

Chapter 1 : South Wales - Wikipedia

*Origins of the LMS in South Wales, The [Gwyn Briwnant-Jones, Denis Dunstone] on calendrierdelascience.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Book by Briwnant-Jones, Gwyn, Dunstone, Denis.*

Origin of the Name "Wales". The term Wales is considered to be of English origin and to derive from a Germanic root meaning "Foreigner". We propose that the name "Wales" was indeed of Welsh Origin and connoted "Land of Bile" and that its original form was "Bale" or "Vale". This became the Latin Term "Valentia" that applied to the original region of "Cymru". Valentia was a Province of Britain under the Romans. Its exact location remains uncertain. The Wikipedia article however also admits that this is supposition and that it is uncertain where Valentia was though assumed to be in the North. People from this region moved into Northern Wales about the same time as the Anglo-Saxons were conquering England. The Welsh of North Wales considered the people of this region to be part of themselves and of the same stock. This more or less overlaps the definition of Wales in Ancient Times before its size was reduced by foreign incursions. The "V" and "W" in Latin interchange. Valentia was probably pronounced as "Walentia". Walentia could mean "Land of Wales". The Roman historian Titus Livius Livy explains that the founding of Valentia in the 2nd century BC was due to the settling of the Roman soldiers who fought against Iberian local rebel, Viriatus. Conventional explanations attribute the name to an Anglo-Saxon terms meaning "foreigner". We do not necessarily dispute this but rather propose that the Anglo-Saxons took an existing name and re-interpreted it in terms of their own language. Such re-interpretation of existing names in ancient times was a common phenomenon. The modern English forms of these words with respect to the modern country are Welsh the people and Wales the land , respectively. Historically in Britain the words were not restricted to modern Wales or to the Welsh but were used indiscriminately to refer to anything that the Anglo-Saxons associated with Celtic Britons, including other foreign lands e. None of these historic usages is necessarily connected to Wales or the Welsh. The Anglo-Saxon words are derived from the same Germanic root singular Walk, plural Walha that has provided modern names for Continental lands e. We have here a commonly held etymological explanation for "Wales" and "Welsh". It could be however that as commonly happens the Anglo-Saxons took an existing name and re-interpreted it in terms of their own culture. Wales in Welsh is Cymru pronounced "Kamru"?

Chapter 2 : Surname Database: Wales Last Name Origin

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North Staffordshire Railway In Ireland there were three railways: Northern Counties Committee Early history[edit] The early history of the LMS was dominated by infighting between parties representing its constituent parts, many of whom had previously been commercial and territorial rivals. This was particularly marked in the case of the Midland and the North Western , each of which believed its way was the right “ and only ” way of doing business. This rivalry was so severe, that stories of connecting trains at Birmingham New Street from the previous LNWR and MR parts of the system, being deliberately made to miss each other persisted even as late as the early s, long after their demise. On 4 January Josiah Stamp was appointed First President of the Executive, [1] the equivalent of a Chief executive in modern organisational structures. He added the role of chairman of the board of directors to his portfolio in January , [1] succeeding Sir Guy Granet. Stanier introduced practices used at the Swindon Works that had been introduced by George Jackson Churchward , such as tapered boilers, long travel valves, and large bearings. Railway operations[edit] Despite having widespread interests in a number of commercial areas, the LMS was first and foremost a railway organisation. It operated in all four constituent countries of the United Kingdom, [4] and in England its operations penetrated 32 of the 40 counties. This changed in when a major restructuring was completed, [22] replacing the traditional board of directors with an executive headed by a president, supported by vice-presidents each with responsibility for a specific area. To provide maximum capacity during times of peak demand, the operating department re-organised maintenance schedules to maximise the availability of locomotives and rolling stock , and trained staff to step into key roles; firemen trained as drivers and locomotive cleaners trained to replace firemen. The cheap day return ticket offered return travel at a price usually equivalent to the single fare, although in areas with rival bus services they were sometimes offered at less than the single fare. Companies holding large freight accounts with the LMS received reduced price season tickets for nominated employees, while commercial travellers, anglers and conveyors of racing pigeons were all tempted with special offers. A number of initiatives were introduced, with the aim of making train travel more attractive and encouraging business growth. Services were accelerated, and better quality rolling stock was introduced and from 24 September sleeping cars were provided for third class ticket holders for the first time. A number of premium services were offered, culminating in with the launch of the Coronation Scot , [2] which featured streamlined locomotives hauling a nine coach train of specially constructed stock between London Euston and Glasgow Central in six and a half hours. Particularly notable were the Toton “ Brent coal trains, which took coal from the Nottinghamshire coalfield to London. Between them these sites constructed locomotives, coaching stock, multiple units and freight wagons, as well as a number of non-rolling stock items required for the everyday running of the railway. The latter site was opened in the s by the Midland Railway as part of a reorganisation of facilities in Derby and left the original site to concentrate on locomotive manufacture and repair. The Midland Railway also had works at Bromsgrove in Worcestershire, which had been inherited from the Birmingham and Gloucester Railway. Rollox railway works , north east of Glasgow, had been built in by the Caledonian Railway , while Stoke works in Staffordshire were established in by the North Staffordshire Railway. Both were absorbed into the LMS with their parent companies, and while the former became the main workshops for the Northern Division of the LMS, the latter works were wound down, closing in , all work being transferred to nearby Crewe. The table below shows all major works taken over by the LMS upon formation.

