

2013 (Theme: Paper)

"Papur" gan Y Gwas Bach

Dros ddau can mlynedd yn ôl fe ddechreuodd y papur newydd "The Carmarthen Journal". Wedi cael fy ngenu yng Ngaerfyrddin yn 1977, yr wyf wedi darllen lawer i gyhoeddiad ar hyd y blynyddoedd. Maer papur yma yn cael ei ddisbarthu dros de gorllewin Cymru ac mae na erthyglau yn gymraeg a seisneg ynddo ac yn awr cewch ei weld ar y we hefyd. Mae'r papur yn dathlu pen blwydd yn ddau cant a thri oed ac yn cael "make over" arbenig i dathlu'r achos. Fe fydd y papur o hyn ymlaen yn edrych mwy modern ac yn fwy deiniadol i bawb, mae'n bwysyg cael darllenwyr ifanc i gadw'r papur i fynd. Mae yna pob fath o bethau ynddo, o hanes priodasau, marwolaethau, genedigaeth, hysbysebion, i stori ddadleuol. Mae y "Carmarthen Journal" fel llyfr hanes yn dweud hanes fy mro genedigaethol, dim ond eisie mynd i lyfrgell Caerfyrddin sydd eisie ac fe gewch holl gopiau a argraffwyd yno ar ffilm micro. Yno aethom un dydd i holrain hanes hen ewythr i mi, wel, i ddweud y gwir tri ohonynt. Wyddom bod hanes diddorol iddynt ond dim beth oeddy rheswm i gael eu henwau mewn "print". Yn gyntaf dyma fi yn edrych am bapur o ddyddiad y rhyfel mawr 1914 -1916. Yno oedd erthigl am y bechgyn a laddwyd dros ei gwlad, bechgyn o Gaerfyrddin 36 ohonynt, ac yn ei misg oedd fy hen ewythr sef Jonny Thomas. Doedd dim sôn da'n teulu amdano fe ond dywed y papur ei fod wedi mynd i ymladd yn yr Aifft ym Mehefyn 1915 ond erbyn y Tachwedd 'roedd wedi marw o anafiadau rhyfel. Claddwyd ym mynwent yn Alexandria, does neb or teulu wedi cael y cyfle i fynd yno eto sydd yn druenau mawr. Edrychais wedyn ar gopi o'r "journal yn 1925 ac yno oedd hanes brawd yr uchod sef hen ewythr arall, Cethin Thomas. Stori druenus dros ben a'r teulu eto ddym yn siarad amdano. Aeth Cethin a'i ffryndiau un noson i'r dafarn leol ar ôl diwrnod called o ffermio i gael "peint" ond aeth un yn ddau ac yn y blaen. 'Roedd y bechdyn yn llawn hwyl a sbri wrth gerdded yn ôl i'w ffermydd, penderfynnu i alw gan wejen Cethin i ddweud shwd mai ond fe glywwodd ei meistyr y bechgyn yn galw ar yr eneth ac fe dynnodd w'n a saethu allan drwy ffenestr y lloft ac fe anafwyd Cethin a fu farw. Cafwyd y ffermwr yn euog o lofruddiaeth ac aeth i'r carchar ond am rhyw reswm ni gafodd ei grogi. Y trydydd hanes sydd yn y papur y'w Walter Jones cefnder fy mamgu yn gadael ei famwlad yn 1930 a mynd i'r Unol Dolaethau i fyw ac i stydio amaethyddiaeth ac economi ym Mrhifysgol Harvard. Mae un hanes a oedd yn y papur 'rwyf wedi ei ollwng allan ac i fi hwn sydd mwyaf pwysig sef fy hanes i fy hun. Hanes bachgen 19 oed o Gaerfyrddin yn mynd wrth ei hunan i Brifysgol Minesota i stydio amaethyddiaeth ar ôl dwy flynedd ym Mrifysgol Aberystwyth. Dioch i bapur y "Journal" am gadw hanes fy nheulu yn fyw ac ar gael i deulu y Thomas' yn y dyfodol.

2013 (Transation: "Paper" by David Elfryn Thomas)

Over two hundred years ago "The Carmarthen Journal" was launched. A weekly newspaper for the Carmarthen and west Wales area. Having been born in Carmarthen in 1977, means that I have read quite a few publications over the years. In it you find articles in English and Welsh and by now you can read it on the internet. The paper is celebrating its two hundred and third birthday and is having a special "make over" to celebrate the event. The paper will look more modern and more appealing to everyone, it is essential that it appeals to the younger generation to keep the paper alive. In it you find all kinds of articles from wedding reports, death and birth announcements, advertisements, local news to controversial reports. The "Carmarthen Journal"

is like a history book giving facts about my local area, the place I was born. You only need to go to the local library and you will see all the publications on microfilm and that is where I went to one day to find out about some family history I had heard about. I began by looking at publications during the First World War; I needed to know about my great uncle who had died fighting for his country. In it I found an article about the men from the Carmarthen area, thirty six of them, who had died in the Great War. Amongst them was Uncle Jonny. The family did not know where he fought, or what had happened to him but, the Journal stated that he left for Egypt in June 1915 and by November he had died of war wounds. He was buried in the British War Cemetery in Alexandria. Unfortunately none of the family has been able to visit the grave which is so sad. Next I looked at copies in 1925 and there I saw a report of the murder of Cethin Thomas, Jonny's brother and another of my great uncle. This is such a sad and unfortunate tale that once more the family would not speak of it. Cethin and his friends had gone one night after a hard day's work on their respective farms to have a "pint" in the local pub. One had gone to two and so on, when they left they were all in high spirits and made their way home on foot. They decided to make a detour and call in the farm where Cethin's sweetheart was a maid – just to say hello. Unfortunately the farmer heard a noise and pointed his shotgun out through the window to scare whoever was there away. As the shots rang out over the valley two of the boys were shot, Cethin fatally. The farmer was found guilty of murder and was sent to jail, for some reason he was not hanged as was the custom then. The third story I researched was of Walter Jones my grandmother's cousin who in 1930 left his beloved Wales and sailed to America to start a new life and study Agriculture and Economics at Harvard University. There is one other story from the paper I need to share with you and that is my own. This to me is the most important one, a story of a 19 year old leaving Carmarthen, leaving his family and friends and going on an adventure which is still on-going. I flew from Gatwick airport into Minneapolis St Paul and spent a year studying agriculture with the University of Minnesota. This came about after spending two years at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth.