remembers a time when as children they would sing a whole repertoire of carols (not a quick 'we wish you a merry Christmas') then be invited to a splendid supper at Mr and Mrs Roach's house in Washington Terrace.

Muriel Thomson lived at Monkton Old Hall for several decades either side of World War Two, and she was renowned for celebrating Christmas in traditional Victorian style.

"At Christmas the highlight for me was being invited to Monkton Old Hall usually on the Sunday before Christmas," recalled Ann Lankshear. "They always had a massive tree with more than a hundred candles which were lit before we got there. I had no comprehension of the Norwegian tree that was in London but I thought that this was just as big and grand.

"There were refreshments but the magic part was singing round this magnificent tree. The evening always ended far too quickly."

More recently, Monkton church has organised a popular Christmas Tree Festival, with many local organisations taking up the challenge to create a decorated 'tree' out of recycled materials – a sign of changing times.



This photograph was taken in the early '50s when adults as well as children took part in Monkton Priory Church Nativity plays.
Back row: Barbara John, ?, ?, Joyce Nicholas, Ann Ferrier, two angels Curate Bowen & Mrs Marriot ,Teddy Jenkins, Rosemary Michael, ?, Lillian Hill, Hazel Cox, ?
Middle row; Alan Phillips, ?, ?, ?, ?, the Rev. E S Michael, Tommy Roblin, Winnie Ferrier, Mrs Rixon, John Ferrier, ?, ?, Jean Roblin, young Mrs Gwyther, Dorothy Rock, Rosemary Jenkins.
Front row: Lloyd Jenkins, ?, Olwen Bowen, Olga John, ?,David Canton, David Michael, Robert Ferrier, John 'Yobbler' Thomas, ?, David Nicholas, Kenny James, Christopher Law, ? Evans.

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Ghostly Tales of Old Monkton

MANY places have their eerie and ghostly tales and so it is with Monkton.

Old buildings have their secrets and the ancient Priory Church is no exception. It is no wonder that ghostly sightings have been made for, during restoration work in the nineteenth century, several gruesome discoveries were made.

Not only were masses of human bones discovered under the floor but also the remains of a nun (so some people believed) were found by the Rev H S Blink in 1869. These bones were in a walled up alcove above the porch, in such a position to suggest the unfortunate woman had been entombed alive.

The following report appeared in the *Western Mail* in April 1958:

Ghost hunters who were attracted by tales of a spectre haunting ancient Monkton Priory near Pembroke every Easter Sunday wanted to spend the night in 'The Church of the Leper's Squint', but the Vicar, the Rev D Hywel Davies has discouraged these activities.

The legend of a ghost walking in the church at Easter has been handed down from generation to generation of villagers. The story goes that the apparition, said to be dressed in a black habit, is that of a monk roaming abroad once a year as a penance.


The Reverend Mr. Evans Tells of the Ghostly Knockings, the Cowled Spectre Pacing Sadly Through the Halls and the Centuries-Old Body of a Woman Who Had Been Entombed Alive

Part of a Daily Express article about the ghosts of Monkton Priory Church which appeared in 1934

Monkton Old Hall

IT IS NOT surprising to learn that an unhappy spirit lived on to haunt Monkton Old Hall, which was believed to have been the Priory guest house.

Strange and inexplicable events were experienced by the Vicar of Monkton, the Rev Tudor Evans whilst he lived there. He would be disturbed by loud knocking on his bedroom door at precisely 4am. but, when he got out of bed to investigate, the knocking would cease.

When he opened the door, there was never anyone there.

Animals, it is said, are more susceptible to the unseen and so it was with his dog, which steadfastly refused to enter one of the rooms whilst quite happy to have the run of the rest of the house.

The Vicar's daughter was also witness to this haunting. Whilst walking along the landing she saw a glow of light coming from this very room. Tentatively opening the door, she was astonished to see, as clear as could be, the outline of a cowled figure apparently leaning out of the window and waving its hand. Needless to say, she quickly closed the door.

However, despite this, a family friend was invited to stay and a bed was made up for him in that very room. Was he warned I wonder?

Whatever, the unsuspecting guest did hear strange sounds throughout the night, like the rustling of garments around his bed.

Continued

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Ghostly Tales of Old Monkton

He repeatedly tried to light the candle on his bedside cabinet to see what was going on but each time the candle was immediately and mysteriously snuffed out....

THE Rev Tudor Evans gave evidence of these strange happenings to a reporter from the *Daily Express* in 1934 and he had one more strange story to tell, a story known in Monkton as the 'Viking's Return'.

One morning, there was a knock on the Vicarage door and, when the Vicar opened it, he discovered a tall, blond young man.

The man introduced himself as Nordin; he said that he had long wished to make the journey to Monkton from his home in Sweden. The Vicar welcomed the young Swede and showed him around the Church and grounds but, as he did so, he became more and more amazed at Nordin's story.

In halting English, Nordin, a medical student, explained that over 1,000 years previously, Viking invaders had raided the Pembrokeshire coast and among the settlements they had established was one at Monkton.

In a previous existence Nordin claimed to have been born to one of the Norse settlers in Monkton and was now returning to the scene of an earlier childhood remembered from a former incarnation.

The Rev Tudor Evans was naturally sceptical, but when the reincarnated Viking began to point out changes and building alterations that had been carried out since his day, the Vicar became increasingly impressed.

"I became convinced that his story was true when I took him to the top of the tower," Mr Evans told the *Daily Express* reporter. "He pointed out to me places where he 'remembered' there used to be walls that we had never known existed.

"He recognised the Old Hall at once and told me where and how it had been altered, all quite accurately. In the old days, he said, it was a nunnery."

This led the Vicar to believe that the 'walled-up woman' discovered in the Priory Church to be a nun whose spirit had been kept earthbound.

Could it have been that she had committed a sin, which required penance, and could it have been her task to wake the other nuns for a four o'clock service?





Top: Monkton Old Hall. Above: Priory farmhouse in the 1980s, before renovation work.

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Priory Farm

IF MEN of the cloth have admitted to feeling the presence of strange phenomena, we should not be sceptical. Ghostly experiences can be very real and have been experienced by the Jenkins family who live at Priory Farm.

The farmhouse, incidentally, was the Prior's house in the days of the old Priory.

This story was told to Linda Asman by Pauline Waters and she swore it to be true.

"There have been many ghostly sightings in and around Priory Farmhouse. My mother told me about a monk-like figure, which made its presence felt – like a wind rushing past.



Creeper-covered Bowett farmhouse on the road to Hundleton was notorious for being the abode of evil spirits.

"The atmosphere was so terrible at one time that my grandmother Venetia slept with a shotgun by her side. Things were moved around, bedclothes pulled off, doors rattled, so much so that in the 1920s the building was actually exorcised.

"The source seems to have been a rather macabre discovery made many years previously. My grandfather, George Jenkins, had discovered a discrepancy in the building; as he walked around the house he found that the dimensions of its exterior it did not correspond to those of the interior. He concluded that there must be a hidden passage or room.

"Well, when he knocked through one of the walls he discovered a concealed passage wherein lay a skeleton surrounded by oyster shells. It was reckoned that this was a monk called Oyster John.

"After exorcism the ghost did cool down a bit, but it carried on walking. When my parents married in 1937, mother went to live in the farmhouse but she felt most uncomfortable and it got to the point where she decided to leave.

"One Easter night, as she and father returned home after a dance at Haggar's ballroom, they saw a figure passing into the dairy. They thought it must have been grandfather; they called but there was no reply.

"When they went into the house, something gushed past them as they climbed the stairs and, as for granddad, they found him asleep in bed – he hadn't been out.

"Well, mother went and packed her bags after that. She left the farmhouse to return to Bush Lodge to live with her family until another house could be found to live in."

Bowett Farm

IN NEARBY Bowett Farm, strange and peculiar happenings were once said to occur and this story takes us back to the middle of the 19th century.

One Jonathan Davies, who worked at Lamphey Court, would travel to Bowett to see his lady love. Apparently he had heard the rumours of evil spirits haunting Bowett but, never having seen them for himself, he dismissed the stories. He was to be proved wrong.

Whilst embracing his intended, there was a loud crash in the hall and pots and pans began rattling everywhere. Then silence. Naturally, the curious couple went out to investigate, but there was nothing to be seen.

They returned to take up where they left off but, no sooner had they done so, than they heard eerie noises; moanings and groanings coming from the hall. They rushed out, but again – nothing.

The experience was unnerving and young Jonathan decided enough was enough. However, on leaving the house, he saw three spirits, as clear as can be, flying away from the house until they suddenly disappeared into a cloud of smoke.

He never again visited Bowett after dark, and he maintained to his dying day that the house was haunted.

Continued

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GHOSTLY TALES OF OLD MONKTON

Bush House

THE greater part of Monkton was once part of the old Bush Estate although Bush House, once home of the Meyrick family, stands on the opposite side of the Pembroke River. In common with many great families, you can be sure that there was a haunting in a secret past.

This story came to light in the early 1950s when the land around Bush House was bought by the Education Authority in order to build a new Grammar School. Bush House itself was converted into accommodation for students who wished to study agriculture at the school.

Late one evening, whilst conversion work was still going on, the night watchman, 84 year old Mr David James of Pembroke Dock, saw a man aged around 65-70 years clad in breeches and a shooting jacket approaching. He was carrying a double-barrelled shot gun and was followed by three dogs. As reported in the *West Wales Guardian* at the time, Mr James said:

"I was perplexed to see a man about at that time. I challenged him first in English and, as he did not reply, I spoke to him in Welsh. He still did not reply and I was just going after him when suddenly he disappeared into a small pond."

Eerie experiences were later reported to have taken place concerning three Manchester workmen: George Hesketh, his son Roy (described as a hefty 14 stone, six footer) and a young Italian named Tony. The story was related by one of their colleagues, Mr Ken Ballman.

"George Hesketh told me that from the very beginning something very fishy was going on and, there is no doubt about it, they were very frightened. The Tilley lamp for no apparent reason would flicker and grow dim.

"They failed to sleep that night because of continual bangings and noises on the doors and walls. The young Italian felt tugging at the overcoat he had pulled over him to serve as bedclothes.

"He was so alarmed that he got up and bolted one of the two doors in the room. There was no way of securing the other door so he nailed and battened it."



Bush House, home of the Meyrick family, shortly after completion in 1905.

It appears that, despite all, they returned the following night. However, something occurred, something so unnatural that they grabbed their clothes and tore out of the house. For there, surrounded by an eerie light, was a woman dressed in a crinoline walking slowly, silently up and down the path outside until, very slowly, she appeared to melt away.

Who was she? Who was he? Apparently, there was a story about a local squire who had shot his wife in the year 1802 and covered it up by saying that she had died of pneumonia.

Another version tells that this gentleman greeted his wife as she returned home in a carriage. As she opened the door the gun went off by accident and she was fatally wounded. It has not been possible to ascertain if any of this is true and no record exists of any such death concerning this family.

However, the legend of lady in the crinoline was investigated by the local press which, in September 1955, reported that four Pembroke Dock men (among them Vernon Scott and J Meyrick Owen) had volunteered to spend a night in the haunted house.

This attempt to prove the existence of the Bush House ghost failed as no spectral appearances occurred! But then, would you really expect ghosts to appear to order?



The ghosts of Monkton have made news all over the world! This item is from a Wisconsin, USA newspaper of 1961.

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Down memory lane

Bill Thomas takes a walk through the Monkton of his youth

I WAS born at 106 Monkton then moved to 11 India Row at the age of two. So this story takes place between 1935 and 1945 with my memories of shops, businesses, farms, pubs, milkmen, butchers and bakers. I don't know if any of the shops or businesses were privately owned but most of Monkton was rented from Bush estates.

My walk starts at Poplars farm, which was farmed by Mr Charlie Croft who was also the truant officer, a man feared in or out of school. Later it was owned by Griff and Mary Howells.



A young Bill in the garden of 11 India Row.

As I turn down India Row, there were 15 houses on the right hand side and, at the bottom, Freddy Roblin ran a smallholding with about three milking cows. He delivered milk only to India Row twice a day. My mother used to say 'wipe your nose Freddy or it will drip into the milk'.

His brother Tommy was the 'Singing Postman' who joined a concert party entertaining the troops in Italy during WWII.

Tommy Herring was further down the road, a Gypsy who relied on seasonal work and lived in the lime kiln near Shore House farm, which was run by Mr and Mrs Morgan.



15 India Row – typical of the productive cottage gardens of 'old' Monkton.



A typical cottage in India Row.

They only kept one or two cows for milk for family only.

Leaving India Row and facing me is Orange Hall farm, which was run by Mr John Ferrier. He too had a milk round. Then, turning left, the first shop I come to is Mrs Washington's sweet shop. She only had a few jars of sweets in her front room.

At 102 Monkton was Hilda Lewis' general shop, where you could return your empty bottles for money at the time. Again this was a front room shop but very good.

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Down memory lane

My walk takes me past Short Mains and Cross Mains and I then turn down Long Mains at the Sally pub which was run by Mr Rawlins.

The next shop, at no 33 Long Mains, was run by Mrs Phelps but my only visit there was when visiting my aunt at no 32. At end of Long Mains was Catshole Quarry and lime kiln.

I TURN around now and reach the cross roads leading into Short Mains. Opposite, Mr Billy Nicholas had a taxi and hearse business and next door was Mr Stanley Evans' smallholding and milk round.

Near the top of Long Mains there was a disused place of worship - a small, ruined chapel.

At the very top was Mr Georgie Barker, newsagent at number 100 Monkton. His shop was vulnerable to a cricket ball going through the window as we used to play cricket in the street opposite him.

Next door at 98 was Jones' General Store which was large and sparse – just tins and jars of jam – and an old bakery; then Griffiths' garage.

I reach Back Terrace where there were about nine houses. Mr Asparassa had a chip shop at the top of Back Terrace (not very good chips) and, still on the left side, was Mrs Marriot, another front room sweet shop at no 78. A little further along, was Evans, the Dimond Press later to relocate in Pembroke.

A short walk now to my first school, the Infants school. There was a kitchen there too, which trained secondary school pupils in cookery. Next to the school was Rocks', bakery, the Dragon pub and general store.

Gwyther's shop was at no 34 and next up was Jenkins of Priory Farm. Opposite was the



Barkers' newsagents at the top of Long Mains, with Jones' grocery shop next door.

Vicarage, Monkton Church and schoolroom. Next door to the schoolroom was Bowens the butchers at no 12 Church Terrace.

Down the Awkward Hill and turning left, on the corner, was the Old Hall, which was occupied by the army during the Second World War. Raymond's the butcher was on the left before reaching the air raid shelter, which I remember being on Monkton Bridge.

On my return journey, I first pass Georgie Jenkins' yard which was, after the war, full of ex army vehicles, American and British.

Continued



The Jenkins family of Priory Farm also ran a busy scrapyard alongside Monkton Bridge.

• Reg Willams has created a large scale map of old Monkton listing the businesses and the names of people who lived there in the late '30s, '40s and '50s. it can be seen in Pembroke Museum.

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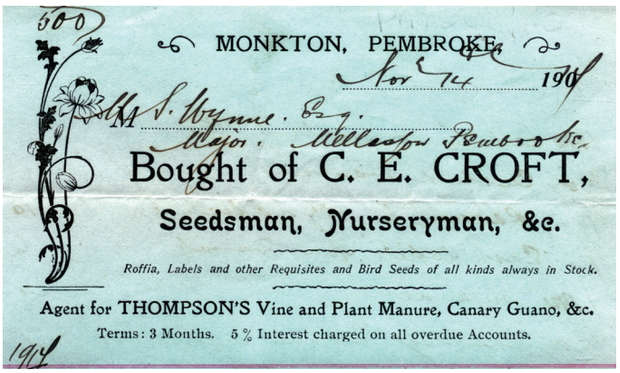
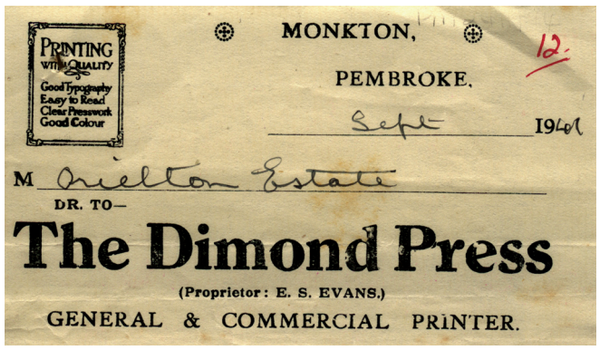
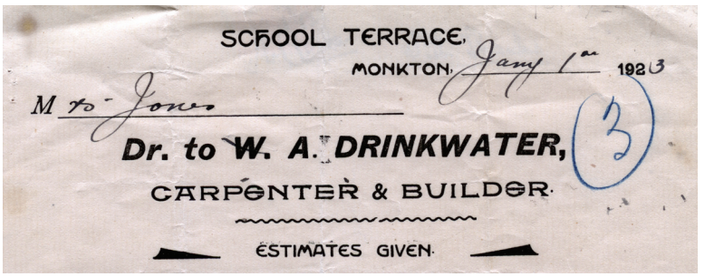
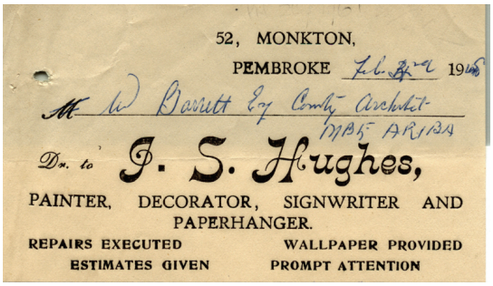
School Terrace,
Monkton, Pembroke.
H. CLARKE
PAINTER · PAPERHANGER. HOUSE DECORATOR. SIGNWRITER · GRAINER.
Jan 6th


MONKTON,
PEMBROKE,
192
M
Bought of F. G. REYNOLDS,
Family Butcher.
SAUSAGES A SPECIALITY.


500
MONKTON, PEMBROKE,
Nov 14 1901
M S. Wynne. Esq.
Major. Mellaston Pembroke
Bought of C. E. CROFT,
Seedsman, Nurseryman, &c.
Roffia, Labels and other Requisites and Bird Seeds of all kinds always in Stock.
Agent for THOMPSON'S Vine and Plant Manure, Canary Guano, &c.
Terms: 3 Months. 5 % Interest charged on all overdue Accounts.
1914

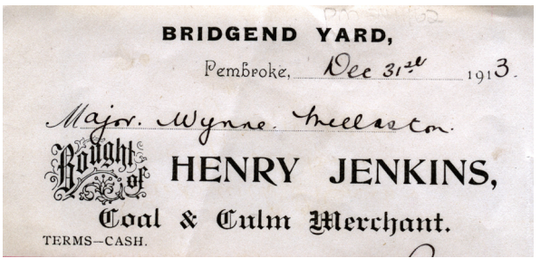

PRINTING WITH QUALITY
Good Typography
Easy to Read
Clear Presswork
Good Colour
MONKTON,
PEMBROKE.
12.
Sept 1901
M Orielton Estate
DR. TO—
The Dimond Press
(Proprietor: E. S. EVANS.)
GENERAL & COMMERCIAL PRINTER.

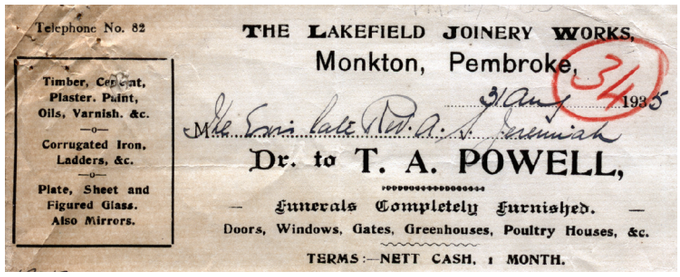

SCHOOL TERRACE,
MONKTON, Jany 1st 1923
M to Jones
Dr. to W. A. DRINKWATER,
CARPENTER & BUILDER.
ESTIMATES GIVEN.
3

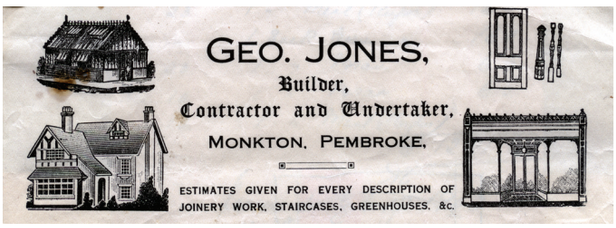

52, MONKTON,
PEMBROKE Feb 24th 1905
M W Barrett Esq County Architect
MBE ARIBA
Dr. to J. S. Hughes,
PAINTER, DECORATOR, SIGNWRITER AND PAPERHANGER.
REPAIRS EXECUTED WALLPAPER PROVIDED
ESTIMATES GIVEN PROMPT ATTENTION

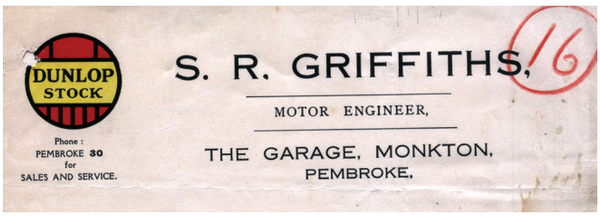

Church Terrace,
Monkton,
Pembroke, Oct 9th 1917
Major M. S. Wynne, Mellaston
Dr. to JOHN MORGAN,
Plumber, Hot & Cold Water Engineer, &c.
Established Over 30 Years. Estimates Free.


