

Chapter Three



David Albert Williams

1842 - 1882

Many thanks for the contributions of:-

Gwen Armstrong, Head Mistress St Catharine's School, Wigan for access to the School Logs.

Bill Bithell, for the use of his photographs, art work, including the front cover, and knowledge of the Scholes area.

Julie, Ancestry Buddy for the help with the research.

Jane Gardener, Cousin, lots of times removed, for all her information on the Tyley family.

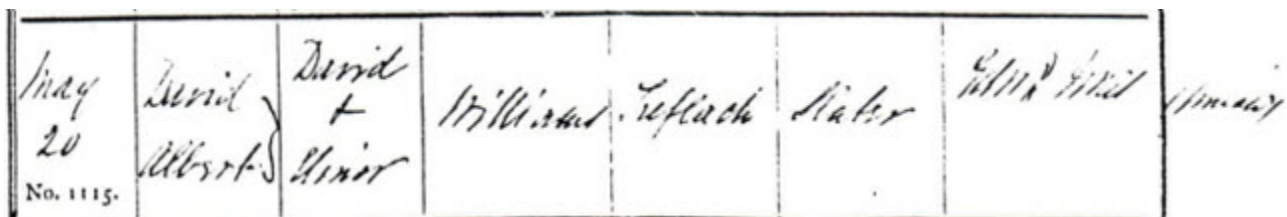
The story of David Albert Williams was, and still is, an interesting one. It has some mystery in his early years, which may never be fully uncovered due to the many names like Williams, Davies and Jones which are involved. These of course are very common names around the area and so research has been difficult. However David's story also shows an interesting journey from a small Shropshire village on the Welsh/English border to a prominent position in a major County Town. I hope you enjoy reading David's story as much as I did researching it.

David Albert Williams was born sometime around April or May 1842 to the proud parents of David Williams and Elinor Williams Nee Williams. David was possibly born in Treflach, which is a small village just over a mile from Trefonen. Trefonen itself is a small village located approximately 3 miles southwest of Oswestry, and 3 miles east of the England-Wales border, in the County of Shropshire, England. The name Trefonen translates from Welsh into "village of the ash trees" in English

The 8th century earthwork Offa's Dyke ran through the village and it is still visible today, in small sections, running adjacent to Chapel Lane. The Offa's Dyke was at one time considered to be the border between England and Wales.

An exact birth date is unknown for David Albert Williams due to the lack of a Birth Certificate. All searches so far have failed to find any signs of a Certificate and although a number have been purchased they have been proved to be incorrect.

I am glad to say however, that a copy of David's Baptism record has been found and this shows he was Baptised on Friday 20th May 1842 at the Chapel in Trefonen. Part of that record is shown below.



A Copy David's Baptism Record

We can see from the Baptism record that David's father, also called David, was employed as a Slater. There were five working Lime quarries in the area at tA 'Slater' is normally someone who fits roofing slates,=, The employment would just be known as a 'Roofer' now days. More of David's fathers story can be read in Chapter Four of this Volume.

The family place of residence at the time of the Baptism can be seen as Treflach. This small village did have its own small Chapel, which was designated as a Non Conformist building called the Primitive Methodist Chapel.

This chapel was built in 1833 in the locally quarried stone. In 1851 it had an attendance of 30 worshippers at its morning service and about 70 at its evening service. The chapel is now privately owned and has been converted into a residential building.



Treflach Primitive Methodist Chapel

The record shows the Baptism was carried out at the ‘Chapel of Trefonen’ which has caused some confusion as Trefonen had three Chapels at that time. There was the Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, which was built in 1795, the All Saints parish church built in 1821, and the Carneddau Independent Chapel built in 1832. So all were available at the time.

The Calvinistic Methodist Chapel can be ruled out fairly quickly as this was the Presbyterian Church of Wales. The Carneddau Independent was not ‘Church of England’ so it could possibly be ruled out, however initial research also showed that the ‘All Saints Church’ was indeed a ‘Church’ and not a Chapel and so this could also be ruled out but David had to have been Baptised somewhere and further studies were required. With the help of an Ancestry colleague further information was found from the Shropshire Archives that stated the All Saints Church had indeed been called a ‘Chapel’ at one point in time.

Before looking at this evidence in more detail pointing to the All Saints Church it is worth looking at the other two Chapels, the Calvinistic Methodist Chapel and the Carneddau Independent Chapel.

As stated earlier, the Calvinistic Methodist Chapel was built in 1795 and is therefore the oldest of the three. The Calvinistic Methodists form, in some respects, the strongest church in Wales and its forward movement has brought thousands into its fold since its establishment.

The Calvinistic Methodists are intensely national in sentiment and aspirations.

They take a great interest in social, political and educational matters.



Calvinistic Chapel



Chapel Sign

The Calvinistic Chapel building is still in use today and is situated on the ‘Welsh side’ of the Offa Dyke up on the hill overlooking Trefonen. Note the sign also calls it ‘Carneddau’ and means ‘The Cairns’.



Carneddau Independent Chapel in the 1800's

The Carneddau Independent Chapel was built in 1832 and had its own burial ground. The burial ground is still in use today but special criteria has to be met before anyone can be buried there. The photograph on the left was taken in the late 1800's when the Chapel was still in use. Today it is privately owned and it has now been converted for residential use.

Inside the porch seen here on the left is the date-stone and it is written;-

"CARNEDDAU/INDEPENDENT/CHAPEL/1832."

This stone would have been protected from the elements by being undercover.

The photograph shown below right was taken around the late 1990's or early 2000's and shows some of the alterations to the building. The chimney has now gone and a loft conversion has been fitted. Also a small extension has been added to the end of the building. What is far more noticeable is the porch has been removed and the entrance has now been blocked. However you can just see the position of the date stone in the photograph.



Carneddau Independent Chapel 2010's

Carneddau Independent Chapel 1990's



The alterations over the years have not done too much to change the outline of the Chapel and it still compares to its original design of nearly 200 years ago. However more up to date alterations have not taken into account the historic purposes of the original building. The photograph above left shows the porch has been replaced and the entrance has been reopened but it was very sad to see the date stone had been ignored and basically destroyed. With just a little bit more thought it could have been designed to go under the porch and I believe the date of 1832 showing would have added to the character of the building.

Sometimes improvement is not always better.

Returning to our evidence of where David Albert Williams was Baptised I mentioned earlier that information was received from the Shropshire Archivist. The archivist at the Shropshire Centre wrote:-

‘Trefonen was originally a township of Oswestry and the Church of All Saints was built in 1821 as a Chapel of ease for the Welsh portion of the inhabitants of Oswestry, it then became a full parish. It is the C of E Parish Church that David Albert was christened in and is called a Chapel but not a Non conformist one.’

So after much deliberation it is found that David was certainly Baptised at the All Saints Church in Trefonen.



All Saints Trefonen

On a personal visit in October 2011, I spoke to the Rector to see if I could try and clarify the point of All Saints being a Chapel or Church. The Rector was insistent that All Saints had never been a Chapel and had always been a Church. So my heart sunk slightly as it seemed I was back to square one and would never know the answer. Was Shropshire Archives mistaken? It was only when I was leaving that I noticed, by the door, a plaque which gave the names of all the Rectors from 1821 to modern day. The first entry stated ‘Chapel of Trefonen in the Parish of Oswestry Diocese of St Asaph.’ Confirmation to the eye at last.

So it is with some certainty I can say that David Albert Williams was Baptised at the then Chapel of Trefonen in 1842. The board states that the Chapel became licensed to perform Marriages in 1848 and I believe this is when it became the Church of All Saints.



It is unfortunate that the picture of the board I took on a recent visit is not good enough to be shown in full. It also would have helped had the name of Rector on the board around 1842 matched the name of the person who performed David's Baptism. The name on the board was D. Lloyd, which does not match the name on the Baptism record. This appears to be an Edward Jones who was the Curate or Assistant. Also the word on the right of the record reads 'private'. So it seems this was to have been a private Baptism performed by the Curate.



Various Views Of All Saints Trefonen

The next official record we have for David is in the 1851 Census. This record is very intriguing because we do not find David with his parents at all. His parents, David and Elinor have apparently disappeared from the area. There is much speculation as to what happened to them and I will discuss this in a later Chapter. Instead we find David living with his 'Aunt' Margaret in Pool Road, Oswestry along with her husband Oliver Davies, their Daughter Ann and the servant Mary Price.

1851 Census		- Town of Oswestry Ward - Oswestry			Address - Pool Road	
Name	Relationship	Con	DoB	Age	Profession	Where Born
Oliver Davies	Head	M	1806	45	Journeyman Miller	Kinnerley
Margaret	Wife	M	1806	45		Llanwicken
Ann	Daughter	S	1842	9		Llanfyllin, Mont
David A Williams	Nephew	S	1843	8		Oswestry, Shropshire
Mary Price	Servant	U	1830	21	House Servant	Shrewsbury



There is no record of a Pool Road in the Oswestry map of today, however on the 1851 Census, where David is mentioned, we can search the pages on either side of this entry and we find the street before is Lower Brook Street and on a page after is mentioned the Golden Lion and Picton House, both apparently in Pool Road.

Both of these buildings can now be found in Upper Church Street so I can only assume Pool Road was around this area. Other literature seems to point to the fact Pool Road is now called Upper Church Street. Counting the residence on the Census from the start point it is possible that the Davies family, who were listed tenth, lived in one of these houses shown on the left in the photograph. The small white house on the right is known as Tyley Houses. The view is looking towards St Oswald's Church.

Pool Road now Upper Church St.

Parishes-Township of <i>Oswestry</i>		Ecclesiastical District of		City or Borough of		Town of <i>Oswestry</i>		Village of		
No. of House	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851		Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, or Crazy
		Male	Female							
		Margaret Jones	Wife	Head	Wid	29		House Servt	Merioneth, Galloway	
181	Pool Road	Richard William	Wife	Head	Mar	66		Labourer	Salop Oswestry	
		Margaret de	Wife		Mar	66		Labourer's Wife	Island, Somerset	
		Mary Jones	Wife		Mar	57		Laundress	Salop Oswestry	
182	Pool Road	Blanes Davies	Wife	Head	Mar	48		Journeyman Miller	Salop Oswestry	
		Margaret de	Wife		Mar	45			Merioneth, Galloway	
		Ann de	Daughter			9			Merioneth, Galloway	
		David Williams	Stepson			8			Salop Oswestry	
		Mary Price	Wife		Wid	21		House Servt	Salop Oswestry	
183	Pool Road	Ellis Phillips	Wife	Head	Wid	60		Whitcomb & Bell Whanger	Denbigh, Llangefllo	
		Mary de	Daughter			21			Salop Oswestry	
184	Pool Road	Charles D. Jones	Wife	Head	Mar	44		Seyton, Turner, & Sugraves	Salop Oswestry	
		Margaret de	Wife		Mar	41			Salop Oswestry	
		Elizabeth de	Daughter			18			Salop Oswestry	
		Margaret de	Daughter			15			Salop Oswestry	
		Edmund D. de	Son			6			Salop Oswestry	
		John Marshall	Wife	Head	Wid	31		Cabinet Maker	Shropshire	
		One House uninhabited								
185	Pool Road	Richard Milne	Wife	Head	Wid	50		Stone & Marble Mason	Denbigh, Rhuabon	
		Ellen de	Wife		Wid	72			Merioneth, Galloway	
Total		U 1 B		Total of Persons...		8		11		

Copy of the 1851 Census - David Williams's entry being eighth from the top.

At this point it may be worth mentioning more about the ancient town of Oswestry which is full of history. Oswestry is a market town located in the North of Shropshire close to the English - Welsh Border. Its strategic position as a border town has given it a turbulent history. Today the town still retains its vital function as a market and shopping centre serving North West Shropshire and Mid Wales. There are narrow passageways that link streets whose names conjure up images of the past, like, English Walls, Welsh Walls, The Bailey, Bailey Head and the Horsemarket. The castle was destroyed during the English Civil War after it was captured from the Royalists around 1644. Very little of it now remains.

Oswestry is a locally important shopping and agricultural centre and still retains the intimacy of a rural town serving local people and home to a number of specialist and independent shops.

The origins of the town are uncertain although the towns market dates back to 1190. The name Oswestry is thought to be a corruption of 'Oswald's Tree' and the legend that Oswald, the Christian King of Northumbria, fought a great battle against the pagan King of Mercia, Penda. Oswald was defeated and killed in the battle. Penda, as a warning to others who might challenge his rule, dismembered Oswald's body and hung his limbs on the branches of a tree, hence the name 'Oswalds Tree'.

1861 Census – Town of Oswestry Ward - Oswestry Address - Beatrice Street

Name	Relationship	Con	DoB	Age	Profession	Where Born
Margaret Davies	Head	W	1802	59		Llanfechain, Mont
David A Williams	Nephew	S	1843	18	Teach in National School	Oswestry, Salop
Maria Roderick	Niece	S	1846	15	Teach in National School	Shrewsbury
Sarah Roderick	Niece	S	1851	10	Scholar	Shrewsbury
Jane A Morris	Lodger	S	1846	15	Scholar	Llanfechain, Mont
Thomas Jones	Lodger	S	1848	13	Scholar	Llangedwin, Den

There are no further records at this moment in time for David Albert Williams until the 1861 Census. As you can see from the entry above, David is still living with his 'Aunt' Margaret and is now working as a 'Teacher in a National School'.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the											
Parish (or Township) of		Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of		Parliamentary Borough of		Town of		Hamlet or Tything, &c., of	Ecclesiastical District of
Oswestry		Oswestry						Oswestry		Rakoe II	
No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	No. of Inhabitants	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf and Dumb	
						Males	Females				
5	Bechwood	1	David Jones Head	Wife	70			Walter Jones Clerk	Wales - Llanidloes		
			Joseph Jones	Son	38			Labourer	Wales - Oswestry		
			Mary A. Jones	Daughter	35			Wife	Denbighshire - Denbigh		
			Mary Jones	Servant	18			General Servant	Denbighshire - Denbigh		
			Margaret Jones	Mother	68			Labourer's Wife	Denbighshire - Denbigh		
9		1	John G. Jones	Head	40			Proprietor of House	Wales - Oswestry		
			Mary Jones	Wife	40			Wife	Wales - Oswestry		
10		1	James Jones	Head	75			Labourer	Wales - Oswestry		
			John Jones	Son	20			Wife	Wales - Oswestry		
11		1	Margaret Jones	Head	67				Wales - Oswestry		
	16, 15, 5		David A. Williams	Teacher	18			Teacher in National School	Wales - Oswestry		
	7, 7, 5		Maria Roberts	Wife	40			Wife	Wales - Oswestry		
			John Roberts	Wife	10			Scholar	Wales - Oswestry		
			John A. Roberts	Son	15			Scholar	Denbighshire - Denbigh		
			John Jones	Son	13			Scholar	Denbighshire - Denbigh		
12		1	Edward Jones	Head	41			Quaker's Clerk	Wales - Oswestry		
			Margaret Jones	Wife	39				Denbighshire - Denbigh		
			Mary Jones	Mother	65				Wales - Oswestry		
			Mary E. Jones	Son	5				Wales - Oswestry		
			Joseph Jones	Son	2				Wales - Oswestry		
			Eliza A. Jones	Servant	15			General Servant	Denbighshire - Denbigh		
Total of Houses...		5	Total of Males and Females...		5	7					

Copy of the 1861 Census

The national school David worked at was the one in Welsh Walls, Oswestry. The Master of the boys school at the time was Mr James Feather who served a total of 35 years at the school. The Mistress of the girls would be Miss Lucy Dyer and the infants was Miss Annie Mathews.



National School Welsh Walls

Back in the 1800's there was no such thing as a Teachers Training College. All parents had to do was ask the Master if their child could become a 'Pupil Teacher'. If it was agreed the child may begin as a 'monitor' from 12 years onwards. The position could even be paid. The 'monitor' could then rise to 'Pupil Teacher' or 'Assistant Teacher'. After four or five years they could be 'Certified' and become full time Teachers. There will be more details of this in a later Chapter in this Volume as David Albert's story progresses.

The National School was built in 1840 by James Vaughan of Beatrice Street from plans drawn up by Thomas Penson. The building which catered for infant and junior children also included accommodation for the schoolmaster and his family. The school was opened in 1841 and became a Church of England school in 1872.

The building is now a restaurant called The Walls Restaurant and externally retains its original architecture. Below can be seen some photographs of the outside and how the restaurant now looks inside. One can imagine these wide open spaces were filled with classrooms and children.



The accommodation the Master lived in is shown in the photograph above right. Mr James Feather, was the last Master to live here. After he retired, around 1890, the building was converted into two extra classrooms.

Returning to the 1861 Census we can see that David is living in Beatrice Street with 'Aunt' Margaret. In this part of the Country it seems to be very rare that the full address was written on any document, be this the Census, Birth, Death or Marriage Certificate. This becomes frustrating when you are trying to find the exact location someone was born, lived and died as photographs of the actually property or location can bring benefits to a story. Below and right are various photographs of Beatrice Street.