Chapter 3 : South Wales RL - History of the club

The Origins of the Lms in South Wales by Gwyn Briwnant Jones, Gwyn Briwnant-Jones starting at \$ The Origins of the Lms in South Wales has 1 available editions to buy at Alibris.

The legal responsibility for this area lay in the hands of the Justiciar of South Wales based at Carmarthen. Other parts of southern Wales were in the hands of various Marcher Lords. The Brecon circuit served the counties of Brecknockshire, Radnorshire and Glamorgan while the Carmarthen circuit served Cardiganshire, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire. Monmouthshire was attached to the Oxford circuit for judicial purposes. These seven southern counties were thus differentiated from the six counties of north Wales. The Court of the Great Sessions came to an end in 1535, but the counties survived until the Local Government Act which came into operation in 1888. The creation of the county of Powys merged one northern county Montgomeryshire with two southern ones Breconshire and Radnorshire. There are thus different concepts of south Wales. Glamorgan and Monmouthshire are generally accepted by all as being in south Wales. But the status of Breconshire or Carmarthenshire, for instance, is more debatable. In the western extent, from Swansea westwards, local people might feel that they live in both south Wales and west Wales. A further point of uncertainty is whether the first element of the name should be capitalized: Population[edit] The most densely populated region in the southwest of the United Kingdom, it is home to around 2. History[edit] The South Wales Valleys and upland mountain ridges were once a very rural area noted for its river valleys and ancient forests and lauded by romantic poets such as William Wordsworth as well as poets in the Welsh language, although the interests of the latter lay more in society and culture than in the evocation of natural scenery. This natural environment changed to a considerable extent during the early Industrial Revolution when the Glamorgan and Monmouthshire valley areas were exploited for coal and iron. By the 1840s, hundreds of tons of coal were being transported by barge to ports in Cardiff and Newport. In the 1850s, coal was transported by rail transport networks to Newport Docks, at the time the largest coal exporting docks in the world, and by the 1860s coal was being exported from Barry, Vale of Glamorgan. The Marquess of Bute, who owned much of the land north of Cardiff, built a steam railway system on his land that stretched from Cardiff into many of the South Wales Valleys where the coal was being found. Lord Bute then charged fees per ton of coal that was transported out using his railways. With coal mining and iron smelting being the main trades of south Wales, many thousands of immigrants from the Midlands, Scotland, Ireland, Cornwall and even Italy came and set up homes and put down roots in the region. Very many came from other coal mining areas such as Somerset, the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire and the tin mines of Cornwall such as Geevor Tin Mine, as a large but experienced and willing workforce was required. Whilst some of the migrants left, many settled and established in the South Wales Valleys between Swansea and Abergavenny as English-speaking communities with a unique identity. Industrial workers were housed in cottages and terraced houses close to the mines and foundries in which they worked. The large influx over the years caused overcrowding which led to outbreaks of Cholera, and on the social and cultural side, the near-loss of the Welsh language in the area. The 1930s inter-war Great Depression in the United Kingdom saw the loss of almost half of the coal pits in the South Wales Coalfield, and their number declined further in the years following World War II. Despite the intense industrialisation of the coal mining valleys, many parts of the landscape of South Wales such as the upper Neath valley, the Vale of Glamorgan and the valleys of the River Usk and River Wye remain distinctly beautiful and unspoilt and have been designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest. In addition, many once heavily industrialised sites have reverted to wilderness, some provided with a series of cycle tracks and other outdoor amenities. Large areas of forestry and open moorland also contribute to the amenity of the landscape. Merthyr Tudful grew around the Dowlais Ironworks which was founded to exploit the locally abundant seams of iron ore, and in time it became the largest iron producing town in the world. New coal mines were sunk nearby to feed the furnaces and in time produced coal for export. By the 1871 census, the population of Merthyr was 60,000 more at that time than Cardiff, Swansea and Newport combined and its industries included coal mines, iron works, cable factory, engine sheds and sidings and many others. The town was also the birthplace of Joseph Parry,

