



CHARTISM

Celebrating the first mass movement for civil rights and social justice

What moved men to march in 1839?



Michael Sheen at Pontypridd before filming started, at the CHARTISM Mag seminar organised by Rhondda Historical Society.

Michael Sheen is back in Wales and wants to know why so many people joined a campaign that put their lives in danger 175 years ago.

Spotting Michael Sheen became a late September game in Gwent and Newport. The staff at the Secret Garden Café claimed the first 'selfie', but others spotted him earlier outside the Westgate. Judith Haines sat by him on the bus, when going home from work at the Royal Gwent. He was photographed visiting Blackwood Library. He was also seen at Tredegar – and many other places in North Gwent.

CHARTISM Mag caught up with Michael and his film crew at Newport Museum in the Chartist exhibition he opened in 2010. He raised question after question – what kind of places were the coalfield iron towns and pit villages? How did people fare for food and shelter? What was wrong with the Truck shops?

Who were the 'Scotch cattle'? When we sat down together in the City Library with some of the books he had been reading, it was obvious he wanted to get 'right' the context - the time and the place that the film is about. Reading 'The Last Rising', written by the late Professor David Jones, Michael Sheen was struck by the story of William Ferriday.

David Jones tells how on Sunday evening 3 November 1839, Ferriday, a collier, kissed his wife, Mary and his children goodbye, unable to tell them where he was going. And fifteen hours later he was dead, one of 22 men killed at the Westgate hotel. WHAT MOVED A MAN TO DO THIS? (Cont. page 2)

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(Cont. from page 1) "Chartists in the Blackwood area were gathering up their weapons and making their farewells. One of these was William Ferriday, who had some fifteen hours to live. The illiterate son of a fairly violent and militant family, William lived opposite the Lamb and Flag beerhouse in Blackwood and worked just over a mile away at Fleur-de-Lis. On this day he was unusually quiet and when, about 6.30 p.m., two men called for him, he told his wife that he did not know where he was going or when he would be home. 'I cried aloud', recalled Mary Ferriday, 'and the children as well. Some of them went after him. He kissed them again in the road and then said Goodbye . . .'"*

Mary did not know what had happened to William. A week later, she arrived at the Westgate hotel, distraught and carrying her new born baby. The magistrates were in session interrogating suspects and witnesses. Somebody had given his coat to her and she learned he had been buried the previous Thursday, anonymously along with nine others at St. Woolos church yard.

*The Last Rising: The Newport Chartist Insurrection of 1839, David J. V. Jones, 1985, reprinted 2013, published by the University of Wales Press. Professor Owen Ashton reviewed this book in last month's magazine. The Quotation is from page 123.



COME TO DOWLAIS LIBRARY

BRIAN DAVIES

7th Annual

MERTHYR TYDFIL CHARTIST LECTURE

Dr Williams Price and Pontypridd Chartism

7.15 pm Wednesday 15th October 2014

Sadly, too often Dr William Price is presented as an exotic and eccentric, even mad, figure and no attention is given to the Chartist years of his life. At best, it's only his innovative act of cremation that is given serious attention. Expect different from Brian, who since his student days has enthusiastically championed Price and explained his intelligence, complexity, social humaneness, polymath interests and above all, his revolutionary politics

Brian has just retired from long service as curator at the Pontypridd Museum and that 'rite of passage' was marked by him with the delivery of a succinct paper at the Pontypridd seminar held on 20th September. Brian placed the 'druidic persona' of Dr William Price in a meaningful historical setting. He demonstrated how Price derived his ideas from Iolo Morganwg and the books that had influenced Iolo, who as well as inventing the Gorsedd, created a Welsh version of the 'Norman Yoke' theory of history propounded by English radicals – a belief that the Norman conquest had done away with a highly democratic Saxon 'constitution'. As the Saxon past has no existence in Welsh history, so Iolo and Price went back further into the mists of prehistoric time to find their democratic Utopia. Brian writes they "knew that if people have been taught for generations that they are a subordinate people, of no account in the great pageant of history, then in order that they can muster the courage to attempt to shape their own future they must first be given a version of history which inspires some self-confidence."

We look forward to an extended version of this thesis at Dowlais. Best wishes in your retirement Brian. Hopefully this means you will now have the time to address all those knotty issues about the Welsh dimension of Chartism that you have been encouraging us to think about? We certainly hope so!

Read the full article by Brian Davies in the latest edition of Merthyr Historian vol.26, pp.73-84 (available price £12 plus £2 P&P from Keith L. Lewis-Jones, 20, Grover's Field, Abercynon, CF45 4PP.