Below is a map of Oswestry showing the major locations around the town which have been, or will be, mentioned in this Chapter. I hope it helps with the orientation of these places. For a scale it is about 500 yards from the School to either The Cross or the Wynnstay Hotel walking across the central park.

Welsh Walls School

Cottage Hospital

The Cross and Bailey Street

Beatrice Street

The Cross

The Brewery Leg Street

Trinity House

Wynnstay Hotel

Golden Lion, Pool Road

Tyley Houses

St Oswalds Church

Returning to the 1861 Census we find that Margaret's birthplace is more easier to read than it was on the 1851 Census. The Census shows Margaret was born in Llanfechain, Montgomeryshire, or Powys as it now is. This is the closest yet I have got to Welsh Ancestry. However, saying that it is not sure who 'Aunt' Margaret actually was.

Many searches have been carried out by a number of people, including myself, to try to ascertain the relationship that Margaret Davies has with the Williams family or even the Roderick family whose two daughters, Maria and Sarah, are also mentioned on the 1861 Census and classed as 'nieces'. This of course would make them cousins to David in one way or another.

When time permits, and so as not to distract from David's story too much, I will create another 'Addendum' at the end of this Chapter where I will try to explain what is known so far about Margaret and discuss the possible links she may have to David. I will also included Maria and Sarah Roderick within that discussion.

Returning to the 1861 Census you would have noticed that Margaret is now the 'Head' of the family. This is because, unfortunately, her husband Oliver died on Tuesday 1st January 1856. No certificate has been purchased for his event and the reason for this is explained in more detail in the Margaret Davies addendum.

Apart from Margaret, David and the Roderick girls, there are also two lodgers living at the address. It is a shame there is no house name or number given on the Census as this could give us an idea of the size of the property they lived at. I can imagine there must have been three to five bedrooms to accommodate these people.

I am not sure what Margaret is doing as a profession as there is nothing stated on the form but she does seem to be encouraging the children in her care to have an education. As back in 1861 this would cost about 2 old pennies (1p) per child per week, I can not see Margaret doing this out of her own money. Margaret may well have been a teacher, examiner or member of the school in some way and more research needs to be done on this at a later date. It does seem as though Margaret had given David a great opportunity to make something of his life by being a Teacher in the National School.



Bailey Street, Junction with Cross Street

It is not known exactly how long David was a Pupil Teacher or when he became a 'Certified Teacher' but he certainly did become qualified. I know it is only speculation but I believe David was ambitious enough to want to move on in his career. However that would be difficult with the present Master, Mr James Feather, looking as though he was unlikely to move anytime soon.

During his time as either a Pupil Teacher or Certified Teacher, David had met the Lady he was eventually to marry and who was possibly, at one time, a pupil at the School where he worked. Maybe this is how they met? Her name was Margaret Tyley and she lived in Bailey Street, which was not too far from Beatrice Street as the map on the previous page shows.

Margaret Tyley's Story can be read in Chapter One of Volume Nine.

During their Courting period David and Margaret must have discussed their future, marriage and where they would live. Two things at the present was stopping David from promotion to Master, either in Oswestry or further afield. As mentioned earlier the current Master in Oswestry's National School did not appear to be moving on just yet. Neither could David leave the area because 'Aunt' Margaret, from about 1866, was in very ill health from a damaged hip which seemed to have left her paralysed.

Whether it was a strange twist of fate that decided their future no-one will know but it is a fact that the Master of St Catharine's School, in the Scholes area of Wigan, suddenly and for some unknown reason, left his post in April 1867. Whether this was advertised in some way in Oswestry, or recommended to David via a colleague will never be known but advertising for Master vacancies were made in local newspapers as shown below. In these advertisements you can also see the difference in wages between a male and female teacher. There was no such thing as 'equal pay' those days.

ABERDARE BRITISH SCHOOLS,!!
WANTED.
A HEAD MASTER (certificated), to take charge of the Boys' Department, and to assist in the general management of the Schools. The number present at all in the Day Schools alone last quarter was 903.
 The present staff consists of 4 certificated teachers, 1 provisionally certificated teacher, 10 pupil teachers, and a number of paid candidates. Salary, £130 (to increase at the rate of £10 per annum for two years), with house, fuel, gas, and water.
Also, a Certificated Mistress,
 For the Infant School. Salary, £60.
 Duties to be entered upon not later than the 1st of May next.
 Applications and testimonials must be sent to the Chairman—Mr. RICHARD PARDOC. Cardiff street, Aberdare, on or before the 1st of February.
 A knowledge of Welsh will be a great recommendation.

As you can see from this advertisement from the local newspaper that covered the Denbigh area, dated Wednesday, 23rd January 1867, vacancies for Master did exist.

Within the advertisement we can see the Master would be in charge of four further certified teachers, a provisionally certified teacher and ten pupil teachers. The 'paid candidates' could be 'monitors' who were starting out in their teaching career and sometimes would be paid.

The Master's pay of £130 rising to £150 is not a great deal of pay for such responsibility and is equivalent to £10,200 to £11,800 in today's money. A free house and fuel would not make much difference to the overall package.

The Derby Mercury dated Wednesday 9th October 1867 shows another vacancy giving nearly 3 months starting notice. The wages and benefits of free housing are similar to the other school. It seems this Master would have an opportunity to subsidise his wages by taking in a limited number of boarders. You can see in both advertisements that the responsibilities and knowledge of classical, religious teachings are quite high. This master must also be a graduate from a University.

RISLEY ENDOWED SCHOOL, DERBYSHIRE.
A HEAD MASTER WANTED, to enter on his duties after the Christmas vacation, a Member of the Church of England, and a Graduate of one of the English Universities. He must give a Religious, Classical, Mathematical, and Commercial Education; salary £140 per annum, exclusive of a good house, stable, croft, &c. He may take a limited number of boarders.
 Testimonials to be sent under cover, on or before the 20th of November, 1867, to Mr. STEVENS, Draycott, Derby.

Whether David applied for the vacancy in Wigan at this point is not known. He would still have 'Aunt' Margaret to consider as he would not be able to leave her at home paralysed. I could also speculate that at this point in time, David and Margaret were engaged to be married as long engagements and courting periods were expected.

Suddenly that second twist of fate changed the future for David and gave him the opportunity he wanted.

However it came in the form of a tragedy when Margaret, after being paralysed for nearly 12 months, sadly died on Thursday 20th June 1867 at her home in Beatrice Street.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 3588949-1

REGISTRATION DISTRICT OSWESTRY

1867 DEATH in the Sub-district of Oswestry in the County of Salop

No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of register
352	20th June 1867 Beatrice Street Oswestry	Margaret Davies	Female	65 years	Widow of Oswestry Innkeeper Dutton	Injury of Hip 12 months Paralysis Cerebral	X. The widow of Elizabeth Jones present at the death Post mortem Oswestry	Twenty second June 1867	W. Bull Registrar

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 21st day of October 2011

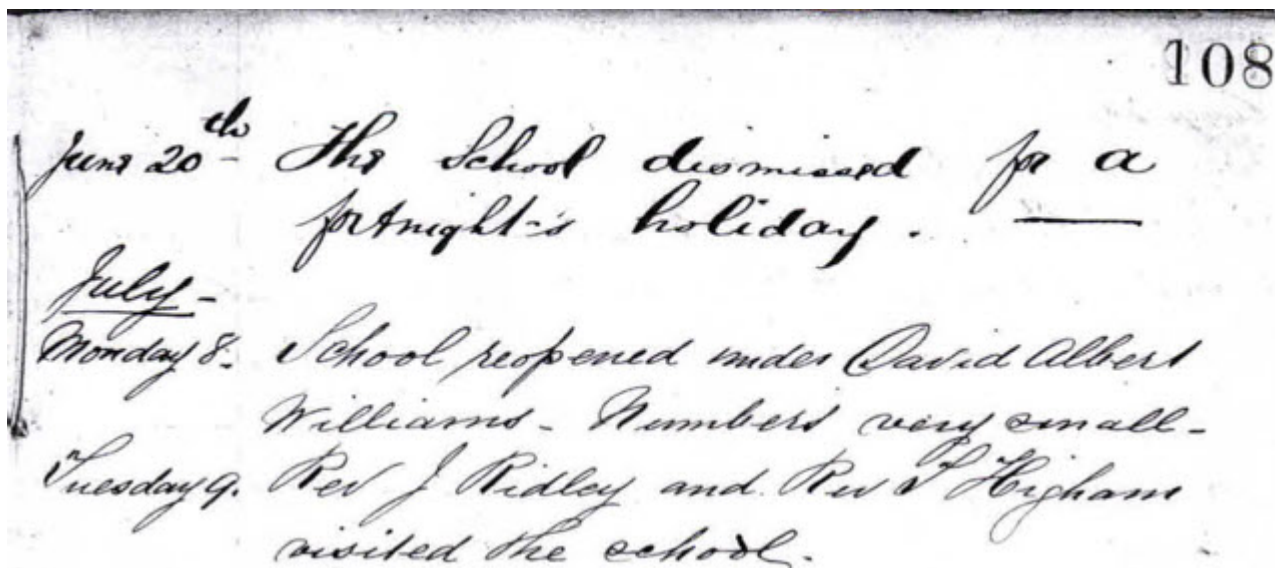
DYD 134693

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE (CROWN COPYRIGHT)

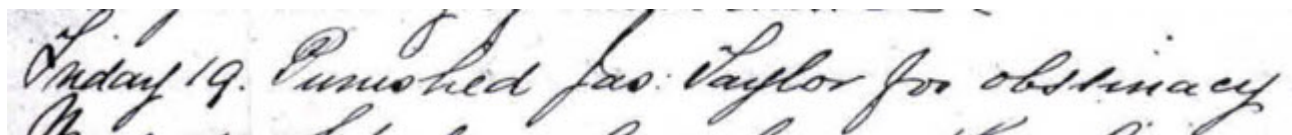
WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

The death certificate again shows no occupation for Margaret, just the fact she was the Widow of Oliver Davies. Present at her death was Elizabeth Jones from Pool Road. It is not known if this was a relation in some way or just a friend from Margaret's time of living in Pool Road. Hopefully David would have been present at some point. Again no full address was given, just Beatrice Street. This is such a shame as the full address does make so much difference.

When David actually applied for the vacancy as Master at St Catharine's is obviously not known but it is known he was successful with this application. So with the future planned out and I would have thought with Margaret Tyley's blessings, David set off for Wigan and on Monday 8th July 1867 he became the Master of St Catharine's School and his first responsibility was to reopen the School after the two week summer holiday. This was noted, and can be seen, written in the School Logs.



The School Logs were a record of daily life in Schools of the 1800's. This would be written by the Master and you can see David has made his first entry of "School reopened under David Albert Williams - Numbers very small".



It was only a short time before David settled and made his mark as the Master by punishing "Jas Taylor for Obstinacy" on Friday 19th July 1867. Young Taylor would certainly not be the last to receive punishment from the new Master of St Catharine's. Nor in fact was it Jas (James) Taylor's last punishment.

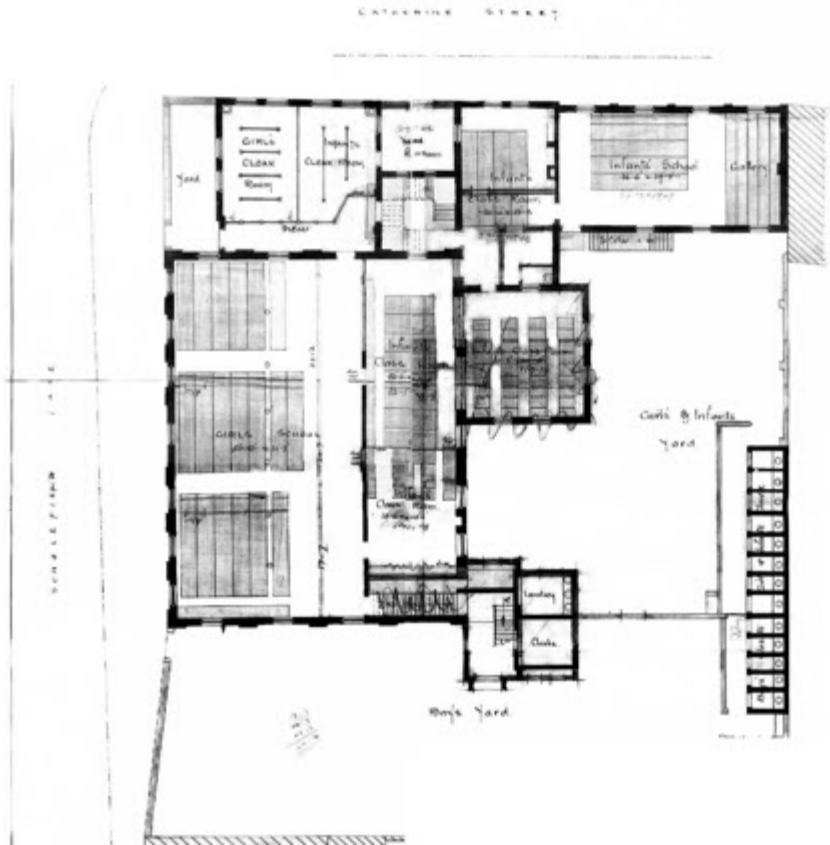
I could write far more on the life and times of St Catharine's School and of David's time there. However there is far too much information for me to cover here in this Chapter.



St Catharine's School in 1968

I will refer to the School from time to time but the main School story will be told in a Addendum Two to Volume One. There will also be a separate Addendum on the area of Scholes, where the School was situated. The writing of these Chapters would not have been done without the help of the current Head Teacher at the time, Mrs Gina Armstrong and an ex-pupil, Mr Bill Bithell. Both supplied and allowed me access to the many photographs, drawings, maps and logs in their possession.

Without their help the story of David at St Catharine's school would not be known and I can not thank them both enough for their hospitality and input of knowledge.



St Catharine's School floor plan. Above is the ground floor and below the first floor plus the cellar plan.



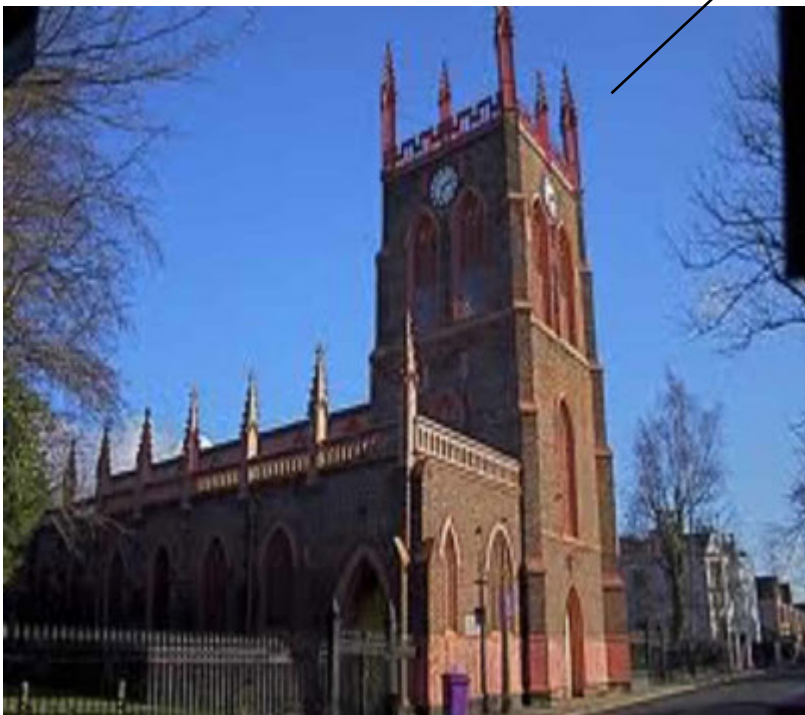
So life for David must have been difficult to begin with. He had the responsibility of trying to run a large school in what was a deprived area of a mining community. The Children had to pay a couple of old pennies, (2d), or one new penny (1p) a week for their education. This is equivalent in today's money of about £1.57p a week. A high sum for poor families. It was because of this cost that many children did not attend School on a daily basis, leading to poor education and more depravity.

During David's first month in charge the average attendance for the week was just 49.3 pupils. By December this had climbed to 106.3. Attendances changed all the time for a number of reasons from weather to miners strikes.

In December David reorganised the School. He put all the girl pupils downstairs and all the boys, over 6 years of age, upstairs. This was done in some way to stop the boys truanting from school and walking out of school unseen. David had no teaching control over the girls or infant section as these had their own Mistresses's.

On Thursday 19th December 1867 David closed the School for its Christmas Holiday not returning until Monday 6th 1868. For this holiday David would not be returning to Oswestry but had instead travelled to Liverpool to be with Margaret who was staying in Beloc Street, Toxteth Park.