INDIA HOUSE,
Monkton, Pembroke, Mar 1901
M Colonel Saurin Orielton
Bought of E. JONES,
TEA DEALER,
Grocer, Baker, Provision Factor, &c.
1901 801901 h
D. S. H.


BRIDGEND YARD,
Pembroke, Dec 31st 1913.
Major. Wynne. Mellaston.
Bought of HENRY JENKINS,
Coal & Culm Merchant.
TERMS—CASH.


Telephone No. 82
Timber, Cement, Plaster, Paint, Oils, Varnish, &c.
Corrugated Iron, Ladders, &c.
Plate, Sheet and Figured Glass. Also Mirrors.
THE LAKEFIELD JOINERY WORKS,
Monkton, Pembroke,
31 Aug 1935
34
M The Exrs late Rev. A. S. Jeremiah
Dr. to T. A. POWELL,
Funerals Completely Furnished.
Doors, Windows, Gates, Greenhouses, Poultry Houses, &c.
TERMS:—NETT CASH, 1 MONTH.


GEO. JONES,
Builder,
Contractor and Undertaker,
MONKTON, PEMBROKE,
ESTIMATES GIVEN FOR EVERY DESCRIPTION OF JOINERY WORK, STAIRCASES, GREENHOUSES, &c.


DUNLOP STOCK
Phone: PEMBROKE 30 for SALES AND SERVICE.
S. R. GRIFFITHS,
16
MOTOR ENGINEER,
THE GARAGE, MONKTON,
PEMBROKE.

Billheads of former Monkton businesses from the Pembroke Museum collection.

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Down memory lane

Next door, as I walk up Bridgend Terrace, was Humber's bakery and shop, then Hilda Griffiths, at number 4, who was teacher of music and 11plus preparations. Another pub on Bridgend Terrace was the Victoria Inn run by Mr Davies.

Continuing now up to Monkton School, which was on my right opposite Mr T A Powell's, the Lakefield Joinery Works, still standing.

Turning back towards home, on my left in Back Lane was a Post Office and wool shop, next to where the Catholic Church has since been built.





Back Lane in the 1940s and (below) the same view today.

Here I am back in the heart of Monkton. John the chimney sweep is the first business I come to on my left, at 29 Monkton. I remember he used to welcome newly married couples at the church gate, a tradition which was supposed to be a sign of good luck.

Next I come to the Bush Estate yard, the employees of which were mostly the Harries family. Then Reynolds the butcher's shop (which then became a fish & chip shop) and George Jones, General Contractor and works yard, undertaking war damage repairs.

Next was Mr Jones the monumental mason, who was related to Jones who owned the shop at no 98. This was followed by Charlie Morris' general stores and bakery. Caesar Evans was the baker.

Then at no 39 was Saunders the butcher and, further along at no 47, was the post office run by Mr Charlie Croft, truant officer retired. Finally I reach Hilda Evans' general shop at 51.

I now come to the dead end, the cemetery, and walk on home to 11 India Row.





Reynolds the butchers (left), which was later a chip shop. Crofts' Post Office in Bush Terrace (right) has a sign for 'Canary Guano' in the window!

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A Dockyard apprentice

By William Nicholas



William 'Billy' Nicholas.

I WAS born on May 11th, 1891, at 1, India Row, being the third child of the family., I was 11 months old when father and mother moved to 18, Long Mains.

I don't remember much about the two or three years that followed until I started Sunday School at the little chapel in Long Mains which was attached to the Tabernacle Congregational Chapel in Pembroke and was well attended by the majority of children in Long Mains and district.

When I was about five I started in the infants section of Monkton School (down on the corner by Lakefield). The headmaster was Mr William James, a Pembroke-born man noted for strict discipline, but still a very fair man too.

My ambition was to sit the exam for Royal Dockyard Apprentices in order to enter Pembroke Dockyard. The usual procedure was for boys wanting to sit the exam to be transferred to a school in Pembroke Dock after completing Standard Four.

Thus in 1903 I was transferred to Albion Square Boys School along with a number of other boys from Monkton and East End schools.

IN MAY 1904 the Coronation School was opened and we were all transferred from Albion Square to this fine new school. At this time there were few cars about and no buses, so we would walk to school from Monkton and then walk home – two and a half miles each way.

After a year or so I was placed in the Dockyard Class. Once you started in the Dockyard Class you had to attend night school from 6pm to 7.45pm, Monday to Friday. This meant getting home at 8.30 or nearabouts every evening, with homework to do after that.

The Civil Service Exam for Apprentices in all Royal Dockyards took place annually in early May. Each dockyard had its own quota of apprentices required for different trades.

I sat the exam in May 1906 at the Coronation School along with about 250 other boys aged 14-16 from various schools in the area.

Sadly, when the results arrived I saw that my name was 18th on the list and since the yard only wanted eight apprentices, I had failed.

However, I was young enough to try again the following year, and this time I passed. Father and mother were very proud as there were not many boys from Monkton who had passed it before.

So on July 22nd, 1907 I entered Pembroke Dockyard as a Ship-wright Apprentice – a red letter day for me and the family.

My father was a labourer in the Dockyard and I will always remember going to work with him the first morning. We left home at 6am to be at work before 7am, crossing the ferry at the bottom of Long Mains with a crowd of men and finally getting into the Yard and getting my ticket from the time-keeper who directed me to the fore-man's office of the department I was to join.

I was sent with a man to the Carr Jetty to meet an instructor – a shipwright – and started work on HMS *Defence*, a 25,000 ton battleship which was being completed at the jetty.

It seemed a huge ship to me and I explored almost every compartment that first day.. The engines and boilers had been installed and she had huge 12" guns and torpedo tubes etc.

It must have been nearly 12 months before the *Defence* was ready for sea trials. I well remember the Naval crew arriving by train at Carr Jetty one morning – about 750 men who came from Devonport to take the ship to sea.

After the *Defence* was commissioned our gang of shipwrights was moved to HMS *Bellona*, one of several light cruisers of about 4,500 tons built in the yard.

My six year apprenticeship finished on July 22nd, 1913. A mechanic's pay at this time was £1.17s 6d a week; an apprentice received four shillings a week to begin with, rising by two shillings a year.

I worked at the yard until June 1921 when, along with hundreds of other men, I was made redundant after 14 years; the yard closed five years later – a terrible blow to the area.

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The first phonograph

By Arthur Arlow

I WAS born on 6th April 1895 at 1, Washington Terrace, Monkton, the third son of James and Elizabeth Arlow. I had three brothers – Charles, the eldest, then Harry, myself and William; unfortunately there were no sisters.

My father was a joiner and wheelwright in Pembroke Dockyard – an excellent craftsman, very methodical and meticulous in everything he undertook.

The house was the first of a row of five terraced houses situated next to the infants' school. My father had the house built and had to pay ground rent to the Bush estate, the owner being Col Meyrick.

At the end of the 19th century the wages of tradesmen were about 30 shillings a week (or one and a half golden sovereigns) and as my father had acquired the skill to make a wheel and become a wheelwright he received an extra shilling a week.

It was a specialist's job to make a wheel, especially as everything had to be done by hand and dovetailed together to make a perfect circle, after which the blacksmith would shrink an iron band onto the periphery to complete the wheel. Many dozens of these were required, the only means of transport in those days being the horse and cart, and they had constantly to be renewed because of the rough road surfaces – no Macadam then.

We boys attended the infants' school next door, and I remember distinctly the head-mistress, Miss Logan (obviously of Scottish descent), a kindly woman but very strict with pupils and teachers alike.

On leaving the infants' school we all attended the boys' school in Church Lane until the age of eleven. Our headmaster at the boys' school was Mr Bill James, who could wield the cane with severity when needed; the two teachers were Mr Rhys Owens and the headmaster's son Ernie.

Ernie James eventually left the teaching profession and studied for the ministry. He became a Congregational minister and emigrated to Australia where I understand he became a well-known personality.

We had a very large garden in Monkton, with an orchard which contained plum, pear, red and black currant, gooseberry, raspberry and a variety of apple trees. We four boys helped father dig the garden and set early and main crop potatoes and all the other usual vegetables – enough to last the year round.

We fattened and killed a pig each year and kept a dozen hens so that we always had plenty of bacon and eggs throughout the year. We always tried to finish gardening by mid-day Good Friday each year so that we could attend the Tabernacle Church annual tea and evening concert which we looked forward to greatly.

We attended the Sunday School every week, and one particular Sunday I recall our teacher offered a prize to the one who could recite the most verses from the Bible. He gave us a fortnight to learn them, and on the Sunday chosen to announce the winner there was great excitement among the scholars.

The teacher declared me the winner for reciting 32 verses and presented me with a beautiful Bible. Inscribed on the inside cover were the words: 'Presented to Arthur Arlow by his Sunday School Teacher Mr J Roch for reciting 32 verses from the Bible, June 1905'.

IN THOSE days the fuel used in kitchen stoves was anthracite and culm. Culm was crushed coal passed through fine mesh screens at the colliery so that it came out like black cement. This was loaded into wagons and sent by rail around the country to the various coal-merchants.

This culm had to be mixed with slime which was procured in Pembroke at low tide on the west side of the castle where there was an abundance of it.

My parents would order one cartload of culm, one cartload of slime and one of anthracite from Mr Tom Stevens, our local coal-merchant. This was delivered and deposited in the roadway directly in front of the house.

The culm and slime had to be mixed immediately and taken in a wheelbarrow (made by my father) to the garden shed where it was stored. Each day the mixture had to be rolled by hand by my mother into what I can only describe as outsize sausages about six inches long by two inches diameter.

These were placed in two rows around the

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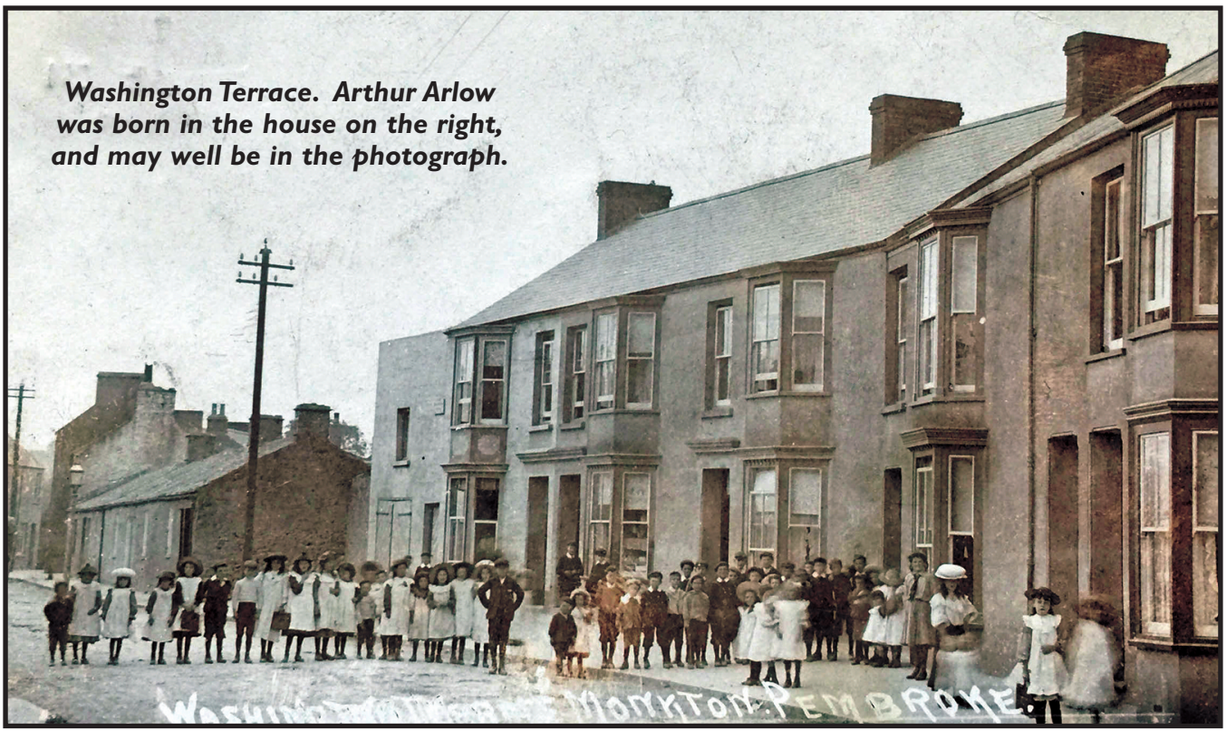

Washington Terrace. Arthur Arlow was born in the house on the right, and may well be in the photograph.

inside fire place. At the centre a fire was started and anthracite coal placed on top, level with the top of the grate, and in a few hours' time when it all became red hot it was a very warm fire indeed.

The cooking was done in the stove attached to the side of the fire, and I have fond memories of the wonderfully tasty fruit cakes, fruit tarts, rice puddings and bread my mother produced for the whole family.

The making of the fire was a cold and messy job, especially in the winter months, but it kept alight all day and night and had to be renewed each morning. The women in those days were really tough and had to work from early morning until late at night. Washing clothes was a back-breaking and laborious job, especially with a large family.

IN 1904, every Sunday evening the family would go to visit my Uncle John who was a bachelor and lived with his widowed mother in a cottage at the bottom of India Row, about 800 yards from where we lived.

The reason for going was that he had purchased a phonograph and my parents couldn't afford to buy one. Not many people could, as they were very expensive. A phonograph is similar to a gramophone, except instead of a flat, circular disc it had a cylinder about three inches in diameter with a two inch hole and finely cut grooves on the outside.

Great care had to be taken not to damage the grooves, so two fingers had to be inserted inside the cylinder which was taken out of the box provided, wiped with a silk cloth, and placed in the barrel of the machine.

Uncle John would wind up the machine, place the needle in the first groove, and as the cylinder revolved we would be able to enjoy listening to the latest songs of the day.

WHEN I was eleven years old I had to leave Monkton boys' school and go to Pembroke Dock Coronation school, a walk of about two and a half miles.

The headmaster at that time was Mr Adams and the teachers were Mr Evan Griffiths, Mr Jim James and Mr William Winkle. It was a first class school and prepared pupils for the Dockyard entrance examinations.

Each Friday we would be given our pocket money. If it was a penny we felt like millionaires, because more often that not it would be a half-penny. With the penny we would go to Liptons in Bush Street for a pennyworth of broken biscuits during the lunch hour break.

At that time biscuits were delivered in tins, about a 12 inch cube in size, and during transport and rough handling on the railways, quite a number would get broken and could not be sold. We would get quite a large paper bag full.

Arthur Arlow passed away in 1992

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Caldey Island bride

by Ann Yerbury

JOHN Golding Harries was born on 21 April 1856 and, like some of his ancestors before him, he followed the trade of joiner/carpenter.

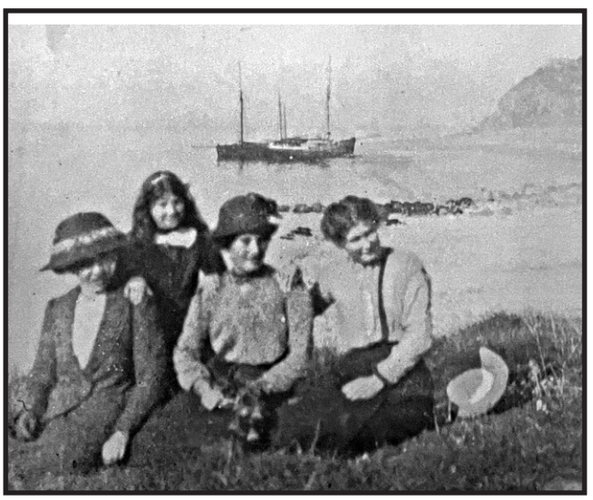
He married Mary Ann Rees at Nash Church on 11September 1877. Their only child, a son, William George Harries was born at Stoops Lake, Nash, on 4 May 1878 but they then made their home at 92 Monkton Lane.

John Golding was employed for a time on the restoration of Monkton Priory Church. He became a prominent member of the community and was the first of the Harries family to become a Freeman of the Borough of Pembroke; he was admitted on 30 June 1886.

Following in his father's footsteps, at the age of 15, William became apprenticed as a joiner and carpenter to George Howells of Pembroke in 1893. After serving his five-year apprenticeship he worked as a Journeyman Joiner.

It was while he was working in Tenby that he met his future wife, Sarah Jane James, daughter of Henry and Ann (neé Oriel) James.

In his book 'Caldey', Roscoe Howells writes about Sarah's family who lived on Caldey in the latter part of the 19th century, a time when there was a thriving population of around 100 people.



On Caldey Island – Sarah seated far right with family members.

At this time, Caldey was under the ownership of James Taylor Hawksley, a man who was very much involved in the civic affairs of Tenby; he was a magistrate and High Sheriff in 1884.

He was interested in applying scientific method to agriculture and invested much in developing farming in Caldey. Roscoe Howells tells us that amongst his projects

He embarked on a scheme to develop vast greenhouses and the installation of an advanced system of heating by steam. The water was pumped by a steam engine from the well house up to a tank at the high point of the island near the lighthouse, and from there it was fed back by gravitation to the gardens and farm.

The waste steam, apart from being used to heat the greenhouses, was also used to drive a threshing machine, a Vipon corn crusher, a Dean cake mill, a Woodroffes root slicer, a turnip pulper and a Chandlers chaff-cutter.



The wedding party posing on the beach at Tenby, waiting for the boat to return them to Caldey Island.

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The man employed as 'engineman' was Henry James, who married Ann Oriel, daughter of William Oriel, the miller on the island. They had four children but Ann died young: Henry later married her sister Sarah with whom he had four more children.

Henry and Ann's daughter Sarah was born on Caldey Island on 13 June 1883 and educated at the Island school until the age of about 13. After this she went into service with a family in a large house on The Croft in Tenby. It was in Tenby that she met William Harries who was working there as a carpenter.

Sarah and William married on 22 September 1904. As her family lived on Caldey, where there was no Protestant church, they had to cross over to Tenby where they were married in St Mary's Church.

With them was H. Mortimer Allen, a Tenby photographer, who took their wedding photographs on Tenby beach before returning to Caldey on the next tide where their reception was held.

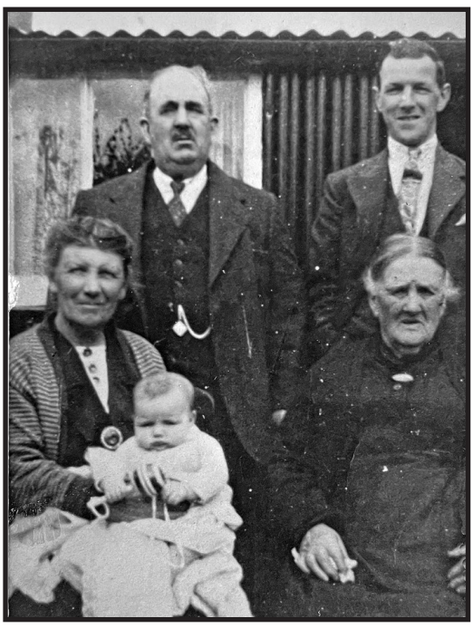
William and Sarah made their home in Monkton Lane (later named 92 Monkton) with William's parents. Here their 11 children were born: two unhappily died in infancy.

Sarah had strong religious beliefs and was a faithful member of Monkton Church and the Mothers' Union. She was known as 'Nanny' and was well-liked and respected in the village.

William died on 15 April 1950 aged 72 and Sarah on 17 January 1968 aged 85. Both are buried in Monkton Cemetery.

No 92 Monkton, the lovely large house in which I grew up with my grandmother, was sadly and needlessly demolished, like so much of Monkton.







Clockwise from left: The wedding party on their return to Caldey Island. John Golding and Mary Ann Harries outside their home, 92 Monkton. Four generations of the Harries family – on the left are Ann Yerbury's grandparents Sarah and William with granddaughter Joan Harries, daughter of their son Ernie (back right). William's mother Mary Ann is seated front right.

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Community spirit

ON 24th June 1912, Ellen Evans was born in Treforce, Merrion, the youngest of five children.

The family was no stranger to hardship: Ellen's father died when she was four and her mother had to manage as best she could with no welfare state to support her.

As well as bringing up five children on her own, she had to manage the smallholding. She milked, fed the pigs, made butter baked her own bread, made her own clothes, sewed and patched.

Ellen went to Warren School, left at 14 and worked on the farm. She was up at 6.30 in the morning to milk the cows feed the calves and pigs and help with the housework.

She worked at Hayston Farm then, at 18, left to go into service in London. But her mother missed her and she returned home to work at Merrion and also at Stackpole Court during the shooting season where she worked in the kitchen.

Ellen rode a bicycle to work and she recounted how, late one morning she took a short cut and actually knocked the Earl of Cawdor over as he took his early morning walk.



Willie and Ellen at their wedding in 1937.





Left and above: Ellen at Merrion Farm in the 1930s.

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"I didn't know he was there," she said, "and I ran into him – we both landed on our arses. Later he called around to the kitchen to see how I was.

"I worked hard, hard, physical work for very little money," added Ellen. "When I started work at 14 I earned five shillings a week and I gave it to my mother – it won't pay the rent, she said, but it will help.

"Mother was a widow with no pension as my father was a farmer and he didn't pay insurance. She got 7/6 a week from the Pay Table." (This was a form of poor relief from the Council and was given out every Friday morning at the Long Entry in Pembroke).



