

The Woosnam Family of Llandinam and the Edmonds Family of Kerry

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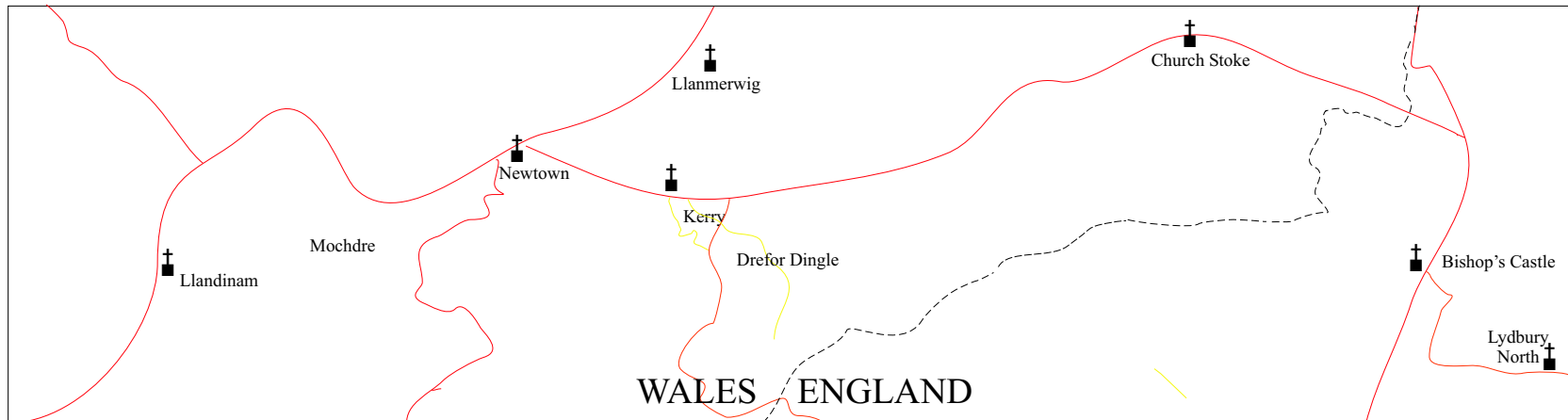
Birth Brief for Ethel Winifred Woosnam

Ethel Winifred Woosnam b. 12 Jan 1911 Wallasey m. 19 Jan 1935	William Albert L Woosnam b. 1 Jan 1870 Kerry m. 4 Sep 1895 Newtown Water Meter Fitter	Thomas Woosnam c. 31 May 1835 Llandinam m. 19 Nov 1864 Kerry Labourer	William Woosnam c. 22 Jun 1805 Llandinam m. 6 Oct 1828 Mochdre Farmer	William Woosnam m. 3 May 1803, Llandinam	
			Ann Jenkins		
		Mary Ann Jones c. 26 Jan 1845 Kerry Servant	William Jones b. Abt 1801 Shropshire m. 27 Jun 1831 Kerry Labourer		
			Elizabeth Edmunds c. 1 Apr 1811 Kerry	Francis Edmunds c. 13 Jul 1763, Kerry m. 27 Dec 1802, Kerry	John Edmunds Ann
	Catherine Breese b. 18 Oct 1869 Kerry	George Breese c. 9 Dec 1832 Kerry m. 4 Mar 1869 Kerry Game Keeper	George Breese c. 27 Apr 1795 Kerry m. 1 Jul 1827 Kerry Labourer	Thomas Breese c. 23 Feb 1772, Kerry	Mary Breese
				Susan	
			Mary Turner c. 1 Sep 1799 Kerry	Edward Turner c. 6 Jun 1773, Kerry m. 14 May 1795, Old Radnor	Edward Turner Mary
			Rebecca Davies c. 12 Feb 1776, Old Radnor	William Davies Rebekah Jones	
		Catherine Jones b. Abt 1847 Aberystwyth	John Jones		

Birth Brief for Eleanor Williams

Eleanor Williams c. 13 Aug 1775 Lydbury North	Lewis Williams b. Abt 1746 m. 21 May 1764 Lydbury North d. 2 Feb 1826 Lydbury North	
	Margaret Harper c. 2 Nov 1749 Lydbury North	Charles Harper m. 9 Jun 1742 Ludford
		Margaret Beaman

Map of Kerry and surrounding area



Llandinam

The Woosnam family's connection with the parish of Llandinam goes back at least to 1664, and possibly even earlier. Elizabeth Woosnam was buried there on 23 June 1664, and Richard Woosnam was married there on 7 Dec 1664. The 1671 Hearth Tax returns for Llandinam include "Elizabeth Wousanam", who was taxed for one hearth.