8TH NEWPORT CHARTIST CONVENTION 1 Nov 2014

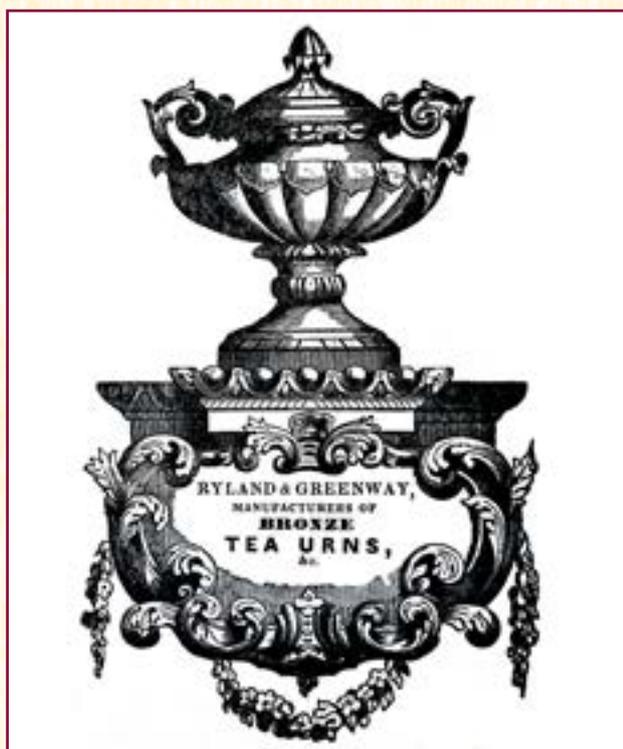
At the CITY CAMPUS of the University of South Wales 10.00–16.30

BOOK your FREE PLACE Today:

pat.drewett@hotmail.co.uk

- Three eminent Professors - Chartist experts discuss the 1839 RISING
- Women and the Vote (Lectures, Film) from the Chartists to the Suffragettes
- Chartist or Women Suffragist Ancestors – have you got one in your family?

The morning session focusses on the 'Rising' with an opportunity to participate in a wide ranging discussion of its context, causes and consequences. All three speakers have delivered keynote lectures at previous Conventions. Their contributions will look beyond what happened at the Westgate hotel on 4 November 1839 and explore the broader context – in terms of geography, historical time and cultural ideas.



Malcolm Chase (Leeds University) always provides invaluable insights about 'physical force' Chartism and he will be looking at the surprising influence of the 1837-38 Canadian rebellion on the strategies adopted in 1838-40

Owen Ashton (Staffordshire University) will consider what happened after the Rising and will look at the Petitioning for the release of the 'Three Welsh Martyrs', the Victim Funds, the Chartist Addresses and the celebrations, when John Frost returned in 1856 from Tasmania, pardoned.

Chris Williams (Cardiff University) who has recently written the foreword to a reprint of the late David J.V.Jones' seminal work 'The Last Rising' will follow David's dictum 'there is more to be discovered' and discuss new research that has been or might be conducted.

The session after lunch is devoted to Female Suffrage and the enduring struggle of women to gain the right to vote. **Val Williams, actress**, will comper this session.

Dr Joan Allen (Newcastle University) will compare the roles played in south Wales and the Northeast by women in the Chartist movement.

Dr Ryland Wallace, (author of Organise! Organise! Organise!), will share his recent researches concerning the suffragettes at Newport and elsewhere in South Wales.

The Bird in the Cage – A Winding Snake Production Animation film about Lady Rhondda will be shown.

The session after tea is a return to where the Convention started in 2007: Chartist Ancestors. There will be several descendants of Chartists attending this Convention - **Dai Amos, Sarah Richards, Sylvia Taylor, Jeremy Knight** – if you have a Chartist ancestor in your family or a Suffragette or a Suffragist, contact the editor: les.james22@gmail.com

Free Entry - BOOKING ESSENTIAL
LUNCH (optional) £10: Orders must be placed before 20 October pat.drewett@hotmail.co.uk

CALENDAR 175

Events to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the 'Chartist Rising'

Tuesday 28 October 7.00 pm Newport Museum & Art Gallery

Lecture: Professor Chris Williams (Cardiff University)
Sir Thomas Phillips - The Great Hero of the Newport Rising

Friday October 31 evening

THEE FACTION, ATTILA the STOCKBROKER and GIVE ME MEMPHIS at LE PUB 1, Caxton Place
Tickets: £6.00 advance, £8.00 on door Available
<http://www.lepub.co.uk/> and from Diverse Records

Saturday 1 November 10.0 -16.00

8th Annual Newport Chartist Convention
Venue: USW. Newport City Campus
FOR FULL DETAILS, SEE PAGE 3

Monday 3 November 7.30pm "Surrender the Prisoners" Night Out at the 'Stute' with Martyn Joseph (singer-songwriter) and Patrick Jones (poet and playwright)

St. Mary's Institute, Stow Hill £7 tickets
richardframe@hotmail.co.uk 07795 658787

Monday 3 November 7pm Songs of Praise
Salem Chapel, followed with tea, coffee and biscuits

Tuesday 4 November 1.30 pm
8th NEWPORT Children's Chartist March
from Stow Hill to Westgate Square
Pupils from Newport Schools

Tuesday 4 November 3.00 pm
at the Murrenger, High Street Newport Museum's
Down Your Local - a 'Chartist Rising' special with Paul Busby, talking about Thomas Prothero

Tuesday 4 November 6.00pm
'Remember the Chartists who Died'
at St. Woolos Churchyard, Stow Hill
Open to all

Tuesday 4 November 7.00 pm at the Murrenger,
High Street The Red Poets

Saturday 8 November 10.00- 15.00
Chartist Day at the Museum & Art Gallery. Free activities for all ages. Discover the story behind what happened at the Westgate 1839

• Hear the anti-Chartist viewpoint (Paul Busby)

• Find out from Rachael Lovering (Gwent Archives) how you can take part in the 'Trials to Trails' - Cynefin Project

• Local history and chartist quiz for everyone at 10.30 am Free Public Lecture sponsored by Friends of the Museum:

Les James Chartist Activism in South Wales – Commemoration, Celebration, Denial

Tours of the Chartist Trials document collection (Library) at 10-10:30, 11-11:30, 14-14:30

and 15-15:30 Only limited number on each tour.

Please BOOK 01633 656656

EXHIBITIONS

FREE at Newport Museum & Art Gallery (Tuesday – Saturday) Permanent Chartist displays opened 2010 by Michael Sheen (Floor 1)

FREE at Newport Central Library
Chartism exhibition in the reference library

A display of political books in the lending library

18 October onwards in the Art Gallery's Oriel Porth - From the Chartist collection - Broadshets, Lithographs, Posters and the restored pastel drawing of Sir Thomas Phillips (artist: George Richmond)

Shire Hall, Monmouth, Agincourt Square NP25 3DY
Grade I* listed building (Philip Fisher)
Court Room No. 1 has original furnishings and fittings - facsimile documents and weapons lie on the table - as you enter, it seems there has been a break in proceedings of the trial of John Frost; the judge, jury and lawyers, the charged prisoner, the press and the paying public have just left the room

Open daily from 10.00am to 16.00pm
Adults £2, Children £1 each - admission price includes the use of an audio-visual handset
Tel 01600 775257

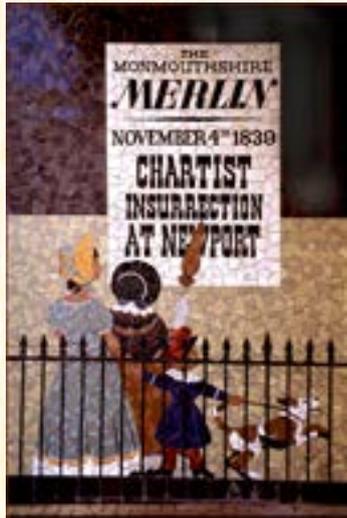
enquiries@shirehallmonmouth.org.uk

The FORGOTTEN See separate page

Chartist Commission seeks Project Manager

Ambitious plans to drive forward development of a new Chartist commemoration in Newport

In the wake of the demolition, October last year, of Newport's 35 year-old Chartist mosaic to make way for the construction of Friars Walk shopping mall,



Newport City Council appointed a Chartist Commission.

The three Commissioners: Dame Rosemary Butler AM, Dr Rowan Williams and Patrick Drewett were tasked with finding suitable ways of commemorating and developing recognition of the Chartist Rising of 1839. This is a great opportunity for Newport to demonstrate its

relevance in the story of democracy's development in the UK. The 'go ahead' to appoint the Project Manager is a welcome decision.

As the advertisement states, "an enthusiastic, self-motivated person" is required. Hopefully that somebody will be imaginative, capable of thinking 'outside the box' and able to appraise a variety of artistic endeavour.

Innovative ideas – digital, festive, mixed media – were suggested at the consultation meeting organised by the Newport Civic Society. Meanwhile, we are pleased that two of the Commission's advisers are taking part in this year's 175th Anniversary events. Dr Julia Lydon, Vice Chancellor of the University of South Wales will be opening this year's Newport Chartist Convention and Professor Chris Williams is one of the top-line speakers at that event. Chris is also speaking at one of the many Chartist events that Newport Museum and Art Gallery is organising.

And of course, Commissioner Pat Drewett will be there, 'masterminding' a week and more of festival activity, which the newly appointed Project Manager will surely recognise as a 'rock' on which she/he can build the Commission's aspirations.

The Newport Chartist Rising, November 1839

Chris Williams,
Professor of History, Cardiff University
Adviser to the Chartist Commission

Notes for the Commission -

The Chartist movement was a mass movement of ordinary people (men and women) right across Britain that began in the late 1830s and survived into the 1850s.

