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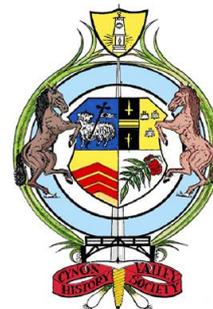
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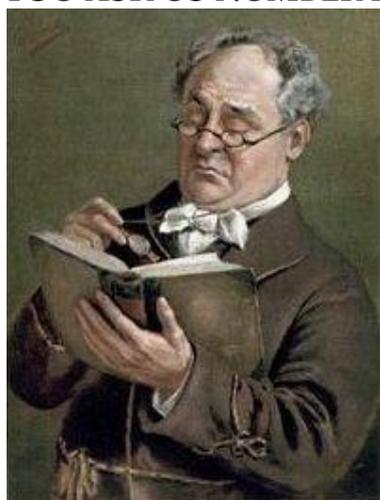
HANES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CYNON VALLEY HISTORY SOCIETY
CYLCHLYTHYR CYMDEITHAS HANES CWM CYNON

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YOU ASK US NUMBER 2.



Question: – Where was Treaman?

Answer: This is a difficult question; the name translates as the town on the Aman. The River Aman (a merger of three streams) runs from a spot near Castell Coryn in Cwmaman and flows into the Cynon near Gasworks Road, Aberaman. Professor Brynley Roberts writing in *Old Aberdare* Vol. 7 states that one of several local municipal names which did not gain acceptance is *Treaman*, sometimes used in the nineteenth century for the Aberaman-Blaengwawr area.

Among the mass of evidence given to Thomas Webster Rammell at his Inquiry in 1853 were particulars of the worse quarters of the town of Aberdare; the list included Treaman. A witness, the Rev.

Thomas Price, described it as: *A large cluster of houses in Aberamman [sic], called Treamman [sic], almost a small town in itself, has no roads made.*

Neither Aberaman or Treaman appear as names on the parish Tithe Map of 1844; the beginnings of ribbon development are shown, as are the locations of Abergwawr and Aberaman Uchaf farms and the larger Aberaman House, (See *Hanes* 62).

In 1901 the names were still synonymous as an account of the area in *Kelly's Trade Directory* refers to it as Aberaman or Treaman.

As our enquirer has drawn attention to this district of Aberdare, *Hanes* will focus on aspects of Treaman/Aberaman.

ABERAMAN v TREAMAN

A Misnamed Station on the Taff Vale Railway. – Under this heading, a gentleman writes to us to complain that the station known as Treaman Station, on the Taff Vale railway, is not called 'Aberaman'. He tells us that a few days ago he wanted to call at Aberaman on his way from Cardiff. He heard 'Treaman' announced and said to himself, 'the next will be Aberaman' to his

surprise, however, he was landed at the terminus in the course of a couple of minutes, and was put to the inconvenience of a long walk back. No doubt it would be more convenient to call the station between Mountain Ash and Aberdare 'Aberaman' because that is a place well known far and wide, whereas Treaman is seldom spoken of except by persons whose topographical knowledge enables them to draw a line where Treaman ends and Aberaman begins. The Taff Vale is, no doubt, one of the best managed lines in the country, and it can be shown that a material advantage would accrue from the name of Treaman station being changed, we dare say it will be done.'

Aberdare Times, November 11, 1865.

[Note the name of the station was not renamed Aberaman until 1889. Deric John: *Cynon Valley Place Names*.]

THE COMING OF INDUSTRY.

1845 Opening of the Aberaman Ironworks. [Crawshay Bailey]

1846 Aberaman Colliery [Crawshay Bailey]

1846 Treaman Colliery (Nici-Naci) [David Williams]

The *Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian* carried an interesting account of the winning of the coal at Aberaman colliery.

Crawshay Bailey Esqr's Coal Works at Aberaman.

Sir, - I beg leave to send you the following, in the hope you will kindly place it in some corner of your ably conducted Journal:—

Crawshay Bailey Esq., after sinking his pit 126 yards deep, on last Saturday night week, struck the coal (at Aberaman) generally termed the *four foot vein*, which proved to be 5 feet 9 inches thick and of the best quality. We understand that on the night Mr. Bailey ascertained the thickness of the coal, he presented his agent, Mr. David Williams, Ynyscynon, with the sum of £100 for his faithfulness in supervising his works at Aberaman.

On the Saturday evening following, at the Swan Inn, he gave a good supper and half a gallon of *cwrw da* to everyone connected with his works at Aberaman. The whole number that supped was 137. The entertainment was excellently made up of the best mutton and roast beef. After the cloth was removed, Mr. David Williams addressed the company as follows:— 'My dear friends, I hope I can call you all friends, I hope we will, of one heart, return our sincere thanks to Mr. Bailey for his handsome treat and present of tonight. Of course we will not thank him all personally all of us; but we will thank him — firstly by conducting ourselves well, and secondly by being faithful in his employment. I can assure you, my friends, that I feel it a great honour to be under such a gentleman as Mr. Bailey. There are some that have wealth, but no spirit for speculation. Others have a sufficiency of such spirit, but no wealth, but our present honourable master has *both*; and I have no hesitation in saying that he will be the life of Aberdare, and a blessing to the whole neighbourhood.'

Then Mr. David Williams proposed the health of Mr. Bailey and his family, which was drunk with 'three times three' by the whole company; after which Mr. James Lewis rose and said that he was of the same opinion as Mr. Williams, that there was not such another master to be found as Mr. Bailey; and that he would assure them that Mr. Bailey would make bar iron at Aberaman in a shorter time than a great many were aware of. Mr. Lewis then toasted the health of David Williams after which David Williams rose and addressed his Welsh friends in poetry with verses that commenced:

Groesaw mil i Grawshay Mawr, — ein Bailey,
Byw hylon ddyn clodfawr,

Goreu llyw o gewri llawr,
I dorf ei les fydd dirfawr.
[six verses follow]

Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian, September 19, 1846

Seven years later, in 1853, the locality was still clinging on to its rural past.

TREAMAN FAIR. (1853)

The announcement that a new fair for the sale of horses, cattle etc, was to be held here on Monday last, attracted a numerous concourse of people from the neighbouring districts, such has rarely (if ever) been witnessed by the inhabitants, and the day proving, an auspicious one, everything passed off in a highly satisfactory manner, reflecting much credit upon the projectors. There was a capital show of horses, pigs etc., which were mostly sold, and realised excellent prices – some of the horses fetching from £20 to £30, and the pigs averaging from £1 to £5.10s.

In order to enliven the proceedings of the day (as stated in the announcement bills) prizes were awarded for competitions in rustic sports, and much amusement was derived from the efforts of several competitors to reach the summit of a high pole (greased for the occasion); this feat was cleverly performed, after much exertion, by a youth of the neighbourhood, and the prize (a fine leg of mutton) triumphantly carried off amid the plaudits of the spectators. On the whole the fair was a highly successful one, and the day's proceedings were marked by a degree of order and sobriety never before experienced here within the memory of that notable individual – “The oldest inhabitant.” We understand it is in contemplation to hold another fair early in November next, and trust the second may be still more successful than the first.

Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian, August, 13th 1853.

There is no indication where this fair was actually held.

<p>ABERAMAN IRON WORKS, Crawshay Bailey, Esq., M.P., proprietor, smelter and manufacturer of pig, bar, and merchant iron.</p>
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Webster & Co's Postal and Commercial Directory entry, 1865

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION AT ABERAMAN IRON-WORKS

In February 1864 two of the boilers at the Aberaman ironworks exploded killing thirteen men and boys and injuring 17. Nine were killed on the spot, and four others died of their injuries within days. An account of the tragedy appeared in *The Aberdare Times* on February 20, 1864.

The great blast engine at Aberaman is worked by seven enormous tubular boilers from which a feed pipe is carried to propel the engine which works the mill. On Wednesday the mill engine was stopped all day, and shortly before the mishap the blast engine was also stopped. The boilers are made of 5-8 plates with a pressure of 40 lbs to the square-inch, and were fitted with all necessary safety-valves. When the blast-engine was still the valves should have been opened, so as to allow the escape of steam in excess of the quantity which the boilers could safely contain. This important thing had been overlooked and steam was being created whilst there was no room for it, and the dreadful consequence was, that at half-past three, when everything was to all appearances safe, two of the seven boilers, namely No.1 and No. 2 exploded with an awful report, producing a scene of confusion and horror almost baffling description.

