

MARINERS & BURIAL GROUNDS - MARINERS AND OTHERS LOST AT SEA

In the 1800's many fathers and sons from local families in Aberaeron would have found work and enhanced their careers whilst sailing on local and/or international seas. It was a precarious career and whilst some sailors did well and lived to retire at home, many others were to lose their lives at sea or be buried in strange lands. Additionally Aberaeron residents served in the Navy during the first and second world wars, and some were to lose their ships and their lives by fighting the enemy.

The Monumental Inscriptions on the graves in various Graveyards in Ceredigion were collected and transcribed by the late Ifan and Aeronwy James. Their work has proved extremely valuable for a variety of historical researchers.

The late D.L Jones interest was re local Master Mariners and he collated information on those buried in the churchyards listed below:

Mynwent Graveyard	Nifer o Feddau No of Graves	Nifer a Gladdwyd Tramôr neu Gollwyd ar y Môr Lost at Sea or Buried Abroad
HENFYNYW ABERAERON	213	93
LLANDDEWI ABERARTH	128	82
LLANERCHAERON	15	6
NEUADD-LWYD	7	4

An eloquent and moving testimony to all mariners lost at sea or who died away from home appears on the gravestone of **Jenkin Davies** weaver. **Thomas Davies** his son, aged 30 lost his life through the sinking of the Brig Pilgrim in the Bay of Biscay on the 3rd of February 1874.

His name is followed by an 'englyn' written by the poet Cerngoch:

*Iach hwyliodd i ddychweyd - ond ofer
Fu dyfais celfyddyd;
Y môr wnaeth ei gymmeryd
Ei enw gawn, dyna i gyd.*

**(In good health he sailed to return, but futile / Was the growth of his craft/
The sea took him/ His name remains that is all)**

This (englyn) poem was written in a competition at the Aberaeron Eisteddfod 1873 on the subject of (Cofio am forwr a gollwyd ar y môr) Remembering a sailor lost at sea. Cerngoch won with the above Englyn. Cerngoch was a balladeer named John Jenkins of Penbryn-mawr (1825-1894). This englyn has been on other gravestones in Wales.

The image below is of the gravestone of Captain David Jones (1852-1896) of Aberaeron (my great grandfather) and some of his family. It is situated nearly opposite the entrance to the door of the church. This photograph was taken approximately in the early 1900's and the structure is of white marble as is the stone to the left hand side of the photograph. The sailors of the time used to bring marble back and use some for family gravestones. Unfortunately the grave no longer looks like this, the railings have gone and the stone has turned a dark grey as marble does not suit our climate and its acidic rain



BURIED ABROAD

A number of other mariners between 1856 and 1919 were buried in foreign lands. A particularly tragic and strange example is of the following two brothers both buried in South America:

David and Daniel Davies were the sons of David & Anna Davies of Drefach Aberaeron. Both sons drowned; David in 1885 aged 21 and was buried in **Pisagua Chile**. In 1895 Daniel aged 28 was to drown and was buried in **Rosario Argentina**

Other countries where mariners from Aberaeron and surrounding villages rest include the following:

Algiers, Antwerp, Buenos Aires, Colombo Ceylon, Dieppe, Durban South Africa, Naples, New York, , Rio de Janerio, Rotterdam, San Francisco, St Helena, Singapore, Port Adelaide South Australia, Port au Prince St Domingo.



The English Cemetry in Rio, South America where Captain Evan Daniel Jones 1869-1918 of Llwynceilyn is buried.

The Tragedies of the Glynaeron, Friedberg & Madras

There were three particular maritime tragedies involving local people which received extended coverage in the local papers. They were:

Boats returning to Aberaeron harbour from the **Glynaeron** on the 18 Sept. 1852,

The loss of the **Friedburg** around December 1887

The loss of the **Madras** towards the end of February 1891.

THE GLYNAERON

David Harries son of John Harries shipbuilder was the master of the Glynaeron in 1852. The Glynaeron was a schooner of 65 tons and in 1855 the crew consisted of Master Mate and three youngsters. It was usual for residents to have a day out in boats to see off a ship that was leaving harbour. On this occasion two of the boats returning to harbour overturned. The people involved in tragedy were as follows:

David Jones	50 yrs	Ffoes, Ship's Carpenter left widow and three children
John Jones	25 yrs	servant at Cilfforch
Sarah Evans	17 yrs	servant at Cilfforch
John Evans	16 yrs	<i>Carnau Cilcennin</i>
Mary Jones	21 yrs	Aberaeron
Sarah Evans	16 yrs	Foundry
Daniel Evans	14 yrs	Aberaeron
Lewis Lewis	20 yrs	Aberaeron

David Evans aged 12 of Rope and Anchor son of John Evans Publican (known as Shon Trwmpeg) was able to swim and was saved. A picture of David Evans in later life is shown below he was the grandfather of the late Althea & Iona Williams of Oxford Street. Iona Lockton now lives in England with her husband Michael.