Coronation celebrations, 1953. In the photo. taken at 10 Long Mains, are (back row): Glenys Cole (Brown), Alice Penfold, Renee Cole, Lily Cole. Front: Robert Cole, Brenda Cole (Rees) and Marion Evans (Brickle).

WHEN she was 25, Ellen married William (Willie) Evans of Shore House, Long Mains, Monkton (they had been courting since she was 18) and, after a short stay in Pembroke Dock, made Long Mains their home.

Ellen had wonderful memories of Long Mains, where she lived until it was redeveloped, moving then to Poyers Avenue.

Asked what the greatest differences were between life before and after the move, Ellen replied that, while everyone had become better off, the greatest loss was the community spirit which existed then.

"No one locked their door, the community always pulled together," she recalled. "If one of the children had a birthday everyone came. There would be dancing in the streets, carnivals – we made our own fun."



Potato picking time: Ellen is driving the tractor.

Ellen was the instigator of many of these activities, notably the bus trips to the seaside on Sundays during the summer. "I'd ask the kids where they wanted to go," said Ellen " then go to Silcox on the Monday morning and book the bus for the following Sunday. Alex Williams was the driver and he was a Monkton boy."

On the day of the Queen's coronation there was much excitement as Ellen and Willie had purchased a television, a 14 inch screen with a magnifying glass in front of it. All the neighbours and their children squeezed into the sitting room to watch the wonderful event as it happened, Ellen making endless cups of teas for all.

Always a popular member of the community, she was Aunty Ellen to many and if there were jobs to be done the neighbours would send for her – from making endless fruit flans for wedding receptions to assisting the midwife at births and laying out people at death.

One of the occasions which stood out in Ellen's mind was Pembroke Fair. "It was huge in those days," she said. "Big horses at the East End with an organ, dancing girls, strippers, boxing booths and side shows, freak shows and fortune tellers. It lasted a fortnight.

"I was only supposed to go on benefit night. This was on a Thursday when all the proceeds went to the hospital. All this has died out."

Ellen lived to over 100 and was proud to receive her birthday card from the Queen in the year of the Diamond Jubilee.

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Long Mains

By Betty Harris

I WAS born in Monkton and had a wonderful childhood growing up in Long Mains, one of twelve children – three girls and nine boys.

The house was small but we managed. As there wasn't room for all of us, the attic was made into another room housing two double beds and one single. I climbed up a ladder to reach it.

We had a very long garden which stretched down to the shore and even kept goats. One day a goat ran around mother's legs on a chain, nearly crippling her. So the goats had to go.



Betty with some of her family at the rear of the family home in Long Mains.

My father George Blunsden was a postman and a well-known local character. He was a keen gardener and used to put his produce in the show, I remember him saying to the boys: 'Don't pick those apples as I'm putting them in the show'.

So they left the apples on the tree and ate around them, leaving the stumps! Well you can imagine my father.... but he did have a laugh about it.

How did we manage with such a big family? Very well. We were always happy and always kept clean. We bathed in the old tin bath which hung outside in the yard, although sometimes my sister would hose us down which we thought was great fun.

Wash day was Monday for clothes and Thursday for bedding. We put all the clothes through a big mangle and my sister would be on one end and I'd be on the other. We had an old stick boiler – you had to light the boiler to boil the water to do the washing and at Christmas mum boiled the puddings in it.

Yes, we were always well fed and had lots of fun.

I left school at thirteen to help at home. The boys all learned a trade and did a great deal to the house.



Betty outside 31 Long Mains.

It was a shame to pull it down, but it was owned by the Bush Estate and we didn't have a choice. I remember going up to the office to pay the rent – half a crown a week.

I met Billy Harris from Pembroke Dock and he asked me to marry him. We got married at the Monkton Priory Church, then had our wedding reception at the Church Hall and then back at our house.

I never moved away from Monkton, I still live a short distance from Long Mains. I've had a marvellous life here and I'm proud of where I come from.

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Two Monkton 'posties'

GEORGE Blunsden was a popular and long-serving Monkton postman. The *Western Telegraph* featured him as its Personality of the Week in 1963.

Postmen come and go … but there never was one more popular then cheery George Blunsden who retired five years ago after 45 years' service.

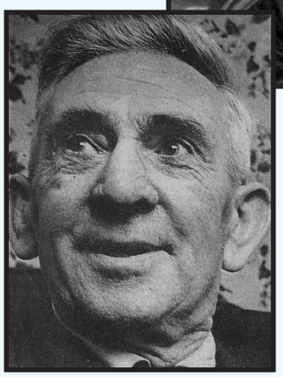
Sixty-five-year old George, the father of a large family, lives at Long Mains, Pembroke. He joined the Post Office staff as a 14 year old messenger boy.

Four years later he enlisted in the Royal Navy and saw considerable service in the Mediterranean. Following his discharge Mr Blunsden resumed his Post Office duties and was for 12 months in Carmarthenshire before returning to his native borough.

Before the comparative luxury of motor vans George Blunsden covered some 36 miles daily on a pedal cycle as he delivered mail to the Pembroke rural areas, throughout sunshine, frost, rain and snow.

Mr Blunsden was secretary of the Union of Post Office workers for 22 years. He is also past chairman of the West Wales District Branch.





Above: George Blunsden on his rounds. Left: George in 1963.

ANOTHER popular Monkton-born postman was Reg Williams. In his retirement, Reg would give entertaining talks accompanied by a slide show about Monkton and his experiences as a postman.

Recalled Reg: "When I left school in July 1945, I got a temporary job as a telegram boy in Pembroke Post Office. The job was supposed to last a fortnight but which I actually left 50 years later!

"In those days there were 14 postmen in Pembroke, two telegram boys with eight telegraph staff working on the front counter. We delivered telegrams from 8am until 8pm.

"The mail came by rail in the mornings and we met the train with a handcart. We would sort the mail, then it would be taken in sealed bags to Hundleton, Angle and Castlemartin post offices for the village postmen to deliver.

"In 1949 post office mail vans came to Pembroke – ten of them. Once the vans came, it was the end of the rural postmen and deliveries were all done from Pembroke.

"The postman's job was not an easy one; when the weather was atrocious your hands would be numb – the vans might be out in six foot of snow. But in the summer it was a pleasure, cups of tea in every house if you wanted it.

"The postman was an important figure in the rural community, delivering not only mail, but newspapers, collecting prescriptions, radio accumulators and generally helping out – although many of the things you did in the van were illegal from a Post Office point of view!

"Looking back over 50 years– I thoroughly enjoyed my life in the Post Office. I thought it was one of the best jobs in the world."





Reg Williams in his days as a telegram boy and, years later, district postman.

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Mill Backs tales

By Melanie Phillips

MY MAM and Dad were both born in Monkton and Mam was brought up in the Mill Backs. Dad was born almost opposite the church – his grandparents had once been licensees of The Grapes in Priory Terrace – but he was never very complimentary about Monkton as a place to live.

In fact, when I was growing up in Pembroke Main Street, Mam and Dad used to argue about the rival merits (and otherwise) of Monkton and the East End of Pembroke.

Dad would say that he was too scared to go back to Monkton as it was full of vicious long dogs (greyhounds). Mam would snap back that the East End was full of mad people like Mary Hall who would throw buckets of water over people, not to mention the tramps' dosshouses. and Polly Onions....

MY GREAT grandparents on my mother's side lived in the Mill Backs. Dick Brown was a limer.

He worked the lime kilns on the Commons and at Grove. He was a 'carter' whilst the other men were known as 'pokers' and 'rakers'. It was Dick's job to load the lime onto the cart and take it up to the Meyrick Estate where it was then spread on the land as fertiliser.

Dick was one of several men in Monkton who worked for the Meyricks of Bush and indeed their cottage was a tied one and belonged to the Bush Estate. They paid rent every week at the little lodge that was at the top of Bush Hill.

Some of the lime went to whitewash cottages inside and out. Whitewash was a good deterrent for fleas.

Most men who worked with lime were dead by the time they were in their 40s. They were either burnt or they developed stomach cancer from inhaling lime fumes. My great-grandfather was 42 when he died.

Dick always handed over his pay packet unopened to his wife Eliza, but he always kept his bird money. Like many local men in the 1930s he captured wild birds and sold them on or showed them.

On a Saturday night he would go along to the Sally (Salution Inn) where he sang for beer money. He'd come home rolling drunk and his wife didn't used to speak to him for a few days.

My Mam spent a lot of the war living with her grandparents. By this time my grandfather and great uncles had bought homes of their own.

Dick and Eliza had separate bedrooms. He slept in a cupboard bed, a bed that folded up into a cupboard by day and was pulled out at night to form a bed.

My mother had never seen the cupboard bed pulled down until her grandfer was dying. She was amazed because she thought that he slept standing up all night!

A LITTLE community lived in the Mill Backs. A hydro-electric generator was situated near Mill Backs. The turbine powered the lights for the Main Street of Pembroke.

Near the Mill Backs and very close to Bowett Wood was the Mill Moor. A lovely pond. A real beauty spot.

I remember it well. it was full of kingcups and dragonflies. My Mam used to tell me that it was dangerous in places and that a donkey had died in quicksand there.

The Mill Moor is still there. Sadly it is now a dumping ground and the area is nothing like as picturesque as I remember it.

MY Auntie Mollie's godmother lived at the top of Mill Backs lane. She was called Hannah Morris and she lived there with her sister Jane.

Jane was the housekeeper for Canon Bowen the vicar of Monkton Church. She was also the caretaker of the church.

One day while she was cleaning the church and the vicar was away, Monkton Priory was visited by a distinguished party that included King, Edward VII, Queen Alexandra and Princess Victoria.

Jane showed them around the church and the King gave her a sovereign and thanked her for the guided tour.

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Short Mains



By Vera John

THIS is a family photograph taken outside no 2 Short Mains which was typical of cottages in the area. The little cottages went straight back into a scullery and a little sitting room, then two bedrooms in the front.

On the left is my uncle William Skone – we used to call him Uncle Billy. In front of the cart is my Uncle Hubert and next to him is my grandmother and then next to her is my aunt, Hubert's wife.

Sitting on the cart are my mother – she was only six at the time – and her brother, my Uncle Tommy. The cart was used for deliveries. The horse was called 'Paint' – she knew every customer on the round. When pointed in the right direction, she would stop when necessary and carry on past the other houses.

This was a real community, like a little town on its own. There were bakers, butchers, newsagents, little grocery shops – you didn't have to go to Pembroke town, all your needs were catered for in Monkton.

I can remember horses used to deliver the milk when I was a child. Mr Jenkins had a milk round and Jim Hughes was the milkman; my mother used to carry a can out to him and she used to have a pint of milk from him every day.

Priory Farm produced, cooled and delivered all their own milk to Monkton, The Green and parts of Pembroke Dock.

'A lovely community'

Margaret Sercombe grew up in Short Mains. She recalled that there were 11 properties in the lane; all except theirs had outside chain pull toilets, but for some reason theirs did not. They still had to go to the top of the garden for the toilet.

The house next door had had a bath put in and, on very special occasions, the Sercombe children were allowed use this bath instead of pulling out their old tin one.

"Mr and Mrs Taylor, who previously lived in a bus at Catshole Quarry, moved to Short Mains," recalled Margaret. "They were very kind, generous people and would often lend my mother money if she was short."

Margaret fondly remembers Mrs Taylor taking her to the cinema every Saturday. "In those days Monkton was a lovely community to live and be brought up in," she said.

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Chips, steaming hot

By Molly Price

WE WOULDN'T have gone so willingly without the promise of seeing Jenks.

My sister and I were always reluctant to be called in from exciting games at the creek edge, to be washed, tidied and made ready for any visit to Granny, but the allure of meeting Jenks on a Saturday night made our sacrifice worthwhile.

It was a ten minute walk from our cottage in Monkton to Granny's cottage and my sister and I skipped along quite happily, eager to be there. Any other evening and we had to be nudged from behind to hasten our lead-weight feet.

We passed the tiny front-room shop selling Dolly Mixtures and Lucky Bags, Ringer's Shag for smokers and Black Imps for their coughs, with never a 'please-can-we-have'. And we hurried past the Salutation Inn, where the smells of beer, tobacco and fresh sawdust drifted out through the open door, accompanying us down the slope of Long Mains to Number 4.

Number 4 was a small, terraced cottage, limewashed with a red pigment additive that coloured the walls deep pink. The brown front door sported rows of brown blisters that bubbled excitedly in hot weather like melting chocolate. I couldn't resist pressing them, but with a terrible fear of being found out.

Two identical yew trees grew in the front garden, taller by far than the house roof, and red berries glistened deep within the tightly folded branches like red beads on a Christmas tree. After greeting Granny briefly – no kisses, no hugs, she was a very austere old lady and not given to that sort of thing – Nancy and I skidded the coconut mats on the quarry-tiled, passage floor in our hurry to beat each other for the prime position of hanging over the front gate, to await Jenks' arrival.

Dusk fell and the new, wavering electric street lamps stammered into life, shedding a teacupful of weak light onto the street. We strained our ears for the clip, clop of horse's hooves and the smooth swish of pneumatic tyres that presaged Jenks' arrival. With a 'whoa' and a few stamps and snorts from Polly, Jenks' cry, 'All steaming hot!' echoed down Long Mains, across Cross Mains and up Short Mains.

Doors opened in sequence like a Disney cartoon film and housewives shivered onto the pavements, wooed away from warm firesides and radio variety, cold china basins clasped to clean, Saturday night pinnies.



Jenk's chip-van. Illustration by George Lewis.

Jenks' van must have been custom built, probably home-made, but it did its job with aplomb. It looked rather like Corporal Jones' van in 'Dad's Army', lofty and cumbersome and, of course, horse-drawn. Part of one side slid open to form a serving hatch and Jenks transferred from the driving seat to appear at the opening, whiskered face scarlet from the heat inside the confined space.

Hot vats of lard or dripping bubbled on a glowing, coal range and the smell was out of this world. Basins were proffered for two penn'orth, three penn'orth or however much the family budget could stand.

The chips had the most magical taste, crisp outside and soft and melting inside. They were showered with coarse salt from a battered metal shaker and vinegar liberally applied until the basin oozed or the newspaper was soggy.

Queues formed on pavements and Jenks doled out portions quickly and efficiently. In a very short time, to our great disappointment, Jenks and Polly would be on their way to the next scheduled stop and Monkton, bathed in the smells and delights of Jenks' chips, closed doors and settled to the nine o'clock news and the approach of another strict, best-clothes Sunday.

The Salutation resumed serving pints and men their conversations. The sweet shop closed for the night and we wended our tired way home, full to bulging and already anticipating next Saturday night at Granny's.

Molly Price (née Brown) passed away in 2007

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Take your partners...





Top: A dance lessons in Monkton Junior School in1957.
Above: The regular 'socials' in the Church Hall were popular in the 1950s.

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An India Row family

By Gordon Smith

WHILE most of the old cottages were demolished, miraculously it would seem, 15 India Row escaped the carnage and still stands as a reminder of the old Monkton Village.

It was once home to the family of my maternal grandmother, Flossie Elizabeth Mary Williams

Flossie's father William George Williams was born in 1871 at Slade Cottage Castlemartin to parents John and Martha Williams, (neé Hill).

His wife Ellen Bateman was born in 1875 at Brockfield Pembroke, a cottage on the Watery Lane at the top of Grove Hill. and they were married at Pembroke Register Office in 1899.

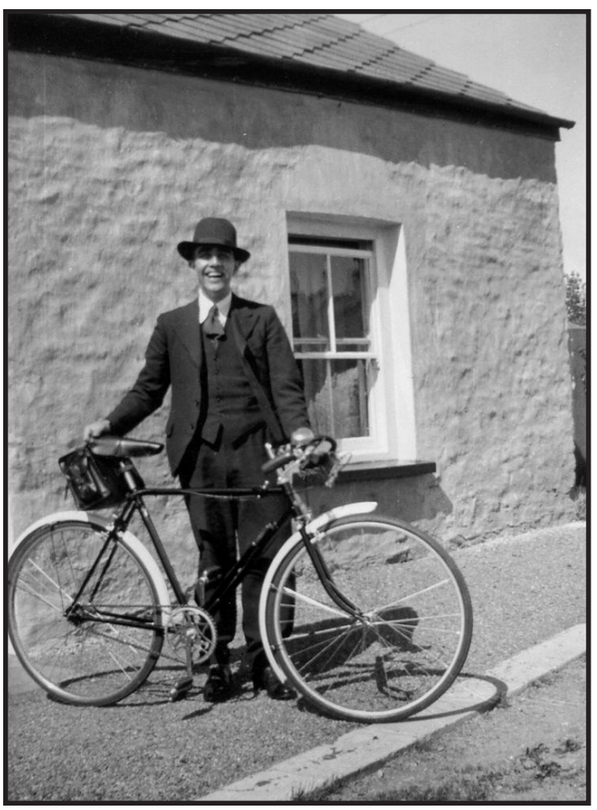
In 1901 William (Bill) and Ellen were living at Back Terrace, Monkton with their nine month old son, William John Williams, and it was here that their daughter Flossie was born in 1902.



Left to right at India Row: William John Williams, Flossie and Joseph Nicholas, Ellen Williams, Doris Nicholas, Bill Williams, Mary (Molly) Nicholas, Albert.



15 India Row, the home of the Williams family.



William John Williams.

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Flossie related this story:

"My father William George Williams came from an old Castlemartin family which lived at Slade, Castlemartin,

He was working in the Dockyard when I was born, but had a varied career which began at Brownslade Castlemartin, where he was employed by the Lambtons as a pantry boy, before he went to London as a footman to Colonel Lambton's brother.

"He moved on later to become a head footman in castles in Northumberland and Scotland. The lure of home brought him back to Pembroke where he married and lived in Monkton.

"He found a job in the Dockyard. but when this closed he went up to the Rhondda to seek a living in the mines.

"Eventually though he was able to come home once more and the family lived in Church Cottage, Castlemartin, where he worked for the Rev C Puckeridge.

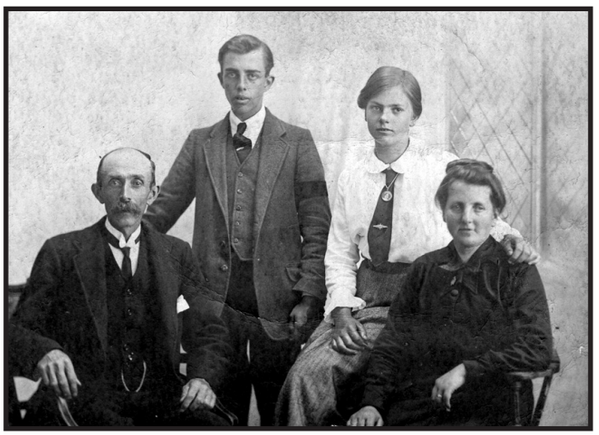
"Before long, however, Bill Williams was in demand as gardener at Brownslade. It was at this time my family kept a village shop (Pound Cottage, Castlemartin).

"He later worked for for Miss Thomson at the Old Hall, Monkton, moving back to Monkton in 1933 along with his wife Ellen and son William John Williams, settling at 15, India Row."

William George Williams died in 1951 and his wife Ellen died three years later.



Bill Williams pictured when he was head gardener at Brownslade Mansion, Castlemartin.



William, William John, Flossie and Ellen.



William and Ellen Williams, together with Flossie Nicholas, admiring a motor car outside 15 India Row. Gwen Richards is in the driver's seat with Mary (Molly) Nicholas alongside.



William John Williams served in the Army in WWI, being demobilised in 1919 due to ill health. He died in Bristol in 1942 aged 42.

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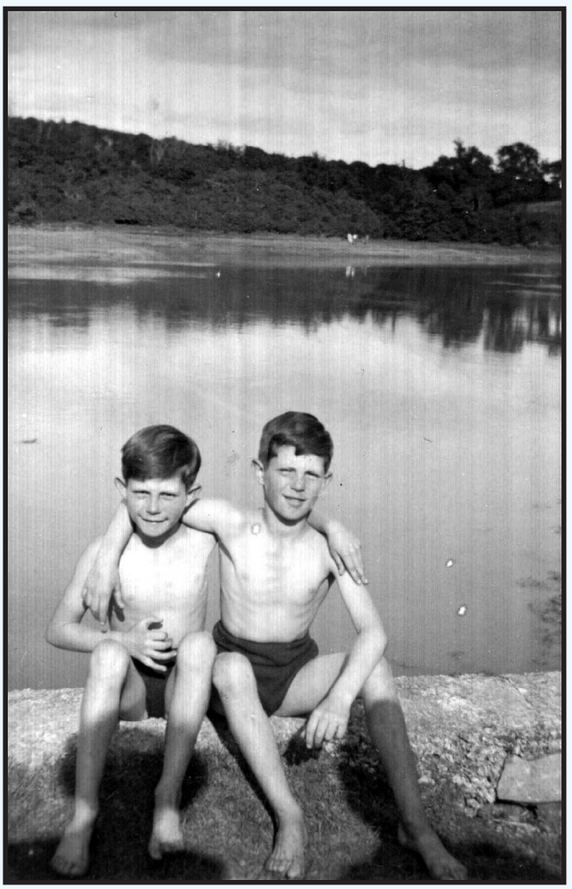
Colley's Landing

COLLEY'S Landing was the name given to an old stone jetty on the Pembroke River, perhaps once used in conjunction with the quarries. In the 1950s it was a popular bathing spot for local children at high tide.