.....

One boiler had been hurled more than a hundred feet, and was then projected over the roof of the forge and dropped on a bank 100 yards distant from its socket, whilst the other was thrown with fearful violence on to the roof of the forge, through which it went with a tremendous crash smashing two or three puddling furnaces into a shapeless mass of bricks, mortar, molten iron, iron fragments etc. beneath which one of the hapless victims was buried in a fiery death. One of the ends was blown past the mill engine house over the further end of the forge and into the river, whilst the tube of one of them was sent with destructive swiftness through the forge nearly into the river 100 yards away from the boiler-shed. About 60 yards of the roof fell in with the boiler that was thrown upon it, and the mighty girders of iron were snapped as if mere sticks, whilst the massive wooden beams were smashed and split up into matchwood ... In their ascent the boilers poured a deluge of boiling water upon the poor fellows below; an engineer and a couple of fitters were crushed and buried under the debris of the roof. Showers of stone, slabs, and pieces of iron fell all around, and the destruction of property was immense. Fortunately the mill was idle otherwise many more would have been killed. Among the victims was a small boy, Alfred H. Evans who whilst playing at a distance of 100 yards from the boiler-shed was struck on the head by a piece of plate and killed.

[The boy's injuries and those sustained by the other victims are too horrific to set out in this article. Ed.]

Across the valley, in Cwmbach, people saw one of the boilers in mid-air; the boiler is 9 feet in diameter and must have been propelled some 100 yards upwards.

It is estimated that the amount of damage amounted to £2,000.

IN MEMORIAM

(Killed)

T L Lewis, fitter

John Jenkins, fitter

Daniel Thomas, engineer

Patrick Costelloe, wheeler [wheeled coal to the boilers]

George Thomas, master-moulder

Evan Rees, mill labourer

Thomas Jones, wheeler of small coal

Isaac Thomas, limestone breaker

Alfred H. Evans, boy, playing near at time*

Injured

George Naysmith

Edward Lewis, fitter. Burns (since dead)

Richard Hammond, spare engineer

William Leat, stoker

John Shepherd, ash filler under boiler

Michael Evans, roll cleaner

James Davies

R Spencer, coacher

John Parrott

David Llewellyn

Others injured were strangers [men seeking work] whose names could not be procured, but in all nine were killed and seventeen injured.

*It is probable that he was Alfred Evans [*sic*] aged 7, son of John Evans, coal miner living at Cap Coch. (1861 Census)

The Aberdare Times, 11 March, 1863.

An inquest into the circumstances of the deaths, lasting three days, was held by the coroner, George Overton, at the *Boot Hotel*, Aberdare. The verdict of the Jury was 'Accident due to the bad state of the boiler and no blame was attached to anyone in charge.' Only the third (and last) day of the proceedings was reported. (*Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian*, 11, March 1864 and *The Engineer*) of the same date. [Both available on-line]

There was no public subscription for the dependants of the dead and injured as Crawshay Bailey made immediate financial provision for the families, and arranged that such annuities should continue after his own death.

OTHER EMPLOYERS

The main employers in Aberaman were the ironworks and the several collieries; there were however a number of small scale industries: a chandlery, a tannery and a brewery. The brewery was the Abergwawr Brewery Company Ltd., which was set up in the 1870s. Its manager was Taliesyn James. In 1894 it was offered for sale along with the leases of twelve public houses. The brewery itself consisted of the brewery premises with stables, out houses, offices etc., and an adjoining house. The sale included the plant, machinery, horses, drays, carts, harness, etc.