It was focused on the 'six points' of the 'People's Charter', which aimed to introduce universal male franchise (at a time when perhaps only one-fifth of adult males had the vote - essentially those drawn from the upper and middle classes) and a more equitable, participatory and democratic political system underpinned by a broader notion of citizenship. The six points themselves were:

The vote for all men aged 21 and over (serious thought was given to campaigning for the vote for adult females but it was decided that this was tactically unwise, and not all Chartists were as fully enlightened as we might like them to have been)

Equal electoral districts (to help equalise the value of the vote across constituencies)

Payment of MPs (to enable working men to stand)

No property qualification for MPs

The secret ballot (at this time voting was a public act and pollbooks were printed which recorded how people voted)

Annual parliaments (at this time a general election was required only once every 7 years which was felt, unhelpfully, to distance MPs from the people)

The primary method by which the Chartists sought to achieve their goals was the mass petition submitted to Parliament. Conventionally, scholars have distinguished between 'moral' and 'physical' force Chartism: the first covered petitioning, mass meetings, attempting to gain election to Parliament, while the second implied a readiness to take up arms against the state. The contrast between these two approaches can be overstated - many Chartists believed that the threat of force might be necessary to back up the moral pressure represented by the mobilisation of public opinion, but that did not necessarily mean that

they would seriously contemplate rising in rebellion. Some, however, particularly concentrated in the Monmouthshire and east Glamorgan valleys. and in Newport itself, did.

The 'Rising' at Newport in November 1839 was the most serious manifestation of physical force Chartism in the history of the movement. It is important to note that the Chartists were armed and ready to use force: they were not the passive victims of a massacre. The 'Battle of the Westgate' was a bloody and not especially brief struggle, but it clearly resulted in the defeat and confusion of the Chartists and discredited the physical force strategy. The subsequent trial for high treason of the Rising's leaders, their conviction, and the commutation of the sentence to transportation to Australia, went some way towards rescuing the 'cause' in that it highlighted the dignity of John Frost in particular, and mobilised sympathy for those on trial. It also clouded the historical record in that the defence case sought to deny that the Rising had been a genuine attempt at insurrection. After the Rising the Chartist movement continued in Newport and its hinterland but was never as strong or as threatening again.

None of the six points of the Charter were achieved during the lifetime of the movement, but five of the six have subsequently come to pass (the exception being annual parliaments), and of course full political equality for women was also attained in two stages, in 1918 and in 1928. The Chartists were, thus, ahead of their time in envisaging a much more democratic political system than the one that existed in nineteenth-century Britain.

There was much more to Chartism than the six points. This was a manifesto, an umbrella under which different campaigns and objectives could shelter. Many Chartists made improving the living standards of working people a priority: a more democratic and representative political system would be the means to achieve such an end. Some imagined a different economic system involving workers' control of industry. Others were attracted by utopian visions of communitarian societies. There were Chartist newspapers, Chartist churches, Chartist schools and Chartists who put as much energy into campaigning for temperance as for the People's Charter. It was a very wide-ranging and amorphous movement that embraced communities the length and breadth of Britain.

Those who opposed Chartism should not automatically be seen as self-serving villains. They often had good reasons for thinking that the time was not right for any or all of the six points. Yes there

were those who simply did not wish to relinquish economic and political power, but there were others who felt that unleashing a mass electorate at a time of partial literacy and limited political education was a recipe for disaster. The Mayor of Newport at the time of the Rising, Thomas Phillips, was a Liberal campaigner for reform, a philanthropist, paternalistic employer, dedicated Anglican and Welsh patriot and in many ways a far-sighted campaigner for a better future.

Newport Chartism involved many Welsh-speaking Chartists and many who might have felt patriotically Welsh. Although sometimes attempts have been made to force the Newport Rising into a nationalist mould, it is highly unlikely that the Chartists themselves would have understood this; Chartism was a British-wide movement focused on reforming the Westminster Parliament and there was no separatist current within it.

For the twenty-first century, the key values of the Chartist movement might be expressed like this:

Democracy - a political system that reflects the views and interests of the people

Equality - of all both in terms of political rights and of opportunities

Dignity - respect for all forms of labour

Participation - the idea that all have an opportunity and an obligation to contribute to debating the present and future of society

Community - that social and moral values can be understood best in a common, collective context

Co-operation - that much more can be achieved by working together across boundaries than by remaining isolated

Vision - a future that is worth championing and that offers positive hope for all



THE FORGOTTEN

is a multi-media community musical, giving voice to the men, women and children who sacrificed their lives to the cause of Chartism that seeded democracy in this country.

Factual events about South Wales Chartist Uprising 1839 are presented in popular story form, music and song, with parallels drawn from today's injustices. The music is by award winning television and music theatre composer Justin Nicholls and is a blend of Celtic folk with the driving rhythms of contemporary protest songs.