Betty Harris, who grew up in Long Mains, recalled: "We didn't have much but we made our own fun.

"We would swim by the castle and down at Colley's Landing. We had picnics down on the shore. We had a boat called the *African Queen* and on Sundays we would go down to Angle on the boat and take food and make a picnic on the beach."



Colley's Landing was a popular bathing place for Monkton youngsters.

JOHN 'Yobbler' Thomas was another who spent many childhood days at Colley's Landing. He recalled:

"Following the Pembroke River downstream towards Pennar Gut and the Milford Haven estuary, the river slowly widens. On the Monkton side, behind the shoreline, it was mainly woodland until you reached a staging point called Colley's Landing. Directly across the river was the opposite shoreline of Imble and the village of Pennar.

"As a boy this was the extent of our hunting and play area – our private kingdom, with woodland in which to build dens, quarry faces to climb, and the river to fish and swim in. It was an idyllic place to spend a boyhood.

"Naturally there were gangs. In Monkton we called ours the Horseshoe Gang. In Pembroke they had their own gangs: There was the Orange Gardens Gang, the East End Gang and the Green Gang, while across the river from Colley's Landing was the fearsome Pennar Gang. All of these gangs at some time or another we went to battle with.

"Every gang has to have a leader – ours I would say was dictatorial. He was one of the rough, tough older boys; what he said you did. There were very strict rules, and if they were broken you were punished.

"The reason we were called the Horseshoe Gang was because there was a high mound in one of the quarries. This was covered in trees and dense undergrowth, and it was shaped like a horseshoe – hence the name.

"In the middle of this we built our den. It was a fine structure, just like the one built by the pirates and Long John Silver in the book *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson. No one was allowed inside unless you were a gang member; our stockade was virtually impregnable.

"To become a member of the gang you had to pass a series of stringent tests. You had to race against the fastest boy, wrestle an opponent, and swim across the river to the other side. (The river was where we all learned to swim).

"ONE ongoing conflict was against the Pennar Gang. Beached on the shore on their side of the river was an old and damaged metal lifeboat. Our gang decided to undertake a long expedition around the Monkton shoreline through Pembroke, then along the shoreline to Pennar – a distance of at least three miles.

"We timed our journey to reach Pennar just before high tide, hoping none of the Pennar Gang would be around.

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"That day we were in luck. We launched the ancient boat and with poles and pieces of wood we managed to paddle it across the river to Colley's Landing; this would be a distance of about one hundred yards. (The boat was aptly named the *Iron Duke)*.

"The first job was to get the boat out of the water and to hide it in the woods, because we knew there would be reprisals and a rescue mission coming from across the water.

"In later years a member of the Pennar Gang was to become one of my best friends – we played rugby together for the same team. But in those days we were sworn enemies.

"This boy's uncle had given him an old RAF inflatable rescue dinghy, so this made it easy for the Pennar Gang to cross the river.

"Our answer was to obtain a couple of air rifles, thinking that by loading them with the type of dart used in the shooting gallery at the Pembroke fair, we could sink the Pennar dinghy.

"With the prize of the *Iron Duke* on our side of the river, it wasn't long before we spotted some of the Pennar Gang paddling across towards Monkton in the dinghy. We were all in hiding, and when they came within range we all appeared and peppered the dinghy with darts.

"The boys in the punctured dinghy retreated quickly and just managed to reach the further shore before it collapsed.

"In retrospect, this was a stupid thing for us to do, because when the tide turned the current was so strong you could not swim against it.

"We didn't appreciate this at the time, of course – all we knew was that we were the victors on the day."



Colley's Landing as it is today.





Bathing parties at Colley's Landing in the 1950s.

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Life at Priory Farm

By Lilla Jenkins



Lilla's father-in-law George Jenkins oversees the usual bustle of activity at Priory Farm.

LILLA Elizabeth Williams was my full name before I married Ernie Jenkins of Priory Farm, Monkton. I was born at Bush Lodge Farm between Pembroke and Pembroke in 1914. My dad was an electrician in the Dockyard.

We had a milking herd and I used to make butter. We had a milk round and we used to supply Bush House and all the people around. We used to take around the milk with a can and a pint and a half pint measure.

I learnt to make butter when I was older - let the cream go sour, very sour, churn it 'til it became butter, take it out, wash it, pat it, salt it. I used to make scones out of the buttermilk and we used to give buttermilk to the pigs. We had pigs, cows, sheep - my mother ran the farm.

I left school at 14 and stayed home to work on the farm, looking after the cows, milking, cleaning out the pigs and calves – I loved it.

After I left school I used to go to dances. There used to be dances in all the village halls around. Dances in Pembroke were in Haggers' – the ballroom had a sprung floor, it was the best dance floor around here.

The first time I saw Ernie Jenkins was across the dance floor at the ballroom in Pembroke and I looked at him and I said 'that's going to be my husband'. I fell in love with him immediately.

We went to a dance at Stackpole and he asked me to dance and that was that. It was in the big room above the stable block.

I was 24 and we only knew each other 19 months before we were married. We were married in 1938 at Monkton Priory and that's been my church ever since.

My husband was from Priory Farm. On the farm they reared cows but mostly bred horses. Ernie's father loved horses. They had two big wagons and used to take people on trips to Stack Rocks. They had a racehorse called Priory Boy and nothing could beat Priory Boy; Ernie was the jockey.

We had Rex, a big greyhound, and used to race him. He won quite a few. The races were held at the East End - White City Track it was called. Ernie's father owned the field and used to run the races and I used to take the money.

We used to go to the seaside in the horse and trap – Freshwater East and West. If there was any relations down we used to make a family affair of it and we used to go 15 or 16 of us all in horses and traps. Gran had a bungalow at Freshwater East and I used to take the children there every year for a fortnight.

We shopped mostly at Humbers, at the bottom of Bridgend Terrace. It was Randall's afterwards – he used to mend bikes down there.

Monkton had two shops that sold essentials and then three butcher's shops. You could have lived in Monkton without going outside.

When the war came you had coupons and you had to spend them in certain shops. Bananas appeared once every three months during the war – we were lucky we had the orchard and our own apples.

I would go over to Orange Hall farm to lend a hand at Christmas, drawing and dressing the chickens – not many people could do that. I could do anything to an animal when it was dead but could no more kill one than fly.

I used to pick spuds as well – I'd pick a hundredweight of potatoes for ten shillings.

Nothing is the same now as when I got married, even down to the potato varieties. They brought in all these new potatoes grown for cropping not for flavour. Grandad Jenkins always grew Sharp's Express.

• *Lilla Jenkins passed away in 2009.*

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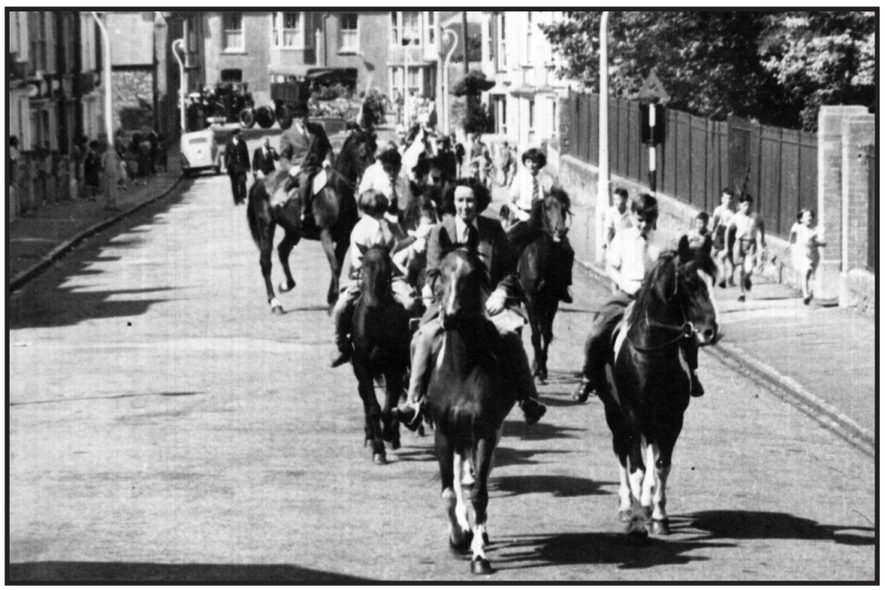

George Jenkins had a riding school with over 30 horses. A half-an-hour ride to Lamphey cost half a crown – twelve and a half pence in today's money – and it was five shillings for an hour's ride to Freshwater East. The photo shows horses of the Priory Farm Riding School in Argyle Street, Pembroke Dock. Leading the way is Sally Peel Hobson, with George Jenkins in the rear.

Hub of the community

By Pauline Waters

GROWING up in the 50s was a wonderful time – a sense of community which we have lost in many ways, a community which was very much centred on my family home, Priory Farm.

Here Monkton people found employment, children played and all shared the daily chores.

Farming was different then, still carrying on traditional practices. We had cattle which were milked by hand for the milk round, which was undertaken by horse and cart.

We soon learned to keep away from the kitchen when Nanna was making butter because you would be given the handle to turn and dare you stop! Your arm would be aching – but oh the taste of the butter!



Pauline's brother Colin Jenkins helps with the hay-making.

Or you would be asked to scrub the eggs and take them in the basket up to Simon and Sons in the Main Street where they would be graded.

I remember so well the seasonal delights. The summer, sandwiches, a bottle of water, down the fields and into the Pond (making sure the tide was in, as it was still tidal then), swimming across to Rocky Park and on to the mill, then over the road, jumping or diving into the Mill Pond.

Then of course hay-making. Once it was cut we would be given pitchforks and told to turn the hay by hand. But oh what fun! Then Nanna would send out a huge basket of food and a can of tea,

Of course, one of the main attraction was the horses. My father Ernie Jenkins was a great horseman, having a racecourse on Priory Fields.

All of us children would work cleaning the stables, mucking out, just for a ride on the horses, which was our payment.

My father bought me a racehorse called Parasilk and soon all I had to do was to shout 'Para' and up he would come from the field.

The Jenkins of Priory Farm go back over 100 years and the family have always taken a leading role in the community which relied so much upon them.

• *Pauline Waters passed away in 2017.*

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Helping on the farm

By John Thomas

PRIORY Farm Monkton was where I spent most of my youth, helping with the riding stables, haymaking, sheep shearing, grinding corn, and milking cows by hand.

The farm belonged to the grandfather of a good friend and I was accepted as if I was one of the family.

The farm had a daily milk delivery service; for this we used a horse-drawn milk float. The milk was carried in ten gallon churns, and there was a graduated set of milk ladles measuring from a quarter of a pint through to pint size.

The customers would come out to the float when we were delivering, carrying an assortment of receptacles including cups, jugs, basins even jam jars. Some elderly people only required a quarter of a pint of milk, so we would choose the appropriate measure and then pour the milk into the container they had brought.

Our milk round covered Monkton and half of Orange Gardens. Another milk float from Pembroke covered the East End and the other half of Orange Gardens.

One day we had just finished our Orange Gardens milk deliveries and were heading back to the farm. We were travelling down Thomas Street at the bottom of which was a right angled corner. As we turned the corner we met the other milk float head on.

Horses and milk floats collided, there were milk churns, ladles and milk all over the road. Fortunately the horses were unharmed.

HAYMAKING was an interesting time, but hard work. The grass had been cut, the weather had been sunny, and the hay was dry, so it had to be gathered in and a hayrick built before wet weather set in.

The cut hay was collected from the fields by horse and cart, and brought to the place where the hayrick was to be built.

There was an art in constructing a hayrick; firstly a large central pole would be erected. A long rope was fastened to a large 'grab'; the rope then ran through a pulley at the top of the pole and was attached to a horse opposite the grab.



Haymakers at Priory Farm.

There was one man to operate the grab and another to lead the horse. The grab would pick up a large bundle of loose hay, then the horse would be moved forward so that the grab-full of hay would be raised.

When it was in the right position the horse would be stopped. Hanging from the grab was another rope; when the operator pulled on this rope the grab would open and the hay would drop in the right place. The horse was then backed and the grab lowered.

This process would continue over and over again until the hayrick was complete. When haymaking was finished it was traditional to have a sumptuous farmhouse harvest supper, with hams, cold beef, cheese and pickles, all washed down with home-brewed beer and cider.

EARLIER in the year we would have been planting potatoes, and when they were ready we would pick and weigh the potatoes, then load them onto lorries; these would be sent overnight to the potato market to arrive early so that the best price could be got for the potatoes.

Potato time always occurred during school term time. If you were of a certain age you could apply for a blue card which entitled you to go potato setting and picking during term time.

We were very fit and energetic in those days. There was never a shortage of work or odd jobs that you could do; however we received very little pay.

• *John 'Yobbler' Thomas passed away in 2011.*

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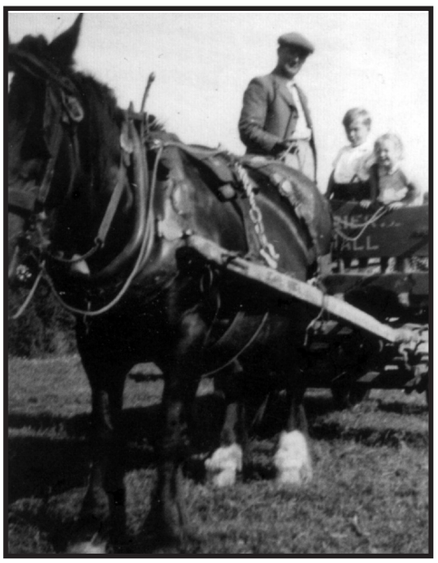
Orange Hall upbringing

By Ann Lankshear

MY BROTHER Robert and I were war babies, both born at Orange Hall farm. My father, John Ferrier, and his two sisters, Marjorie and Elsie, were also born there.

My grandfather, Robert George Ferrier, and grandmother, Mary Ann, went to live there in 1906 when they got married.

Life on the farm revolved around the seasons. In December and January, during the inclement weather, the cows had to be kept in their sheds at night. This increased the workload as water and hay had to be carried to them.



John Ferrier with children Robert and Ann.

Milking was done by hand, sitting on a three-legged stool. The milk was then taken to the dairy, strained, cooled and put into churns for delivery by milk float. This was drawn by our Welsh Cob called Topsy. Topsy knew every step of the round – where to walk on and where to stop – and milk was measured from the churn into the customer's container.

My father was always well turned out in his shirt with stiff collar and tie, boots and leggings, topped off by a khaki dustcoat. A sociable man, he would greet and doff his cap to the ladies, They loved it and giggled and twittered back.

January was usually the time that we killed a pig. I hated this and made myself scarce. Every part was used and parcels of pork were distributed between relatives and friends.

The main part was then cut up into six pieces, salted, then put into a big wooden salting tub until ready to be hung in the kitchen to dry.

In 1941 my father was granted a permit by the Ministry of Food. He was allowed to sell bacon, butter, eggs, milk, potatoes and poultry.

Feathering and dressing the birds was a big job at Christmas, but a social occasion. Christmas meant cold turkey for every meal, including breakfast. By Boxing Day I was begging for a boiled egg!

When spring came it was 'all stations go'. The fields were ploughed for crops. The POW workforce was utilised, especially for sugar beet which was transported from Pembroke Station to the factory.

Corn was sown before Easter and many Monkton women were employed to plant and pick potatoes. Picking was paid by the bag and some of the women were lightning quick.

Every spring we were given a couple of 'molly lambs' to rear. My brother and I fed them a bottle of milk three times a day.

Robert owned a ferret and used it to catch rabbits which we ate either roasted, stewed or in a pie. This was before myxamotosis.

Animals played a big part in our lives and we had a pony called Mousy, four dogs, ten to twelve cats, a budgie, a white rabbit, a tortoise and a few goldfish.

Summer was the haymaking season The grass was cut, left to dry and then taken by horse-drawn wagon to the hayguard to be built into a rick. Neighbours all helped each other and would end up in our kitchen for my mother's superb supper. Many tales were related over home-made ale or ginger beer before they eventually staggered home in the dark.

The Church played an important part in the farming year; for farmers, harvest was the most significant festival when they could truly sing 'all is safely gathered in'.

My father always saved sheaves of corn which were put into a mound in the chancel and surrounded with vegetables and fruit, and he always supplied the milk for the harvest supper.

By the end of the forties I had seen so many changes on the farm. We went from hand milking to machine, from horse, cart and wagon to tractor and trailer.

We went too from gathering loose hay to collecting it in bales tied with binder twine and – with the corn – from sheaves being gathered and threshed to a contractor coming with a combine.

Since then, of course, there have been even bigger changes as progress marches on.

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Out with the old, in with the new

IN THE late 1950s it was Government policy to demolish properties which were considered unfit for human habitation and to replace them with new local authority houses built nearby.

Pembroke Borough Council embraced this policy enthusiastically and embarked on a clearance programme that saw many buildings of character and historic interest destroyed, not least the Long Entry cottages and Bankers Row in Pembroke and King Street, Pembroke Dock.

Monkton came in for special attention. Although many of the terraced houses and cottages built in the 1830s and '40s were well maintained by their occupiers, other were showing their age and the rents obtained by the owners – the Bush estate – were deemed insufficient to cover the cost of repairs.

Compulsory Purchase Orders were obtained, and in the early 1960s the bulldozers moved in, with the result that most of the terraces that made up west Monkton were sadly flattened.

As local historian John Hogg noted in his book *Lost in Time*: 'In modern times these houses would have been made fit and sold as genuine and attractive Pembrokeshire cottages'.

The increase in traffic through Monkton generated by the oil industry provided another excuse for demolition, with numerous buildings and even whole terraces knocked down in the name of road improvements.

A former Town Clerk of Pembroke Dock, Mr Hogg compiled the following list of properties demolished in this programme of clearance as it affected Monkton.

1 to 7 Monkton (odd numbers): The date of building of these houses is not known but they do not appear on the 1840 tithe map. They were a row of single storeyed cottages, were the subject of proposed Clearance Area No. 7 in 1957 but the proposal was not proceeded with. They were purchased in the 1960s and demolished to allow for road improvements to Monkton Lane. The Catholic church and the Swifts' clubhouse now occupy the site.

Numbers 18, 20, 22 and 24 Monkton: These were two-storeyed houses immediately to the west of the junction of Monkton and the lane to Priory Farm. They were demolished in 1957 and, in November 1959, the County Architect invited tenders for the building of a pair of semi-detached police houses at 'Priory Terrace, Monkton', These have since been sold into private ownership.

26, 28 and 30 Monkton: This row was demolished in the early 1960s.

32, 34 and 36 Monkton: Declared 'Clearance Area 49' in 1967, these were demolished in 1971 along with the Dragon public house:

53 and 55 Monkton: These were a pair of two-storeyed single fronted terraced houses on the south side of Monkton and were subject to Demolition Orders in 1956. A new bungalow has been built on the sites.

56 to 70 Monkton (even numbers): This terrace comprised Clearance Area 4 and was demolished in 1964.

57 Monkton: This house on the south side of Monkton was the subject of a Demolition Order made in December 1959.

72 Monkton: Purchased at market value and demolished.

Priory Terrace and Priory Back Terrace: These were in Clearance Area 5 which was designated in 1957. A Compulsory Purchase Order was made and the houses demolished from 1963 onwards.

90 to, 100 Monkton (even numbers): These properties were the subject of Compulsory Purchase Orders in 1964 and demolished from 1964 onwards. Number 100 was on the corner of Long Mains and was the newsagents shop of George and Beatrice Barker.

102 to 110 Monkton (even numbers): Clearance Area 27, which also included Nos. 1 to 5 India Row, was declared in December 1959 and the houses demolished from 1964 onwards.

Long Mains: Numbers 1 to 17 Long Mains, the Salutation public house, No. 2 Long Mains and the ruins of the Congregational Chapel were included in Clearance Area 43 and were the subject of a Compulsory Purchase Order in 1964. They were demolished from 1964

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Aerial photograph by Meridian Airmaps Ltd taken on December 23rd 1963 showing Long Mains, Short Mains and Priory Back Terrace. Some of the old houses are in the process of being demolished and the footings laid for new houses in Marshall Road and St Martin's Road.

onwards. The Priory public house (since closed) replaced the Salutation, almost on the same site, and the Spar Mini Market is on the site of 1 to 17 Long Mains.

Long Mains: Numbers 18 to 36 (even numbers) and 25 to 35 (odd numbers) were in Clearance Area 6, which also comprised 1 to 5 Cross Mains). This was designated in 1957 and the houses demolished from 1963 onwards.

Long Mains: Numbers 19, 21 and 23 were earmarked for clearance in November 1959 (Clearance Area 25). They were demolished from 1963 onwards.

Short Mains: Numbers 1 to 13 (odd numbers) and 2 to 10 (even numbers) formed Clearance Area 36 which was designated in 1961. The houses were demolished by 1965.

Cross Mains: Numbers 1 to 5 formed a row of five, single-storeyed cottages, built about 1836. In 1957 they became part of Clearance Area 6 and were demolished from 1963 onwards.

India Row: Numbers 1 to 5 were built in about 1835, forming part of a row of mainly single-storeyed cottages with small courts in front (numbers 1 and 2 were two-storeyed). In 1959 they formed Clearance Area 27 and were demolished from 1964 onwards, the land being incorporated into the new council estate.

India Row: Numbers 6 to 12, again dating from 1835, were all single-storeyed double-fronted cottages with courtyards in front. They formed Clearance Area 44 and were demolished from 1964 onwards.