The twelve pubs were the Britannia Inn (Merthyr Tydfil), Castle (Hirwaun), Conway (Aberdare), Royal Arms (Cardiff Street), Prince Llewellyn Inn (Cardiff Road), Puddler's Arms (Hirwaun), Corner House Inn (Merthyr), Castle (Cwmdare), Cwmdare Inn (Cwmparc), Corner House Inn (Llwydcoed), Albion Hotel (Cardiff Road) and the Salutation Inn (20, Cardiff Street). The brewery eventually passed into the hands of Nell Ltd of Cardiff. (Source: Messrs. Stephenson & Alexander, *Particulars of Sale of Abergwawr Brewery*, September, 3, 1894).

Aberaman had its own Trades Directory by 1900. Published by Bennett in its *South Wales Business Directory* series, it gives the population of the community as 6,000, and its main trade as coal-mining. Two public buildings are mentioned: the Victoria Hall and Reading Rooms in Lewis Street. The main shopping area was Lewis Street, named after Lewis Roberts of Gadlys Uchaf House, a member of the family that owned farms upon which Aberaman was built.

SIDELIGHTS ON ABERAMAN

From the Diary of Capt. Richard Symonds.

Chief inhabitants of Glamorgan with their rentals: – Mathew of Aberaman £800 per annum. (*Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian*, September, 17, 1859)

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK. 1867 STYLE.

Gunpowder: – A large quantity of gunpowder was seized by the police at Aberaman on Friday afternoon. It was taken from the premises of two shopkeepers, and the whole filled the body of a cart. It was in two casks of different sizes, and altogether there must have been 1,000 pounds weight. This was in excess of the 200 pounds which the law permits tradesmen to keep in store. The police had it conveyed to Cwmdare magazine, a mile and a half from the town.

Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian, December 28, 1867.

NEW UNDERTAKING.

The Aberdare and Aberaman Omnibus Co. Ltd., which has been recently formed for the purpose of establishing a line of omnibuses to run between Aberdare, Aberaman and Cap Coch, started their first 'bus on Monday, and drove along the line of route with a brass band on the outside much to the admiration of the inhabitants. The establishment of this line of communication between Aberdare and the outlying villages will supply a want which has been long felt, and it will doubtless be well patronised so long as wages continue good. The fares have been placed low, but with plenty of traffic doubtless a sufficient margin has been left for a reasonable profit.

Merthyr Times and General Advertiser, August 29, 1873.

[The omnibuses were horse-drawn. Ed.]

NEW COFFEE TAVERN

PHILLIP PHILLIPS
2 LEWIS STREET, ABERAMAN
BEGS TO INFORM HIS FRIENDS AND THE PUBLIC GENERALLY
THAT HE HAS OPENED THE ABOVE
COMMODIOUS PREMISES, WHERE REFRESHMENTS
WILL BE SUPPLIED AT MOST REASONABLE PRICES
GOOD ACCOMODATION FOR TRAVELLERS

Aberdare Times, November 25, 1893.

THE ABERAMAN PRIZE FIGHTER.

Tom Jones, the noted Aberaman prize-fighter, met Vincent of Plymouth on Saturday evening at the People's Palace, Plymouth to box 20 rounds for a prize of £20, under the usual conditions. Both are well made athletes standing nearly 6 feet in height, James being the taller, and also a few pounds heavier than his rival. From the start the exchanges were of a very heavy character, James being very nearly knocked out in the first round, and although he kept up for five rounds he always had the worse of the encounter up till the time he was finally knocked out in the fifth round, Vincent being declared the winner. Vincent was seconded by Sam Kendall and W. Groves, and the loser by George Bickell and Morgan Atherney.

Merthyr Tydfil and Dowlais Times and Merthyr Echo, January 24 1895.

OUTPUT

The extra coal raised at Aberaman colliery owned by Powell Duffryn for the past year, establishes a record hard to be beaten. With only one bowk* [sic] they were enabled in 282 working days in 1893, to raise over 290,000 tons of coal, or considerably over 1,000 tons per day, whilst last week they raised 1,300 tons two days in succession, without any extra and unusual effort. This marvellous output, with only one bowk, reflects great credit upon Mr. T. Railton, the manager, and all the officials of the colliery.

* (Welsh) *bowc*, a bucket or vessel.

Merthyr Times and Dowlais Times and Aberdare Echo, January 24, 1895

[No mention of the men who dug the coal however. Ed.]

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