The 'flagship' song of the show Use Your Voice For the People, as well as the rousing The Chartists Are Coming, Saturday Night and Rattle Her Bones are powerful choral pieces in which the region's singing clubs of Karl Daymond will be participating. Libretto is written by Patrick Jones and Vanessa Dodd.

Supported by Newport's Community Arts Development Fund and the Arts Council of Wales, this is a Screwpacket Playwrights Production, dedicated to delivering plays of social conscience.

Tickets: £10, Concessions £8, Schools and students £5 BOOK DIRECT to the venues for the following performances

The Riverfront Theatre Newport NP20 1HG
Wednesday 19 November at 7.30 pm
Thursday 20 November at 2pm and 7.30pm
Box Office: 01633 656 757

Llandogo Millennium Hall, Holmfield Drive, Llandogo, NP25 4SQ
Saturday 22 November 7.30pm
Tickets from: Browns' General Stores, Londis, Monmouth Road, Llandogo, Mon. NP25 4TW
Tel: 01594 530262

Drill Hall, Lower Church Street, Chepstow NP16 5HJ
Thursday 27 November at 7.30pm
Tickets available from Chepstow Tourist Office, Bridge Street, Chepstow, NP16 5EY

Savoy Theatre, Church Street, Monmouth NP25 3BU
Friday December 5th 7.30 pm
Booking tickets: online@www.monmouth-savoy.co.uk
Tel: 01600 772467 Or in person at theatre

THE FORGOTTEN



'From Trails to Trials' Cynefin Project:

GET INVOLVED – transcribing! VOLUNTEERS WANTED!!!!!!

A chance to get 'your hands' on some of the digitized Chartist Trials documents

Take part at home, in groups or at Gwent Archives– 'Trails to Trials' is an exciting volunteer based on-line transcription and geo-tagging project.

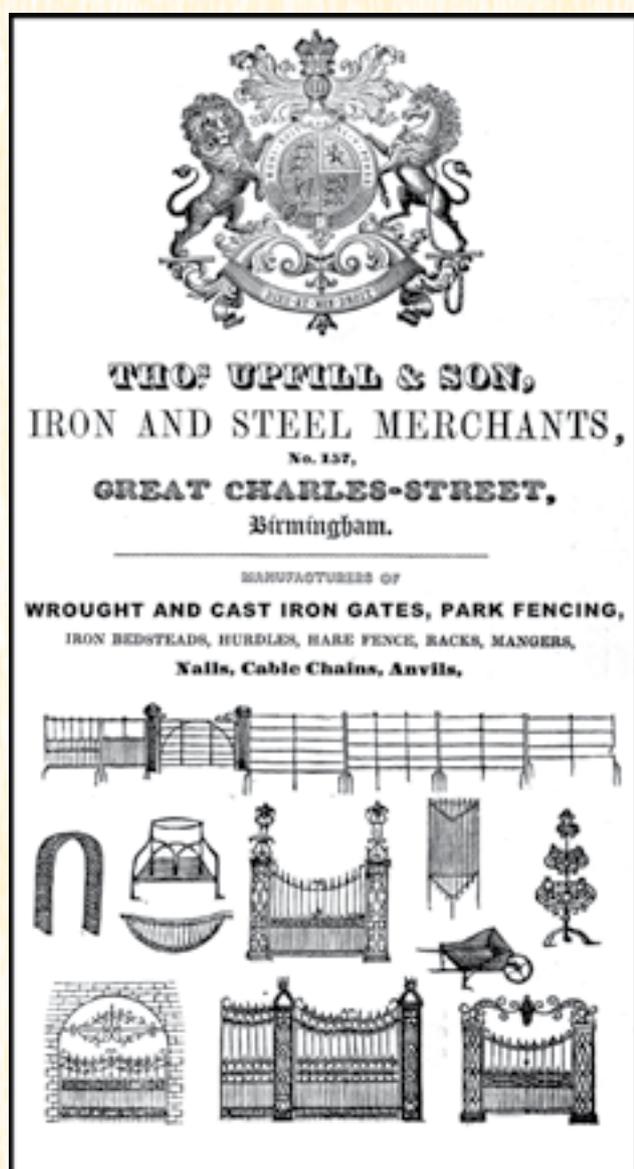
The aim of the 'Trails to Trials' project is to transcribe all the Chartist trial documents, which have now been digitized, and tag them to tie their locations to tithe maps of the same date. This means it will be possible

read the documents easily and to pinpoint locations within the documents, and to tie them to modern maps. We're looking for people to help with either part of the project.

The project is part of the Cynefin partnership project led by Archives Wales with National Library of Wales and People's Collection Wales, which aims to digitise more than 1,100 Tithe Maps of Wales. It is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, with support from The Welsh Government through CyMAL, the National Library of Wales and Archives Wales.

Contact Rachael.Lovering@gwentarchives.gov.uk 01495 353 363 to register an interest in the project and find out how you can get involved.