Evan Woosnam, who married Bridget Davies on 17 Jan 1704, was a maker of barrels (The records of this period are in Latin, and the term that was used for his occupation was "doliarius").

William Woosnam married Anne Morris on 16 Feb 1790, in Llandinam. His first wife died, and he re-married, to Anne Morgan, on 3 May 1803. His eldest child was Sarah. (I am not sure whether Sarah was a child of his first or second marriage). His two younger children, with Anne Morgan, were William and Margaret.

William Woosnam married Ann Jenkins on 6 Oct 1828 in Mochdre, which is a parish adjoining Llandinam. Their first two children, William and John, were baptised in Mochdre. Their younger children, Thomas, Ann, Evan and Edward, were baptised in Llandinam. (There may have been another child, Richard, born about 1838, but I have not been able to confirm this).

William Woosnam				
Anne Morgan				
m. 3 May 1803, Llandinam				
William Woosnam	c.	22	Jun	1805
Margaret Woosnam	c.	16	Apr	1810
				Llandinam
				Llandinam

William Woosnam	c.	22	Jun	1805	Llandinam
Ann Jenkins					
m. 6 Oct 1828, Mochdre					
William Woosnam	c.	9	Jan	1831	Mochdre
John Woosnam	c.	16	Dec	1832	Mochdre
Thomas Woosnam	c.	31	May	1835	Llandinam
Ann Woosnam	c.	5	Jul	1840	Llandinam
Evan Woosnam	b.	22	May	1843	Llandinam
	c.	14	Jun	1843	Llandinam
Edward Woosnam	c.	17	May	1846	Llandinam

Kerry

The Edmonds Family

1793 to 1815 – The French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars

Thomas Edmonds was baptised on 24 Sep 1766, in Kerry. In Nov 1791 he joined the Shropshire Militia. On 1 Feb 1793 France declared war on Britain, starting the French Revolutionary War. On 24 Aug 1795 he was promoted from the rank of private to corporal. On 30 Jan 1797 he was promoted to serjeant. On 27 Mar 1802 the Peace of Amiens officially ended the French Revolutionary War. Thomas Edmonds left the Shropshire Militia on 22 Apr 1802.

In May 1803 war broke out again between Britain and France. Thomas Edmonds joined the Montgomeryshire Volunteer Legion in August 1802. He was the Drill Sergeant in Captain Herbert's Company. Most of the men in the legion were part-time soldiers, who were paid for 20 or 30 days a year. As a Drill Serjeant, Thomas Edmonds worked full-time. When his Company were assembled, they were stationed at Newtown: from 27 Oct to 5 Nov in 1804, from 12 Oct to 21 Oct in 1807. The Montgomeryshire Volunteer Legion was disbanded in 1808.