Continued

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Out with the old, in with the new

IN 1958 there was a public outcry when it emerged that the district valuer was offering just £1 compensation to many householders for the involuntary loss of their homes, including Fred Asparassa, 39, of 84 Monkton – a war hero who had lost a leg while serving with the Royal Artillery in Italy.

Mr Asparassa was a leasehold tenant of the Bush Estate with 41 years to run on the lease of a six-roomed house near the corner of Priory Terrace and Back Terrace. He and his wife Olwyn and family were subsequently rehoused in St Martin's Road, one of the new streets of council houses built to replace the properties that had been demolished.

The old village of Monkton was a closely-knit community of family and friends who had lived there all their lives. This wholesale demolition of their homes was a traumatic event, changing lives and disrupting relationships as people were forced to move. Some were rehoused in Monkton, others elsewhere.

Joan Thomas (née Harris) who lived at 30 Monkton did not want to go even though her house was damp and paper was hanging off the walls.

Eventually she became reconciled with her new home in Poyer's Avenue, which proved to be better than expected – away from a busy main road and with more privacy. The residents made their own new community with good neighbours.

Ann Yerbury (née Brock) lived in 92 Monkton and recalls the terrible upset experienced by the community and the wrench she felt at leaving the house she loved and had lived in all her life and did not want to leave. She was rehoused in St Martin's Road and it took a long time to get used to living in a home she didn't choose and to losing former neighbours housed elsewhere.

Monkton had become a very different place and, although some people were rehoused near each other, the original community was lost. The Church did its best to keep the community functioning, but it was never the same.

It was a wrench felt by everyone –- a feeling of loss for that wonderful community spirit which was Monkton.

The new estates

IN 1959 Pembroke Borough Council appointed a clerk of works to oversee council house schemes in The Green and Monkton.

Two small estates were built off Norgan's Hill, one of them actually in St Mary's parish but usually regarded as part of Monkton, Built in about 1960, this cul-de-sac was named Poyer's Avenue.

The other development was a horseshoe of semi-detached houses at the top of South Terrace.

The much bigger project of constructing the vast new municipal housing estate to replace the demolished houses of Priory Mains began in the mid 1960s and comprised two phases.

The first phase incorporated land to the east of Long Mains, where a grid-iron of streets was built, notably the long terraces of St Martin's Road (48 properties) and Marshall Road (67 properties), plus Montgomery Close (36 properties).

The second phase, started in about 1965, took in the land to the west of Long Mains and differed in layout from the first phase by being a maze of courts and closes generally named after local worthies.

A number of different housing styles were used to create variety, and the properties were equally varied – from one bedroom flats to four bedroom houses. Both phases were complete and fully occupied by 1970, with many of the properties housing workers at the Regent oil refinery and Pembroke power station.

The Village

The village is small but very compact
I have lived there all my life in fact
The Old Hall stands on the top of a hill
With creepers reaching to the window sill.

The Priory is both historic and old
The monks used to live there so I am told
The bells from the Church ring out in the night
Whilst the Church itself is a wonderful sight.

Monkton has a language of its own I am sure
The people are friendly from the rich to the poor.
The villagers keep up their spirits in sport
With a football team the people support.

There are many queer turnings and lanes
With names of Back Terrace, Long, Short and Cross Mains
There's Roberts the butcher, and Phillips the baker
And opposite the school is the undertaker.

E M Roberts, aged 14, 1957
Edna Hughes (née Roberts)

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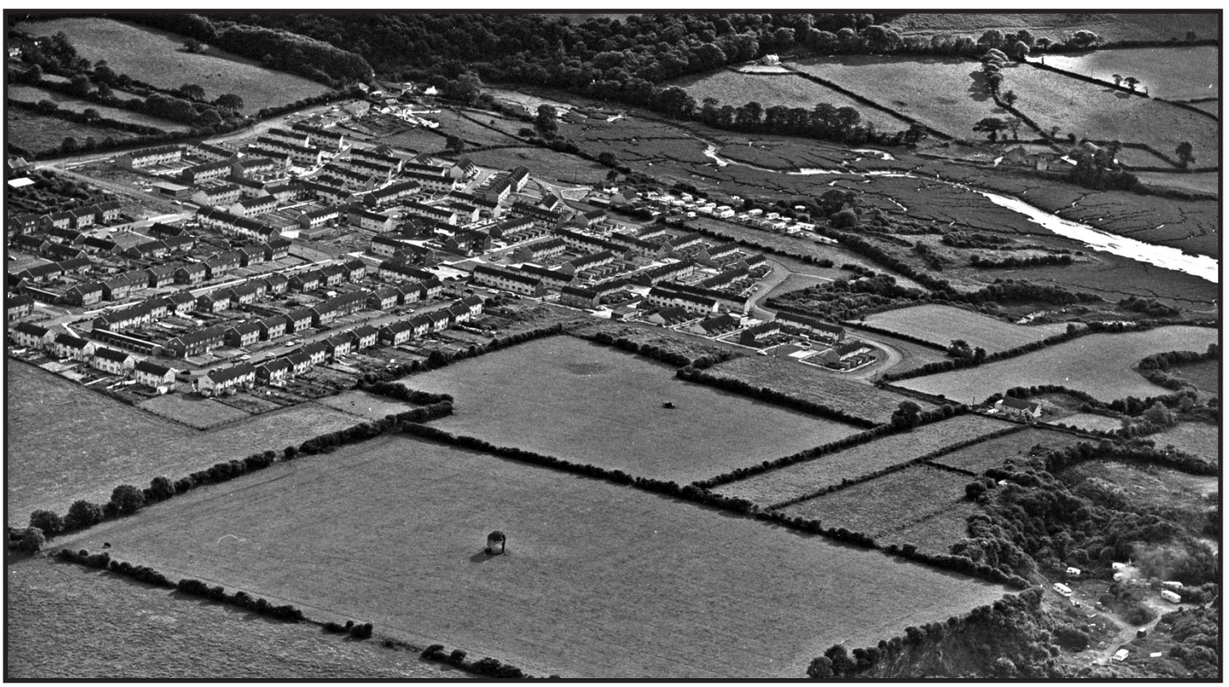
Aerial photograph showing the new housing estate. Photo courtesy of Wyn Jenkins.



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Bakers and confectioners

AS a self-sufficient community, Monkton naturally had a number of bakeries, several of which doubled as grocery shops, Some also provided a delivery service, initially by errand boy or horse and cart and, latterly, by van.

Several of those named below worked as journeyman bakers and only a few had their own business in the village. Note the remarkable number who were originally from the west of England.

Albert Abraham: Albert learned the trade with Monkton baker Hugh Hall before launching his own business in the village in 1904, later relocating to St Michael's Square. In Monkton he was 'doing five sacks of flour a week', a sack making about 94 loaves. He used gas ovens and hired a horse and cart for deliveries. Qualifying as a master baker, he later ran a bakery in Ystradgynlais.

Alfred Andrew: He was a Devon-born baker living at 2, Norgan's Terrace in 1911 with his St Twynnell's-born wife Margaret. They later moved to Narberth.

William Austin: From Pilton in Somerset, William was a baker living in Norgan's Terrace with wife Frances 1879-1881. By 1891 he had changed career to become a labourer in the Dockyard and was living in Priory Mains. He died in 1927 in Pembroke Dock.

Ann Brown: A daughter of Richard Vaughan from Mill Backs, she married blacksmith William Brown in 1846. Widowed by 1871, she then ran a little bakery close to the old Mission Room in Long Mains until at least 1901, when she was 82,

William Cole: One of the Coles of Carew, William was a grocer and baker at the east end of Bush Terrace in the 1870s and 1880s. His widow Mary took over and ran the business until her death in 1896. In 1891 William Phillips from Haverfordwest was lodging above the shop and working as a baker.

William Fisher: Journeyman baker from the village of Uley in Gloucestershire who married Elizabeth James of Mill Backs and lived in Monkton Lane from 1899 to 1915.

James Freemantle: A baker and confectioner from Hampshire who lived near the top of Awkward Hill in 1871. He later relocated to Robert Street, Milford Haven.

Herbert Edward Fryer: Herbert took over the bakery business of George Naish in, Priory Terrace, in about 1870. He and his wife were from Somerset, and living with them in 1871 was Herbert's father Charles Fryer, a decorative artist from Bristol. Herbert ran the bakery business in Monkton for 20 years, selling it as a going concern to George Phillips in April 1891.

John Hague: Wiltshire-born, he was a baker in Pembroke Dock in 1846 when he married Frances Barnett of Priory Mains and moved to Monkton. Describing himself as 'a maker of sweetmeats' in 1850, he later moved with his family to Swansea.

Hugh Edward Hall: Hugh was a farmer's son from Llanstadwell who became a Master Baker in Aberavon before returning west in 1897 to run a bakery and provisions shop at 2, Bush Terrace, taking over the business previously run by William and Mary Cole. Sons Thomas, George and David were also bakers and by 1911 the family had opened the Model Bakery in Pembroke Main Street. which they ran for many years.

Fred Harries: Grocer and baker of The Stores, Monkton, who was advertising in 1898 for 'a young man, about 20, good bread and cake hand'. Unfortunately the business went into receivership the following year and the location of The Stores isn't known.

Edward George Humber: A journeyman baker and grocer, living at 3 Bridgend Terrace in 1911, close to his father William (below). He died in 1914 and Mrs George Humber was listed as a baker in a 1923 trade directory.

William Humber: Baker and grocer from Dorset who married Emma Rooks, daughter of the licensee of the Apple Tree. He had a store and stables at the bottom of Bridgend Terrace, Commons side, from about 1891 until his death in 1911.

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Alfred A James: Born in Maidenwells in 1878, Alfred was a baker living at 18, Norgan's Terrace in 1911 with his wife Louisa. He served in WWI, joining the Royal Navy in 1916 before switching to the RAF in February 1918. He later became the manager of a yeast merchant's in Yeovil.

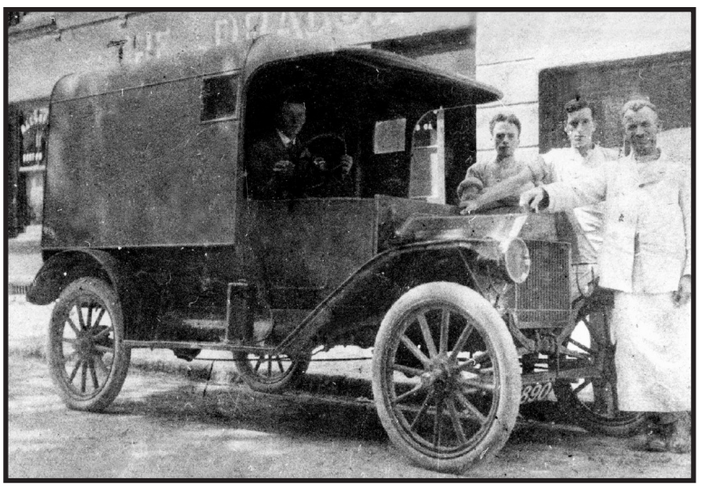
Thomas and Eliza Jones: The Joneses were grocers and bakers in Monkton Lane, a couple of doors from the corner of Priory Mains. According to John Hogg, 'Thomas Jones set up shop at 98 Monkton Lane in about 1880; he may have built the premises. His wife Eliza carried on the business after his death, and the family was still living there in the 1950s'. In 1911 the property was referred to as 'India House' and included a shop run by Eliza Jones.

Charles Morris: Pembroke-born baker Charles Edward Morris married a Monkton girl in 1903 and took over the shop and bakery at 2, Bush Terrace previously run by Hugh Hall. Charles was there by about 1907 and was providing the workhouse with bread in 1918. The business was called Monkton Central Bakery and was handed over to Charles' son-in-law W J Phillips in 1945.

George Naish: Born in Chew Magna, George and his wife Ellen were the grocers and bakers on the corner of Priory Terrace from 1861 to 1870. They then moved to Bristol where George set up shop as a baker and corn dealer in East Street, Bedminster.

John W Penney Between the 1870s and the 1890s the Dragon was run as a pub-cum bakery by town councillor John William Penney and his wife Sarah. In 1884 Mr Penney, baker, was advertising for 'a steady young man (single), accustomed to horse and trap and to make himself generally useful'. In 1886 the chimney of Mr Penney's bakehouse at Monkton collapsed in a gale but fortunately no-one was injured.

George Ludlow Phillipps George, who was born in Northampton-shire, took over the bakery of Herbert Fryer in Priory Terrace in 1891 but was not there for very long. In 1901 he was living in Essex and working as a commercial traveller for a biscuit company.



The Rock family with their bakery van outside the Dragon Stores.

William Phillips William and Gwendoline Phillips ran the Central Bakery for over 20 years, from about 1945 to 1965. It was at 2 Bush Terrace (37 Monkton), and had previously been run by Gwendoline's father Charles Morris. The Phillipses had retired to South Terrace by 1970.

John Rock: John and Annie Rock from Ireland took over the Dragon from J W Penney in the 1890s and like the Penneys they also operated a grocery shop and bakery – Dragon Stores. The Rocks had a large number of children who kept the business going after their parents' day, notably John Wilfred (Jack) Rock, Kevin Rock and the 'Miss Rocks', Eileen and Dorothy. The latter trio were still running the business when the Dragon closed in 1971.

Emma Stephens: Born in Monkton, Emma was the husband of ship-fitter John Stephens. They lived in Washington Terrace and after he passed away in 1904 she opened a confectionery shop which she ran until her death in 1929.

Edward Watts: Henry Edward Watts from Gloucestershire was assistant baker to George Ludlow Phillips at the bakery in Priory Terrace in 1891. Watts took over the business soon afterwards, but in 1893 his house, shop and storehouse were all destroyed by fire. Damage was estimated at about £1,200 and he was declared bankrupt two years later. However he bounced back and was still in business as a baker and confectioner in 1911. He was living in Tenby by 1923,

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Blacksmiths

WHILE there were a number of men who described themselves as 'blacksmith' on the Monkton census returns over the years, only a few actually plied their trade in the village. The majority would have been employed in the Naval Dockyard, forging the chains, anchors and other iron fittings needed by the Admiralty.

The main smithy in Monkton was in Church Terrace, somewhere between the Schoolroom and the top of Awkward Hill. It seems to have closed in the late 1880s with a house being built on the site.

The Monkton blacksmiths and farriers listed below are thought to have worked locally, either in the village or at one of the forges in Pembroke or The Green, rather than in the Dockyard (although several did both).

Benjamin Adams: Born in Carew, Benjamin was a blacksmith in Monkton in the 1820s but had moved to High Street, Pembroke Dock by 1841.

Thomas Cole: Born in Landshipping, Thomas lived in Monkton Lane from 1847 to 1861. He and his three brothers were enrolled as Freemen of Pembroke in 1859.

William Drinkwater: Son of Dockyard sawyer Robert Drinkwater, he was a blacksmith in Church Terrace in 1861. From 1871 to 1891 he was a blacksmith in School Terrace and by 1901 he had retired. His son Fred was also a blacksmith, working mainly with farm machinery and living on Holyland Road.

Charles Edwards: Blacksmith (pictured) who lived next to the Rope and Anchor. from 1871 to 1881 with his wife Martha. They moved to 5 West Street in the 1880s and he worked in the Dockyard for a time.



Charles Harries: A blacksmith by trade, he was a son of George Harries of Turk's Cottage and lived there until 1874. when he married Martha Biggs of the nearby Ferryside Inn. He was a smith in the Dockyard for a time and also one of Monkton's more notorious poachers.

David Harris: Born in Stackpole, David was a blacksmith at Grove in 1871 and in Back Lane, Monkton by 1881. He and his family had moved around the corner into Norgan's Terrace by 1891 but he died in 1897.

Isaac Jones: Isaac was a blacksmith who grew up in a cottage near the bottom of Norgan's Hill and was living there in 1881. He and his wife Martha had moved to Owen Street, Orange Gardens by 1891.

James Lewis: Described as a blacksmith of Monkton Lane at the baptism of his son Richard in 1846, James later moved to Holyhead and became a stoker on the Irish ferries..

James Lloyd: James (senior) was a blacksmith by trade but also a property developer, leasing land from the Bush estate in the 1790s in order to build five houses in Monkton. He later leased land from the Orielton estate to build four houses in Pennar. Made a Burgess in 1809, he held a lease for lives on a house and garden in 'Monkton Lane' in 1834; he died in 1837.

James Lloyd: He was a son of James Lloyd (above) and lived with his wife Mary just below the Victoria pub in 1841, presumably in his father's old house. He was a blacksmith at that time but by 1851 he had moved to Mill Backs and become a carter. He seems to have been dogged by ill-fortune; in 1862 he told a rates tribunal that he had lost nine horses in the previous two years and had also lost the use of his right arm.

John Lloyd: John was a blacksmith who lived and worked in 'Monkton Village' from 1866 to 1872 when he was 31. He later moved to Kingsbridge and worked for a time in the Dockyard.

John Morgans: A trade directory of 1891 described him as a blacksmith, but in most census reports he was variously listed as a tin-plate worker, plumber or gas-fitter. Born in 1858, he was a son of mariner and publican George Morgans and he lived in Church Terrace, next to the Apple Tree Inn.

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William Morris: He was a blacksmith, aged 20, living at the Rope and Anchor in 1841 having married Martha, the landlady's daughter. He later became a Dockyard blacksmith and moved to High Street in Pennar.

James Nicholas: A blacksmith's apprentice in Priory Mains, 1851, he was described as a blacksmith when his son Charles was baptised in 1856. James was convicted of poaching on the Orielton estate in 1867 and died two years later aged 38.

Thomas Nicholas: Born in India Row in 1887, he was a blacksmith's apprentice at the age of 13, learning the trade with his cousin William, a blacksmith near Bletherston. His career was spent as a journeyman blacksmith at forges around south Wales and he served as a farrier with The Welsh Horse during WWI. He retired to 10 Church Terrace which he bought from the Bush Estate and died in 1966.

John Owens: Pembroke-born blacksmith who was living with his wife and six children and also his wife's father in Long Mains in 1901.

Thomas Phillips: Thomas was from Johnston but lived in Victoria Terrace in 1851. He had moved to Bethlehem near Camrose by 1861.

George Powell: A son of William Powell (below) he was listed as a blacksmith in his own right, in 1884. He later lived at Northgate, Pembroke, and died in 1894.

William Powell: When his son William (below) was baptised at Lamphey in 1813, William Powell (senior) was described as a blacksmith 'late at Lamphey, now at Monkton'. He was back living in Lamphey by the 1830s.

William Powell: Son of the above, William was a blacksmith and farrier in Pembroke Dock in 1841 before moving to Monkton and taking over the main smithy in the village, in Church Terrace. He lived alongside the forge with his wife Mary from 1851 until his death in 1884 . He employed two boys by 1871, one of whom was his son George.

Griffith Rees: Griff Rees was a blacksmith and farrier who lived in Church Terrace in 1841 when he was 64. He was born in Carew and appears to have established the main smithy in Monkton. His son John was also a blacksmith but for did not take over the forge which was carried on by William Powell (above).

Thomas Saunders: Blacksmith and innkeeper from Cosheston, he kept the Rope and Anchor in Monkton Lane for a few years up until his death in 1868 when he was 43.

George Thomas: George was a Monkton-born blacksmith who was living in Priory Mains in 1889 but at the foot of South Terrace in 1891. Following his death a couple of years later, his widow Mary Ann married Isaac Cadogan from Cosheston, a master blacksmith who had a smithy on Dark Lane.

Wheelwrights

Robert Barnett: Rhoscrowther-born Robert was a wheelwright in Monkton in the 1850s, later moving to live at Mellaston Cottage.

Joseph Davies: Joseph was a wheelwright in Monkton Lane in 1871 and later at the Foundry on the Commons. By 1911 he was a wheelwright on Pembroke Quay, being succeeded in the business by his son, wheel-wright / coffin-maker 'Harry Davies the Quay'.

Joshua Davies: Born in Short Mains in 1862, Joshua was an apprentice wheelwright in 1881, becoming a qualified wheelwright by 1888, He moved to Narberth for a time, but by 1901he was back living in Norgan's Terrace, later moving to 30 Mansel Street from where he ran his own wheelwright's business.

Benjamin Phillips: Born in Robeston Wathen in about 1811, Benjamin was a carpenter and wheelwright in Monkton in 1841 with a house and workshop near the corner of Priory Terrace and Back Terrace. He remained in business until his death in about 1866, with his sons John and Joshua as his apprentices.

John Phillips: While Joshua moved to Liverpool to work as a joiner, Benjamin's other son John, born in 1838, carried on the family business in Monkton. Still working as a carpenter and wheelwright in 1911, he died in 1925.

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Joiners and cabinet-makers

PERHAPS it was the influence of the Hurlows of Monkton Bridge with their timber-yard, but Monkton has a strong tradition of woodworking and the census returns reveal a large number of sawyers as well as the more specialised joiners and cabinet-makers in the village.

As well as the Hurlows' busy saw-mill and timber yard, the 1864 map shows a saw-pit behind Bush Terrace, while Lakefield Joinery kept the tradition alive in the village in recent years.

Meanwhile several men made redundant when the Dockyard closed in 1926 used their joinery skills to good effect in new careers.

John Barger: He was listed as a carpenter of Monkton at the baptism of son Henry in 1822.

John Barnett: Born in Monkton in 1826, he was an apprentice shipwright at 15 but was a carpenter living near the Dragon in 1871. He moved to Light-a-Pipe to work as a joiner on the Orielton estate and was an eye-witness to the Bentlass Ferry disaster of 1889.