composer of the song Myfanwy. The Heads of the Valleys towns, including Rhymney, Tredegar and Ebbw Vale, rose out of the industrial revolution, producing coal, metal ores and later steel. The Merthyr Vale colliery began to produce coal in 1800. Spoil from the mine workings was piled on the hills close to the village which grew nearby. Tipping went on until the 1950s. Although nationalised, the National Coal Board failed to appreciate the danger they had created. In October 1966, heavy rain made the giant coal tip unstable, resulting in the Aberfan disaster. The Rhondda Valleys Rhondda Fach and Rhondda Fawr housed around 3,000 people in 1850 but by the population had soared to 100,000. The Rhondda had become the heart of a massive South Wales coal industry. Mining accidents below ground were common and in 1913 fifty-seven men and boys were killed in a gas explosion at the Tylorstown Colliery. An enquiry found that the pit involved had not been properly inspected over the previous 15 months. The Carboniferous Black Vein coal seams in the area lay some feet metres below the surface and the mining activity associated with it was responsible for many tragic subsurface explosions, roof collapses and mining accidents. Large factory units, either empty or turned over to retail use, bear witness to the lack of success in replacing older industries. Bilingual road markings near Cardiff Airport, Vale of Glamorgan The native language of the majority of people in South Wales is English, but there are many who also speak Welsh. In western parts of Glamorgan, particularly the Neath and Swansea Valleys, there remain significant Welsh-speaking communities such as Ystradgynlais and Ystalyfera, which share a heritage with other ex-anthracite mining areas in eastern Carmarthenshire, as much as with the Glamorgan valleys. Welsh is now a compulsory language up to GCSE level for all students who start their education in Wales. A significant number of people from ethnic minority communities speak another language as their first language, particularly in Cardiff and Newport. Commonly spoken languages in some areas include Punjabi, Bengali, Arabic, Somali and Chinese, and increasingly Central European languages such as Polish. In the 19th and early 20th centuries there was a vigorous literary and musical culture centred round eisteddfodau. The Baptist congregation at Ilston, Gower, moved to Swansea, Massachusetts, [12] but after the restoration of the Anglican worship with the issue of the Book of Common Prayer in 1662, several "gathered" churches survived belonging to the Baptist, Independent and Presbyterian denominations. In the 18th century members of some of these congregations became dissatisfied with the theological innovations of some trained ministers, and created new congregations such as that at Hengoed near Ystrad Mynach. These were mainly Welsh-language congregations. Anglicanism in south Wales became autonomous from the Church of England with the Welsh Church Act 1914, but the immediate demise of the denomination feared at that time has not taken place in the Church in Wales. The Roman Catholic community, despite systematic persecution, survived in the 17th to 19th centuries, especially in Brecon and among minor gentry such as the Vaughans of Welsh Bicknor, on the Monmouthshire–Herefordshire border. These often add a strongly international element into local life, such as the "Pont" twinning project between Pontypridd and Mbale, Uganda, and the creation of "Fairtrade" relationships with primary producers worldwide. A large number of telephone call centres are located in the region and in particular in the Valleys area. Many jobs are also provided in small-scale and family businesses. The television and film sectors are fast becoming a major industry in South Wales, with the development, by the BBC, of a vast dedicated production studio in Nantgarw, near Pontypridd, for the highly successful Doctor Who series. Lord Attenborough is shortly when? Dragon International Film Studios, a huge purpose-built studio complex located alongside the M4 motorway between Bridgend and Llantrisant, contains a number of large soundstages which have already attracted the interest of a number of Hollywood directors and producers alike, looking for suitable facilities in Europe.

Chapter 4 : Bygone Lines of the LNWR

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Griffiths and other planemakers of Norwich. Griffith in Maryland Anne Arundel county. Jonathan Griffiths in Australia. Select Griffiths Ancestry Wales. The Griffith name in Wales started out in north Wales and worked its way south. As the leading family of north Wales in the 15th century, they were appointed Chamberlain of the region. However, the line came to an end with the adventurer Piers Griffith in the late 16th century, although a branch of the family did last longer at Carreglwyd in Anglesey. There were two other early Griffith families in north Wales: Generally, these Griffiths were Anglican by persuasion, opposing the radical Puritans and only returning to favor with the Restoration. Although the ancient Griffith families came from north Wales, there were in fact more Griffiths in south Wales and across the border in England. The Griffith and Griffiths names cropped up in a number of parish records in Carmarthenshire during the 17th and 18th centuries: David Griffiths, a blacksmith in nearby Cydweli, lived to be 95, and his wife Mary to be Many Griffiths from Carmarthen migrated to Swansea or to the other industrial towns of Glamorgan. Glamorgan had the largest number of Griffiths in Wales by the end of the 19th century. Across the border there has been a Griffiths family originally spelt Griffit at Ruardean in the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire from the 17th century and Griffiths elsewhere in the county from the 18th century. Griffiths arrived into Lancashire, mainly from north Wales into Liverpool, somewhat later; but the numbers there built up in the 19th century. Welsh Griffiths also came to Ireland although there is scant record of them - except for two famous Dubliners: Griffith Park and Griffith College in Dublin were named after him. More Griffiths then arrived into Pennsylvania which under Penn had opened its doors to religious nonconformity. Among the arrivals were: They settled in Brecknock township. Thomas Griffith from Carmarthenshire in He was to be the first Baptist minister for the Welsh tract at Pennepek. Benjamin Griffith from Carmarthenshire with his father in He became a member of the Baptist church at Pennepek and later was a chronicler of the Baptist churches in the region. Three Griffith brothers, William, John and Griffith, from Cardiganshire in a book on their pedigree was written by T. They settled in Chester county. Walter Griffith, who married Martha Cox in Philadelphia in Virginia furnished a number of Griffith officers in the Revolutionary War. Captain David Griffith who fought against the British in was the forbear, via a Confederate war veteran, of the film maker D. Griffith of The Birth of a Nation fame. Griffith Griffiths joined the fledgling Welsh community in Patagonia in , arriving there late in the year on the Monte Leon. His bardic name was Gutyn Ebrill and he established a Welsh Gorsedd of the bards in the region. The Griffiths name has lived on in Patagonia after his death in And local resident Orwig Griiffiths met the Princess of Wales when she made an unexpected visit to Gaiman in Many Welsh Griffiths migrated to Australia, but two of the most entrepreneurial were English, both from Gloucestershire. Jonathan Griffiths was transported there as a convict in He became a successful shipowner and builder in New South Wales and Tasmania, marrying twice and fathering at least nine children. Then there was George Griffiths. He had come to Queensland in and, by the turn of the century, had built up his small ironmonger business into a large foundry company at Toowoomba making metal windmills and railway rolling stock. Sir Samuel Griffith, the drafter of the Australian constitution, had been born in Wales; but his family was English. Select Griffiths Miscellany If you would like to read more, click on the miscellany page for further stories and accounts: Elizabeth Griffith, born into an Irish family, was an 18th century actress, writer, and London playwright. Griffith was a Welshman who made a fortune in silver mining in Mexico and became a benefactor to the new city of Los Angeles. Griffith Park and Griffith Observatory are named after him. Gwyn Griffiths was a Classics professor, poet and political activist for Wales. You might want to check out the surnames page on this website. It covers surname genealogy in this and companion websites for more than surnames.