Unfortunately no trace of this Street exists today but the map on the right shows the area with St Michael's Church, arrowed, in St Michael's Road. Why David and Margaret decided to get married at this Church in Toxteth and not at St Oswald's or any other Church in Oswestry, or indeed even the Church of St Catharine's next to the School is anyone's guess. It was not even an area that was halfway between Wigan and Oswestry!



St. Michael in the Hamlet, Toxteth

Regardless of the reason, David and Margaret were married on Monday 23rd December 1867 at St Michael's Parish Church, Toxteth.

An extract from the Border Counties Advertiser newspaper, dated 25th December 1867, on the marriage announcement pages of 6 and 7 had printed:-

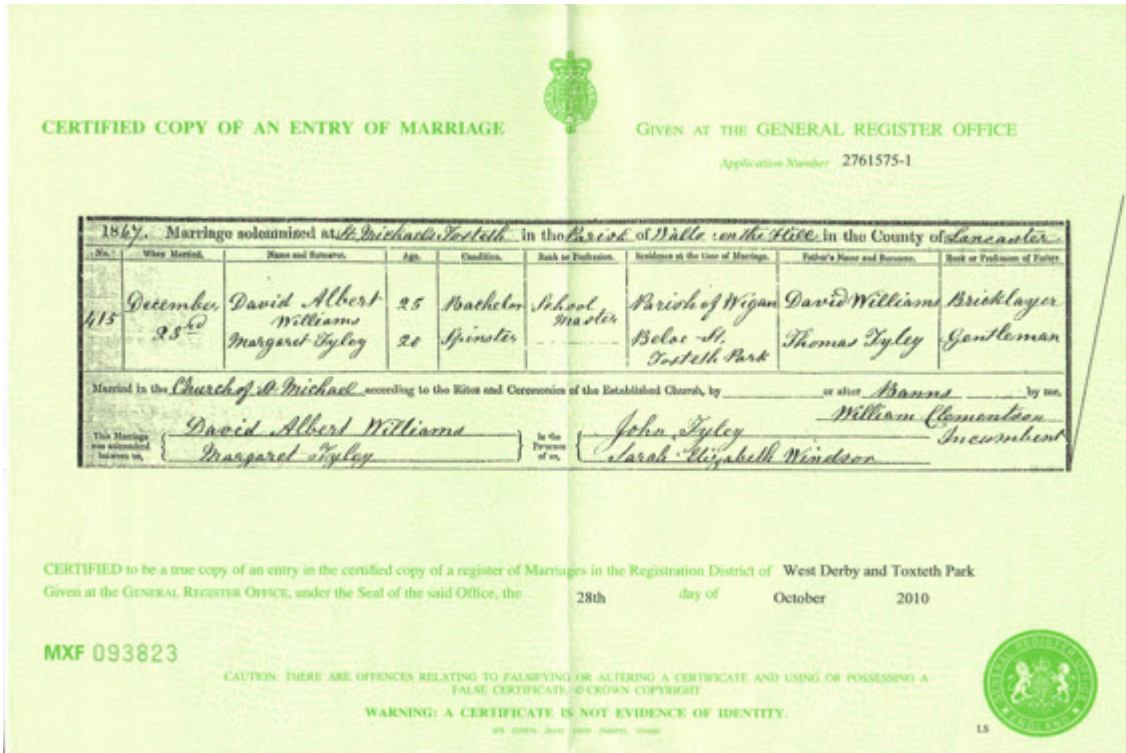
“23rd December at St Michael's in the Hamlet of Toxteth Park, Liverpool, by the Rev W Clementson, Incumbent, Mr David Albert Williams, Headmaster of St Catherine's School, Wigan, to Margaret, fourth daughter of Thomas Tyley, Trinity House, Oswestry.”

Note the spelling of St Catharine's

WILLIAMS—TYLEY.—Dec. 23, at St. Michael's-in-the-Hamlet, Liverpool, Mr. David Albert Williams, head-master of St. Catherine's School, Wigan, to Margaret, fourth daughter of Mr. Thomas Tyley, Trinity House, Oswestry.

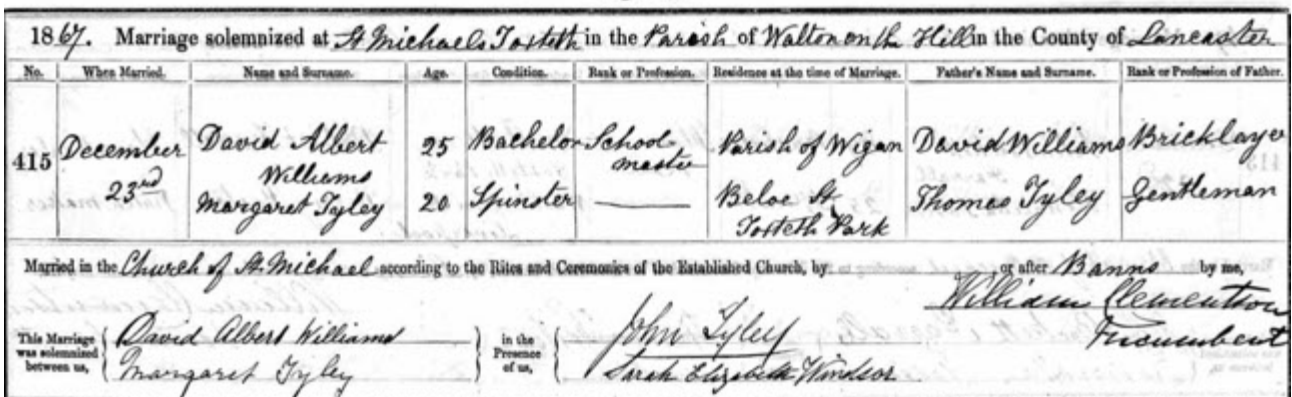
Left is shown another Wedding Announcement Column in a local paper.

The Witnesses attending the wedding were John Tyley, who was one of Margaret's younger brothers and six years her junior. The other Witness was Sarah Elizabeth Windsor, Sarah was probably one of Margaret's friends as she also lived in Beatrice Street and who may even have attended the same school. Sarah was also to marry another of Margaret's younger brothers, two years her junior, Edward, in 1869.



On the Wedding Certificate we can see that David Albert Williams has the profession of School Master and he was resident at the time of marriage in Wigan. His father is named as David Williams and his profession was a Bricklayer. David's father was a Slater at his own wedding and also at David's Baptism but this trade had now declined and many of the workers were forced to choose a different trade.

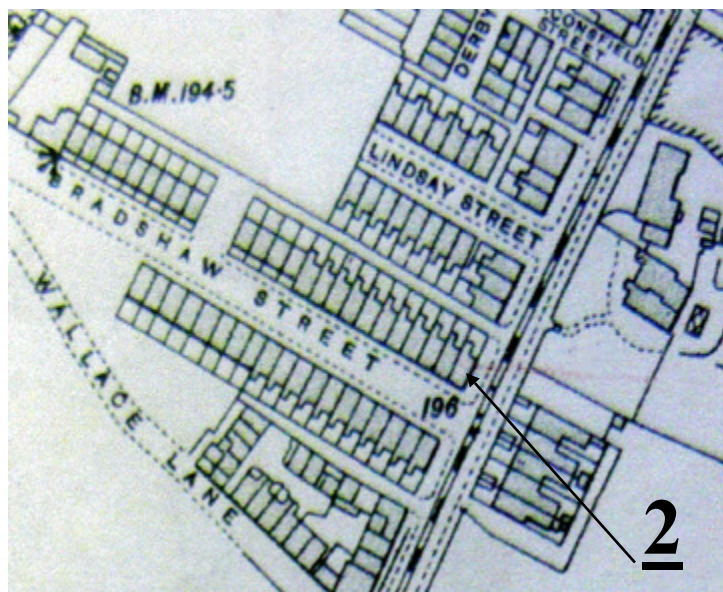
Margaret has no profession but her father, Thomas Tyley, had the rank, or profession, of a 'Gentleman'. A 'Gentleman' normally denoted a well-educated man of good family and distinction. George Tyley originated from London and had made his money from the sell of land and property. His story will be told in a later Chapter.



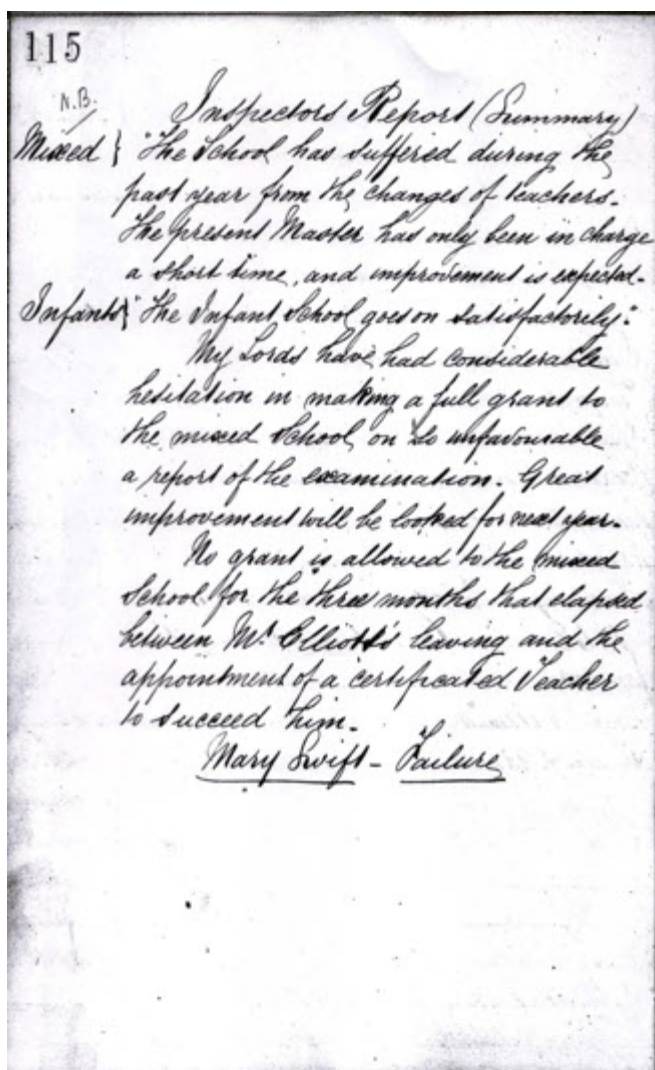
On the previous page is shown the original marriage book written at the time of registration. You can see that when you apply for a certificate from the General Register Office all they do is transpose this record onto a 'modern' certificate backing. Except for a couple of extra details and a registration number this can be easily done by anyone. The legalities of this is something I would not want to get involved with.

After the wedding it can be assumed the happy couple moved to their home in Wigan? They may have returned to Oswestry for family celebrations at Trinity House but David had to return to Wigan for the start of the school term on Monday 6th January 1868. He was due to have an inspection by the School Board and the Reverends Higham and Ridley seemed like the people to me you did not want to upset having read the School Logs.

I believe David and Margaret's first home was at No 2 Bradshaw Street, Scholes. This is shown on the right and arrowed 2.



The house has long since been demolished as part of a slum clearance program in the 1970's and in its place now stand six modern houses where ten old once stood. This will be explained more on the following pages.



As mentioned previously, David had to endure a School Board Examination on the Tuesday 6th January 1868. This is very similar to the Ofsted Inspections of today where improvement is required but normally with no extra funding. In the case of this Inspection, funding was withheld for the three months there was no Master. Which seems a little harsh. The report reads;-

“Inspectors Report (Summary)

Mixed} The School has suffered during the past year from the changes of teachers.

The present Master has only been in charge a short time and improvements are expected.

Infants} The Infants School goes on satisfactory.

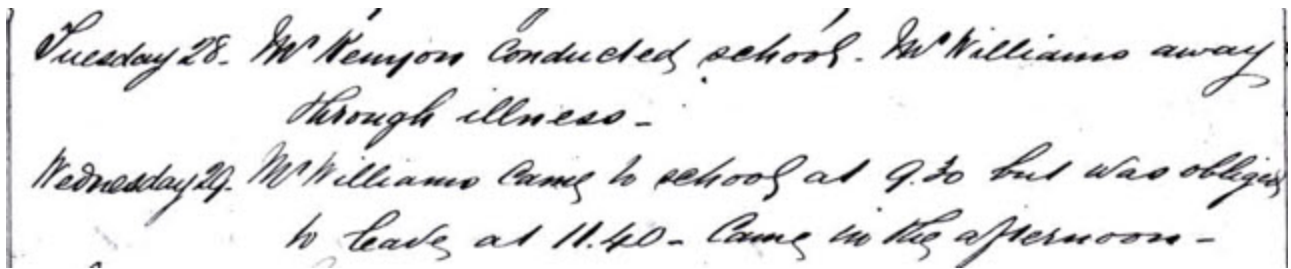
My Lords have had considerable hesitation in making a full grant to the mixed School on so unfavourable a report of the examination. Great improvement will be looked for next year.

No grant is allowed to the mixed School for the three months that elapsed between Mr Elliott's leaving and the appointment of a certificated Teacher to succeed him.

Mary Swift - Failure”

So David's first baptism of fire as the new Master has not started well. The 25 year old Master needs to improve or he could find himself sharing the same fate as Mary Swift and be replaced. From what I can understand at this moment in time, David is the Master of the 'Mixed' School, which includes the Girls.

Life does continue and we know David does succeed as he is the Master of the School for a few more years yet and some reports are very good. Daily life at St Catharine's School will be shown more in the St Catharine's Chapter along with the stories of some of the pupils who were troublesome and some pupils who did achieve something in their lives and became Pupil Teachers. More importantly for my story on David is the fact we have started to gain details of David's health, which seems to be suffering from time to time. Rheumatism seems to be his greatest problem in the coming year or so.



We find early in January 1868 the first entry where David is shown absent through illness. There is an entry on Monday 25th November 1867 which mentions David is away from the School and resumes his duties on the Tuesday 26th but there is no mention his absence is due to illness.

The Log states;-

Tuesday 28. Mr Kenyon conducted school. Mr Williams away through illness.

Wednesday 29. Mr Williams came to school at 9.30 but was obliged to leave at 11.40. - Came in the afternoon.

Below is a photograph showing the type of house David and Margaret shared together. These houses were opposite their own house but they would probably recognise these properties even today.



In the photographs below we can see more properties that David and Margaret would recognise. Shown left are, from left to right, No's 30 to 24 Bradshaw Street, next to them we can see the start of the new semi-detached houses. The picture below right shows you some more of the new properties.

The gravel drive is where David and Margaret's home once stood, No 2 Bradshaw Street. Like the homes opposite their homes had no front gardens unlike 30 to 24.



The next twelve months would see David and Margaret settle into their new life in Wigan. Margaret even visited the School to meet her husband as the Log (below) shows on Wednesday 18th March 1868.

‘Mrs Williams came to school at 3.30’.

Wednesday 18. Mrs Williams came to school at 3.30.

With David starting to do well in his role as Head Master of St Catharine’s it was probably time to start thinking of a family and it was just a couple of months later that year that Margaret gave the happy news to David that she was pregnant with their first child.

The news obviously would have pleased David but there were signs his health was beginning to deteriorate for some reason. David seemed to be suffering from a variety of illnesses. However, for now, there was much work to do.

Life at St Catharine’s School was not all work and no play. There were many outside influences that affected the daily running of the School. There was the Wigan Fair, Miners Marches, weather and the Tea Parties. I hope to explain all these in more detail in the St Catharine’s Chapter later in this Volume.

For those children who worked hard and achieved good marks, there were prizes given and even invites to a party. One such party was held on Thursday 19th November 1868.

In preparation for this, singing was taught the day prior and prizes were given out the day after, as the Log entries show;-

Wednesday 18. Taught singing for Tea party.

Thursday 19. Tea party in the evening for all the scholars in Day and Evening school who had made up their marks. (Reading - crossed out) Singing and Recitation.

(See programme on next page - crossed out. Unfortunately there was no programme on the next page.)

Friday 20. Gave out prizes - Average for week- 107.5.

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 Thursday 19. Tea party in the evening for all the scholars
 in Day & Evening school who had made
 up their marks. Singing & Recitation
~~See programme on next page.~~
 Friday 20. Gave out prizes - Average for week - 107.5.

To explain how one of these Tea parties may have been conducted we have to go to a newspaper article written some years earlier in 1850. The article appeared in The Preston Guardian on Saturday 6th April and reported the party held the previous Monday at St Catharine’s School.

Although this is a ‘Congregational’ Tea party I expect it to be run on very similar lines. The actual newspaper article is shown on the following page.

ST. CATHERINE'S CONGREGATIONAL TEA PARTY. —

This tea-party was held in St. Catherine's school room, Scholfield Lane, on Monday evening last, and was a treat of no ordinary character; for, whether we take the splendour of the room, which was decorated by the young lady teachers in elegant style, and commanded the admiration of the numerous visitors, as well as the respective speakers - whether we take the bazaar, which was held in one corner of the room, and was furnished by the lady patronesses of the school with splendid specimens of needlework, and other rare articles of their own manufacture - or whether we take the requirements supplied to the tables, the performance of the choir, or the able addresses that were delivered, we find it difficult to discriminate, and it would be invidious to do so, where all had endeavoured to excel.

The company began to arrive about five o'clock, and shortly after that hour a highly respectable assemblage of about 400 persons of both sexes was seated at the tables, ready to partake of the social repast, which was every way calculated to gratify the appetite of the most fastidious epicure. The Rev. W. Coombes, the worthy incumbent of St Catherine's, gave out the grace, which all the company rose and sung in fall chorus. The ladies who presided at the trays then proceeded to supply the social viands to their respective customers, and the room at that moment presented one general scene of joyous festivity scarcely to be surpassed. After tea was over, and the tables cleared, a number of visitors were admitted, which greatly increased the assemblage; and an efficient choir being in attendance, the business of the evening was commenced by singing the 117th psalm.

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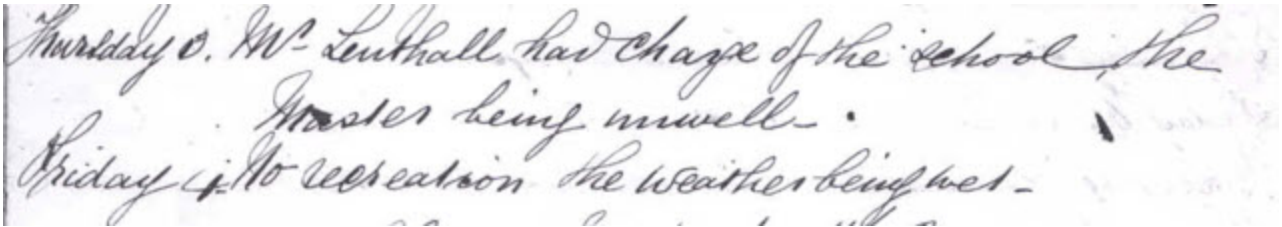
The assemblage enjoyed the social treat until ten o'clock, when the company began to retire, expressing themselves highly gratified with the evening's entertainment.

It is nice to know the ‘upper classes’ still look down on the rest of society as ‘ignorant’ and ‘uneducated mortals’.

It seemed that back then ‘equality’ was a long way off and would never ever be achieved because of the ignorant people in higher positions whose arrogance blinkered their thinking.

It is interesting to note that over 160 years later things have not really changed that much!

With the party over School life continues with Christmas Break approaching. Another Log entry on Thursday 3rd December 1868 shows David as being absent from School because of illness



The Log reads;- ‘Mr Southall had charge of the school the Master being unwell’

Surely David was not feinting this to have a day off? I am not suggesting he would but it is with coincidence that just two days later, on Saturday 5th December 1868, Margaret gave birth to their first child, a boy they named Albert Edward Williams.

The news was announced in local papers and shown right is the article from the Liverpool Mercury dated Monday 14th Dec 1868. Enlarged below.

WILLIAMS—Dec. 5, the wife of Mr. D. A. Williams, head master of St. Catherine's National School, Wigan, of a son.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

* * No Notice of Birth, Marriage, or Death can be inserted unless authenticated by the name and address of the sender. The words "No cards," or any similar addition to the simple announcement of a marriage or death, subject it to payment as for an advertisement.

BIRTHS.

- BARKER**—Dec. 11, at 11, Osborne-road, Tuebrook, Miv. D. C. Barker, of a daughter.
- LEIGHTON**—Dec. 9, at 26, Harley-street, Bow, London, the wife of Mr. J. Inglis Leighton, of a daughter.
- RUSSELL**—Dec. 12, at Brooklands, Huyton, the wife of T. R. Russell, Esq., of a son.
- SMITH**—Dec. 11, at 10, Licensed Victuallers-terrace, West Derby-road, the wife of Mr. William Smith, of a son.
- WILLIAMS**—Dec. 5, the wife of Mr. D. A. Williams, head master of St. Catherine's National School, Wigan, of a son.
- WOOD**—Dec. 11, at 22, Falkner-square, the wife of Charles Wood, Esq., barrister-at-law, of a daughter.

The Certificate shows they were living at No 2 Bradshaw Street. The birth certificate also shows David’s occupation as ‘Certified School Master’. Family life had now begun.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 3017177-2

REGISTRATION DISTRICT WIGAN

1868 BIRTH in the Sub-district of Wigan in the County of Lancaster

No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
11	24th Dec 1868	Albert Edward	Boy	David Williams formerly Tooley	Margaret Williams formerly Tooley	Independent School Master	David Albert Williams formerly Tooley 2 Bradshaw Street Wigan	24th Dec 1868	Wm. Leighton	Wm. Leighton

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 24th day of February 2011

BXCE 913129

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE "CROWN COPYRIGHT"

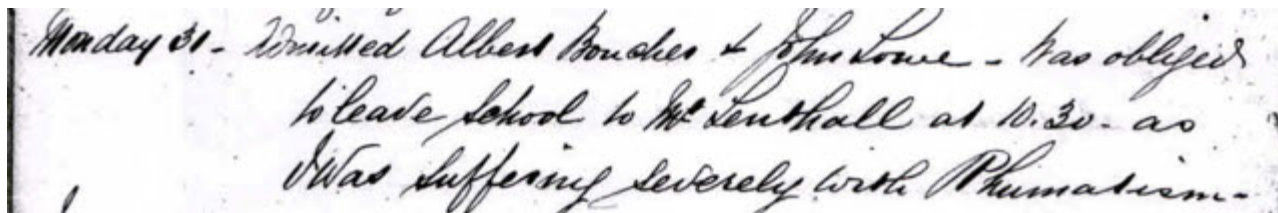
WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

David's had made his mark in Wigan by 1869 when the Wigan Directory made an entry which stated;- 'Williams David A., schoolmaster, (St Catherine's) Scholefield Lane.

However not everything was going so well with David as he appears to suffer with his health quite badly. On Monday 31st May 1869 David stated in the Logs he was unwell with Rheumatism.

What David's problem was would be hard to guess. The term "rheumatism" is still used in colloquial speech and historical contexts, but is no longer frequently used in medical or technical literature. There is no longer any recognized disorder simply called "rheumatism". The traditional term covers such a range of different problems. Arthritis and rheumatism between them cover at least 200 different conditions. Nevertheless, sources dealing with rheumatism tend to focus on arthritis although there is a non-articular rheumatism, also known as "regional pain syndrome" or "soft tissue rheumatism" which can cause significant discomfort and difficulty. Which of these David had would be impossible to say. The Log states;-

'Was obliged to leave School to Mr Lenthall at 10.30 as I was suffering severely with Rhumatism



Monday 31. - Wrote Albert Boucher & John Lowe - Was obliged to leave school to Mr Lenthall at 10.30. as I was suffering severely with Rhumatism.

Mr Lenthall was the Deputy Master at St Catharine's School. Rheumatism was actually spelt incorrectly as 'Rhumatism' by David in the Log. Unless the Log was written after David returned to school, it appears he did not suffer the problem in his right arm as he has written this without too much of a problem. However David was absent for a couple of days.

David has now had three years experience in the position as Master of St Catharine's School and in that time had proved he was more than capable of holding such a position. His biggest challenge now would appear to be his health. Suffering Rheumatism at just 28 years of age could not have been easy and working in a school with little heating would not have helped.

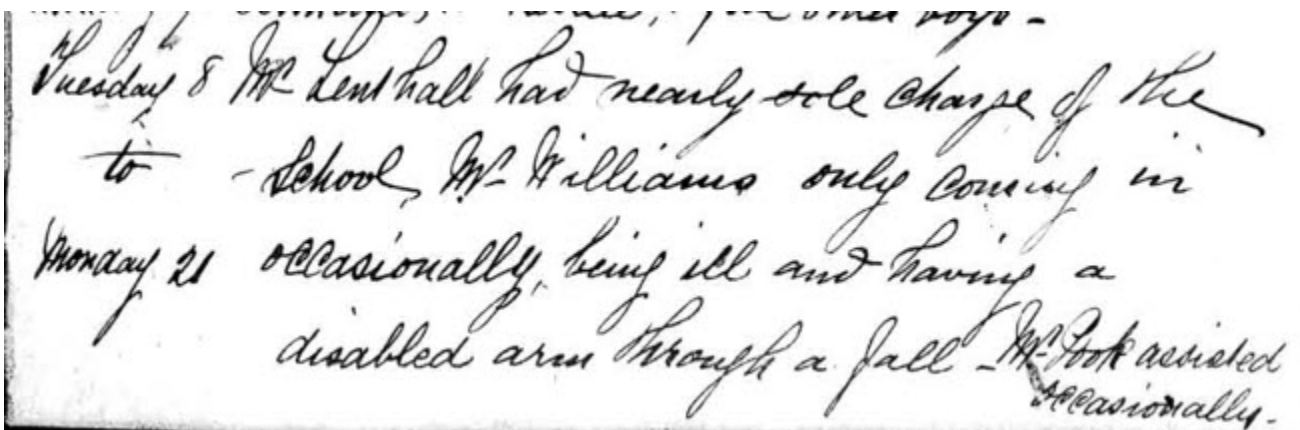
We see again on Tuesday 8th March 1870 that David is off sick once more. The Log states;-

'Mr Lenthall had nearly sole charge of the school, Mr Williams only coming in occasionally, being ill and having a disabled arm through a fall.'

It appears David did not return fully fit until Tuesday 22nd March 1870. What injury David had to his arm will never be known. We do not know if it was permanent or not. Again this appears to be his left arm as the writing with his right has not been affected. The final part of the entry appears to read;-

'Mr Took assisted occasionally'

Unfortunately it is difficult to read correctly but I believe the name is 'Took'.



Tuesday 8 Mr Lenthall had nearly sole charge of the school Mr Williams only coming in occasionally, being ill and having a disabled arm through a fall - Mr Took assisted occasionally.

Not all entries were serious or of bad news. As stated previously I will go through the Logs of David's time in greater detail in a later Volume but this next entry has a piece of humour about it in a sad sort of way. The entry was made on Tuesday 19th April 1870 and it reads;-

'Re-opened school - Sent Jas Henry home for another penny school money - he was brought back by a young woman who said quite impudently that his father would not pay another penny per week. So I returned him the 2d he had paid & sent him home - Rev T Higham visited school.'

I find it humorous the way David acted and I would have done exactly the same. The sad part of this of course was that the family were too poor to pay for their sons education. 'Jas' was how 'James' was written for short.

Tuesday 19. Re-opened school - Sent Jas. Henry home for another penny school money - he was brought back by a young woman, who said quite impudently that his father would not pay another penny per week. So I returned him the 2d he had paid & sent him home - Rev T Higham

Thursday 16th June 1870 sees yet more sickness time off for David as he leaves in the afternoon. Whatever the problem is it has kept him off for the following day as well. There is also a lot of illness by some other teachers. Being a mining town with coal fires the air would not be the freshest around. The smoke filled air would be bad for most adults and bronchial problems would be the most likely. Bronchitis itself is a very painful condition indeed.

As can be seen on the following page the Log reads;-

Thursday 16. Mr Williams absent in afternoon through illness

Friday 17. Master still at home ill- Ave for week 104.3

*Thursday 16. Mr Williams absent in afternoon through illness.
Friday 17. Master still at home ill - W: for week - 104.3*

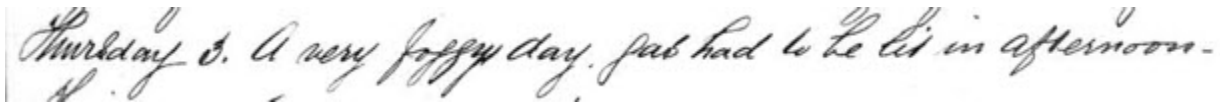
Thursday 25th August 1870 saw yet another day of sickness for David. One must begin to think that the school would suffer with David, as the Master, being away so often. The Log reads;-

Thursday 25. Mr Williams at home ill.

Thursday 25. Mr Williams at home ill.

To understand David's illness and the absence of other Staff members would be very difficult. However an entry on Thursday 3rd November 1870 may go some way in helping us understand the conditions David, his staff and the pupils themselves had to endure. I will try to explain the conditions more in a later Chapter of this Volume when I discuss the Scholes area and how most of these mining families lived. This can only come from my knowledge of history and from local knowledge gained from people like Bill Bithel and not my own experience.

As in previous volumes of my family story I have shown the conditions of places, like Brighton, in the 19th Century. I have mentioned numerous accounts of filth, depravation and disease. Privy's which overflow into the wells from where the tenants get their water supply. The sickness, diarrhoea and even cholera that my ancestors died from caused by unsanitary and crowded conditions. This was a problem suffered by all normal working class people within Britain no matter where they lived, be it North, South, East or West.



This small entry made in the Log on Thursday 3rd November 1870 shows how much we take for granted our lives today. It reads:-

‘A very foggy day. Gas had to be lit in afternoon.’

That only can tell us how thick the fog was that day in order to make it bad enough to need lighting. The only lighting available was by gas. The gas was obviously not lit regularly because the event had been great enough to deserve an entry into the Log. The rules for entries in the Log are quite strict and these can be read in the St Catharine’s Chapter later in this Volume.

So a normal school day would seem to be held in a dim and dismal environment. With no heating it would also have been damp and cold, especially from autumn, through winter and into early spring. Although I did not copy the Log page at the start of 1867, I did read the entry which stated ‘Gas being installed’, this was in the January. So until that date there was no lighting other than candles. These of course would not, hopefully, be in the classrooms close to the children.

So we have cold, damp, dismal conditions with the fumes of gas from the lighting. The gas back then would have had a bad smell which was toxic if the fumes built up. The carbon monoxide and methane would not have been pleasant. I remember the smell of the coal gas before the conversion to ‘Natural Gas’ in the 1960’s and 70’s. Believe me, from my experience then it was not pleasant and being the 1950’s - 60’s there was better ventilation and awareness to the dangers. These would not have been considered in 1870.

We have one final clue in the Log entry that affected the health of so many. That is the intense fog mixed with the smoke from the local industries, of which there were many in the area, which causes SMOG.

Smog is a combination of smoke and fog. It was a serious problem in many cities and in some parts of the world, even today, continues to harm human health.

The fumes such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide are especially harmful for the elderly, children, and people with heart and lung conditions such as bronchitis, and asthma. It can inflame breathing passages, decrease the lungs' working capacity, cause shortness of breath, pain when inhaling deeply, wheezing, and coughing. It can cause eye and nose irritation and it dries out the protective membranes of the nose and throat and interferes with the body's ability to fight infection, increasing susceptibility to illness.

Hospital admissions and respiratory deaths often increase during periods when ozone levels are high.

Victorian London was notorious for its thick smogs, a fact that is often recreated to add an air of mystery to a period costume drama.





The pollution problem is not a new one. Even back in the year 1306 concerns over air pollution were sufficient for Edward I to briefly ban coal fires in London.

Severe episodes of smog continued in the 19th and 20th centuries and were nicknamed "pea-soupers". The Great Smog of 1952 darkened the streets of London and killed approximately 4,000 people in the short time of 4 days. A further 8,000 died from its effects in the following weeks and months.

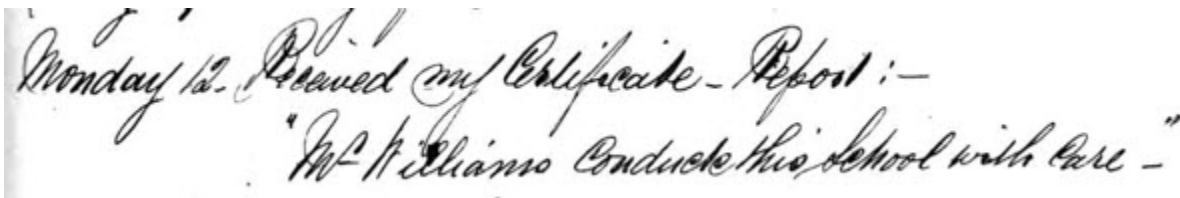
In 1956 the Clean Air Act introduced smokeless zones in London and this gradually spread throughout the United Kingdom. Consequently the reduced sulfur dioxide levels made the intense and persistent smog of London and other British Cities a thing of the past.

So we can consider that the day of Thursday 3rd November 1870 was similar to the great London Smog of 1952 where the skies were dark enough for lighting. In 1870 they would not have been as aware of the problem and an increase in deaths over the foggy periods would probably not have been blamed on the weather and gone largely unnoticed. Indeed the initial deaths in London in 1952 were blamed on a Flu outbreak. So with David's Bronchial and Rheumatic condition we can probably understand a little bit more as to why he was taking so many days off with illness. One would hope that on top of this he never smoked?