Keep up to date with developments on Facebook www.facebook.com/Trails2Trials or Twitter@CynefinProject, via our blog <http://cynefinblog.archiveswales.org.uk> or through the main project website: <http://archiveswales.org.uk/en/projects/cynefin-mapping-wales-sense-of-place/>



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SPECIAL 175th CHARTIST EDITION of Gwent Local History Journal

ON SALE at the Convention NOVEMBER 1st

LES JAMES: The Confession of Zephania Williams and the 1839 Rising

COLIN GIBSON: George Shell's Letter Revisited: Some Perspectives on its use at the Monmouthshire Chartist Trials

CHRISTABEL HUTCHINGS: A juror's tale: The Travails of Edmund Jones at the Monmouth Chartist Trials

TONY HOPKINS: Policing the Rising: The Career of John Roberts, Police Superintendent of Pontypool, 1830-1860

SARAH RICHARDS: Finding Chartism in the Family: William Davies of Blackwood

DAVID OSMOND: Newport and the Chartist Land Plan

JOHN EVANS: William Shellard c.1797-1874: An Old Chartist fades away

PRICE: £5 plus P&P ORDER TODAY from Gwent Archives enquiries@gwentarchives.gov.uk

The Ferriday Family

(sometimes recorded Farraday/Ferridy/Ferredy)

Mary Ferriday turned up on Monday 11th November at the Westgate Hotel, Newport, where her husband William had died a week earlier and she was left a widow with six children. The magistrates, Rev. James Coles, Octavius Morgan, George Hall and Thomas Hawkins (the new mayor), were in session examining witnesses and suspects connected with the 'Riots'. The Monmouthshire Merlin (16/11/1839) records:

Shortly after the magistrates took their seats, a poor woman, with an infant in her arms, and in an agony of distress, made her way to the bench, and in the most touching strain, preferred some prayer to the magistrates, the purport of which, the Welsh dialect of the poor creature rendered more undistinct by intermitting sobs and exclamations, prevented us from understanding. We, however, collected that she was the widow of one of the unfortunate men who were killed on Monday Last; that his name was William Farraday, and that he worked in a colliery at Blackwood. The unfortunate widow said she had not seen the body, but she had been shown a coat taken from one of the dead bodies, and she could swear it was her husband - The poor woman was proceeding to state what she knew relative to the proceedings of the Chartists at Blackwood, and that neighbourhood

on the Saturday and Sunday previous to the fatal occurrence; when she was interrupted by Mr. Coles, who addressed her in consoling terms, and appeared to sympathise in her distress. He, however, stated that anything she had to state would perhaps be better communicated out of Court, and the woman was brought into an adjoining room, where she stated her case to Mr. Phelps.

The magistrates proved unhelpful. William had been buried the previous Thursday night. The burial entry in the St. Woolos Church Register records: "Buried at once in four graves, ten men, names unknown, shot by a party of the 45th regiment of Foot in the Chartist insurrection before the Westgate Inn 4th November 1839."

The coroner, William Brewer, brother-in-law of Thomas Prothero, recorded in a similar vein, but named "George Shell and nine others" and described the cause of death as "Justifiable homicide".

William Ferriday had married Mary Williams on 6th August 1825. They lived opposite the Lamb and Flag beer house in Blackwood about a mile from Fleur-de-Lis. Their Children: William (b. 8/7/1826), Ann (b.19/3/1830), Thomas (b.5/2/1832, Elvira (b.1834/35), Amelia (b.28/8/1838, new born baby Jane (b.1839)

It is very likely that the two boys aged 13 and 7 worked underground with their father at the Fleur-de-lis colliery. The 'butty system' meant teams of men contracted to work a face and share the tonnage extracted. Colliers, jealously guarded the right to bring sons as young as five to assist as this allowed them to claim payment for extra



From Eric Evans Collected Works :Shedding Light in Dark Places: the story of the miner's lamp

drams of coal - fathers cut and the youngsters dragged the coal away. Fleur-de-lis was a pit and a much larger operation than most of the Blackwood mines, which consisted of levels (adits) into the sides of the mountain, manned by small numbers of men. These adits had over time developed as lengthy tunnels, so whether pits or tunnels coal mining meant for most workers 10-12 hours underground and out of the daylight, in wet and cold, rat infested, back bending holes.

Fleur-de-lis (Trelyn) was a 'Scotch Cattle' stronghold involved with men of Argoed and Blackwood in disturbances as recently as 1834. A truck shop run by Rhys Thomas at the Rock, north of Blackwood in conjunction with local coal owners was destroyed on the night 18-19 July 1834 by a herd of 40 to 50 disguised men, using tram plates as battering rams. All the food and goods was taken and distributed locally. Unusually, on this occasion, several of the participants were apprehended, but even so most eluded capture. The tight discipline of the 'Scotch Cattle' held despite two men being transported for life.