Chapter 5 : Hereford, Hay and Brecon Railway - Wikipedia

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I have voiced my concern that the history of professional rugby league must not be lost and to this end I have put together the following - This fans website contains all the results and attendances too. They play in the third tier of RL. The club was rebranded as the South Wales Ironmen to coincide with the move to Merthyr Tydfil in July it was announced that following a takeover the club would be relocating to Llanelli and play their remaining home matches at Stebonheath Park. From they are known as West Wales Raiders, the name of the club based at Stebonheath. Origins Many professional and semi-professional Welsh teams have played rugby league in the otherwise English competitions since the formation of the Northern Union in 1895. The club was based in Bridgend at the Brewery Field. The idea of a second professional side in Wales was discussed before the Celtic Crusaders had even played a game. The idea was also talked about in mid 1995 when the RFL decided that Super League Reserves would be turned into an under competition, a move that could have halted the development of rugby league players in the area after they turned 21 years old. They were accepted into the third tier of British rugby league for the season. South Wales Scorpions Several suggestions for a team moniker were made by various people. The club had a poll among fans online to choose between the various options. Scorpions proved to be the most popular choice with Crusaders just beaten into second place. An updated version of the logo was released in February following feedback. The initial batch of players were selected from an open trial plus a few signings from other clubs. Some players were dual-registered with Crusaders RL and had played for the Crusaders reserves. Before a ball had been kicked, the club celebrated its first international players, Loren Quick and Lewis Reece, who played for Wales and Great Britain at under level. Anthony Siebold who had been an Assistant Coach at Crusaders, was the first head coach. The Scorpions won this encounter 22-20, in front of a crowd of over 10,000 at the Gnoll; with Lloyd White, on a months loan at South Wales from Crusaders, landing the crucial penalty goal to secure victory. The team went on to finish sixth in the table and made the play-offs. Siebold returned to Australia at the end of the season. Wales Rugby League , agreed to take over the running of South Wales Scorpions for the season after Phil Davies decided to step down. This move however would only last a single season as at the end of the season the club announced it would be moving to ground share with Mountain Ash RFC at Parc Dyffryn Pennar. Their final match of the season was played at Blackwood RFC due to a damaged playing surface in Caerphilly. The town of Merthyr Tydfil was, at one time, the largest producer of iron in the world. In July , it was announced that after a takeover by Andrew Thorne, owner of amateur club West Wales Raiders Rugby League , the club would play the rest of their home games for the season at Stebonheath Park , Llanelli and that from the club will be known as West Wales Raiders and based permanently in Llanelli. In April , the club were on the receiving end of a record score and losing margin when they lost 0-47 to York , the previous highest scoring game was in November when Huddersfield beat Blackpool by 47-0, the losing margin was also equalled the next day in by Barrow who beat Nottingham City 0-47.

Chapter 6 : Historic South Wales | Uncover South Wales' history

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It formed the southern section of the Central Wales line that started at Craven Arms and provided a through route from Crewe to Swansea. It is the only part to have suffered closure. In the LNWR ran 14 passenger trains over this section of line including three Shrewsbury expresses that ran non-stop between Swansea and Pontarddulais. Today there are four weekday trains on the Central Wales route, invariably single car Class s, and these run from Swansea along the main line to Llanelli where they reverse. Route when open Leaving the terminus at Swansea Victoria SS the high-level lines and lines from the South Dock came in from the left. The A was carried over the line just north of Killay and it then dropped down to cross over the River Clyne. It next negotiated a long curve and began to climb, passing under the B to reach the summit of the line at Duvant station SS It then dropped down at 1 in 72 through a mile long cutting before following an embankment to Gowerton South where the Penclawdd Branch turned away west. Leaving Gowerton it bridged the GWR main line and the Afon Llan and continued north running through an industrial landscape of pit workings and steelworks. Approaching Gorseinon it passed under the A now B and after bridging the Afon Lliw reached Gorseinon station and a level crossing over the A In Oystermouth Road, the long and high stone faced embankment alongside the South Dock now forms the northern boundary of the Maritime Quarter. The path starts on the sea wall from where you pass new housing built round the marina, the site of two large warehouses and sidings. Beyond County Hall the trail curves to join the main coast road which it follows fairly closely all the way to Blackpill. The trail continues NW and can be followed to the site of Gowerton South station. Between the M4 and Pontarddulais yds SN to is a public footpath. Most of the section between Gowerton and Pontarddulais will eventually be converted into a cyclepath. It once had four platforms and a long footbridge but is now reduced to one platform serving the Llanelli to Craven Arms line. Goods shed in use by local council. After closure and until it survived, crossing a dual carriageway road built on the alignment. A long-running campaign has been calling for the bridge to be returned to its original site or at least replaced with a replica. Gowerton abutments only of bridge over South Wales main line SS ; Gorseinon bridge carrying Swansea Road B was A survives; Waungron SN bridge carrying minor road in place; Pontarddulais station the footbridge spanning all four platforms and sidings dismantled. Loco sheds Swansea Victoria SS on south side of line west of station, demolished - site now occupied by a modern hotel and County Hall. Group would you please email the information to the Webb Master who will pass the information on.