With the year of 1870 coming to a close, David can look back at an eventful twelve months which ended with him receiving his Certificate Report on Monday 12th December 1870. The Log entry read;-

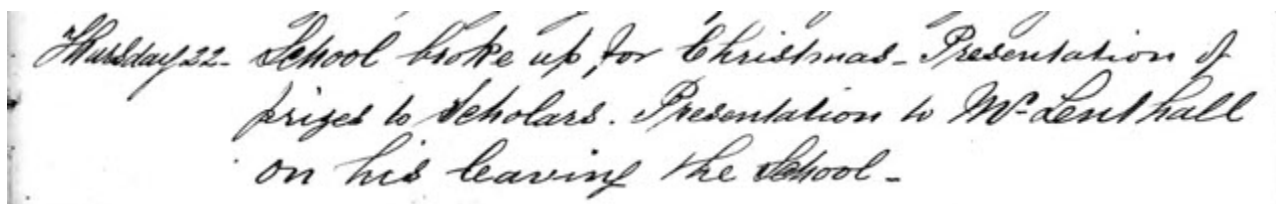
'Monday 12. Received my Certificate-Report:-

"Mr Williams Conducts this School with care - " "



I would have thought David would have been pleased to receive such a positive comment? I would have enjoyed seeing a full report and all its comments, both good and bad but I do not believe any full reports survived. Some of the reports are partly reproduced within the Logs and they do make interesting reading. The report for the end of the 1870 term can be seen on the next two pages.

Thursday 22nd December 1870 would be the last day of term at St Catharine's and as with all Schools throughout the Country, the end of term means presentations are made and somebody normally leaves.



This particular year contained the bad news of the fact that Mr Lenthall, the Assistant Master, was leaving St Catharine's School. Whether this was on appointment to another School, illness or any other reason will never be known. However a later Log entry is interesting. The Log for Thursday 22nd December 1870 read as follows;-

'Thursday 22. School broke up for Christmas - Presentations of prizes to Scholars. Presentation to Mr Lenthall on his leaving the School.'

The School was to return on Monday 9th January 1871. A nice seventeen days off for the Scholars of the day but one wonders how many enjoyed their Christmas and how many had to work at the mines?

On Monday 23rd January 1871 David was to receive the School Report which, unlike his own Certificate Report, did not make good reading. One has to ask why they would both contradict each other?

Unfortunately the Log was written by the Reverend T. Higham and unfortunately is difficult to read in full especially near the end of the page. Reverend Higham it seems did not 'plan ahead' when spacing his work!

The report reads:-

'Monday 23. The Report received -

Boys School } 'The Boys with the exception of those in the Second Standard are in good order. The attainments on the whole are very fair. The Reading and Arithmetic however in the Second Standard are very poor, the spelling is weak in the Third Standard.'

Monday 23. The Report received -

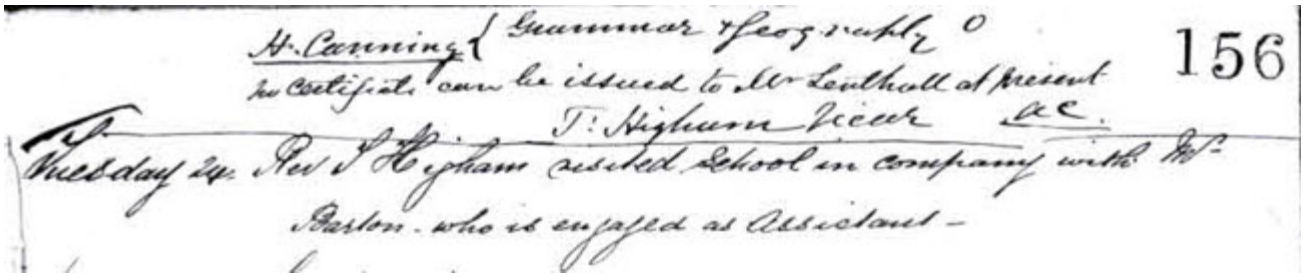
Boys School } 'The Boys with the exception of those in the Second Standard are in good order. The attainments on the whole are very fair. The Reading & Arithmetic however in the Second Standard are very poor, the Spelling is weak in the Third Standard. Mixed School } The attainments have improved since last year, but the School is not so well taught as it should be. A larger proportion of children eligible for examination should have been presented. The Infants should have systematic instruction suited to their age. A colour box & some animal cards are wanted. The partition between the two rooms should be left open during the greater part of the Morning & Afternoons. The Discipline is not very good. A greater number of those qualified by attendance should be presented for examination in the Girls School. My Lords desire to you in both departments a greater number of passes above the Third Standard next year. R. Hampson { Grammar & Geography

Mixed School } The attainments have improved since last year but the School is not as well taught as it should be. A larger proportion of children eligible for examination should have been presented. The Infants should have systematic instruction divided by their age.

A colour box and some animal cards are wanted. The partition between the two rooms should be left open during the greater part of the Morning and Afternoons. The Discipline is not very good. A greater number of those qualified by attendance should be presented for examination in the Girls School. My Lords desire to you in both departments a greater number of passes above the third Standard next year.'

The Report finishes with a R. Hampson, a Pupil Teacher and a H. Canning, who I assume is also a Pupil Teacher, receiving their Grammar and Geography certificates.

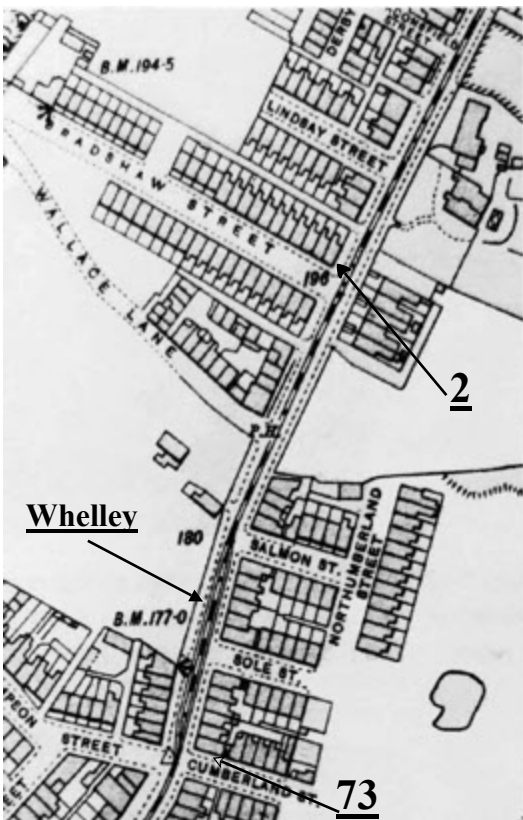
The final entry actual reads ‘No Certificate can be issued to Mr Lenthall at present’. I am not sure if that is because he has now left or because he is no longer a Teacher or indeed, did not qualify!



The School Logs help to make a comparison with the School life back then with the basic life in the schools of today. There are many similarities that makes for very interesting reading. I hope to write more on this in the St Catharine’s Chapter later in this volume. It is certainly interesting that the members of the School Board, like Reverend Thomas Higham, make regular visits to the School. They are the equivalent of today’s ‘Ofsted Inspector’ who visit when they feel the need to interfere with the running of a school and make life difficult for Teachers and Pupils alike. They can, and do, help improve some schools but the cure is always the same, money. The next entry from the Log is for Tuesday 24th January 1871 shows;-

‘Reverend T Higham visited School in company with Mr Barton who is engaged as Assistant.’

So Mr Barton has now replaced Mr Lenthall as the Assistant Master to David.



I do not know whether the house David lived in was supplied by St. Catharine’s School or not. We saw in the earlier newspaper advertisements that a ‘Master’s House’ was provided. We do know however that David, his wife, Margaret, and Son, Albert, moved to a new home in a road called Whelley. This was not too far from their old home at No 2 Bradshaw Street. We know of the move as this is shown in the 1871 Census, which we will discuss shortly. The date of the move will never be known. All we know it was between 1869 and 1871.

The Map on the far left shows their old home and their new one, marked 73. No73 was on the corner of



Cumberland Street but has now sadly been demolished. The picture on the left shows the location where it once stood. As there was no garden it would have been located on this grass area.

The view across the road from 73 Whelley would have been of the local shops.

The building today would have been recognised by David but the occupiers of today would have been something completely alien to the Williams family.



The next official record we have for David is the 1871 Census taken on the Sunday, 2nd April 1871.

Here we can see the family at home. There is David, wife Margaret and Son Albert, now aged two. Also living at the address as a boarder is Jane Wilson. Looking closer we can see Jane Wilson is the Infant School Mistress. As she is mentioned in the Logs we know this is at St Catharine's School.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										[Page 11]
*Civil Parish (or Township)	Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Village or Hamlet, or	Local Board, or (Improvement Commissioners District) of	Ecclesiastical District of			153
No. of Houses	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	ROUSES (Classed as to the 31st Dec. 1871)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION	AGE of Person	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN		Whether 1. Deaf and Dumb 2. Insane or 3. Blind 4. Lunatic
59	Whelley Round House	1	Henry Wright	Head	Widow	58	Proprietor of a Public House	Lancashire	Whelley	
			Ellen - do	Wife	Widow	52		do - do	do - do	
			Harriet - do	Daughter	Widow	26		do - do	do - do	
			Caroline - do	Daughter	Widow	24		do - do	do - do	
			Clareisa, B. - do	Daughter	Widow	19		do - do	do - do	
			Mary - do	Daughter	Widow	17		do - do	do - do	
			Henry, E. - do	Son		11	Scholar	do - do	do - do	
			Ann Roughton	Servant	Widow	28	Housemaid	do - do	do - do	
			Mary Robinson	Servant	Widow	27	Kitchen Maid	do - do	do - do	
60	77 Whelley (Green's Shop)	1	Thomas Johnson	Head	Mar.	52	Wagoner	Lancashire	Whelley	
			Jane Johnson	Wife	Mar.	45		do - do	do - do	
			Albin - do	Son	Widow	16		do - do	do - do	
			Richard - do	Son		12	Scholar	do - do	do - do	
			Margaret - do	Daughter		10		do - do	do - do	
61	75 Whelley	1	William Lloyd	Head	Mar.	47	Barman, Water (Coal Miner)	do	Whelley	
			Emily - do	Wife	Mar.	41		do - do	do - do	
			Thomas Lloyd	Son	Widow	14	Collier	do	Whelley	
			John Lloyd	Son		12		do - do	do - do	
			William, H. - do	Son		8	Scholar	do - do	do - do	
			Joseph - do	Son		8 Mo.		do - do	do - do	
62			John Pickering	Head	Widow	78	Miner (Coal)	do	Whelley	
63	73 Whelley	1	David A. Williams	Head	Mar.	28	Schoolmaster of St. Catherine's N.S.	Shropshire	Whelley	
			Margaret - do	Wife	Mar.	23		do - do	do - do	
			Albert, E. - do	Son		2		do - do	do - do	
			Jane Wilson	Boarder	Widow	24	Infant School Mistress	Lancashire	Whelley	
5	Total of Houses..	4	Total of Males and Females..			12	13			

* Draw the pen through each of the words as are inappropriate.

Eng- Sheet E.

David Albert Williams has his profession written as 'Schoolmaster of St Catharine's N.S'. The 'N.S' stands for 'National School'.

Below we have the shortened version which is easier to read.

1871 Census - Wigan		Ward - Scholes			Address - 73 Whelley		
Name	Relationship	Con	DoB	Age	Profession	Where Born	Remarks
David A Williams	Head	M	1843	28	Schoolmaster	Oswestry, Shropshire	St. Catherine's N.S
Margaret	Wife	M	1848	23		Oswestry, Shropshire	
Albert E	Son	S	1869	2		Whelley, Lancashire	
Jane Wilson	Boarder	U	1847	24	School Mistress	Liverpool, Lancashire	

There is a story of defiance from Jane Wilson which is mentioned in the School Logs. This will be mentioned in the St Catharine's Chapter.

The Mistresses of the Infant and Girl's School would keep their own daily Logs. Some of these existed but were too much for me to copy. These would make fine reading for any person wanting to do the full School History.

June 1871 appeared to be a particularly bad month for David's health so far. Again the Log shows him absent through illness from Monday 12th June until early July. The Log reads;-

Monday 12. Admitted John Willis- Mr Williams away ill
To only coming in occasionally
Friday 16. Dickinson (monitor) expelled.

Monday 19 Master still suffering debility-
To Comes in occasionally-
Friday 23 Admitted Thomas Smith, John Roby & John Hassocks.

Monday 26. Master absent by order of Doctor until July 6th.

Thursday 6th School broke up for midsummer.

June
Monday 5. Nothing of importance. School work as usual.
Monday 12. Admitted John Willis - Mr Williams away ill,
to only coming in occasionally - Dickinson (monitor) expelled -
Friday 16 }
Monday 19 } Master still suffering from debility. Comes in occasionally.
to
Friday 23 } Admitted Thomas Smith, John Roby & John Hassocks.
Monday 26 Master absent by order of Doctor - until July 6th.
Thursday July 6th School broke up for midsummer -
July -

David re-opened the school on Monday 17th July and no doubt the five weeks rest done him some good. Whether David actually returned on the 6th July to close the school I do not know. The writing in the Logs has not changed so I can only assume he had returned or he wrote the Logs after the event.

The entry referring to Dickinson being expelled on Friday 16th June 1871 is interesting and young Dickinson is mentioned a number of times in the Logs. These will be discussed further in the St Catharine's Chapter.

July
Monday 17th School re-opened by Mr Williams. Mr Barton taking
to his holidays. Weather very unsettled. School
Friday 25 } consequently small -

It is interesting to note that Mr Barton, the Assistant Master, is now taking his holidays as the School Term begins. This is not the first time I have noticed this where a Staff member has begun their holidays at this time. Whether this means the school has Staff in attendance over that normal holiday periods I do not know. Maybe there is some sort of 'out of hours' educational activity over that period?

Mr Barton returned from his holidays the following week on Tuesday morning, 25th July. The comment in the Log that week notes the weather was still unsettled. It seems Mr Barton's holiday was not full of sunshine as the weather the previous week when his holiday started was also 'unsettled'.

October 1871 was a bad month for attendance through illness. The Logs mentioned that several boys were absent 'through fever' from Monday 9th until Friday 20th. Thankfully David was not affected by this. The following week the Wigan Fair began and the attendances reduced again.

November saw the School Inspectors visiting the School. This was for the end of year inspection and examinations.

The weather in December was fairly cold it seems as many of the boys were late to school due to the frosts. However the month was full of good news. During the week of Monday 4th December David received the report back with good results. The Log reads;-

Monday 4. School small, many boys late to school owing to the
To frost. Master received his Certificate back from
Friday 8. the Inspectors with a vary fair report on it.

Monday 4 } School small, many boys late to school owing to
to } the frost. Master received his Certificate back from
Friday 8. } the Inspectors, with a very fair report on it.
Monday 11 } The Rev T Higham distributed rewards to those children
to } who had attended the Examination and made a certain
Friday 15 } number of marks (Wednesday) - School small, many ill -
Monday 18 } Broke up school on Thursday for the Xmas
to } holidays - 2 weeks -
Friday 22 }

The School Report can be seen on the following page. The Log continues with entries on the prize giving and reads;-

Monday 11. The Rev T Higham distributed rewards to those children
To who had attended the Examination and made a certain
Friday 15 number of marks (Wednesday) - School small, many ill.



The Reverend Thomas Higham

It is good to read that hard work by scholars was being rewarded. The Victorian view of Schools paints a picture of a totalitarian regime which, it seems, does not appear to be true in all cases.

Life was obviously harder in all matters in the 1800's with poverty, hardships and general conditions all round. But I have mentioned before that the basic School life back then compares to the the school life of today in many aspects. I hope to explain this in the St Catharine's Chapter and then people can make their own conclusions.

So 1871 drew to an end and St Catharine's closed for the Christmas holidays from Thursday 21st December and returned on Monday 8th January 1872.

Interestingly in the Log of that week in January David has written 'Report received Saturday 6th - See next page'. This was obviously the Inspectors report which we can also see on the next page.

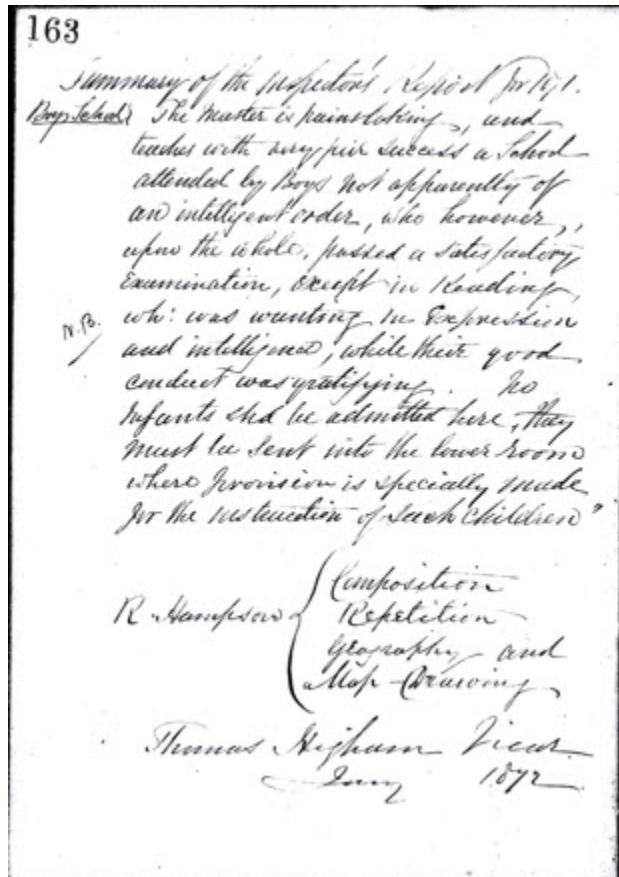
This report is very favourable towards David and his achievements and describes some of the difficulties he has had to cope with. The report reads:-

“Summary of the Inspector’s Report for 1871.