David Evans 1840-1925

THE FRIEDBURGH

Months passed in Aberaeron when relatives hoped to hear from the local sailors of the Friedburgh but nothing was heard from them after December 1887. It was supposed the vessel was lost in the North Atlantic whilst on a voyage from Antigua to England.

On his grave at Llanerchaeron the inscription reads

Evan Lloyd Master of the barque Friedburg of Liverpool who with all his hands (six of whom were natives of this district) lost his life in the North Atlantic Ocean, 25-27 December 1887.

(He was 38 years)

Evan Lloyd's crew are named as follows:

John J Thomas Tabernacle St.*

David Williams Tabernacle St.

David T Jones Tabernacle St.*

Thomas Richards Tabernacle St.*

John Jones Aberarth

*I have discovered that Thomas Richards lived in 3 Tabernacle Street in 1871 aged 7 and at No.6 Tabernacle Street in 1881. His father and brother were mariners and his mother also kept lodgers. He was 22 yrs when he was lost with the Friedburg. He was a member of Tabernacle Chapel.

*G M Jones noted that David Thomas Jones was a son of Tommy Nanny and a member of Tabernacle Chapel. John J Thomas son of Mary Thomas Aeron Maid was also a member of Tabernacle. In May 1888 a Memorial Service was held at the chapel to commemorate those who had lost their lives

Captain Evan Caleb Lloyd was the Master born in 1849. His address in 1876 was 19 Alban Square. His father Thomas Lloyd had been a Master of the Barque *Anne Jenkins*. He had 3 brothers Thomas Lloyd a Chief Officer on the Government steamer Grosvenor Musgrave, Richard J Lloyd and Alfred C Lloyd who both became teachers

In the 1881 census Evan was on the 'Fanny Fothergill at South Shields Durham and was married at this time. He had married in 1880, Margaret daughter of Abraham Jones a retired Master Mariner of Panteg. Abraham was a widower, his wife Grace daughter of Evan Jones Wigddu (gentleman) died in 1880 aged 58. While Evan was at sea in 1881 Margaret was living with her father in Panteg together with her father's brother in law Timothy a retired farmer

Margaret and Evan had a daughter they named Grace she was later to marry **John Davies** a Master Mariner of Aberarth. They lived in Panteg, Aberaeron and had the following children:

Margaret (Peggy), **Abraham**, Caleb, Jane (fondly known as Jane Panteg) and Maldive

Captain John Davies



Abraham Davies (served in 2nd World War)



THE MADRAS

On the 8th of March 1891 the Madras sailed from Penarth laden with coal for Amboyna in China, with the plan of sailing around the area for 2 years. The Madras a ship of 668 tons carrying nearly a 1,000 tons had called at Aberaeron in February 1891, the owners being Mr David Jones shipbuilder and Captain Evan Jones. Captain Evan Jones had previously been in charge of the *Oronsa* 1877-8, the *Margaret* 1879, *Native Pearl* 1879-82, and *Castle Eden* 1882-87.

On board the Madras in 1891 were the following{

Captain Evan Jones	41 yrs
Jenkin Jones Mate	35 yrs
David Jones	63 of Allt-y Graig
William Jenkins	35 of Oxford St
John Jones	30 of Regent Street
Johnny James	24 of Angel House
Jenkin Rees Evans	18 of Vulcan Place
David Jones	18 of 5 Victoria St
David Jones	18 of lanthe House
Griffith Evans	17 of Bristol House
John Alban Jones	16 of 17 Alban Square
William Edward Jones	16 of Albert Street
Thomas Jones	14 of Victoria Street
Jenkin Jones	14 of Greenland Aberarth

Additionally one crew member from Russia.

Captain Evan Jones and Jenkin Jones were brothers and sons of David Jones Shipbuilder of Aberaeron. The *Cadwgan* was one of the many ships that he built.



David Jones, Shipbuilder

Having waited for nearly a year for news from and of the ship the people of Aberaeron eventually came to the conclusion that the Madras and its crew had been lost at sea. On the 8th of March 1892 a service of Remembrance was held in Tabernacle by the Minister E. Morris. In Peniel a Service of Remembrance was held by the Minister Gwilym Evans on March 15th and a sermon preached by the previous Minister, William Evans who was in his 84th year.

Many poems Welsh and English were subsequently written about the loss of the Madras and the men who sailed on her.