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The Ordovices in the north east and the Silures in the south east are but two of these early tribes, the names of which are not their own but those given them by late Roman invaders. The tribes of Wales developed regional styles of working iron, gold, and other metals, following the exquisite western European style known as La Tene after the village of La Tene in Switzerland. At the same time as iron was introduced to Britain a new crop of settlers arrived from northern Europe. These were the Celts, whose cultural influence cannot be overstated. Traditional history has viewed the Celts as fierce conquerors who swept away the vestiges of earlier cultures and took complete control of Welsh society. A more balanced and likely theory is that the actual number of Celtic newcomers was low, and though they managed to dominate the culture of the earlier inhabitants of Wales, they did so without changing the overall physical or racial characteristics. So the Welsh of today are more likely to owe their physiognomy, if not their culture, to the Beaker People rather than the later Celts. The Iron Age is the age of the Celt in Britain. Over the or so years leading up to the first Roman invasion a Celtic culture established itself throughout the British Isles. Who were these Celts? The Celts as we know them today exist largely in the magnificence of their art and the words of the Romans who fought them. The trouble with the reports of the Romans is that they were a mix of reportage and political propaganda. It was politically expedient for the Celtic peoples to be coloured as barbarians and the Romans as a great civilizing force. And history written by the winners is always suspect. Where did they come from? What we do know is that the people we call Celts gradually infiltrated England and Wales over the course of the centuries between about and B. There was probably never an organized Celtic invasion; for one thing the Celts were so fragmented and given to fighting among themselves that the idea of a concerted invasion would have been ludicrous. The Celts were a group of peoples loosely tied by similar language, religion, and cultural expression. They were not centrally governed, and quite as happy to fight each other as any non-Celt. They were warriors, living for the glories of battle and plunder. They were also the people who brought iron working to Britain. Celtic family life The basic unit of Celtic life was the clan, a sort of extended family. Children were actually raised by foster parents. The foster father was often the brother of the birth-mother. Clans were bound together very loosely with other clans into tribes, each of which had its own social structure and customs, and possibly its own local gods. Housing The Celts lived in huts of arched timber with walls of wicker and roofs of thatch. The huts were generally gathered in loose hamlets. In several places each tribe had its own coinage system. One of the interesting innovations that they brought to Britain was the iron plough. Earlier ploughs had been awkward affairs, basically a stick with a pointed end harnessed behind two oxen. They were suitable only for ploughing the light upland soils. The heavier iron ploughs constituted an agricultural revolution all by themselves, for they made it possible for the first time to cultivate the rich valley and lowland soils. They came with a price, though. It generally required a team of eight oxen to pull the plough, so to avoid the difficulty of turning that large a team, Celtic fields tended to be long and narrow, a pattern that can still be seen in some parts of the country today. The lot of women Celtic lands were owned communally, and wealth seems to have been based largely on the size of cattle herd owned. The lot of women was a good deal better than in most societies of that time. They were technically equal to men, owned property, and could choose their own husbands. They could also be war leaders, as Boudicca Boadicea later proved. Language There was a written Celtic language, but it developed well into Christian times, so for much of Celtic history they relied on oral transmission of culture, primarily through the efforts of bards and poets. These arts were tremendously important to the Celts, and much of what we know of their traditions comes to us today through the old tales and poems that were handed down for generations before eventually being written down. Druids Another area where oral traditions were important was in the training of Druids. There has been a lot of nonsense written about Druids, but they were a curious lot; a sort of super-class of priests, political advisors, teachers, healers, and arbitrators. They had their own universities, where traditional

knowledge was passed on by rote. They had the right to speak ahead of the king in council, and may have held more authority than the king. They acted as ambassadors in time of war, they composed verse and upheld the law. They were a sort of glue holding together Celtic culture. The Isle of Anglesey seems to have been held in special esteem by the Celtic-Welsh druids. Religion From what we know of the Celts from Roman commentators, who are, remember, witnesses with an axe to grind, they held many of their religious ceremonies in woodland groves and near sacred water, such as wells and springs. The Romans speak of human sacrifice as being a part of Celtic religion. One thing we do know, the Celts revered human heads. Celtic warriors would cut off the heads of their enemies in battle and display them as trophies. They mounted heads in doorposts and hung them from their belts. This might seem barbaric to us, but to the Celt the seat of spiritual power was the head, so by taking the head of a vanquished foe they were appropriating that power for themselves. It was a kind of bloody religious observance. The Celts at War The Celts loved war. They were scrappers from the word go. They arrayed themselves as fiercely as possible, sometimes charging into battle fully naked, dyed blue from head to toe, and screaming like banshees to terrify their enemies. They took tremendous pride in their appearance in battle, if we can judge by the elaborately embellished weapons and paraphernalia they used. Golden shields and breastplates shared pride of place with ornamented helmets and trumpets. The Celts were great users of light chariots in warfare. From this chariot, drawn by two horses, they would throw spears at an enemy before dismounting to have a go with heavy slashing swords. They also had a habit of dragging families and baggage along to their battles, forming a great milling mass of encumbrances, which sometimes cost them a victory, as Queen Boudicca would later discover to her dismay. As mentioned, they beheaded their opponents in battle and it was considered a sign of prowess and social standing to have a goodly number of heads to display. Each tribe was out for itself, and in the long run this cost them control of Britain. If the physical makeup of the Welsh people owes more to the Beaker People, Welsh culture is largely a Celtic one. The warlike Celts, with their reverence for martial heroism, left an indelible mark on the folk tales and cultural myths of Wales, myths which grew through time into the mass of legends we know as the Mabinogion. See our map of the tribes of Celtic Wales here.