Thomas Bateman: Monkton carpenter who took on three apprentices between 1791 and 1794. He died at Goodborough in 1819.

George Brinn: Son of Thomas Brinn who farmed at Vatson, East Williamston, George was a joiner living next to the schoolroom in Church Terrace in 1891, aged 28. He later moved to Osborne House, Hundleton and worked as an estate carpenter.

George Brown: Pembroke-born carpenter who lived next door to the Mission Room in Long Mains from 1851 to 1861.

Thomas William Brown: Carpenter, born in Monkton in 1859, who lived with his grandfather, John Thomas the shoemaker, in 1881. Married by 1883, he moved into a new house in South Terrace where his wife Elizabeth had eight children; he is believed to have died in Portsea, Hamphire in 1895, aged 36.

William Bunyan: A 14-year-old joiner's apprentice at Grove in 1901, he was a cabinet-maker by 1911, living in Short Mains. He was still living at 10 Short Mains when the street was demolished as part of the clearance scheme, being rehoused in Montgomery Close.

Robert Childs: Saundersfoot-born carpenter, living, at 19 Bush Terrace in 1911. By 1939 he was a foreman carpenter in the building trade.

Edward Cole: Born in Angle in 1883, he was living in Long Mains and a qualified carpenter by 1901. In 1911 he was employed in a joinery works while in 1915 he was erecting huts for the military. He committed suicide that year.

John Cole: He gave his trade as carpenter when he was made a Burgess in 1809.

Albert Colley: Son of stonemason John Colley, he lived in Priory Terrace in 1881 and Norgan's Terrace in 1891. He later became a shipyard joiner in Portsmouth.

James Croft: Born in Woolwich, son of ship-wright Thomas Croft, he was a joiner in Bush Terrace from 1881 to 1891.

George F Davies: Son of William (below), he was a joiner's apprentice at 14. He was house carpenter living with his parents in 1901 and was at 8 Church Terrace in 1911, single and out of work.

John Davies: He was apprenticed to John Jones of Monkton, carpenter, in 1796.

William Davies: Monkton-born carpenter and labourer living in Back Terrace in 1861 and on Awkward Hill from 1871 to 1901.

John Devonald: Described as 'carpenter at Hurlows' in 1834, he was born in Ambleston. He lived at Priory Cottage, Priory Mains in 1851; his son John was also a joiner.

Albert Drinkwater: Son of blacksmith William Drinkwater, he was a carpenter in School Terrace in 1891 and lived there until his death in about 1929.

George Drinkwater: Born in 1832, George was a son of sawyer Robert Drinkwater and uncle of Albert (above). He married Ann Eynon from Lawrenny and they moved to Woolwich in the 1850s where he worked as a joiner. They returned to live in Orange Gardens, then newly-built, while from 1881 to 1911 George was a carpenter living in School Terrace,

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George Evans: He was apprenticed to Thomas Matthews of Monkton, carpenter, in 1772.

Charles Lloyd Evans: Carpenter and joiner in the building trade who lived in South Terrace in 1901 and School Terrace 1906-1911.

David Evans: Joiner from Montgomery who ran the Victoria pub from 1868 to 1881. He left the pub to become a shipwright, moving a few doors down the terrace.

John Evans: He was apprenticed to Abednego Eynon of Monkton, carpenter, in 1802.

Abednego Eynon: Apprenticed to Thomas Bateman of Monkton, carpenter, in 1791, he was a carpenter in his own right by 1802. He appears to have moved to Narberth.

Samuel Gough: He was apprenticed to William Mason of Monkton, carpenter, in 1796.

Ernest Griffiths: Cabinet-maker who lived in Washington Terrace in 1911, aged 18. His brother Sidney had a garage in Monkton.

George Griffiths: Son of Isaac Griffiths, a miller from Landshipping, George lodged in Monkton with his brother-in-law, blacksmith Thomas Cole, in the 1850s. He was a joiner by trade, sometimes being employed in the Dockyard, and he was admitted as a Freeman of the Borough in 1859.

Hugh Harries: Carpenter from Freystrop who lived in Monkton Lane from 1821 until his death in 1871, latterly leasing a house and garden from the estate. His son William was also listed as a carpenter in 1841.

Isaac Harries: Born in Hundleton in about 1817, he was a joiner and cabinet-maker living at Lake House from 1837 to 1841 and in Bush Terrace from about 1856 to 1885. His son Isaac became a schoolmaster in Newmarket.

John Harries: John Golding Harries was a son of stonemason William Harries of Monkton Lane and was an apprentice wheelwright in 1871, becoming a joiner by 1891. He and his son William were both carpenters in 1901 and both were employed by the Bush Estate in 1911. John G Harries lived at 92 Monkton Lane until his death in 1920; William died there in 1950.

Benjamin Howell: He was described as a joiner of Monkton at the baptism of his daughter Mary in 1821.

George James: Monkton-born joiner and Crimea veteran who lived at Lake House 1868-1871. His story is told elsewhere in this book.

Thomas Jenkins: His occupation was given as 'carpenter, Quoit's Mill' at the baptism of his daughter Frances in 1840.

Joshua John: He was a carpenter living in Monkton in 1820. He later made his home in Paradise Row, The Green.

George Jones: Son of grocer and baker Thomas Jones, George was a joiner living at home in 1901 but at 23, Bush Terrace in 1911. A billhead described him as 'Builder, contractor and undertaker, Monkton, Pembroke. Estimates given for every description of joinery work, staircases, greenhouses etc.'

John Jones: He was recorded as a carpenter in Monkton, taking on three apprentices between 1785 and 1796.

John Jones: Joiner, born in 1807, who plied his trade in Monkton Lane from about 1834 to 1866. He was married to Elizabeth (Morris) and they had six children. He was probably the John Jones of Monkton who held an alehouse licence in 1858 and he was also one of the chief campaigners for a water supply for the village. Some time after 1866 the family moved to London, apparently without much success, because the 1871 census shows John living in the union workhouse in Whitechapel. By 1881 Elizabeth was a widow living with one of her daughters, Martha, in a cottage on The Commons in Pembroke.

Thonas Jones: A shipwright's son he married Lettice Nicholas in 1860 and they lived in Long Mains. Thomas was employed as a joiner at this time but after he qualified as a shipwright the family moved to High Street, Pennar.

William Jones: Brother of the above he married another Lettice (Williams) and was a joiner in Long Mains in 1861. He was one of many local tradesmen who migrated to the mining valleys and he was a carpenter in Llantrisant in 1881.

Continued

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Joiners and cabinet-makers

George Lewis: He was a third generation Monkton carpenter, being descended from the two Josephs (below). He lived in Church Terrace from 1871 to 1881, by which time he was a widower in his thirties. He then moved in with his mother Mary who ran a grocery shop in the village.

Joseph Lewis: Born in Lawrenny in 1793, Joseph was a joiner living in Monkton Lane from about 1815 until his death in 1854, holding a lease for lives on a house and garden. He appears to have run the Carpenters' Arms for a time in the 1820s while In 1847 he provided coffins for the workhouse at 12s 6d for men and 11s.6d for women.

Joseph Lewis: Baptised in 1820 he was a son of Joseph Lewis (above) and was a carpenter in Priory Mains in 1841, holding a lease for lives on a house and garden. He was employed in the Dockyard in 1851 and worked as a joiner until his death in 1877 having moved to Bush Terrace where his wife Mary ran a shop. He owned the sloop *Lively* in 1866, while one of his sons, also Joseph, was a butcher and was the owner of the ketch *Mary Jane Lewis*.

William Lewis: In 1791 he was apprenticed to John Jones of Monkton, carpenter. He was a joiner in Monkton in 1833 at the baptism of his daughter Ann Maria.

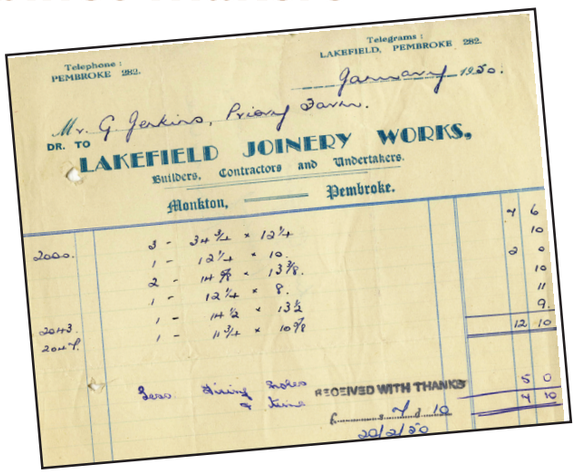
William Lewis: A son of Joseph (above), he became a carpenter like his older brother George. Following his marriage to Sarah he moved to The Green.

William Mason: Born in 1763, he was a joiner in Monkton in 1796. By 1841 he was still working as a joiner, aged 78, in Tre-Owen (Pennar).

Thomas Mathews: He was living in Monkton and trading as a carpenter in 1772.

John Mathias: Son of William (below), he was a carpenter in Monkton in 1871, later moving to Pennar where he was employed as a ship's carpenter.

William Mathias: Joiner born in Castlemartin in 1804, who lived in Back Terrace from 1841 to 1871 and worked as a sawyer in the Dockyard for part of that time.


Telephone: PEMBROKE 282. Telegrams: LAKEFIELD, PEMBROKE 282.

January 1850.

Mr. G. Jenkins, Priory Farm.

DR. TO

LAKEFIELD JOINERY WORKS,

Builders, Contractors and Undertakers.

Monkton, Pembroke.

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

30/3/50

Ronald Marriott: Son of maltster Charles Marriott, he lived in Priory Terrace and was a cabinet-maker in a local joinery in 1911. He left the area to work as a shipwright in the dockyards at Sheerness and Rosyth.

James Miller: A son of farmer William Miller of Pudding's End, James was a carpenter in Monkton Lane for over half a century, from the 1830s until his death in 1892, when he was 79.

Richard Arthur Morris: A carpenter in Mill Backs in the 1870s, he was one of several local tradesmen who relocated to Maesteg, His Monkton-born son Hubert became a licensed victualler in Queensland, Australia.

Bertie Morris: The son-in-law of Thomas H Rogers of Willowbrook House, Bertie was described as 'joiner on a gentleman's estate' in 1911. He lived at 13 Church Terrace in 1935.

Thomas Palmer: Possibly from Angle, he was apprenticed to John Jones of Monkton, carpenter, in 1785.

John Phillips: Son of Thomas Phillips, landlord of the Bunch of Grapes alehouse, he was a house carpenter in Bush Terrace from 1881 until the 1890s; he died in 1900.

William Phillips: A son of Monkton cobbler Thomas Phillips, William served his time as a carpenter and joiner and was living in Bristol in 1871, He died there in 1877, aged 34.

George Powell: George was a carpenter from Cosheston who lived at 4 South Terrace in 1891. Brother of John (below), he later became a joiner in the Dockyard.

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John Powell: Cabinet-maker from Cosheston, he lived at the junction of South Terrace/ Norgan's Hill from 1891 to 1901. He appears to have retired by about 1911, the trade being carried on by his sons Thomas, Archie, William and Wilfred (see under Thomas below).

Thomas Powell: Of the four brothers, Wilfred was a joiner living in Mansell Street in 1939 (he died in 1952); Archie moved to Pembroke Dock and was a works foreman in 1939 while William Sidney Powell, became a timber merchant in Essex. Thomas was a cabinet-maker, builder and undertaker and, after going into business in Pembroke Main Street in the 1920s, he started Lakefield Joinery in about 1930. A billhead dated August 1935 reads: 'The Lakefield Joinery Works, Monkton, Pembroke. T A Powell. Funerals completely furnished. Doors, windows, gates, greenhouses, poultry houses etc.' As well as joinery work, Lakefield sold timber, cement, plaster, paint, glass and corrugated iron. Thomas lived in School Terrace in 1915 but was living at 2 Norgan's Terrace when he died in 1947.

George Price: His occupation was recorded as 'carpenter, Priory Mains' at the baptism of his daughter Barbara in 1840.

Lawrence Price: Born in Monkton in 1833, he was a joiner in Priory Mains in the 1860s but had moved to Swansea by 1871.

John Richards: He was described as a joiner of Quoit's Water at the baptism of his son James in 1819.

William Richards: William lived on Awkward Hill from 1841 to 1861 and was a joiner and an incorrigible poacher. He later moved to Orange Gardens.

John Roch: Son of plumber William Roch, he was a joiner living at 24 Long Mains from 1919 to 1939, by which time he was foreman joiner. He and his wife Lavinia later lived in West St.

William Roch: Locally-born carpenter who lived on Awkward Hill from 1861 to 1881, later moving to 50 Main Street.

James Skyrme: Master cabinet-maker, born in Penally in 1843, he married a daughter of Monkton stonemason David Richards and lived in Bridgend Terrace in the 1860s. He later lived in Apley Terrace, Pembroke Dock.

Thomas Skyrme: Son of a shipwright from Manorbier, Thomas grew up in Priory Terrace in the 1860s. While two of his brothers became tailors, Thomas became a joiner and was lodging and working in Barrow-in-Furness in 1881 when he married Ellen Morgans from St Twynnell's. By 1891 they were living in the family home in Priory Terrace, later moving to Merchant's Park when Thomas secured a job as a joiner in the Dockyard. Their son James married Ellen Harrison, granddaughter of mason John Thomas of Prospect House, and became a shipwright in Gillingham. Serving in WWI, James was one of the survivors of the wreck of the hospital ship *Rohilla* in 1914.

Joseph Streets: Joseph was a carpenter in Priory Mains in the 1840s, later moving to Bufferland. His son James, born in Monkton in 1847, was a carpenter in Shifnal, Shropshire from 1871 to 1911.

John Thomas: He was a cabinet-maker in Monkton Village in 1814.

Richard Thomas: In 1792 he was apprenticed to Thomas Bateman of Monkton, carpenter.

Walter Truscott: A cabinet-maker and house painter living in Monkton Village in 1813, he was briefly imprisoned in 1815 charged with stealing a bucket of paint; the jury found no true bill against him and he was released.

George Vaughan: George was a joiner living in Mill Backs in 1855-59, in Priory Mains in 1871 and in Stackpole in 1881.

Henry Vaughan: Son of Thomas (below), he was a joiner who lived in Priory Mains in 1881.

Thomas Vaughan: Monkton-born joiner who lived in Monkton Village in 1861 and later in Priory Mains; he was employed for a time in the Dockyard and died in 1901.

George Williams: Born in St Twynnell's, he was a carpenter, aged 75, in Bridgend Terrace, in 1871. He died three years later.

John Williams: Joiner from Stackpole who worked in Lydney for a time before moving back to Monkton. He and his wife Chestina had a home in Bush Terrace between 1865 and 1891, although John was lodging and working in Maesteg in 1881. By 1901 he was a widower living in the workhouse at Riverside.

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Mariners

Robert Baker Robert was born in Long Mains in August 1854, the son of a Chelsea Pensioner from Devon called John Baker and his wife Priscilla. Robert volunteered for the Royal Navy in March 1869 and joined HMS *Minotaur* as an Ordinary Seaman. By 1879 he was a Leading Seaman aboard HMS *Tyne*, becoming a Petty Officer aboard the Pembroke Dock-built frigate HMS *Inconstant* in 1891. That year, while the ship was in Australia, he was sentenced to five years in Melbourne Gaol.

William Baker Born in January 1845, William was an elder brother of Robert (above). He volunteered for the Royal Navy in April 1859 and joined HMS *Dido*. He spent much of his naval career at HMS *Excellent*, the shore base in Portsmouth, reaching the rank of Chief Petty Office. He was pensioned in 1889.

George Blunsden Born in Pennar, George M Blunsden was living in Short Mains when he served as an Able Seaman aboard HMS *Europa* in 1918. He was later a postman.

Lewis Brown Born in Monkton in 1763 to William and Mary Brown, Lewis was recorded as a mariner in 1819 when his son William was baptised, though nothing is known about his seafaring career. He died in about 1824,

William Burnell William George Burnell was born in Monkton in 1868 to a sailor named Frederick Burnell and his wife Ann (née Cole), He was described as a merchant seaman on his marriage in 1893 and was also in the Royal Naval Reserve. By 1901 he was a rigger in a local shipyard, living in Norgan's Terrace with his wife Elizabeth and family. In 1910 he spent 14 days in Swansea Gaol for using obscene language in Pembroke Dock. He died in 1940.

David Cole David volunteered for the Royal Navy in February 1858, aged 16 and joined the screw steamship HMS *Donegal* of the Channel Squadron. He had been born in Priory Mains to agricultural labourer William Cole and his wife Ann. David was an Able Seaman aboard the ironclad HMS *Ocean* in 1871. By 1881 he was in the Coastguard service in Kent.

James Cole James, a 26-year-old seaman of 1, Cross Mains, was one of two crewmen drowned in February 1945 when the mooring craft *Silverbeam* was in collision with another vessel in Milford Haven.

John Cole John Watkins Cole was born in Monkton in about 1844 and spent his career at sea, although he seems not to have ventured too far from local waters. He was a retired mariner living in Long Mains in 1911.

William George Cole: Son of a dockyard riveter from Cross Mains, he joined the Navy in 1916 and was was soon serving as a stoker aboard HMS *Melbourne*. He later joined HMS *Europa* as a Stoker 1st Class.

Henry Davies Henry lived at The Flag, an ancient inn near Monkton Bridge, and had been in the coasting trade for about 60 years when he died in 1788. He was the master of the sloop *Catherine and Margaret* which he used in the coal trade. His widow Catherine subsequently received a pension from Trinity House.

John Davies John Davies, who lived at Taylor's Lake, was a mariner who died in 1848.

William Davies William Davies was a sailor aged 35 living with his wife Martha in Monkton Lane in 1851. The previous year the Pembroke Mormon branch had applied to register his house as a place of worship. This was probably the 'William Davies of Pembroke', born in May 1824, who qualified as Mate in 1851 and was Mate of the coasting smack *Ada* in 1871.

William H Davies William Herbert Davies was born in 1888, the son of shipwright William Davies and his wife Ada who lived in Bridgend Terrace and later Prospect House. William enlisted in the Royal Navy as a shipwright on his 18th birthday and served aboard the light cruiser HMS *Penelope*, from 1914 to 1916 and then aboard the armoured cruiser HMS *Bacchante*. where he held the rank of Shipwright 1st Class, William died of disease three months after the Armistice, in February 1919. He was 32.

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A fishing smack on the Monkton shore.

William T Davies William Thomas Davies was a son of wheelwright Joshua Davies who lived in Norgan's Terrace. In 1901, aged 14, he signed up as a boy shipwright in Pembroke Dock, enlisting as a shipwright in the Royal Navy when he turned 18. In 1911 he was serving aboard the Pembroke Dock-built cruiser HMS *Cornwall*. By the end of WWI he was a Shipwright 1st Class and he remained in the Navy until 1927, returning to Pembroke to live in Mansel Street. In WWII he served with HMS *Skirmisher*, the Milford Haven coastal forces base, and he died in 1948.

John Eynon John was born in Lawrenny in 1829. In 1861 he was serving as an AB aboard the Dockyard lighter *Skippy* moored off Pembroke Dock. By this time he was married and residing at the top of Priory Mains, and he lived in Monkton until his death in 1905. He appears to have spent his career on Dockyard vessels.

William Griffith Born in Monkton in about 1790, William was described as a mariner in Richard Rose's book *Pembroke People*.

James Griffiths James lived in Monkton Lane and was a crewman aboard the Pembroke coaster *Providence* in 1828.

John Gwynne: Mariner from Priory Terrace who was 31 when he died in 1842.

John Gwyther John Henry Gwyther lived at Trevor Cottages, 32 and 34 Monkton Lane, from 1911 until his death, aged 65, in 1942. Born in Pembroke, he joined the Royal Navy in August 1894 qualifying as an Able Seaman two years later. Among the many ships he served aboard was HMS *Goliath* in 1902, during which time he saw action in China at the time of the Boxer Rebellion. He remained on active duty until February 1919, receiving the China Medal and the Victory Medal during his long naval career.

Thomas Gwyther Thomas was described as a sailor at the baptism of his daughter Elizabeth in 1848. He was living in Monkton at the time but moved to Bristol soon afterwards where he worked as a ship's steward.

Charles Harries Charles was born in Monkton Lane in September 1851 and volunteered for the Royal Navy in January 1868. Nothing is known about his naval career.

George Hill George Henry Hill was born in 1875, son of William and Mary Hill, of Orange Hall Gate, Monkton. He joined the Royal Navy as a young man and moved to Portsmouth, where he married Elizabeth Farnden. A Petty Officer Stoker, George was serving at HMS *Victory*, the Naval Barracks at Portsmouth, when he died in July 1918. He was 43.

Continued

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Mariners

William Horn Whitechapel-born William Thomas Shrubsole Horn married Elizabeth Robinson of Monkton and was living at the bottom of Priory Mains in 1871. He was a seaman aboard the Pembroke Dock-based hospital ship HMS *Nankin* at the time and later served aboard the Coastguard cruiser *Hawk*. He ran the King's Arms pub in Front Street, Pembroke Dock for a short time and by 1891 he was running a tavern in Point Street, Hakin.

George Hurlow Born in about 1803, George was one of the three seafaring sons of shipbuilder and timber merchant George Hurlow (senior) of Bridgend, Monkton. A Master Mariner in his early 20s, George was captain of the family-owned ships *Union* and *George and Mary* on passages to Quebec and Rio de Janeiro. His last voyage as captain was to Portugal in 1828 and it is thought that he died of cholera and was buried in Porto.

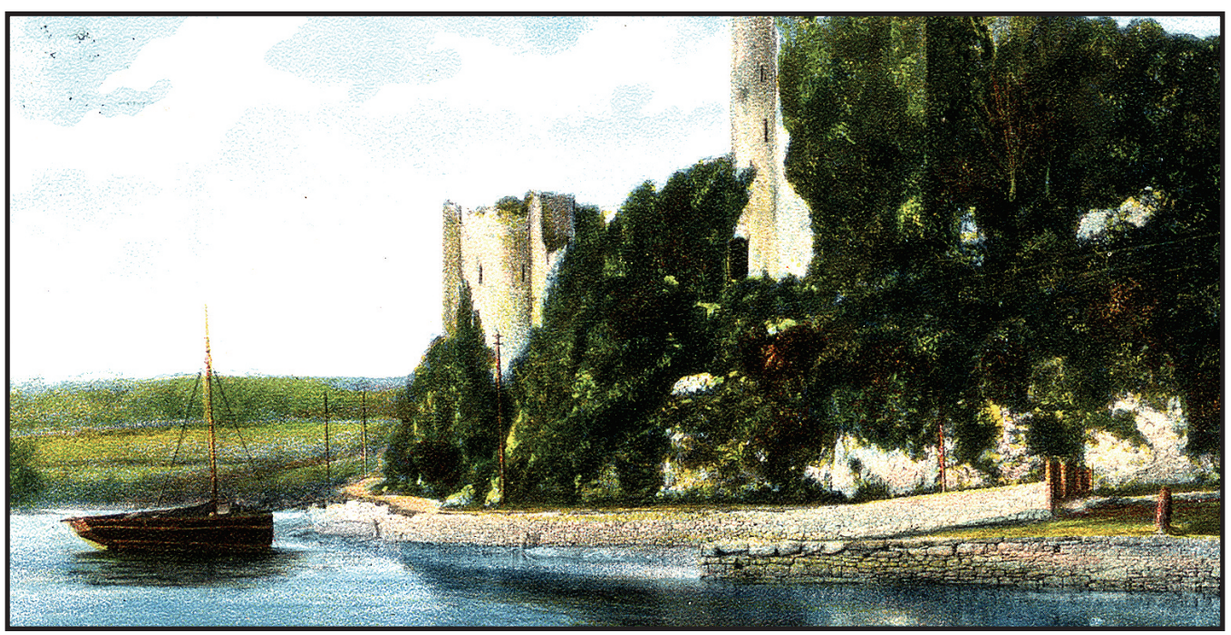
Thomas Hurlow Oldest of the three brothers, Thomas captained the family vessels *Bridgend* and *Pembroke Castle*, making many voyages across the Atlantic for cargoes of timber from Quebec and Nova Scotia. He left the sea to run the family business when his father died in 1833. A prominent businessman and council alderman, Captain Hurlow died in 1867.

William Hurlow George's youngest son took command of the brig *Mary* in 1827 and seems to have specialised in voyages to the Baltic for flax and Russian timber. In the winter of 1829 he was skippering the schooner *Pembroke* on a return voyage from the Russian port of Memel when the ship was hit by a storm in the North Sea and William was washed overboard and drowned. He was about 25.

William James William was born in The Green in 1860 but grew up at Lake House and went to nearby Monkton Board School. He joined the Royal Marines and was serving aboard the guardship HMS *Indus* in 1881. He died in hospital in Devonport in 1883.

William Jones Merchant seaman, born at Lawrenny Ferry, Cosheston, who lived two doors from the Roebuck pub in 1861 with his Monkton-born wife Mary. Described as 'a mariner in the Merchant Service', he was 33 and living at The Flag, Bridgend Terrace in 1873. By 1891, and still a sailor, he had moved to nearby Banker's Row with his wife and family.

Thomas Lawrence Thomas was described as a mariner of Monkton at the baptism of his sons John in 1829 and George in 1835. The family was living in Banker's Row in 1841; Thomas died in 1847.



A sloop in Monkton Pill.

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James Lewis James was recorded as a sailor at the baptism of his daughter Martha in 1849. He was living in 'New Zealand', the old name for west Monkton.

Francis Meare Described as 'of Monkton, mariner' in a bond of 1665, he married Ann Holcombe and subsequently lived at Corston. However he was a mariner of 'Nangle' when he made his will in 1671.

George Morgan A mariner, born in Monkton in 1826, George lived in India Row alongside Quoits Pill from the 1840s to 1861 and seems to have succeeded his father Isaac (below) as skipper of the family coasting smack. By 1871 he was running the New Inn, a rather rowdy Monkton Lane alehouse.

Isaac Morgan Father of George, he was born in Narberth but lived most of his life in Monkton where he kept his own coasting vessel in Quoits Water and also worked as an agricultural labourer. A thorn in the flesh of the Monkton Mormons, he died in 1877.

Thomas Morgan: Another of the Morgan clan of mariners, he and his wife Martha lived in India Row in 1846. By 1871 they were living in Swansea where Thomas was employed as a diver.

William Morgan William was described as a 20-year-old sailor in the 1841 census. He was married and living in Monkton Lane.

Nicholas Morris Born in Carew in about 1785, Nicholas lived in Priory Mains and was listed as a mariner in 1851; he died in 1858. Presumably this was the Nicholas Morris of Monkton who had a contract in 1848 to supply the workhouse with 'best Newport coal', suggesting he had an interest in a coaling vessel.

Henry Phillips Henry Phillips was born in Monkton in 1839 and went to sea in coasting vessels. By 1891 he was a mariner, aged 52, living in Monkton Lane 'opposite Orange Hall'.

Wilfred Raymond Born in Priory Terrace in 1902, Wilf attended Monkton Mixed School. He became a shipwright but joined the Navy in 1927 following the Dockyard closure. He did a 12 year stint, mainly in the destroyer HMS *Vivid* and the cruiser HMS *Berwick*. He died in 1972.

Sydney Roach: Sydney was born in Priory Terrace, joined the Navy at 18 as a boy artiificer and was serving in the engine room of the battleship *Trafalgar* of the Home Fleet in 1911. He was an engine room artificer aboard HMS *Prince Rupert* in 1918 and received the WWI Navy Medal. He left the Navy in 1927 but rejoined at the outbreak of WWII and served as ERA (1) aboard several base ships at Chatham.

Thomas Russell Born in 1840, Thomas was a son of Pembroke merchant and shipowner John W Russell. He volunteered for the Royal Navy in September 1858. By 1891 he was a Navy pensioner employed as a customs officer in Birkenhead, Cheshire.

Walter Thomas Walter was born in Monkton in 1884 but grew up in Warren where his father James Thomas was a farmer. He became a ship's engineer in the Merchant Navy, receiving a campaign medal for his service in the Merchant Navy in WWI. He later lived at North Down, Lamphey.

Thomas Westlake A Warrant Officer Gunner in the Royal Navy, Thomas married Mary Moody of St Twynnell's and they held a lease on a property at Quoit's Water in the 1830s. Thomas served in the Pembroke Dock-built *Royal William* and later lived in Chatham with his family.

George Williams Born in Monkton in 1824, George joined the Merchant Navy and was a Mate in the foreign trade by 1851. He was a crewman aboard the brigantine *Perseverance* of Maryport in 1859 followed by the brig *Indus* of Newcastle and the *Margaret* of Boston. He was Mate of the Bideford schooner *Try Again* in 1866 when he was committed to prison 'for refusal of duty'. George subsequently served aboard the *Cordelia* and the barquentine *Eliza Smeed* of Rochester; he was one of the crew rescued from the latter vessel following her stranding at Cape Egmont, St Edward Island in 1882.

Thomas George Williams According to the Royal Navy Register of Seamen, Thomas was born in Monkton in January 1870 and was working as a fisherman when he joined the Navy on his 18th birthday. He joined HMS *Impregnable* but only served for about seven months before being invalided out of the service.

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Shoemakers

MONKTON – and indeed Pembroke in general – had a large number of shoemakers, cordwainers and corvisors in the 18th and 19th centuries.

A corvisor was actually a clog-maker, while 'cordwainer' was an early name for a maker of leather boots and shoes.

The shoemakers of Pembroke and Monkton had formed themselves into a trade guild at an early stage and, as Richard Rose has noted, 'As late as the first quarter of the 19th century the shoemakers were a Corporation to which only Freemen of Pembroke could belong and exercise their trade in the town'.

In many cases successive generations of the same family worked as shoemakers and jealously guarded their ancient privileges. The Vaughans of Monkton were one such family, virtually all of them being Burgesses of the town.

George Bowen: George was a shoemaker, aged 30, living in Priory Mains in 1841 with wife Elizabeth and four children. She was a widow and pauper living in Pembroke Dock by 1851.

Thomas Bowen: He listed his occupation as 'shoemaker, Monkton Village' at the baptism of his daughter Martha in 1813. He had a son named George, probably the cobbler listed above.

William Cole: William served his apprenticeship to James Panton of St Michael's parish, He was a shoemaker in Back Terrace in 1861, in which year he was admitted as a Burgess.

Henry Davies: Constable of Pembroke in 1810, he was described as a corvisor in 1813 when he married Mary. A Henry Davies, shoemaker of Monkton, was made a Burgess in 1832, which could be him or could be the chap below.

Henry Davies: Born in about 1807, he was a boot and shoemaker in Monkton Lane (near the Old Conduit) from the 1830s to the 1870s. He and his wife Mary had ten children and two of his daughters were still living with him in 1871. He died in 1880.

John Davies: Shoemaker in Pembroke in 1818 but living in Monkton Lane by 1823.

William James Davies: He was a shoemaker in Llanion at the time of his marriage in 1884, later settling in Monkton where he died in 1895 aged about 36. His son Sidney served in the Royal Flying Corps in WWI.

William Edmond: In 1772 he was named as a corvisor in Monkton. He appears to have held an ale-house licence and died in 1833 aged 87.

John George: His occupation was given as 'shoemaker' at the baptism of his daughter Jane in Monkton Church in 1835.

George Griffin: A Monkton shoemaker in 1794 he was also also a Parish Constable from 1798-1800. He married Martha Dawkins of Monkton in 1801 and seems to have been living on the Dark Lane when he died in 1845.

Benjamin Griffiths: He was apprenticed to John Vaughan of Monkton, corvisor, in 1772.

Pitter Griffiths: In 1776 he was described as a shoemaker of Monkton.

William Griffiths: Shoemaker married to Anne and plying his trade in Monkton village in the 1830s and '40s. By 1861 he was working as a labourer.

William Harries: He was apprenticed to George Griffin of Monkton, shoemaker, in 1794 and worked as a shoemaker in his own right until at least 1825. He and his wife Mary had eight children, one of whom was cabinet-maker Isaac Harries; William was still alive in 1861.

Abraham Hughes: In 1776 he was apprenticed to Richard Vaughan of Monkton, corvisor. By 1794 he was in business as a shoemaker in his own right with a workshop in Monkton. He died in 1831.

James Hughes: Born in Cosheston in about 1793, he moved to London for a time but was a shoemaker in Monkton by 1833, He had three sons, all stonemasons, and had a business in Monkton Lane until at least 1852.

Samuel Jones: His occupation was recorded as 'shoemaker, Monkton Village' at the baptism of his daughter Martha in 1822.

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William Lawrence: William was a shoemaker aged 88, living in Priory Mains in 1841 with a family named Deflorey. He died in 1847.

Thomas Lewis: Lawrenny-born bootmaker who had a business in Priory Terrace in the 1870s. His Monkton-born son Austin S Lewis became a draper in Pembroke Main Street.

John Llewhellin: In 1794 he was apprenticed to Abraham Hughes (above).

William Moore: Bootmaker who moved to Monkton from Freystrop and had a small cobbler's shop at the top of Victoria Terrace from 1891 until his death in 1904.

Thomas Murrah: Born in Monkton in 1795, his occupation was recorded as 'shoemaker, Monkton' at the baptism of his son George Frederick in 1830.

Thomas Phillips: Boot and shoemaker from Narberth, who had a well-patronised cobbler's shop in Monkton for half a century, from 1841 to 1891, probably at 25 Monkton Lane. His son John became a bootmaker in Bristol.

William Phillips: In 1799 he was apprenticed to Abraham Hughes, shoemaker (above), but nothing else is known about him.

Willie Reynish: A boot and shoemaker in Priory Terrace, 1901, by 1939 he was working as a labourer and living on The Commons.

William Richards: In 1772 William was apprenticed to William Edmond of Monkton, corvisor.

William Richards: Born in Pembroke, William was married to Elizabeth Cole of Monkton and in 1891 they lived with her mother in India Row. By 1901 he was a boot and shoemaker with a cobbler's shop in Bush Terrace, but he had changed career by 1911, becoming a hose-maker in the Dockyard.

George Thomas: Monkton, shoemaker who charged 10 shillings to make a pair of men's boots in 1848 and five shillings for a pair of ladies' shoes His wife was Martha and they appear to have lived in Bush Terrace from about 1845 to 1851. By 1861 George was a labourer in Pennar and he died four years later aged 53.

John Thomas: He was apprenticed to Pitter Griffiths of Monkton, shoemaker, in 1776.

John Thomas: Master shoemaker, born in St Mary's parish in 1808. He and his wife Mary lived in the Green in 1841, but he had a cobbler's shop in Bush Terrace from 1851 to 1883 in which year he was sued by his brother James in a case involving the disputed will of a third brother, Thomas (probably the chap below).

Thomas Thomas: A cordwainer living on the Dark Lane in 1838, he was a shoemaker, in Priory Mains from 1839-41.

James Vaughan: Shoemaker in Monkton from at least 1814 until his death in 1853. He was made a Burgess in 1809 and also ran the New Inn with his wife Phoebe.

John Vaughan: A corvisor in Monkton in 1772, he married Anne Thomas in Monkton in 1789. He was made a Burgess at the same time as James (above). This was probably the John Vaughan who later held a lease on New House near Taylor's Lake and died in 1831, aged 86.

John Vaughan: There was another John Vaughan, shoemaker of Monkton, who died in 1855 aged 70. He was a son of Richard and Elizabeth Vaughan (below).

Richard Vaughan: A corvisor in Monkton in 1776, he had a freehold house in Monkton where he lived with his wife Elizabeth and their four children. He died in December 1829 aged 85.

William Vaughan: Shoemaker who leased a house and garden in Monkton from the Orielton estate in 1812. In 1809 he was made a Burgess at the same time as John and James Vaughan, suggesting they were all brothers

William Vaughan: Son of John and Anne Vaughan (above), he was a shoemaker in Priory Mains in 1841. He later became a lamplighter in the Dockyard and moved to Pembroke Dock where he died in 1871 at the age of 80.

William Winter: Son of a hawker and brought up in the workhouse at Riverside, he was an apprentice shoemaker to Thomas Phillips (above) in 1851, living in Monkton. He later moved to Gateshead.

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Stonemasons

WITH so many quarries on the doorstep and terraces of new houses being built both in Pembroke and Pembroke Dock, it is not surprising that a large number of Monkton men were stonemasons in the 19th century.

While some would have been employed at the quarries, dressing the limestone blocks, others would have worked for contractors as builders/masons on construction projects that might have included chapels, schools, forts and dockyard sea-walls as well as houses.

When the local building boom came to an end, several relocated to the Welsh Valleys or further afield, with a surprising number ending up in St Pancras.



Ebenezer Brown: Ebenezer (pictured) was one of several sons of William Brown (below) who followed their father into the masonry trade. Born in Monkton in 1848, he worked as a journeyman stonemason for a number of years, but by 1891 he had settled in Yardley, east Birmingham. He became a successful builder, contractor and property developer, owning at least five properties. He died in 1931, but the firm of E G Brown and Sons continued until at least WWII.

Hubert Brown: Brother of Ebenezer, he was born in Monkton in 1854. He was a mason and house builder in West Street by 1891 and lived there for many years. He died in 1939.

Louis William Brown: Yet another son of William Brown, he was born in Monkton in 1846 and became a stone-mason and builder with his own business in Mansel Street, Orange Gardens. In 1881 the town council awarded him the contract to build a boundary wall on The Parade. He died in 1898.

William Brown: Born in Monkton in 1819 to mariner Lewis Brown and Ann Brown (who later ran the Rope and Anchor), William was a mason in the village from 1841-1851. By 1861 he and his family were living on the Orielton estate, firstly at the Images Lodge and then Rose Lodge; three of his Monkton-born sons became stonemasons (above).

John Colley: Born in Pembroke in 1833, he moved to Liverpool with his Monkton-born wife Rebecca (Lewis) in 1864. They were back and living in Priory Terrace from 1866 to 1881. John and his family had moved to Norgan's Terrace by 1891 but he died in 1894 aged 60.

John Davies: Employed as a stonemason by the Bush Estate for over 50 years, he lived in Monkton Lane. He was probably the J Davies of Monkton, a foreman on the Bush Estate, who escaped serious injury in 1901 when he fell 20 feet while overseeing the quarrying of stones. He retired in 1930.

William Davies: Monkton-born stonemason who lived in Back Lane in the 1850s but moved with his family into the newly-built estate of Orange Gardens in the 1860s.

George Dawkins: Born to Lucy Dawkins of Bridgend Terrace, he was a mason aged 32 in Back Lane in 1871. In 1891he was married and living in Kingsbridge Cottages, but by 1901 he was living and working as a mason in Maesteg where three of his sons worked as coal miners.

John Drinkwater: Monkton-born mason living in Back Lane in 1861. By 1871 he was a mason living and working in Portsea, Hampshire; he died there in 1909.

David Francis: David Francis was born at Lamphey Park Cottage, but had moved to Monkton by 1861 after marrying into the Drinkwater family. He later settled in West Ham with his family, and was a stonemason lodging in Berkshire in 1891.

George Francis: George was David's twin brother and had also moved to Monkton by 1861. He built a house in Back Lane in 1874, next to the British School, and was living in Priory Terrace in 1881. He died the following year.

James Griffiths: Monkton-born stonemason who was working in Maesteg in 1859-61 but had returned and was living in Monkton village 1871-1901. He was retired and had his home in Church Terrace in 1911.

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William Griffiths: Son of James (above) William was born in Maesteg and worked for a time in Manchester, but was employed as a stonemason in Monkton 1891-1901. By 1911 he had moved again, this time to Barry. His son Sid was a third generation stonemason who lived in Norgan's Terrace in 1925.

Joshua Harries: Born in Hundleton, Joshua had moved into Priory Terrace by 1849 In 1901 he was a retired mason, living in Mansel Street.

William Harries: Monkton-born mason who lived in Monkton Lane, between Back Terrace and Long Mains, between 1851 and 1891.

James Harris: A son of market gardener and seedsman William Harris, he was listed as a mason in 1851. He and his wife Martha (Price) had five daughters and lived at Mill Backs cottages between 1865 and 1891; she was a widow in 1901.

James Hill: A stonemason in Bush Terrace 1864-1881, he lived next door to his brother William (below). By 1891 he was working as a mason in the Rhondda Valley.

Thomas Hill: Stonecutter and mason who lived at Mill Backs in 1844 but had moved to Monkton Lane by 1861, near the top of Long Mains. He was the father of James and William R Hill, both masons.

William R Hill: He was a stonemason in Bush Terrace between 1881 and his death in 1902, with a break around 1890 when, like his brother James, he was working and lodging in the Rhondda Valley. In 1898 he was injured when a wall collapsed during the building of a new school in Pembroke Dock.

Abraham Hughes: Son of the Monkton shoemaker James Hughes, Abraham was born in London in 1827 but was brought up in Monkton where he was working as a mason in 1851. He later moved to Llanelli where he became a successful building contractor.

James Hughes: Brother of the above, James was born in 1832 and was described as a mason when he married Martha Eynon in 1855. A few years later they were among the first residents or Orange Gardens, settling in 'Middle Street'.

William Hughes: Third of the stonemason sons of James Hughes, he was living at Mill Backs in 1861-71 but later joined the exodus to the Rhondda Valley where he was a mason (stone and brick) in 1901.

George James: He was described as a 'mason, builder and contractor of Monkton' when his business went into liquidation in 1880. He may have lived in Back Terrace.

Thomas Jenkins: Thomas was a stonemason, aged 30, living at Priory Mains in 1839. He was in India Row in 1847 at the time of his son Edwin's baptism.

William Jones: Son of grocer and baker Thomas Jones, William was a marble mason at 16 and a mason and sculptor living in India Row in 1911.

George Lamb: Stonemason from Little Newcastle who was living in west Monkton between 1841 and 1851. In 1848 he was sued by shopkeeper Martha Sinnett for groceries delivered and not paid for, to the value of £1 4s 9d. He was living and working in Swansea by 1861, but died there three years later.

James Longhurst: Pembroke Dock-born mason in the building trade who lived towards the bottom of Long Mains 1881-1925.

Thomas Miller: He was listed as a mason of Monkton at the baptism of son John in 1821.

David Morgan: He was a stonemason living in Back Lane in 1822.

William Lewis Morris: Born and raised in Back Terrace, he was living there and working as a mason from 1911-1915. He moved to 9 Kingsbridge, Holyland in the 1920s.

William Picton: Son of a West Williamston quarryman, William married a Monkton stonemason's daughter named Martha Tasker and was living in Monkton Lane in 1861. By 1881 he was living in St Pancras where he and his Monkton-born son Sydney were both masons.