Boys School. The master is painstaking and teaches with very fair success a School attended by Boys not apparently of an intelligent order, who however, upon the whole, passed a satisfactory examination, except in Reading wh(ich) was wanting in expression and intelligence, while their good conduct was gratifying. No Infants shd (should) be admitted here, they must be sent into the lower room where provision is specially made for the instruction of such children.”

R. Hampson	{	Composition
	{	Repetition
	{	Geography and
	{	Map Drawing

(Signed) Thomas Higham Vicar
January 1872



It is interesting that the inspector has commented on the local children’s lack of intelligence but it is also good that David is doing a good job in helping these Children improve their lives in a small way through education. Another point to note in this part of the Log, it has been noted prior to this entry but I never commented on, and that is the use of what we would call today as ‘text speak’. This is a ‘new’ form of shorthand, that the younger generation of today believe they invented in order to write as much as possible in the short space that the mobile phone provides for messaging. Many words are just initials. For example people type just ‘nd’ for ‘and’ or ‘av’ for have. There are many words written this way.

In David’s entry of the Log on this page alone we have ‘wh’, which I assume is ‘which’ and ‘shd’ which is short for ‘should’. The ‘shd’ has been used in the reports on many occasions. As this ‘shorthand’ is mostly used on the report writing part of the Logs and these reports are signed mostly by the Reverend Higham, I can only assume it is his way of writing shorthand?

The remainder of the 1872 school year was reasonably uneventful. One intriguing Log entry in April mentions the ‘Day school’, which we know is the normal school which David resides over. In addition it also goes on to mention the ‘Night School’ which is believed also run by David, so he must have worked some very long hours. Elsewhere in the Logs is the mention of the ‘Sunday School’ where both boys & girls could also improve their basic literacy.

As boys left the day school at ten, eleven, or twelve years of age to go to work, the night school would give them plenty of scope for continuation studies. Some of these night schools catered for males aged between eight and thirty. What the ages at St Catharine’s were is not known.

These were usually run by the Schoolmaster or Mistress or the parish incumbent (i.e. the vicar or rector) and students paid a small weekly fee. Students were streamed according to their educational attainment and learnt reading, writing and (if they had the aptitude) arithmetic.

There was no real requirement for females to attend a night school and therefore night schools for females were not common. There was a girls’ night school in Horsham in 1867 but this was a rarity. Ironically Horsham is my present address.

Not all of 1872 was completely uneventful as far as David's life was concerned. In fact there was a lot to feel happy about; A good Schools Inspector's Report, there were no mentions in the Logs, or at least none found, of days absent through illness. However David must have been really pleased with 1872 when Margaret announced she was pregnant with their second child?

David and Margaret were to celebrate an addition to the family, of a Daughter, on Sunday 15th September 1872, when Margaret Eleanor Williams was born at 73 Whelley, Wigan.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 3017177-4

REGISTRATION DISTRICT WIGAN

1872 BIRTH in the Sub-district of Wigan in the County of Lancaster


Column	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
	Septemb ^r 1872 73 Whelley	Margaret Eleanor	girl	David Albert Williams	Margaret Williams formerly Lyster	School master	David Albert Williams Father 73 Whelley Wigan	Septemb ^r 1872	Robert Gallivell Registrar	

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 24th day of February 2011

BXCE 913074

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE ©CROWN COPYRIGHT
WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.



Copy of Margaret Eleanor Williams birth certificate

The family are still resident at 73 Whelley for the birth of their first Daughter and David Albert Williams profession is School Master. I assume Margaret Eleanor takes her first name from her mother, Margaret. Eleanor was David's mother's name and this may be where it has originated. However Eleanor was also the name of Margaret's Sister and therefore may just be 'fashionable' at the time?

Nov 20
A.B.

*visited the school for General Inspection
& found that no intimation had been
received by the Master of my intention to
inspect it today. My notice was opened 4
weeks ago & addressed to the Rev G. Wilkes.
W. Scott Coward
H. M. I.*

There was only one 'problem' day for David in 1872 and this was when, on Wednesday 20th November, the Inspector turned up unexpectedly as far as David was concerned.

The H.M. Inspector was a Mr W. Scott Coward.

The Log reads:-

'Visited the school for General Inspection and found that no intimation had been received by the Master of any intention to inspect it today. My notice was opened 4 weeks ago and addressed to the Rev G. Wilkes'

The School was inspected and examined by Mr Edwards on the following Tuesday 26th November. Whether Mr W. Scott Coward gave David a week to prepare for the inspection I do not know. There are no further references to the inspection in the Logs. David did rearranged the classes in December but I do not know if this had any consequences to the inspection or not. The school broke for Christmas holidays on Thursday morning 19th December at 11 o'clock. The school re-opened on Monday 6th January 1873.

The school report was written into the Logs early March and read as follows;-

Summary of the Report Her Majesty's Inspector January 1873.

Boy's School }

The boys have passed a good examination, and are in creditable order.

The Master works with commendable zeal for the good of his school.

- { Composition
- R. Hampson { History &
- { Euclids (Euclids was a Greek mathematician and father of geometry)
- I. Fairhurst Failure

(T. Higham Vicar)

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*Summary of the Report
Her Majesty's
Inspector January 1873.*

Boy's School }

The Boys have passed a good Examination, and are in creditable order. The Master works with commendable zeal for the good of his School

N.B.

- { Composition
- R. Hampson { History &
- { Euclids
- I. Fairhurst Failure

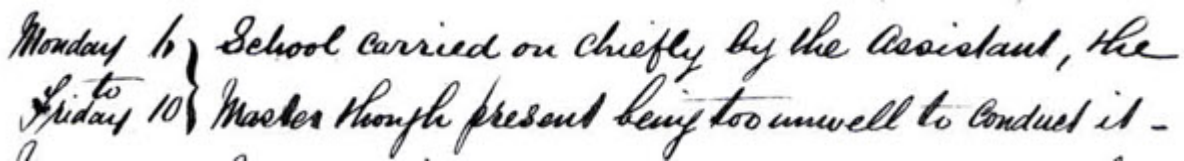
(T. Higham Vicar)

Looking again at the report it shows that David was a good Master and worked hard at the school. After nearly four years as Master he has served the School and it's scholars well.

There is an interesting entry in the Logs in September 1873 when David wrote that he 'Commenced keeping the late boys in School for half an hour after the others have left'. This is obviously known today as a 'detention'. I wonder when detentions started in schools as it was normal in the 1800's to give out 'corporal punishment'?

Again the rest of the year was fairly normal with no incidents until the week of Monday October 6th to Friday 10th. Here the Logs mention David is unwell. It seems to have been a long time since the last entry of illness. The Logs read:-

Monday 6 } School carried on chiefly by the the assistant, the
to }
Friday 10. } Master though present being too unwell to conduct it.



So although David was present it is clear that he was not fit enough to take any classes. With the end of the year approaching and bringing the inevitable inspection and examination David probably could not afford to be away from the school at this time.

St. Catharine's school was examined on the morning of Wednesday 12th November 1873 by H.M Inspector Mr W Scott Coward.

The remainder of the year passed without any major incidents but many boys were away in December through illness and the illness, whatever it was, kept many off school into late January also.

The School broke for the Christmas holiday at 1130 am Thursday morning, 18th December, and was reopened on Monday 5th January 1874.

The School Report was received in the week of 26th January and David has noted in the Log the following:-

January 26 Received report of School.
to
January 30 Results not at all satisfactory.

As you can see David was not happy with the Report which reads:-

Summary of Inspector's Report

Boys School. - The boys who were presented for examination today passed generally with credit, except in the third standard, which requires attention especially in Spelling and Arithmetic. The reading of the upper standards is lacking intelligence which I hope will show improvement in next year.

The number of Boys withheld although qualified as regards attendances for examination was far too great. Additional desks are urgently needed.

R. Hampton is not qualified by this examination under Articles 60 or 79.

Qualification can only be reached now for Article 79 by passing the examination specified in Article 91.

Before deciding on the admissions of I. Fairhurst My Lords desire to be furnished with the Medical Certificate required by the First Schedule of the New Code.

Evening School - The Evening School is taught in a creditable manner by the Master of the Day School.

In the Boys School a much larger proportion of the Scholars qualified by their attendances must be presented for examination next year.

The Report summary was signed by Rev. T Highams, Vicar. The actual report is shown below and covered two pages of the Logs.

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Summary of the Inspector's Report

N.B. Boys School. The Boys who were presented for examination to day passed generally with credit, except in the Third Standard, which requires attention especially in Spelling & Arithmetic. The Reading of the upper Standards is lacking in intelligence which I hope they will show improvement in next year.

The number of Boys withheld although qualified as regards attendances for examinations was far too great. Additional desks are urgently needed.

R. Hampson is not qualified by this examination under articles 60 or 79.

Qualification can only be reached now for Article 79, by passing the examination specified in Article 91.

Before deciding on the admission of J. Fairhurst My Lords desire to be furnished with the Medical Certificate required by the First Schedule of the New Code Evening School. - The Evening School is taught in a creditable manner by the Master of the Day School.

In the Boys School. a much larger proportion of the scholars qualified by their attendances. must be presented for examination next year.

(J. Higham Keir)

Mr. David A. Williams Master.
Thos Barton Assistant —
Edwin Bamford a —
S. H.

It can be seen in this Report that David also teaches at the Night School as well as the Day School. The normal timings for the Day School were from 9 o'clock in the morning until 5 o'clock in the evening. I can only guess that the Night School started about 6 o'clock, giving Staff time for something to eat and prepare, and maybe finished two or three hours later. My guess would be that it was a twelve hour day which must have been a very long and tiring day for David and any Staff that worked the same hours.

As mentioned previously David was not entirely happy with this report but the way I read the report his name got some credit for the Night School and the Day School Boys who were examined and passed with credit.

I do not fully understand the rules, articles and standards mentioned in the report but I hope to find out more information and discuss this further in the St Catharine's Chapter of this Volume.

Education was not fully organised for the masses until the 'Elementary Education Act 1870', which set the framework for schooling of all children between ages 5 and 12 in England and Wales. It was introduced on 17th February 1870. The Act was not taken up in all areas and would be more firmly enforced through later reforms. Even this Act did not make Schooling compulsory although some School Boards passed a 'by-law' making it so.

From what I can understand at present is there were six standards which scholars should reach. Not all Scholars would reach all of the standards because Schooling was not compulsory. However those who attended should have reached the required standard and therefore put up for examinations. Obviously in this Report although some children made the required attendances they never met the required educational standard, which in turn could affect funding. The 'Third Standard' mentioned in the report for example meant the following:-

- Reading - A short paragraph from a more advanced reading book.
- Writing - A sentence slowly dictated once by a few words at a time, from the same book.
- Arithmetic - Long division and compound rules (money).

The comment 'Reading of the Upper Standards is lacking in intelligence' meant the children were not reading with 'feeling'. Standard Six for Reading stated;- 'To read with fluency and expression'

The names mentioned at the end of the School Report differ in respect that there appears to be two Assistant Masters? David is still the Master and Thomas Barton is named as the Assistant Master. However we have the addition of Edwin Bandford who also seems to be an Assistant Master? This situation changes though on Friday 27th February 1874 when Mr Bandford left.

The week commencing 16th March illness was to return and David was away from School again. I assume the Log was written by the Assistant Master and I don't believe it was written favourably, then again I may be being biased? The Log read;-

March 16 } The Master out of School from Wednesday Afternoon
 to } until Friday through illness. School carried on very success-
 March 20 } fully by the Assistant and other teachers.

*16 } The Master out of School from Wednesday Afternoon
 to 20 } until Friday through illness. School carried on very success-
 fully by the Assistant and other teachers -*

Obviously the Assistant Master, Mr Thomas Barton wants to sing his own praises and maybe he has an ulterior motive because his next comments the following week when David was still ill were no better, in fact I would say they were worse. The Log read;-

March 23 } Master resumes his duties though still too
 to } weak to be of much use in the school.
 March 27 }

*23 } Master resumes his duties though still too
 to 27 } weak to be of much use in the school -*

Again during the week of 6th to 10th April David is away at a Conference in London and the Assistant has written in the Logs;-

'The School successfully conducted by the Assistant.'

Talk about being modest!

The rest of the School year seemed to pass without incident although there was a Miners Strike later that year which caused pupil numbers to drop. August 1st found the highest attendance figures to date at 224 being present out of 237 listed pupils.

BIRTHS.
 BISHOP—On the 13th inst., at Cowley Hill, St. Helens, the wife of Samuel R. Bishop, Esq., of a son.
 BRADSHAW—On the 14th inst., at Bridge Cottage, Bangor, the wife of Thomas Bradshaw, Esq., of a son.
 BUTHER—On the 5th inst., at Albert-street, Wrexham, the wife of Mr Richard Butcher, of a son.
 CROCKATT—On the 13th inst., at Tulin Castle, Llandudno, the wife of Mr John Crockatt, of a son.
 DAVIES—On the 15th inst., at Moss, Gwersyllt, the wife of Philip Davies, of a son.
 DRAYCOTT—On the 14th inst., at Poolmouth, the wife of Charles Draycott, of a daughter.
 EDWARDS—On the 14th inst., at Moss, Gwersyllt, the wife of Mr John Edwards, Town Ditch Farm, Barton, of a daughter.
 EVANS—On the 23rd ult., at Llwynnwg, Llangynog, the wife of Mr Robert Roberts Evans, of a son.
 NICHOLAS—On the 12th inst., at the Hendre, Llanfechain, Laura, wife of Mr T. Nicholas, of a daughter.
 PRICE-JONES—On the 11th inst., at Wilton House, Rhyde, Isle of Wight, the wife of Major A. Price Jones, of Glan Rannel, Carmarthenshire, of a son.
 THOMAS—On the 14th inst., at Fron, Brymbo, the wife of Joseph Thomas, of twins—sons.
 TREVOR—On the 16th inst., at Bryn Golen, Erthig, the wife of Edward Trevor, of a son.
 WILLIAMS—On the 14th inst., the wife of Mr D. A. Williams, head master of St. Catherine's National School, Wigan, of a son.

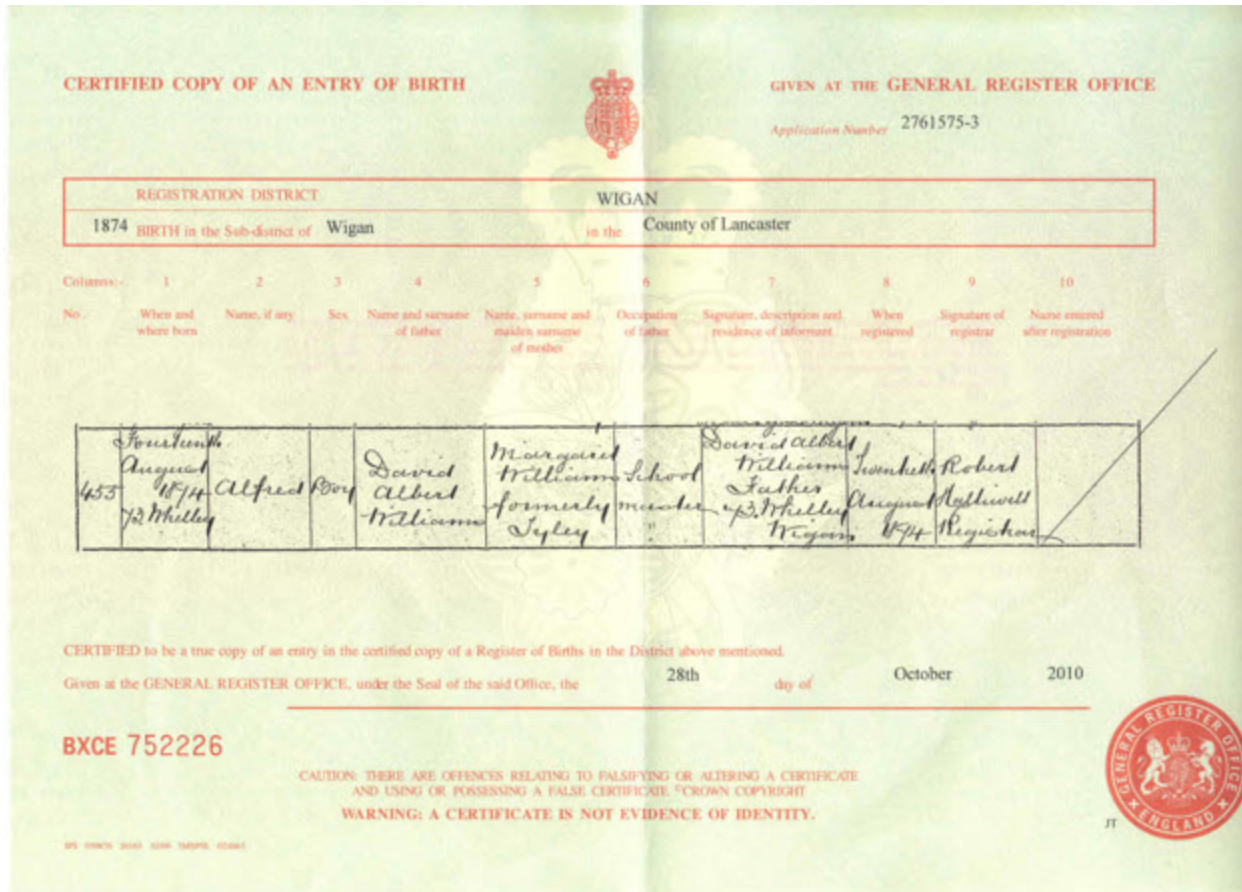
However David had more important things on his mind as the advertisement, shown left, from the Wrexham Advertiser dated 22nd August 1874 shows.