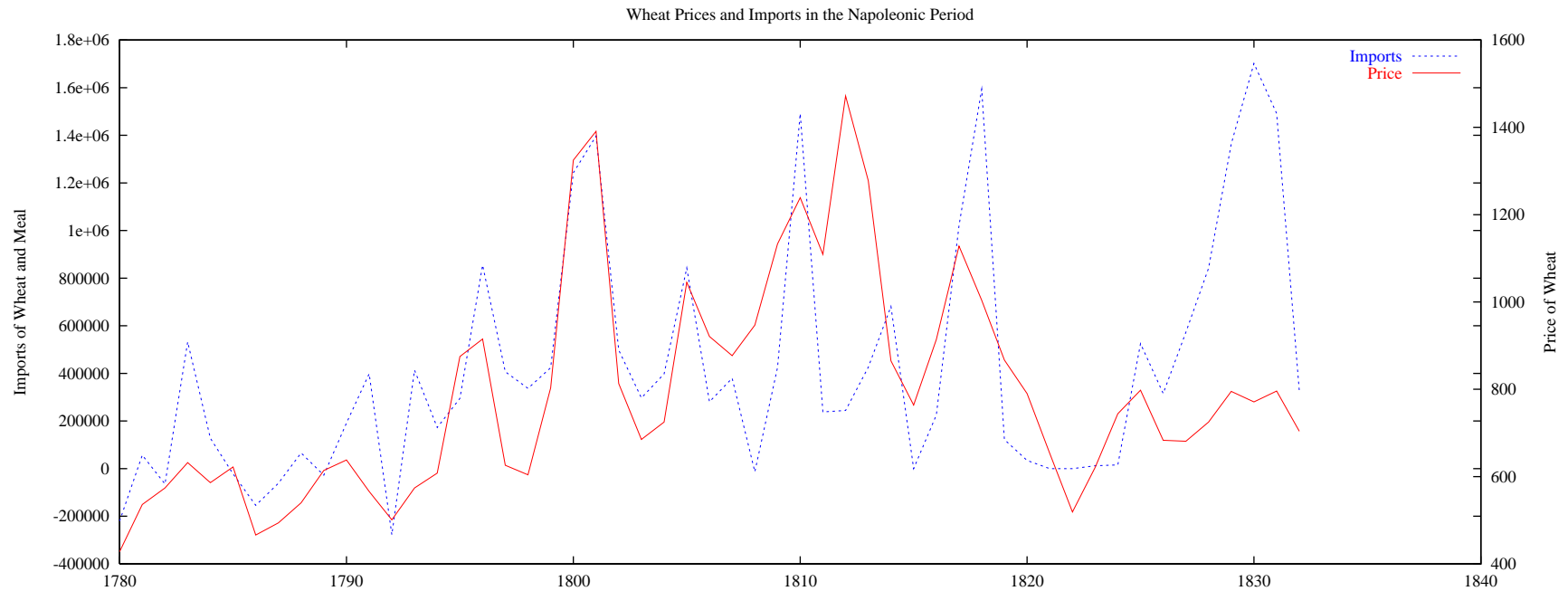
On 24 Sep 1808 Thomas Edmonds was transferred to the newly-formed Royal Eastern Montgomery Local Militia. This regiment of the Local Militia was commanded by Viscount Clive, who had earlier been the commander of the Shropshire Militia. They assembled for training for two weeks in the summer: in 1811, from 16 May to 31 May; in 1812, from 19 May to 1 June; in 1813, from 9 Jun to 22 June. During the 1811 training, Thomas was a member of Captain Herbert's Company (infantry).

On 18 June 1815, Napoleon was defeated at the battle of Waterloo, and the Napoleonic War was finally over. Thomas Edmonds was stationed at the regiment's headquarters in Welshpool throughout 1815. The Local Militia was disbanded the following year, and Thomas Edmonds was discharged from the army on 24 April 1816. The reason given for his discharge was his age and long service. His discharge papers describe him as follows:

“He is about fifty years of age, is five feet nine inches in height, brown hair, grey eyes, brown complexion, by trade a shoemaker.”

John Edmonds Ann					
Francis Edmonds	c.	13	Jul	1763	Kerry
Thomas Edmonds	c.	24	Sep	1766	Kerry
Ann Edmonds	c.	20	Feb	1774	Kerry

Francis Edmonds	c.	13	Jul	1763	Kerry
Eleanor Williams	c.	13	Aug	1775	Lydbury North
m. 27 Dec 1802, Kerry					
Richard Edmonds	c.	10	Jun	1803	Kerry
John Edmonds	c.	30	Dec	1805	Kerry
	bur.	6	Feb	1819	Kerry
Mary Edmonds	c.	31	Aug	1808	Kerry
	bur.	12	Mar	1819	Kerry
Elizabeth Edmonds	c.	1	Apr	1811	Kerry
Susannah Edmonds	c.	9	Apr	1814	Kerry
Thomas Edmonds	c.	26	Oct	1816	Kerry



Economic effects of the French Wars

The graph above shows the price of wheat in England (in pence; continuous line) and the excess of imports over exports of wheat and meal (in quarters; dotted line) for the period 1780 to 1832. The price of wheat rose during wartime, as France was one of the main sources of imported wheat, and the wars with France disrupted this trade. The wartime high prices encouraged landowners to invest in more intensive forms of agriculture. Most agricultural laborers did not own the land that they worked, and so they were unable to prevent changes in farming methods that left them worse off.

The declarations of peace in 1802 and 1815 led to sharp falls in the grain price, as farmers faced competition from cheaper imported grain. In 1816, Parliament passed legislation, known as the Corn Laws, which prevented the import of grain unless the price was above a threshold. This legislation was intended to protect local agriculture by keeping the prices high. There was political protest against the Corn Laws, because they caused food prices to be too high.

The Primitive Methodists

On 31 May 1807, the preacher Hugh Bourne held an open-air Methodist meeting at Mow Cop in Cheshire. His style of preaching led to him being expelled from the Methodists, and he went on to form the Primitive Methodists. In 1811, parliament passed legislation that imposed qualification standards on Methodist preachers. This was regarded as being directed against the Primitive Methodists, many of whose members were working class.

Later, members of the Woosnam family became Primitive Methods - William Albert Llewellyn Woosnam married Catherine Breese in the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Newtown on 1895.