Thomas Rees: Thomas Rees from Angle and his son John were stonemasons in Bridgend Terrace in 1851. Thomas had been a mason in Monkton since at least 1836.

Continued

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Stonemasons

William Rees: William was a stonemason in Monkton Lane in 1830. By 1851 he was a mason at Llangynwyd, a village near Maesteg, later becoming a brewery labourer in Neath.

William Remington: He was a Londoner who married coal merchant's daughter Elizabeth Williams from Pembroke and settled in Short Mains in the 1840s. He died in 1885. His Monkton-born son Thomas was also a stonemason and was living in Bristol in 1901.

David Richards: Stonemason from Hasguard who lived in Pembroke's East End in the 1830s but in the Victoria Terrace/Awkward Hill area of Monkton between 1851 and 1871. A couple of his sons followed their father's trade.

Francis Richards: Born in St Twynnell's and raised at Chapel Hill, he was a stonemason in Monkton in the 1860s, later moving to Cardiff.

George Richards: Son of David (above). Born in 1848, he was a stonemason in Clifton, Bristol in 1871 but had returned to live in Back Terrace by 1881. However he and his family were living in Canton, Cardiff, in 1891.

James Richards: One of several stonemasons who lived on Awkward Hill, he was jailed for poaching in 1867. He moved to Golden Hill in the 1870s and died in 1884.

John Richards: Brother of James (above), born in 1838, he was a stonemason who was also a keen poacher in his youth. (Their father was the carpenter William Richards, one of Monkton's more incorrigible poachers). John lived in Cross Mains in 1881 but by 1901 he was living near the Apple Tree pub and still working as a mason.

Thomas Richards: Brother of James and John, he lived near the top of Priory Mains from 1871-1908, Thomas was foreman mason for Pembroke Borough Corporation for a number of years. Following his sudden death in 1908 'he was carried to the grave by hand in the old-fashioned way by the workmen of the Corporation'.

William Richards: Eldest son of David Richards (above) he was a mason in Monkton in 1851 and in Pembroke Main Street in 1861. He is believed to have emigrated to Australia.

James Robinson: Mason, born in Carew, who moved to Priory Mains in about 1840 and was still practising his trade in.1881 when he was 69. He died in 1886 having fathered three sons (below) who were also stonemason,

John Robinson: Son of the above, born in 1848, he was a mason in Short Mains from 1871to 1881. By 1891 he was a stonemason in Mountain Ash but he died just a few years later,

Thomas Robinson: Another son of James, he was a stonemason living with his parents in Priory Mains in 1861. He moved to Aberdare in the Rhondda soon afterwards and was still working as a mason in 1911 at the age of 70.

William Robinson: The third brother to follow his father's trade, he lived in Priory Mains after his marriage in 1870. The black sheep of the family, Wiilliam was often in gaol, both for poaching and being drunk and disorderly. He deserted his wife Martha and three children and she was described as a widow in the 1901 census.

Hubert Roblin: A Monkton-born stonemason living in Mill Backs in 1901, aged 21, he moved to Caerau, near Bridgend, and served in WWI

William George Roch: Monkton mason and stonecarver, born in 1892, he lived in Long Mains with his parents until about 1915. He was a soldier in the Royal Defence Corps at the time of his marriage in 1917; and he later became head forester on the Stackpole estate.

Robert Rudd: Son of poacher Nathaniel Rudd, Robert was employed as a mason by the Bush Estate in 1911. He lived in Church Terrace and served in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in WWI.

John Stephens John's first wife Jane died on August 6th, 1835 giving birth to a daughter, also named Jane, who died a week later. They lived in Priory Mains. Two months later, in October 1835, the *Welshman* newspaper noted the marriage at the Abbey Church, Bath 'by special licence, Mr John Stephens, mason, of Monkton, Pembroke, to Miss Elizabeth Jones, ladies maid, after a courtship of 18 hours'. They returned to live in India Row where Elizabeth was described as a mason's widow in 1861 and as a schoolmistress in 1871.

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John Stephens Born in Monkton in 1838, son of John and Elizabeth Stephens (above), he lived in India Row and worked as a stonemason between 1861 and 1881.

Thomas Stephens: In 1822 and 1829, Thomas Stephens of Quoit's Mill was listed as a mason. He probably lived at Mill Backs.

Thomas G Stephens: Thomas lived in Short Mains and worked as a mason from about 1899 to 1929.

John Tasker: A stonemason living in Monkton Lane from the 1840s to the '60s, he and his wife Betsy kept the Masons' Arms beerhouse for a time. He died in 1867.

Thomas Tasker: Son of the above, he served his apprenticeship as a stonemason in Monkton before moving to London in the 1860s and settling in the St Pancras area.

William Tasker: Brother of Thomas (above), he was a stonemason in Monkton in 1865 but a journeyman mason living in Hakin in 1871. Like his brother – and also their brother-in-law William Picton (above) – he had moved to St Pancras by 1881, where he died ten years later.

George Thomas: Born in Monkton in 1826 to a tailor named Lewis Thomas and his wife Anne, George was an apprentice stonemason in 1841. By 1851 he was a builder and mason with a house in Monkton village, and his career went from strength to strength over the next three decades. In the 1850s he became a government contractor, employing a large workforce to carry out repair work in the Dockyard. He was also the main contractor for the building of the National School in Pembroke in 1861 and St Catherine's Fort in Tenby in 1868, He was a Councillor and, to accommodate his expanding business, he leased the Hurlows' former timber yard alongside Monkton Bridge in 1869. He also took over Priory Farm in the 1860s, describing himself as a farmer of 70 acres in 1881. His fall from this prominent position was swift; in 1882 he was declared bankrupt and by 1891 he was lodging with one of his daughters near Swansea, once again earning his living as a mason.

James Thomas: A bricklayer and stonemason from Carew, he was father of a dynasty of stonemasons. He lived near the Old Conduit in 1901 but had moved to Norgan's Terrace by 1911. His sons George, Norman and John all became masons/ bricklayers.

John Thomas: Stonemason and contractor John Thomas was born in 1836 and died in 1906 leaving over £1,000. He and his wife Jane lived at Prospect House for many years.

Lewis Thomas: The brother of George (above). Born in Monkton, he was a mason living in Pembroke Main Street. in the 1860s.

William Thomas: He was described as a Monkton mason at the baptism of his son Charles in 1827 but nothing further is known about him.

James Vaughan: Son of Richard Vaughan, tailor, he was a stonemason at Mill Backs in 1861. By 1871he was a dockyard mason at Portsea in Hampshire where he died in 1907.

Martin Vaughan: Born in St Twynnell's, he was a mason who specialised in house repairs; he lived in India Row 1908-1915.

William Vaughan: Son of a shoemaker of the same name, he was a mason living in Priory Mains from 1852 to 1871. By 1881 he had secured a job as a mason in the Dockyard. He died in 1885.

Thomas Wells: From Breconshire, he was described as a mason of Priory Mains at the baptism of his son Richard in 1861. He also kept the Ferryside Inn for a time but left in the 1870s to work in The Valleys.

James Williams: Born in Monkton Lane in about 1835, he was a stonemason in the village in 1861. In 1871 he was lodging and working in Milford Haven but he was back lodging in Monkton in 1881.

Thomas Williams: Brother of the above, he described himself as a 'stonecutter' in 1851 when he married Mary Harris.

William Williams: He was a stonemason who lived in Back Lane from about 1805 to 1815. He and his wife Elizabeth lived in Dunn's Row (Banker's Row) from 1841 to 1851 by which time William was described as a 'pauper mason'. Their son James – also a stonemason – was living with them in 1841 but he too joined the exodus of local masons to St Pancras and was living in King's Cross in 1871.

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Millers

MONKTON'S chief mill was at Quoit's Pill and the story of its millers is told in the item on page 84. However a surprising number of other millers and millwrights lived in the village.

Charles Brown: Charles was a miller living on Awkward Hill in 1876 at the baptism of his son Albert. He later became a miller in Pershore.

Thomas Griffiths: Thomas was described as miller and shopkeeper in 1851; he and his wife Elizabeth kept the shop at the bottom of Victoria Terrace, Commons side. He probably worked with his brother John who lived at Slothy Mill. Like William Griffiths, who later ran Quoit's Mill, they were sons of Owen Griffiths of Frains Mill, Castlemartin.

Joseph Gwyther: In 1828 Joseph Gwyther of Monkton was described as 'miller' at the baptism of daughter Ann. He lived in Priory Mains 1836-1841.

Richard Major: Glamorgan-born Richard Major was described as a sawyer in 1841 but as a miller on the 1851 census. He lived in Victoria Terrace, just up from the pub, and died in 1853.

George Phillips: Born in Llanstadwell, George was a corn miller living at Bowett in 1851, suggesting he may have worked at Quoit's Mill. He lived in Monkton village from 1861 to 1871 (when he was a 'miller's foreman) and in Back Lane from 1881 to 1891.

Thomas Phillips: Brother of the above (their father Benjamin had been miller at Denant Mill in 1838), Thomas was a working as a miller and living in Priory Mains in 1871. He later became a miller in Carew.

Philip Thomas: A corn miller from Wiston, he lived in Monkton Lane following his marriage in 1868. The family moved to Cardiff in the 1880s.

Charles Thynne: He was a miller born in Norfolk who married Elizabeth Stephens of Monkton and lived in Short Mains in 1861. By 1881 she was a widow living in Salhouse in the Norfolk Broads and working as a laundress.

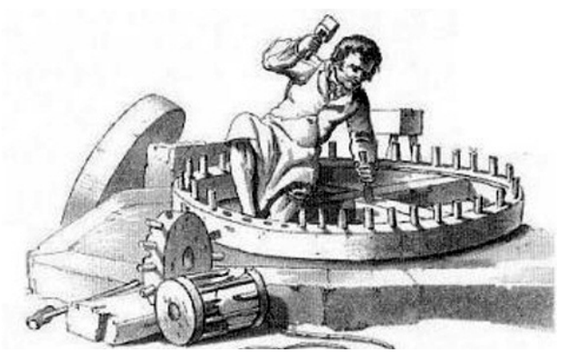
Millwrights

James Welsh: A millwright from Scotland, he was living in 'Moncton' in 1828, later moving to the Lamphey Road.

William Grigg: In 1861 the census registrar of the Monkton district received an unusual census return. In the space for 'occupation' the person filling in the form designated himself 'engineer, millwright, machine-maker, turning-lathe-maker, iron-turner, wood-turner, joiner, sawyer, cartwright, weaver's wright,' &c. &c'.

Appended to the return was a note stating that it had been filled in reluctantly, 'Believing that taking the census a tyranical measure, feeling insulted and degraded by being forced to comply, and, with unfeigned disgust, marking my disapprobation by complying under protest.'

This would have been William Grigg, described in one account as 'a well-known radical'. Born in St Florence he had been a wheelwright and millwright since 1831,when he was 18. This was initially in Manorbier before he moved to Monkton in about 1838, leasing a house and workshop near the junction of Priory Mains and Monkton Lane (possibly known as Myrtle Cottage).



An old-time millwright at work.

A jack of many useful trades and a staunch campaigner for improvements to the village (he led the movement to supply the whole of Monkton with fresh water), he died in 1877. His eldest son Edwin, also a millwright, died in 1875 aged 38. However another son, William, was still working as a millwright in Monkton Lane in 1881.

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Butchers

WITH regular livestock fairs in the village and all the farms of the Castlemartin peninsula to service, slaughtering and butchering were important for the Monkton economy. Much of the meat was sold at market, although there were a few butcher's shops in later years.

Perhaps it was this history of butchering that led the UK Fatstock Marketing Corporation to open a sales depot on Monkton Bridge in 1957,

As can be seen from the following list, the often violent Gwyther tribe dominated the local butchery business in the 19th century, all descended from Thomas Gwyther (born 1766) a butcher and horse-breeder who held a lease on Oxlands in 1797. Three of Thomas' sons, Peter, Benjamin and George, were jailed for eight months in 1836 for assaulting a policeman.

David H Bowen: He was a Master Butcher with premises in Church Terrace from the 1920s until his death in 1948.

Henry Davies: A butcher in 'Monkton Village' in 1861, he later decamped to Orange Gardens. His wife Caroline was a Gwyther.

William Eynon: William was described as a butcher of Monkton in 1824.

James Grist: Surrey-born James Grist was a butcher at 10 Church Terrace before WWI.

Benjamin Gwyther: In 1843 Benjamin, 37, was killed by his brother Robert, a Monkton tailor, during a drunken argument. (Robert was found not guilty of manslaughter). Benjamin and his wife Maria and their three children had been living next door to the Victoria pub.

Benjamin Gwyther: Son of the above, a butcher and slaughterman, 'Benny' led a colourful life and had several brushes with the law. In 1856 he was sentenced to one month's hard labour for assaulting one of the Borough Constables. In 1883 Benny was gored to death by a bull near Merrion Court. He was 44.

George Gwyther: A butcher by 1841, he lived in Back Lane. In 1870 it was reported: 'George Gwyther, aged 60, a butcher, living at Monkton, died by his own hand last Friday. From an accident he had been partially disabled, which interfered with his business, and this appeared to have depressed him a good deal'.

Joseph Gwyther: Butcher who lived out by Bowett and maintained the family tradition of violence by being convicted of assault in 1855.

Maria Gwyther: One of the Truscotts of Pembroke, she married Benjamin Gwyther (senior) and carried on the butchery business after her husband's untimely death.

Peter Gwyther: Peter was a witness at the trial of Robert Gwyther for the manslaughter of Benjamin Gwyther, all three being brothers. He was a butcher from at least 1841 to 1881, living at Priory Terrace and later at Banker's Row where he died in 1887. He was often in trouble with the law, being fined for assaulting another butcher at Pembroke Dock Market in 1859 and imprisoned for assault in 1868.

William Gwyther: In 1858 William Gwyther butcher of Monkton, was charged by William Roscarlow, with having assaulted him on the head with a saw in the local slaughterhouse. Gwyther's reply to the charge was that the complainant had been in the habit of annoying him. Fined £3 and costs. William Gwyther was living in Bridgend Terrace in 1861.

Elizabeth Hill: Elizabeth was a daughter of Maria and Benjamin Gwyther. She married stonemason William Hill and was recorded as a butcher in her own right in 1891.

Joseph Lewis: See story. His son Joseph joined him as a butcher in Washington Terrace between about 1891 and 1901.

John Miller: A butcher who lived next door to George Gwyther in 1841 and, like him, was once fined for using false weights. He later ran the Old King's Arms in Main Street.

Sidney Raymond: In 1942 his butchery business was at the southern end of Monkton Bridge.

Fred Reynolds: Fred and his wife Florence ran a butcher's shop at 33 Monkton from the 1940s until his death in 1963.

John Saunders: John Richard Saunders was a butcher at 39 Monkton from 1914 to 1935. His son Victor Saunders ran the shop at 39 Monkton from the last war up to the 1960s.

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Some other occupations

Attorney's clerk
George M Caulfield: Monkton, 1850.
Herbert H Gould: Norgan's Terrace, 1908.
Aubrey Lloyd: Bush Terrace, 1911.

Auctioneers
Patrick Caulfield: Monkton, 1824.
William Thomas: Monkton, 1868.
Walter Simon: Monkton, 1890.

Brewer
Edward Jones: Monkton, 1876.

Bricklayer
Charles Rossiter: Monkton, 1919.

Carters and hauliers
James Lloyd: Monkton Lane, 1851.
John Mathias: Monkton, 1851.
Thomas Lloyd: Monkton, 1869.
Morris Morgan: Bush Terrace, 1881.
Thomas Brace: Monkton, 1891.
Thomas Thomas: Priory Mains, 1891.
William Morris: Bush Terrace, 1891.
George Jenkins: Monkton, 1911.
Albert Howells: Monkton, 1919.
Thomas Lewis: Victoria Terrace, 1929.

Chimney sweep
John Glass: Monkton, 1892.

Coachmen
William Lumkin: Victoria Terrace, 1891.
Charles Rogers: Back Terrace, 1883.
John Bethell: Monkton, 1903.
Morris Foley: Monkton, 1913.

Coal merchants
George Hurlow: Bridgend, 1825.
John Phillips: Bridgend, 1851.
Edward Rooks: Bridgend, 1891.
Henry Jenkins: Bridgend, 1891-1913.
G H Hall: Bridgend, 1935.

Coopers
Thomas Lawrence: Monkton, 1761.
Lewis Brown: Monkton Lane, 1832 - 1851.
William Edwards: Back Lane, 1881.
George Evans: Monkton Lane, 1901.

Cutlers
Charles Lock: Monkton, 1851.
William Tunstor: Monkton, 1876.

Domestic servants
Many Monkton girls went into service, especially between the 1840s and 1860s, some as young as 12. It would be impossible to list them all. A few menservants are also recorded, notably Frederick Clayton who was a butler in 1886.

Excise officers
William Williams: Monkton, 1813.
David Jones: Monkton, 1815.
Morgan David: Monkton, 1815.

Fiddle players
George Hitchings: Victoria Terrace, 1851.
Martha Hitchings: Victoria Terrace, 1851.

Florist
William Welsh: Monkton Village, 1871.

Furriers
John Harris: Monkton, 1815.
John Hookham Malt: Taylor's Lake,1845.

Gardeners
George Harris: Monkton, 1820.
John Harris: Priory Terrace, 1841.
James Codd: Monkton Lane, 1851.
Charles Perry: Priory Terrace, 1871.
Thomas Beynon: Taylor's Lake,1884.
Charles Harries: Rope and Anchor, 1871.
James Washington: Short Mains, 1891-1898.

Gas fitters
George Griffiths: Priory Mains,1881.
John Phillips: Short Mains,1881-91.

Gas stokers
James Llewellyn Lewis: Long Mains,1911.
Robert Evans: Long Mains,1911.

Glover
Jacob White: Monkton, 1828.

Grooms
William Griffiths: School Terrace, 1879.
Richard Welby: Back Terrace, 1900
John Cole: Bush Terrace, 1911.

Horse breaker
Thomas Evans Victoria Terrace, 1851.

Horse jockey
Isaac Thomas: Monkton Lane, 1829.

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Some other occupations

Insurance agent
Charles Davies: Monkton, 1906.

Knitter
Martha Howells: Back Lane, 1871.

Laundresses
Elizabeth Gwyther: Priory Mains, 1851.
Jane Arran: Victoria Terrace, 1871.
Ann Evans: Short Mains, 1891.
Sarah Reynish: Priory Cottages, 1891.
Martha Lumkin: Victoria Terrace, 1901.

Maltster
Charles Marriott: Priory Terrace, 1891.

Midwives
Agnes Baker: Monkton Lane, 1841.
Lettice Dawkins: Back Lane, 1871.
Ann Gwyther: Monkton, 1898.

Milliners
Elizabeth Nicholas: Monkton, 1856.
Ann Tasker, Monkton village, 1871.
Elizabeth Codd: Monkton, 1874.

Motor driver
Robert Richards: Church Terrace, 1922.

Nurseryman
William Harris: Bush Terrace, 1861-1891.
Chas E Croft: Monkton, 1913.

Painters and decorators
George Thomas: Monkton, 1860.
Henry Evans: Priory Mains, 1869.
John Brickle: Monkton, 1874-1911.
George Phillips: Monkton, 1874.
Walter Rowlands: Awkward Hill, 1876.
William Cole: Monkton, 1889.
Joseph Lewis: Monkton, 1893.
Henry Clark: School Terrace, 1908-1930.
William Brickle: Back Lane, 1909.

Plumbers
William Phillips: Back Lane, 1849.
John Morgan: Church Terrace, 1876-1910.
William Morgan: Monkton, 1877.
Herbert Brickle: Monkton, 1911.
William Roch: Monkton, 1918.

Policemen
William Cousins: Monkton, 1897.
George Roch: Monkton, 1913.



Deiveries in Monkton were often made by horse and cart.

Postmen
William Bryant: Monkton, 1908-1917.
Thomas Charles: Monkton Lane, 1871.
Charles Ridge: Norgan's Hill, 1909.
Fred Lawrence: Bush Terrace, 1911.
George Blunsden: Monkton, 1919.

Printer
John Richards Bush Terrace, 1911.
E S Evans: Dimond Press, 1940.

Rag picker
Elizabeth Cochrane: Bridgend Terrace, 1871.

Railway carriage cleaner
Manrow Ward: Bush Terrace, 1911.

Railway guard
George Nicholas: Bush Terrace, 1919.

Railway porter
John Watkins: Back Lane, 1892.

Saddlers
Isaac Williams: Monkton, 1828.
Abraham Barnett: Monkton, 1847.
James Yeo: Bridgend Terrace, 1881.

Spinning woman
Hannah Day: Monkton Lane, 1851.

Taxi proprietor
William Nicholas: Long Mains, 1930s.

Whitesmiths
George Blethyn: Barn House, 1817
Henry Morris: Monkton, 1858.

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Monkton

A Hidden History



Children leave Monkton Priory Church in about 1952.
The image is taken from a home movie, courtesy of the National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales.

This book brings to light the hidden history of Monkton, a history which dates back to prehistoric times and encompasses the rise and fall of Pembroke Priory, the Civil Wars when Cromwell located his cannons here, the building of the Victorian terraces of Priory Mains to house Dockyard workers and the restoration of the Priory Church. It recalls a time when Monkton was virtually a self-contained community, with shops and tradesmen of every kind, farms and quarries, schools and pubs and regular livestock fairs in the village street.

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