On Friday 14th August 1874 Margaret gave birth to David's second Son and third child who they were to name Alfred Williams. Alfred was to me the most important child of the family as he was to become my Grandfather. Alfred's story is told in Chapter Two of this Volume.

An enlarge version of newspaper announcement is shown below.

WILLIAMS—On the 14th inst., the wife of Mr D. A. Williams, head master of St. Catherine's National School, Wigan, of a son.

As can be seen by the Birth Certificate the family are still resident at 73 Whelley. David's profession is still entered as School Master.



Copy of Alfred Williams birth certificate

The School broke up for Christmas on Thursday morning, 24th December 1874. I should imagine David would look forward to his Christmas Break with his increased family.

The Annual Inspector's School Report was written in the Log and covered five pages. However this included the Girls and Infants School. I will just cover the Boys report which covers more than one page and reads as follows:-

“Boys School The Master is zealous, but labours under the disadvantage of insufficient books & apparatus

& desk accommodation, which cripple his efforts considerably. These deficiencies shd (should) be made good & another Stove placed in the room.

The boys are well disciplined & passed on the whole satisfactory.

The spelling in the third Standard especially needs great care and must be improved as a condition of my recommending next year the payment of an undiminished grant. The paper work ought to be neater, & the higher Standards sh'd (should) be more numerous.

The large number of Boys withheld from examination, although qualified as regards attendance, were kept back it seems, in consequence of the impossibility of preparing them to pass under the first Standard in a year with no previous Education”

The addition of a stove, presumably for heating, is a nice educational gesture!. Also the threat of less grant unless improvements are made with insufficient books, desks etc does not help. Life never changes it seems? The last paragraph I fail to understand fully. Maybe ‘impossibility’ should have been ‘possibility’? Again ‘txt spk’ is used for the word ‘should’. The original Report is shown on the next page.

Boys School The Master is zealous, but labours under the disadvantage of insufficient books & apparatus & defective accommodation, which rattle his efforts considerably. These deficiencies shd be made good, & another Stone placed in the room.

The Boys are well disciplined & pass on the whole satisfactorily.

The Spelling in the Third Standard especially needs great care and must be improved as a condition of my recommending next year. The payment of an undiminished grant. The paper work ought to be neater, & the higher Standards shd be more numerous.

The large number of Boys withheld from examination, although qualified as regards attendance, were kept back. It seems, in consequence of the impossibility

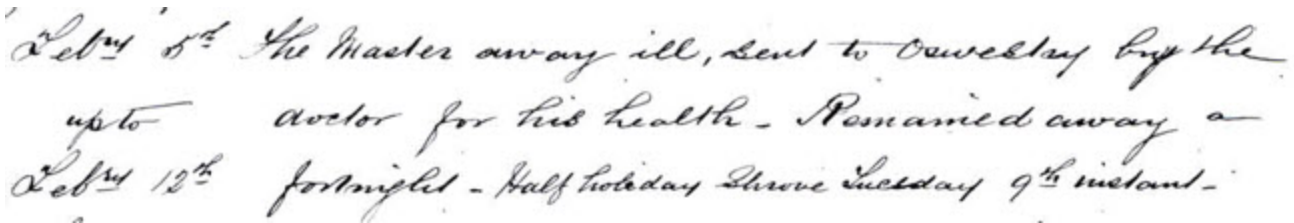
of preparing them to pass under the first Standard in a year with no previous education

David reopened the School after the Christmas Holiday on Monday 11th January 1875 but this entry was not made until the Friday 15th. The Logs have changed in the fact that all entries now only have the end of week date.

January seemed to be going well with nothing unusual happening and all seemed to be ok with the last entry of the Friday 29th January which stated 'School work as usual'. However from February onwards David's health seems to have taken a dramatic downturn.

The entry for the Friday 5th February did not make for very good reading. It read;-

Feb 5th - The Master away ill, sent to Oswestry by the
upto - Doctor for his health - Remained away a
Feb 12th - fortnight - Half Holiday Shrove Tuesday 9th instant.



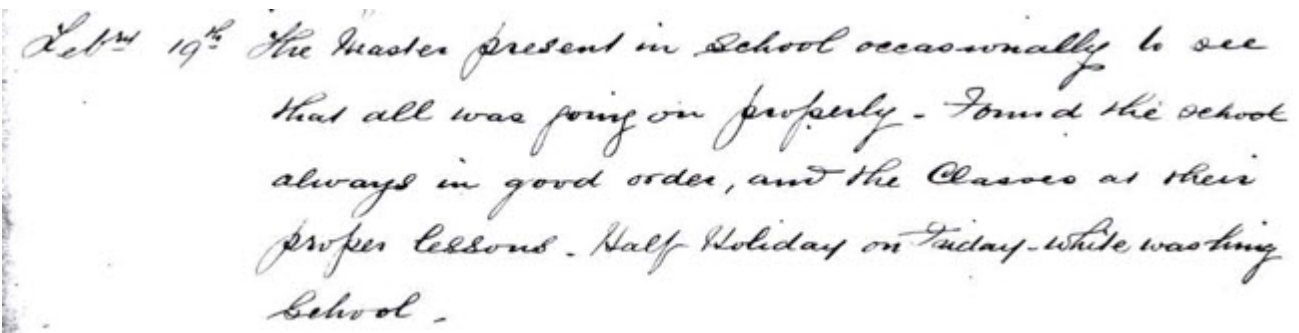
*Feb^{ry} 5th The Master away ill, sent to Oswestry by the
upto doctor for his health - Remained away a
Feb^{ry} 12th fortnight - Half holiday Shrove Tuesday 9th instant.*

It can only be assumed that David was ill all that week from February 1st. As mentioned previously his entry for the Friday 29th of January showed nothing out of the ordinary.

It appears he was off for those two weeks and returned to Oswestry, I can only assume to Margaret's family at Trinity House in Roft Street?

The type illness can only be speculated. My guess it would be Bronchitis and moving away from the smoked filled polluted air of Wigan to the reasonably fresh air of Oswestry was David's only chance of recovery.

David did return to Wigan the week of the 15th February and attended St Catharine's occasionally



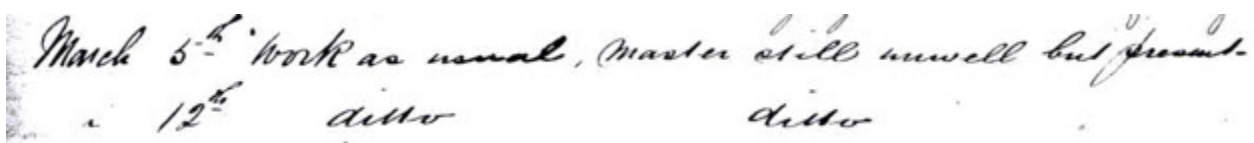
*Feb^{ry} 19th The Master present in school occasionally to see
that all was going on properly - Found the school
always in good order, and the Classes at their
proper lessons - Half Holiday on Friday - White washing
School.*

Bronchitis is not a very nice illness and there are normally two types, acute and chronic. I fear David is suffering from the Chronic version due to the Doctor sending away him from the polluted Wigan air! I have mentioned smoking makes matters worse and I can only hope there was no smoking in David's case?

Maybe had David stayed in Oswestry another week or more his health may have improved sufficiently in order for him to return to St Catharine's full time again. However his dedication would not let him stay away too long and the Log entries for the first two weeks of March read as follows;-

March 5th - Work as usual. Master still unwell but present.

March 12th - ditto ditto

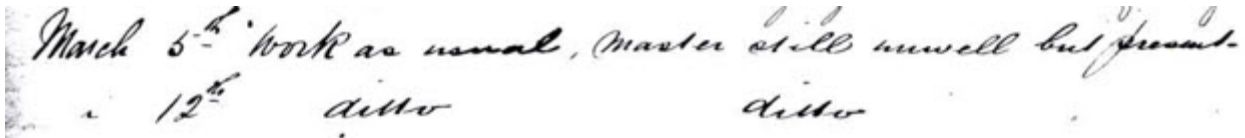


*March 5th work as usual, Master still unwell but present.
12th ditto ditto*

David's was obviously suffering severely with his health. He has been the Master at St Catharine's for nearly six years and has never deviated from his duties. He has worked hard both in the Day School and the Night School working long hours and achieving some good results. However the time had come for him to make a decision and decide which is the most important, his health or his job as Master of St. Catharine's?

One can only assume that he discussed the future options with Margaret and a decision was made. It was on Friday 19th March that David tendered his resignation as Master of St Catharine's and decided to move away from Wigan. The Log reads:-

March 19th - Master gave in his resignation but is staying on until another arrives.



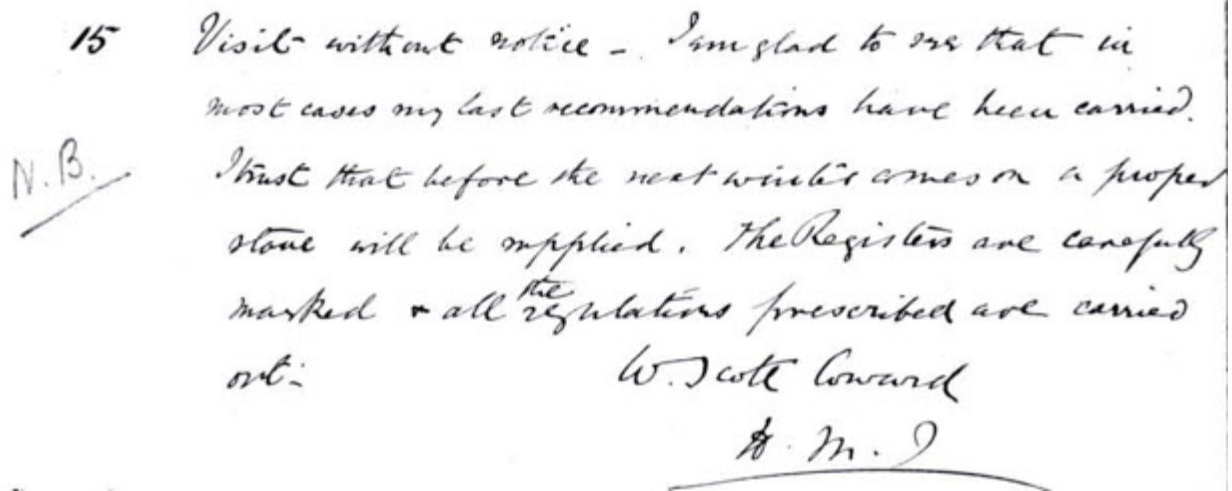
March 5th work as usual, Master still unwell but present.
12th ditto ditto

Even now David has put the good of the School over everything else and has decided to stay until a replacement is found.

So school life carried on and this was obvious on 15th April 1875 when H.M. Inspector, Mr W. Scott Coward made an unscheduled visit. He wrote in the Log:-

15th - Visit without notice. I am glad to see that in most cases my last recommendations have been carried.

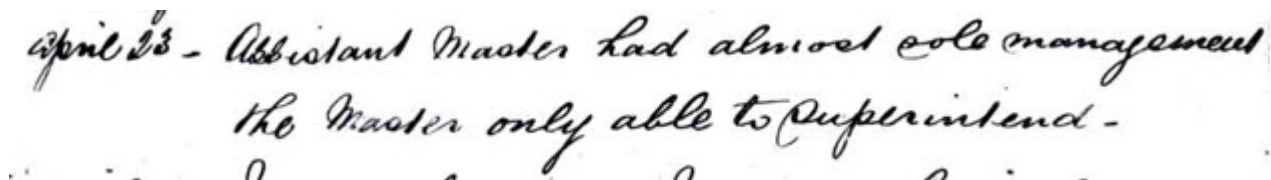
I trust that before the next winter comes on a proper stove will be applied. The Registers are carefully marked and all the regulations prescribed are carried out.



15 Visit without notice - I am glad to see that in most cases my last recommendations have been carried.
N.B. I trust that before the next winter comes on a proper stove will be supplied. The Registers are carefully marked & all the regulations prescribed are carried out.
W. Scott Coward
H.M.I.

April and May were to be a long painful months for David. The next Log entry on ending the week on Friday 23rd April read:-

'April 23 - Assistant Master had almost sole management, the Master only able to superintend.'

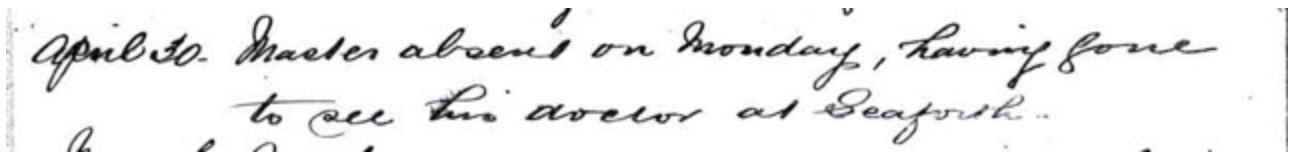


April 23 - Assistant Master had almost sole management
the Master only able to superintend -

It seems that David's illness is progressively getting worse and he is finding it very difficult to manage a full day at the School and when he has attended he is incapable of doing any real teaching work.

The entry for April 30th is misleading. As the 30th is a Friday and it states David was absent on Monday I do not know if that means he was absent for the whole week or just that one day. I suppose it is irrelevant as David has already resigned and is just awaiting his replacement. The Log for 30th April reads;-

‘April 30 - Master absent on Monday, having gone to see his doctor at Seaforth’

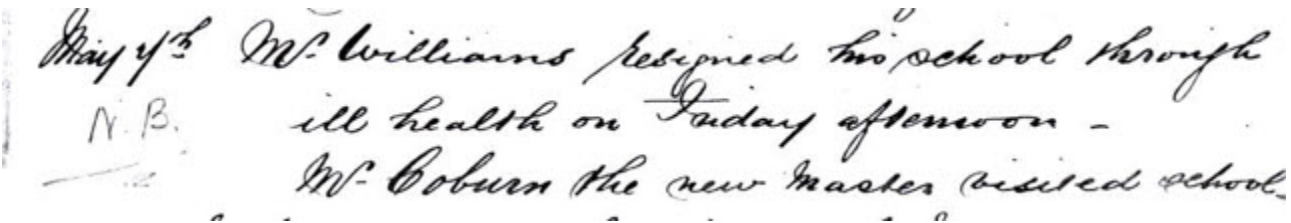


I can only guess David was away for just the Monday. Seaforth is in Liverpool and just 12 miles away from Wigan so the journey by train would not have been taken too long.

Friday 7th May 1875 was to see the final Log entry for David Albert Williams, Master of St Catharine’s School, Scholes, Wigan. It was the last day of his Schooling career when the Log entry was written;-

‘May 7th - Mr Williams resigned his school through ill health on Friday afternoon -

Mr Coburn the new Master visited school.’



So ended an era. Mr Coburn took charge of the school on Monday 10th May. I do not know if David was given a presentation, there is no mention in the Log anywhere.

There was the normal annual inspection in November of 1875 and reading the comment from Rev Higham you can imagine just how ill David must have been. The Rev Thomas Higham wrote;-

‘The present Master has been here since May and took charge, it is fair to say, under rather unfavourable circumstances the former Master having through ill health been able to do little active work in the School for some time previous to his resignation.’ -

Reverend T Higham continued his report, which it appears, was not very good for the new Master ;-

‘The discipline is now weak and with the instruction must be improved -

Reading is inferior in the first Standard and unintelligent in the fourth; otherwise it is fair.