Chapter 8 : Origin of the Name "Wales". A New Appreciation

The Origins of the LMS In South Wales. - by Gwyn Briwnant Jones & Denis Dunstone, Gomer, ISBN London Midland & Scottish Railway Locomotive Allocations The Last Day

See Article History Alternative Title: Cymru Wales, constituent unit of the United Kingdom that forms a westward extension of the island of Great Britain. The capital and main commercial and financial centre is Cardiff. Conwy Castle, along the River Conwy, Wales. Welsh engineers, linguists, musicians, writers, and soldiers went on to make significant contributions to the development of the larger British Empire even as many of their compatriots laboured at home to preserve cultural traditions and even the Welsh language itself, which enjoyed a revival in the late 20th century. In the British government, with the support of the Welsh electorate, provided Wales with a measure of autonomy through the creation of the Welsh Assembly, which assumed decision-making authority for most local matters. Although Wales was shaken by the decline of its industrial mainstay, coal mining, by the end of the 20th century the country had developed a diversified economy, particularly in the cities of Cardiff and Swansea, while the countryside, once reliant on small farming, drew many retirees from England. In the face of constant change, Wales continues to seek both greater independence and a distinct place in an integrated Europe. The varied coastline of Wales measures about 1,760 miles km. The country stretches some 160 miles km from north to south, and its east-west width varies, reaching 90 miles km across in the north, narrowing to about 40 miles 65 km in the centre, and widening again to more than 100 miles km across the southern portion. Relief Glaciers during the Pleistocene Epoch about 2,000,000 to 11,000 years ago carved much of the Welsh landscape into deeply dissected mountains, plateaus, and hills, including the north-south-trending Cambrian Mountains, a region of plateaus and hills that are themselves fragmented by rivers. Protruding from that backbone are two main mountain areas—the Brecon Beacons in the south, rising to 2,952 feet metres at Pen y Fan, and Snowdonia in the northwest, reaching 3,560 feet 1,085 metres at Snowdon, the highest mountain in Wales. The uplands are girdled on the seaward side by a series of steep-sided coastal plateaus ranging in elevation from about 100 to 300 feet 30 to 90 metres. Many of them have been pounded by the sea into spectacular steplike cliffs. Other plateaus give way to coastal flats that are estuarine in origin. Gdr Wales consists of six traditional regions—the rugged central heartland, the North Wales lowlands and Isle of Anglesey county, the Cardigan coast Ceredigion county, the southwestern lowlands, industrial South Wales, and the Welsh borderland. The heartland, which coincides partly with the counties Powys, Denbighshire, and Gwynedd, extends from the Brecon Beacons in the south to Snowdonia in the north and includes the two national parks based on those mountain areas. To the west of the heartland, and coinciding with the county of Ceredigion, lies the coastline of Cardigan Bay, with numerous cliffs and coves and pebble- and sand-filled beaches. Southwest of the heartland are the counties of Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire. There the land rises eastward from St. South Wales stretches south of the heartland on an immense but largely exhausted coalfield. To the east of the heartland, the Welsh border region with England is largely agricultural and is characterized by rolling countryside and occasional wooded hills and mountainous moorland. Rowan Drainage The main watershed of Wales runs approximately north-south along the central highlands. The larger river valleys all originate there and broaden westward near the sea or eastward as they merge into lowland plains along the English border. The main river in northern Wales is the Dee, which empties into Liverpool Bay. Among the lesser rivers and estuaries are the Clwyd and Conwy in the northeast, the Tywi in the south, and the Rheidol in the west, draining into Cardigan Bay Bae Ceredigion. Several reservoirs in the central uplands supply water to South Wales and to Merseyside and the Midlands in England. However, glaciers during the Pleistocene blanketed most of the landscape with till boulder clay, scraped up and carried along by the underside of the great ice sheets, so that few soils can now be directly related to their parent rock. Acidic, leached podzol soils and brown earths predominate throughout Wales. Climate Wales has a maritime climate dominated by highly unpredictable shifts in Atlantic air masses, which, combined with the diverse range of elevations, often cause local conditions to vary considerably from day to day. Precipitation is frequent and often more than adequate, with annual totals averaging 55 inches 1,396 mm for the country as a whole. There is