The authorities found it very difficult to infiltrate the ranks of Welsh communities. Mary was very definitely monglot Welsh and although Ferriday is not obviously a Welsh surname, his family (Ferriday-Farraday-Ferredy-Ferridy) appears to have lived in the Blaenau Gwent area since the late 18th century. Although, William Ferriday's birth date and place of birth are unknown, it seems likely that he was born in the Ebbw Fach valley. His brother, Thomas, reputed to be a 'hard man' lived there at Blaina and frequented the lodge meetings at Zephania William's beer house, the Royal Oak. Nothing is known about Thomas except, he raised loans to pay for weapons. It seems likely that he is the Thomas Ferriday, who married Mary Jenkins, born 1804 in the parish of Aberystroth. Perhaps Thomas and William were sons of Thomas Ferriday and Frances, born 1783 in Aberystroth.



In the summer of 1839, as well as the Blackwood Chartist lodge, there were some eight others based upon the major workplaces in the district, including Fleur-de-lis. These were a political front for more sinister secret organisations.

We can assume that William had joined a military unit set up at his coal face during the summer of 1839. These units consisted of 10 men plus a captain, all recruited where possible from the same coal face or place of work. Loyalty and inter-dependence essential for survival in coal mining meant peer pressure/ solidarity became indistinguishable features of life below ground. Sometimes kinship bound these units together.

It's more than likely that Mary endured a few still born births during her marriage. Baby Jane did not live long - she died at 15 months (December 1840) buried in Bedwellty Church yard, most likely a victim of scarlet fever, but her death could have been caused by the ever present typhus or simply poor nourishment, due to her mother's situation.

The 1841 Census shows Mary has four children at home Ann aged 12, Thomas aged 9, Elvira aged 6 and Amelia aged 3 and paid her way by housing several lodgers. William, the eldest, had presumably fled the nest and in the occupation column, Thomas is described as a labourer. Faced with 'black listing', their uncle Thomas, like many others, is thought to have changed his identity, making it difficult for family historians to find any obvious descendants. May be somebody knows more? Please get in touch.

LES JAMES

Sources:
Monmouthshire Merlin newspaper.

1841 Census

Ivor Wilks, 1984, *South Wales and the Rising of 1839* Croom Helm: London & Sydney.

David J.V. Jones, 1985, *The Last Rising: The Newport Chartist Insurrection*, UWP: Cardiff, reprint 2013, with new foreword by Professor Chris Williams.

Gwent Family History Journal, no 48, Dec 1997, John Hayward, 'His Great-Great Grandfather was a Chartist' (Ferriday was an ancestor of the late Rhys Jenkins).

NETWORKING

Sylvia Taylor of Cardiff wins last month's book competition – Who set fire to Thomas Prothero's Hay Rick? Her prize is a copy of 'Voices for the Vote' which tells the story of Chartism in south Wales. Sylvia very convincingly names her ancestor Benjamin Betts of Courtybella, Newport as one of the culprits. Come along to the Newport Chartist Convention (November 1st) and hear Sylvia tell Benjamin's story. In 2007, she spoke at our first convention about Benjamin's son, the local Chartist leader Wright Beatty. Prothero never solved the case – even though he offered £100 reward and wrote to the Home Secretary about it. It was clearly political revenge – the rick was set alight on January 17th 1840, that's the day after Frost, Williams and Jones were sentenced to death for treason at the Shire Hall, Monmouth.

'Voices for the Vote' (2011), 64pp, price £5, is available at Shire Hall, Monmouth or Newport Museum shop.

October competition: A copy of the Special Chartist edition of the Gwent Local History Journal (coming out end of November, price £5) for the best pic of **Michael Sheen** filming in Gwent for publication in the November 175th Anniversary edition of CHARTISM mag. (Send your jpeg (with max 100 words) to the editor by 15th October)



Samantha Beckett, community librarian at Blackwood Library, writes "our staff were delighted to welcome **Michael Sheen** to the Library on September 25th. He was in the area filming a documentary about the Chartists and called in the library to do some research with some local history books. Although rushed for time he did pose for photos with staff and customers.

We currently have a small Chartism display in the library, and your magazine has been attached to this

display for customers to refer to – I have also given copies of your magazine to interested customers."

On the Saturday before he started filming, **Michael Sheen** joined the 45 of us gathered for the 'Glamorgan Chartism' seminar held at Pontypridd Museum (NB 45 is a number 'with resonance'). Although the men of the Taff valley did not join the March to Newport in 1839, they were not inactive in the week leading up to that event and were very definitely watching its outcome. Henry Scale, Ironmaster, of Aberaman House (Aberdare) was convinced that if the Chartists had successfully taken Newport, the local ironworkers and colliers would have repeated the action of 1831. David Jones in the Last Rising (1985, pp.162-169) graphically describes the unrest and resistance at Merthyr and East Glamorgan in the aftermath of the rout at Newport on November 4th.

Most works and mines were not in operation for at least ten days. At Hirwaun, there was a short strike in the third week of November and talk of arming was reported. The authorities were convinced that there were insurrectionary intentions behind the Chartist meetings called on 18th November in six communities across the coalfield from Aberdare to Varteg. Despite some two thousand soldiers encamped at its edges, the coalfield in the heartland of Monmouthshire remained in a state of unrest beyond December, although in East Glamorgan, the Magistrates aided by troops positioned at Dowlais had by Christmas largely re-established their authority.

CHARTISM Mag congratulates **Rhonda Historical Society** for running this event and looks forward to other societies searching for the 'hidden' history of Chartism in Glamorgan/Morgannwg - hopefully this will become a regular theme in CHARTISM magazine.

Christopher Meredith writes

"Interesting to read about Bailey's counter-rally (CHARTISM mag no.6), which I didn't know of. I was in Slovenia last year and took part in a huge anti-government. march, and witnessed the government's attempts to stage a counter-rally a few hours before the big protest, with attempts to drum up crowds with free buses into the capital, attempts at media manipulation, massaging of attendance figures, etc. The real protesters laughed it to scorn. Interesting to see Bailey using much the same tactics - and apparently more skilfully - so long ago."

(Yes Christopher, agree studying historical parallels and comparisons is a fascinating and worthwhile pastime and I do more and more of it as I get older– Ed).

STOP PRESS

S4C Broadcast November 23rd 2014

Documentary on the 1839 Chartist uprising – Rebellion in Gwent

Director/Producer: Catrin Edwards

Welsh language programme; English subtitles available, push the subtitle button



Elin Jones

Gwrthryfel Gwent

Mae dathliadau arfaethedig 175 mlynedd gwrthryfel y Siartwyr yn 1839 wedi gafael yn y dychymyg. Mis hwn bydd cwmi teledu Tinopolis yn ffilmio Gwrthryfel Gwent, rhaglen bwysig am y digwyddiad, ar gyfer S4C. Bydd y rhaglen, sy'n cael ei gyflwyno gan Dr Elin Jones, yn dilyn gorymdaith y Siartwyr o gymoedd diwydiannol gogledd y sir i Gasnewydd. Bydd e'n olrhain gwreiddiau'r a hanes y mudiad yng Nghymru ac yng nghydestun ehangach yr DU ac Ewrop. Bydd yn holi pam y'n ni'n cofio'r Siartwyr yn 2014 a beth yw perthnasedd y mudiad yng Nghymru'r 21ain ganrif.

Tinopolis, the Llanelli based TV company, are filming this month in and around Newport, Monmouth and the North Gwent valleys. Presenter, Dr Elin Jones will follow the march of the Chartists from the industrial valleys of north Gwent to Newport, looking at the roots and history of the Chartist movement in Wales and placing it in the wider UK and European context.

She will be asking why we are still commemorating the Chartists in 2014 and why the movement continues to be relevant in 21st century Wales.

Chartist Musical "THE FORGOTTEN" APPEAL

The team behind the revival of this ground breaking production need your help.

You can help them get the show on the road as part of the 175th Anniversary. They deserve your support. Reviving the show has not been without its trials and tribulations – and now they are within a whisker of success.

They need £1500 by end of the month and have launched a Crowd Fund Appeal. Find out how easy it is to donate at <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/the-forgotten-6> I've just kick started the fund raising – it's easier than giving blood!
– Ed.

SEE PAGE 7 for details of the show.

Please send your stories, reports, details of future events by 12 October – deadline for November magazine

You may circulate this newsletter, on-line/ email/ social media or in print, provided it is circulated without charge and published in its entirety, without amendment, as a single document.

Historical content may be extracted and used free of charge for educational purposes, provided teachers and students acknowledge author(s) and source.

We encourage you to advertise the listed forthcoming Chartist Events.

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Thanks to Newport Museum and Gallery for the use of most of the illustrations in this edition (unless credited)- many taken from the 1839 Monmouthshire Merlin, Piggot's Directory 1844 and Kellys of 1848.



CHARTISM

**NEWPORT CHARTISTS
WITH SUPPORT FROM
NIGHT OUT
ARTS COUNCIL OF WALES**

present

**SURRENDER
THE PRISONERS**

the distinct Celtic sound of

MARTYN JOSEPH

with poems from

PATRICK JONES

St Mary's Institute, Stow Hill

**Monday the 3rd day of November
in this year of our Lord 2014
at 7.30 pm £7.0s.0d**

**A BAR WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THOSE
OF AN ALCOHOLIC DISPOSITION**

**Tickets £7 from Newport Museum & Art Gallery
or Richard Frame 07795658787
richardframe@hotmail.co.uk**

NEWPORT CHARTISTS