In the first to fourth Standards inclusive the Spelling is very inaccurate as is also Arithmetic in the third, fourth and fifth and sixth Standards. The Sermanship in the first Standard is irregular, which is the case to some extent in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth Standards.

Slates with double lines should be used in the first Standard.’



However St Catharine’s School carried on and still does to this day, although in more pleasant surroundings and in a new building. The classrooms no longer look like the Victorian classrooms of David’s day as shown in the photograph above.

Whether David missed teaching will never be known. The answer to that is probably yes as it had been a large part of his life. David had been teaching for at the very least, 14 of his 33 years. However, for the good of his own health he had to leave the dirt and grime of Wigan to the relatively clean air of Oswestry.

The family moved back to Beatrice Street. Unfortunately we do not know the exact address as it is not recorded in any official documents found so far. Shown right are various views of Beatrice Street and one of the many Pubs, The Plough.



David and his family soon settled down in their new home. David found employment with the local Brewery owned by Messrs. Dorsett Owen & Co.

The brewery was probably established around 1865 on the corner of English Walls and Leg Street and consisted a large complex of brewery buildings.

By the late 1920s the establishment was virtually the last surviving local independent brewery in Oswestry but was in financial trouble.

In 1933 the Brewery, pictured above, was demolished and replaced by the Regal Cinema. Leg Street was just a short distance from Beatrice Street and David was employed as a 'Commercial Traveller'. This meant he was basically a 'Travelling Salesman' going around selling Dorsett Owen beers to the local public houses.


The Oak Inn, pictured below, and the bar, below right, was possibly one of those establishments. On a shelf in the bar was a very old bottle, pictured right, which has stamped down it's length the words ;-'Dorsett Owen & Co.'

The Oak Inn is situated just 100 yards along the road from the Wynnstay Hotel.



So with life settling down for David and Margaret and hopefully his health improving slightly, the couple decided to increase the family size once more and on Monday 11th June 1877, Margaret gave birth to their second Daughter, Edith.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH **GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE**

 Application Number 3017177-3

REGISTRATION DISTRICT		OSWESTRY							
1877 BIRTH in the Sub-district of Oswestry		in the County of Salop							


Cohabites:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration	
235	11th June 1877 Beatrice Street Oswestry	Edith	Girl	David Albert Williams	Margaret Williams formerly Tyley	Commercial Traveller	D. P. Williams Father Beatrice Street Oswestry	11th June 1877	H. J. Bull Registrar		

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 24th day of February 2011

BXCE 897987

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Edith’s birth certificate confirms David is still employed as a ‘Commercial Traveller’ and the family are still residing at Beatrice Street.

The family appear to be confident about the future. At some point after the birth of Edith the family moved to Cross Street, Oswestry, which was to become their home for the next few years. Again the exact address is not known. Pictured below left is the view from the Cross looking up Cross Street. Below right is a photograph of the Cross itself.



At Cross Street, on Friday 4th April 1879 the family celebrated the birth of another Daughter, Adeline. The certificate shows David is now employed as a Brewers Clerk and Traveller.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH **GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE**



Application Number 3038665-1

REGISTRATION DISTRICT OSWESTRY

1879 BIRTH in the Sub-district of Oswestry in the County of Salop

No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
360	4th April 1879 Cross Street Oswestry	Adeline Girl	Girl	David Albert Williams	Margaret Williams formerly Sneyd	Brewers Clerk and Traveller	David Williams Father Cross Street Oswestry	Sixteenth May 1879	M. J. Bull Registrar	


CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 2nd day of March 2011

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Whether David's health was improving or not can only be guessed. It seemed as though his bronchitis may have been getting worse. The 1881 Census, of which a short version is shown below, now shows David as a Brewers Clerk, without the Traveller. This seems to imply to me that he could no longer travel because of his health and he was now office bound behind a desk. However this is contradicted on other documents.

With his education I would imagine David would be far better at Book Keeping than he would as a Commercial Salesman! I can assume he was still employed by Dorsett Owen & Co.



A copy of the original 1881 Census document is shown on the next page.

Old buildings on The Cross

1881 Census – Town of Oswestry Ward - East Address - The Cross, Oswestry, Shropshire

Name	Relationship	Con	DoB	Age	Profession	Where Born
David A Williams	Head	M	1843	38	Brewers Clerk	Trefonen, Salop
Margaret	Wife	M	1848	33		Oswestry, Salop
Albert Edward	Son	S	1869	12	Scholar	Wigan, Lancs
Margaret E	Daughter	S	1873	8	Scholar	Wigan, Lancs
Edith	Daughter	S	1878	3		Oswestry, Salop
Adeline	Daughter	S	1880	1		Oswestry, Salop
Ellen Sides	Servant	S	1864	17	Domestic Servant	Portabello, Staffs

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the *County of Shropshire* [Page 33]

City Parish or Township of <i>Oswestry</i>	City or Municipal Borough of <i>Oswestry</i>	Municipal Ward of <i>East</i>	Parliamentary Borough of	Town or Village or Hamlet of	Urban Sanitary District of <i>Oswestry</i>	Rural Sanitary District of	Registration Parish or District of <i>St Oswald</i>		
No. of Houses	ROAD, STREET, No. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES No. of Houses as at 1881	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf-Blind (2) Blind (3) Insane or Idiot (4) Lunatic
154	1	1	David A Williams Margaret 9 ^o Albert 9 ^o Margaret 6 9 ^o Edith 9 ^o Adeline 9 ^o Ellen Sides	Head Wife Son Daughter Daughter Servant	Mar Mar / / /	58 53 12 8 5 1	General Labourer Scholar Scholar Scholar Scholar General Servant	Salop Shropshire Oswestry Shropshire Oswestry Oswestry Oswestry Shropshire	
155	1	1	John Thomas Margaret 9 ^o David 6 9 ^o Thomas 12 9 ^o	Head Wife Son Son	Mar Mar /	50 42 10 7	Labourer Scholar Scholar	Salop Shropshire Salop Shropshire Salop Shropshire	
156	1	1	Patrick Whitlow Margaret 9 ^o Mary 9 ^o Jane 9 ^o	Head Wife Daughter Daughter	Mar Mar /	51 41 9 1	Foot Maker Scholar Scholar	Salop Shropshire Salop Shropshire Salop Shropshire	
157	1	1	William H. Grier Mary 9 ^o William H 9 ^o Rose 9 ^o George 9 ^o	Head Wife Son Daughter Son	Mar Mar Mar /	50 48 14 12 9	Book Binder Scholar Scholar	Salop Shropshire Salop Shropshire Salop Shropshire	
158	1	1	John Edwards Mary 7 ^o Mary 6 5 ^o	Head Wife Daughter	Mar Mar /	54 50 2	Labourer Landlady	Salop Shropshire Salop Shropshire	
5	Total of Houses...	5	Total of Males and Females...			12	15		

NOTE.—Draw the pen through each of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

Eng— Sheet G.

We can see in the 1881 Census that the family is nearing completion. Albert and Margaret are at school, Edith and Adeline are at home, no doubt being looked after by Margaret. A domestic Servant, Ellen Sides, is employed to help Margaret around the home. However Alfred is missing?

A further search of the Census finds Alfred at his Grandmothers house. It is not known if my Grandfather, Alfred, lived in Roft Street all the time with his Nan or whether this was just for that Census night of Sunday 3rd April 1881? Whatever the reason Alfred can be found with his Nan and Aunt Eleanor.

1881 Census – Oswestry Ward - East Address - Roft Street, Oswestry, Shropshire

Name	Relationship	Con	DoB	Age	Profession	Where Born
Elizabeth Tyley	Head	Widow	1810	71	Annuitant	Gresford,
Tyley	Daughter	Single	1834	47	Housekeeper	Oswestry,
Alfred Williams	Grandson	Single	1875	6	Scholar	Wigan,



The Corner of Roft Street and Salop Road

The picture on the left shows the corner of Roft Street and Salop Road. The building was demolished and replaced by the garage you can see in the corner of the picture of Trinity House on a later page in this story.

Unfortunately there is no address shown on the original Census but it can be assumed that this is Trinity House where the Tyley family had lived for some time. It was to be renamed Trinity Cottages at a later date as shown on the 1901 Census.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

62 [Page 15]

Civil Parish (or Township) of <i>St. James's, Oswestry</i>		Municipal Borough of <i>Oswestry</i>		Municipal Ward of <i>East</i>	Parliamentary Borough of <i>County of Shropshire</i>	Town or Village or Hamlet of <i>Oswestry</i>	Urban Sanitary District of <i>Oswestry</i>	Rural Sanitary District of	Ecclsiastical Parish or District of <i>St. James's</i>
No. of Houses	ROAD, STREET, No., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES No. of Houses in the Street (No.)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of Male Female	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) Dead-and-Dead (2) Blind (3) Imbecile or Idiot (4) Lunatic
78	<i>Roff, Street</i>	1	<i>Jane Green</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>	2		<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
79			<i>Thomas Jones</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	27	<i>General Labourer</i>	<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
			<i>Ellen</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>	27		<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
			<i>David</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Unm</i>	15	<i>Labourer to Carpenter</i>	<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
			<i>Mary Ellen</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Unm</i>	11	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
			<i>Alfred</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Unm</i>	9	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
			<i>Elizabeth</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Unm</i>	5		<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
			<i>Edmund Charles</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Unm</i>	2		<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
			<i>Frances</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Unm</i>	2		<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
			<i>Harry</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Unm</i>	1		<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
			<i>Oliver Hand</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Unm</i>	1mo		<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
			<i>David Davies</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	28	<i>Ricklayer</i>	<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
80		1	<i>Rev. Elizabeth Taylor</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	71	<i>Annuitant</i>	<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
			<i>Alfred Taylor</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Mar</i>	47	<i>Woolcomber</i>	<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
			<i>Alfred Williams</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	6	<i>Woolcomber</i>	<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
81		1	<i>Emma Holliday</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	60	<i>Woolcomber</i>	<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
			<i>Annice</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>	43		<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
			<i>William Jane</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Mar</i>	15	<i>Labourer (Agriculture)</i>	<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
			<i>Samuel Lee</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Unm</i>	13		<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
			<i>Fredrick Jones</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Unm</i>	11		<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
			<i>Arthur Pemberton</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Unm</i>	5		<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
			<i>George</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Unm</i>	7		<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
			<i>Samuel Moses</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Unm</i>	5		<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
			<i>Annie Bessy</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Unm</i>	2		<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
81 1/2			<i>Harriet Churchill</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	25	<i>Woolcomber</i>	<i>Wales Oswestry</i>	
5	Total of Houses..	3				11			
						14			

NOTE.—Draw the pen through each of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

Eng.—Sheet G.

Copy of Original 1881 Census Form

It is a great shame that the Census and other records for this area do not show a property name or number. As mentioned with Roff Street there is no property name on the 1881 Census. This is the same for David's family.

On the Census David and his family are shown living at 'The Cross' but Adeline's Birth Certificate shows she was born in Cross Street. It is Cross Street that is mentioned on the next three Certificates and other documentation so I can only assume the family may have lived on the corner, close to both. Maybe further evidence will come to light at a later date to clarify this point?



The Cross from Cross Street




Cross Street from The Cross

Same building

Family life continued it seemed with no thought that David's life may be shortened at any point. The family size again increased with the birth of their fourth Daughter, Alice May Williams, on Thursday 12th May 1881. I wonder if Alice received her second name from the month in which she was born?

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH **GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE**



Application Number 3038665-2

REGISTRATION DISTRICT										
OSWESTRY										
1881 BIRTH in the Sub-district of Oswestry in the County of Salop										


Column:-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No.	Where and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
	76 Twyflich Ally Cross Street Oswestry W.S.	Alice May	Girl	David Albert Williams	Margaret Williams formerly Tyley	Commercial Traveller	D. A. Williams Father Cross Street Oswestry	12th June 1881	M. J. Bull Registrar	

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 2nd day of March 2011

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Copy of Alice May's Birth Certificate

On the Certificate we can see David is employed as a Commercial Traveller and the birth was in Cross Street. Life was obviously continuing as normal yet David must have been in great pain with the cough that Bronchitis inflicts its victim with?

David must have discussed the future with Margaret on how she may cope with so many young children should the worst happen? Any comments on this would only be speculation. It became apparent that Margaret was soon to become pregnant again with their seventh child, so maybe there was hope that David's health would improve? Sadly this was proved not to be the case.

Maybe the move to Oswestry did give David an extra year or two of life, maybe it did not, we will never be certain. The family suffered what must have been an expected tragedy when David died of Bronchial Pneumonia on Sunday 2nd April 1882. Margaret's Brother, George Tyley, was present at the death. Margaret, at this time was seven months pregnant and would need all the help, comfort and support of a close family.

To me it appears that David's death was expected or the Funeral Director of the day was not busy, but in the local newspaper the following morning David's death announcement was printed and the funeral arranged for that same day at 3pm on Monday 3rd April 1882. This was a fast arrangement, especially as David died on a Sunday when one would assume most places were closed?

The death announcement for David Albert Williams in the newspaper for 3 April 1882 reads as follows:

WILLIAMS - April 2, aged 39, at his residence, Cross-street, Oswestry, Mr David Albert Williams, traveller to Messrs. Dorsett Owen & Co, Oswestry.
Open funeral at three o'clock this day.

Again it is unfortunate that David's death certificate does not give an exact address except for Cross Street. I would have liked to have known the address where the family lived and my Great Grandfather, David, had died. Further evidence can be seen on the Death Certificate of the speed of the situation with no autopsy and the registration of the death being made on the following day, 3rd April. The day of the funeral. It is strange looking back how Births can take a one or two months to be registered but David's death was completed, announced and he was buried all in about 24 hours! Normally this would make me suspicious.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 2761576-1

REGISTRATION DISTRICT		OSWESTRY						
1882 DEATH in the Sub-district of Oswestry		in the County of Salop						

Column--	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
	Second April 1882 Cross Street Oswestry 2. P.D.	David Albert Williams	Male	39 years	Commercial Traveller	Pneumonia Certified by J. P. Cantwright M.D. B.S.C.	Geo. Tyley Brother-in-law present at the death Willow Street Oswestry	Third April 1882	W. S. Bull Registrar

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 28th day of October 2010

DYC 821818 See note overleaf

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WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

GJR

A Copy of David Albert Williams Death Certificate

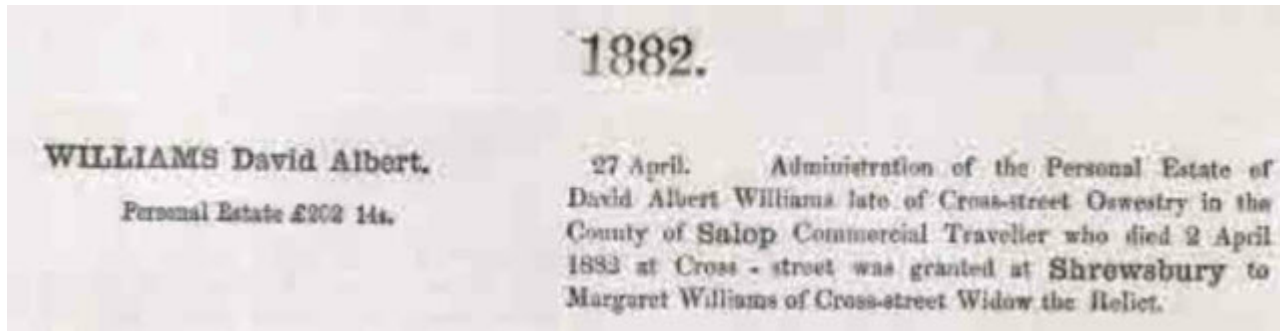


David was buried in the Graveyard at Oswestry. The headstone has now gone and is probably stacked around the edges of the graveyard with many others. One day I hope to return to look for the actual headstone. David is buried close to his brother-in-law, George Tyley, and sister-in-law Eleanor Tyley. Both died much later.

Sadly David's plot contains two other members of the Williams family as you will discover later.

David's Will shows that what money there was went to Margaret, his wife of nearly 15 years. The sum of £202.14s. 0d, or two hundred and two pounds, 14 shillings and no pence, or £202.70p, equates to a value in the year 2011 of £17048.36p.

This of course is not going to sustain Margaret for long but at least it eased her money worries temporarily during this stressful time. Not only had she lost David but she had five children aged between 2 and 13 years to look after. In addition Margaret was soon to have another mouth to feed.



And so ends the story of David Albert Williams. The Son of a Slater who rose to become the Head-master of a school in Wigan. I am sure he helped many of those pupils better their own lives and what better tribute could there be?

Sadly his life was cut short due to illness, possibly made worse by the deprivation of the area he worked in as a School Master.

Although David's story ends here, his family carried on but unfortunately suffered many more tragedies.

I have covered these events in Addendum Three to Volume One. As mentioned earlier Alfred's story is told in Chapter Two of this Volume.

Notes

Notes