no markedly wet or dry season; roughly 4 inches 88 mm of precipitation are recorded in April, whereas 6 inches mm are typical in January. Winter snowfall can be significant in the uplands, where snow or sleet falls some 10 days of each year. Plant and animal life The combination of physical conditions and centuries of human activity in Wales has brought about a predominance of grasslands, varying from mountain grasses and heather to lowland pastures of bent grass *Agrostis* and ryegrass. Planted woodlands are also common, including mixed parkland, boundary woods, and commercial plantations. The remoter parts of Wales shelter some mammals and birds that are extinct or rarely found elsewhere in Britain, including European polecats and pine martens , red kites , and choughs crowlike birds that breed inland as well as at some coastal sites. Seabirds and shorebirds occur in large numbers , and bottlenose dolphins inhabit Cardigan Bay. Snowdonia National Park, Wales. Additional waves of settlers arrived from continental Europe and lowland Britain during the Neolithic Period New Stone Age and Bronze Age , and iron-wielding Celtic peoples invaded after bce. The basic culture of these peoples survived the Roman occupation and was later strengthened and broadened by Celtic immigrations from other parts of Britain. Their language, a Brythonic branch of Celtic speech, formed the basis of modern Welsh , while their heroic poetry , dating from the 6th century ce, became the basis of one of the oldest literary traditions of Europe. There were limited Norse incursions during the early Middle Ages, commemorated today mainly in place-names along the coastal fringes. Large Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Norman groups subsequently entered Wales from the English border and began to dominate the ethnic and linguistic makeup of the country. Welsh and English are the two major linguistic and ethnic traditions in Wales. The Welsh border region, known historically as the Marches a patrolled frontier region , in particular is characterized by an amalgam of the Welsh and English cultures. Welsh was still spoken by about half of the population in , but its use thereafter began steadily to decline, and its survival became one of the main cultural and political themes in national life. The proportion is much diminished in South Wales, falling below one-tenth in the extreme southeast. The Welsh Language Act of placed it on the same legal standing as English. Some of the duties of the board, upon its dissolution in , were taken up by the newly created position of Welsh Language Commissioner. Religion The people of Wales have become increasingly secular in outlook, but many are at least nominally adherents to Protestant and Nonconformist churches, Calvinistic Methodism being perhaps the most widespread denomination, especially in Welsh-speaking areas. The Church in Wales , which is widely and evenly distributed throughout the country, has maintained an autonomous clerical hierarchy , including its own archbishop, since being disestablished from the Anglican church in Roman Catholicism accounts for a small but growing minority, notably in the northeast. Settlement patterns The people of Wales are unevenly distributed in a largely concentric settlement pattern: Although the central heartland region has lost considerable population, it retains much of its traditional culture and serves as a hearth for the Welsh language. Rural settlement The Welsh tribal economy, of seminomadic pastoral origin, produced mainly dispersed isolated farmsteads, with only limited nucleation clustering of buildings on some of the larger tribal domains. Missionaries known as the Celtic saints established individual monastic or cell habitations in rural areas following the collapse of the Roman Empire, and some of their dwellings attracted additional settlers because of their favourable sites or positioning. The Anglo-Norman manorial system was introduced into Wales after the conquest of , but nucleated villages became significant only in the eastern and southern peripheries of the country, where physical and political conditions favoured their development. As a result, large numbers of isolated, whitewashed stone cottages and farm buildings still dot the rural landscape, forming a strong underlying element within the Welsh social fabric. Urban settlement Some four-fifths of the Welsh population live in urban areas; two-thirds of the total reside in the South Wales industrial zone, and many others live in the northeast. Prior to the Norman Conquest there was scarcely any urban development in Wales, but the Normans introduced castle towns walled towns that still dominate the contemporary urban landscape— at least in number if not in size. These towns remain and serve commercial, administrative, and social functions; however, their physical appearance often betrays their military and colonial origins. Superimposed on this earlier urban pattern was that generated by the Industrial Revolution — notably in the south and northeast, where unplanned, overcrowded urban settlements sprang up in zones where coal deposits were being rapidly exploited. The coalfields of South Wales were developed in the 19th century as one of the

premier mining regions of Britain, and such urban settlements as Rhondda, with tightly packed rows of terraced housing strung out along narrow valleys, are perhaps among the most widely known characteristics of Wales. The region declined markedly during the Great Depression of the 1930s and with the collapse of the coal and steel industries in the late 20th century. However, South Wales remains the most densely populated and industrialized region in Wales. Aberystwyth, with its university and the National Library of Wales, is the largest town west of the central heartland region. The region preserves many essentially Welsh elements in its social life because of its somewhat isolated, west-facing location. The middle borderland region, traditionally agricultural, has diversified its economy in an attempt to stem long-standing trends of emigration and depopulation.

Demographic trends The Industrial Revolution dramatically increased the Welsh population from around 1 million people in the mid-18th century to some 2.5 million by the 1950s. In the 19th century alone roughly 1 million migrants were drawn into the coalfields of South Wales from England, Ireland, Spain, Italy, and elsewhere; many people from rural areas in Wales also migrated to industrial centres. Although new manufacturers and mines provided employment for many Welsh workers, others emigrated, particularly to the northeastern United States. Heavy industry declined during the 20th century, and agriculture became increasingly commercialized and capital-intensive, producing further emigration from Wales, mainly of younger workers, and leaving behind a disproportionately aged population. In the late 20th century new industrial growth stemmed the population loss, except in South Wales and other coalfield regions. There is now a rough balance between inward and outward migration; however, many of the more recent arrivals have been seasonal vacationers or rural retreaters from metropolitan England, which has produced considerable tensions in traditionally Welsh-speaking areas where up to half the population was born outside Wales. In contrast, nonnatives account for less than one-tenth of the residents of some southern districts. Cardiff is home to one of the oldest black communities in Britain.

Economy The Welsh economy generally reflects the national trends and patterns of the United Kingdom. However, Wales has higher proportions of employment in agriculture and forestry, manufacturing, and government, and it provides concomitantly fewer jobs in financial and business services. The European Union has awarded significant developmental aid to parts of western and southern Wales in order to improve conditions there. Agriculture, forestry, and fishing account for less than 2 percent of the GDP of Wales. Agricultural production mainly centres on the raising of sheep, cattle, pigs, and poultry. Major crops include barley, wheat, potatoes, and oats. The Forestry Commission, a government department, owns and operates large estates for the commercial exploitation of timber. Wales has several small ports and hundreds of small fishing vessels, but the overall fishing catch is limited. Major catches include clams, cod, lobsters, and skate. Sheep and cattle raising dominate the economy of the central heartland. The Llyn Peninsula and Anglesey have rich farming areas. Along the Ceredigion coast, fishing and dairying are important, and in Pembrokeshire and part of Carmarthenshire there are numerous low-lying pastures, dairy farms, and fishing ports. Milford Haven, which has a vast natural harbour, is the main fishing port.

Resources and power Wales has few natural resources beyond coal, agricultural lands, water, and woodlands. Coal is the only significant mineral resource of Wales, but the local coal-mining industry is now precipitously diminished from its previous level; by the early 1980s only about 10,000 people continued to be employed in coal mining in Wales. The coal deposits of South Wales are far more extensive and contain higher-grade anthracite than those of the northeast. The bulk of this coal is consumed locally by the coal-fired power plant at Aberthaw and by the steelworks at Port Talbot. Nonferrous ores occur in small quantities and are not economically viable. Iron ore deposits, which were important during the early development of the industrial regions, are now exhausted. There are several hydroelectric projects and reservoirs in Wales for domestic and industrial purposes. About half of the hydroelectric power produced in Wales serves areas in England. A nuclear power station is located at Wylfa, though it is scheduled for decommissioning. Manufacturing accounts for nearly one-third of the GDP of Wales, although most heavy industries had declined by the late 20th century.

Chapter 9 : BBC - Wales - History of Wales

Bill Hudson Transport Books. The Origins of the LMS in South Wales from Gomer Press.

Navigation was not easy, and unreliability of this means during dry spells or in midwinter made it unsatisfactory. The construction of the Brecknock and Abergavenny Canal provided an opportunity at Watton, some distance from Hay. To reach it the Hay Railway was promoted, receiving its authorising Act of Parliament of 25 May. A second Act of 20 May authorised a number of route changes. The latter was selected. Its construction was completed from Brecon to Hay on 7 May, and extended by stages to Eardisley by 1 December. In August the Leominster, Hay and Brecon Railway was promoted, but it proved impossible to raise money for the scheme and it was dropped. Captain Walter Devereux returned to live at Tregoyd, near Glasbury. Devereux was keen to build a low-cost railway, but at another meeting in Brecon on 21 July, those present adopted a proposed line via Bronllys terminating on the hillside north of Brecon. Devereux believed that his idea had been abandoned and he withdrew from the project. The first sod was turned by Lady Tredegar near Brecon on 10 April. However shareholders complained that too many of the directors were from London and were too distant. At a half-yearly meeting in February, they refused to re-elect one of the London directors and substituted a local man. This resulted in serious disruption by the contractor who had close ties to the director, and the disruption was such that the company replaced the contractor by Thomas Savin. At an early meeting of the shareholders, the line was described as being part of the shortest route from London to Milford Haven. The junction was where the Newport, Abergavenny and Hereford Railway, running via Barton station, converged with the Shrewsbury and Hereford Railway, which ran from Barrs Court station, then a terminus, northwards. Barrs Court Junction would therefore have been a three-way convergence, and the junction was technically to be with the Shrewsbury and Hereford. A new working arrangement was now made with the West Midland Railway: The intention had been to use Barton as the Hereford terminus, and a connection into Barton had been used during the construction period by the contractor. The line was further extended to Hay on 11 July. Finally from 19 September the entire line was open and a train service of six passenger and two freight trains each way on weekdays between Hereford and Brecon was introduced, using running powers over the newly-opened Mid-Wales Railway between Three Cocks and Talyllyn, and from there the trains ran over the Brecon and Merthyr Railway to Brecon. It did so by Act of 1 August. A rapid cooling of relations followed immediately, with the issue of the junction at Barton unresolved. The line had originally been worked by the contractor, Thomas Savin, but it seems that the Great Western Railway worked the line between 26 August and 5 February. After that the Brecon and Merthyr provided engine power during the amalgamated period and up to 30 September. This was a desperate attempt to save money: In fact the Brecon Curve was laid in just before expiry of the Parliamentary powers; in fact a demonstration train ran on 5 May, the day the powers expired, but the junction at the Barrs Court end was not made even then. A new Act was passed on 26 August authorised the Widemarsh Loop again, an extension of the station at Moorfields, which looked as if it was going to be permanent, and some financial reconstruction, [2] and running powers to Brecon. This quickly led to an agreement, confirmed on 2 August. In effect this was a lease, and the form of words was no doubt intended to deceive the GWR. The arrangement came into force on 1 October. The Midland continued to clash in court battles with the GWR over the claimed right to run their trains into Barton, and eventually they won. Nevertheless it was not until 1 April that Brecon trains resumed using Barton. The use of Barton at Hereford was never entirely convenient, because Barrs Court was used by through trains and connections there were desirable. Midland Railway through coaches between Birmingham and Brecon, later Swansea, started running from 8 July; they continued running until 31 December. From 1 January Barton was reduced to the status of a goods station. Engines were turned on the triangle until 30 June, when the South Curve was cut. The Midland Railway was a constituent of the new London, Midland and Scottish Railway and the Great Western Railway joined with certain other railways and continued under the same name. The Midland Railway had never developed the line for through express passenger working; its purpose was simply the carriage of goods to and from Swansea, and local passenger traffic was run as an

incidental activity. The line was closed to passengers on 30 December , and to all traffic in , from Talylyn Junction to Eardisley on 4 May , and throughout on 4 August After milder gradients, the line rose again from Hay to Glasbury, at 1 in 80 and 84; the line then fell to Three Cocks Junction.