1810's — Kerry after the Wars

Mary Smout's daughter Harriot was baptised in Kerry on 8 Sep 1816. Mary gave her occupation as "Soldier's wife or widow"; presumably, her husband had not returned from the wars and it was not known if he were alive or dead.

John and Mary Edmonds died in their teenage years, within two months of each other (buried 6 Feb 1819 and 12 Mar 1819).

1830's — Emmigration to Wisconsin

Richard Edmonds married Mary Lewis on 17 Nov 1829. Earlier that year, Richard had been the father of two children born in Kerry: Anne Jones's son Richard (baptized 8 Mar 1829) and Mary Smout's daughter Mary Anne (baptized 26 Mar 1829). In the subsequent years, Richard had four more children with his wife Mary: Elizabeth, Eliza, John and Thomas.

At the time of the 1841 census, the household at Dingle Cottage, Kerry consisted of Eleanor Edmonds, her son Richard, Richard's wife Mary, and the children Mary, Elizabeth, Eliza, John and Thomas.

In 1845, the Richard, Mary and their children emigrated to the United States of America. They settled in Albany, Green County, Wisconsin.

1840's – The Poor Law Amendment Act

On 22 Feb 1840, many of the people of Kerry signed a petition concerning the administration of the poor law in their parish:

"We the undersigned, being two thirds of the ratepayers of the parish of Kerry in the County of Montgomery respectfully beg to call your attention to the circumstances that the above named parish, which is about 14 miles long and contained at the last census 2199 inhabitants, has only one guardian of the poor, who must of necessity be totally inadequate to be thoroughly acquainted with the state of the poor distributed over such an extensive parish and humbly request that you will be pleased to appoint an additional Guardian for the said parish.

We remain, Gentlemen, your humble & obedient servants."

The signatories included Evan Woosnam, William Jones, Thomas Edmonds and John Edmonds.

Richard Edmonds	c.	10	Jun	1802	Kerry
Mary Lewis					
m. 17 Nov 1829, Kerry					
Elizabeth Edmonds	c.	9	Jun	1830	Kerry
Eliza Edmonds	c.	5	Feb	1832	Kerry
John Edmonds	c.	1	Jul	1835	Kerry
Thomas Edmonds	c	25	Nov	1838	Kerry

1850's — Elizabeth Edmunds

At the time of the 1851 census, the household at Dingle cottage consisted of Eleanor Edmunds, her daughter Elizabeth, Elizabeth's husband William Jones, and their children Eliza, Mary, Susan and Richard.

William Jones					
Elizabeth Edmunds	c.	1	Apr	1811	Kerry
m. 27 Jun 1831, Kerry					
William Jones	c.	15	Jul	1832	Kerry
John Jones	c.	10	Jul	1836	Kerry
Eliza Jones	c.	26	Sep	1840	Kerry
Margaret Jones	c.	31	Dec	1841	Kerry
	bur.	29	May	1847	Kerry
Mary Ann Jones	c.	26	Jan	1845	Kerry
Susan Jones	c.	18	Oct	1846	Kerry
Richard Jones	b.		Abt	1849	Kerry

1860's — The Railways

In the 1850's and 1860's, railway companies were interested in building a line to the Welsh coast. As part of this project, a branch line was built between Bishop's Castle and Lydbury North in 1865. The branch line proved to be unprofitable, and the railway company went bankrupt in 1866. However, the receiver kept the line operating until 1935.

Thomas Woosnam worked as a railway labourer during the construction of this branch line, and so he and his wife Mary were in Bishop's Castle when their first son, Frank (John Francis Woosnam) was born on 24 Sep 1865.

Thomas Woosnam	c.	31	May	1835	Llandinam
Mary Ann Jones	c.	26	Jan	1845	Kerry
m. 19 Nov 1864, Kerry					
John Francis Woosnam	b.	24	Sep	1865	Bishop's Castle
William Albert Llewellyn Woosnam	b.	1	Jan	1870	Kerry
Richard Ambrose George Woosnam	b.	19	Dec	1872	Kerry
Charles Thomas Woosnam	b.	1	Jan	1878	Kerry

1870's — Richard Jones

In 1871, Thomas and Mary Woosnam lived in Dingle Cottage, Kerry with their first two children, Frank (John Francis Woosnam) and Albert (William Albert Llewellyn Woosnam); Mary's father, William Jones; and Mary's brother, Richard Jones.

On 12 October 1872, Richard Jones and Martha Francis had their first child, Fanny Selena Jones. She was born in Chirbury Road, Montgomery. Richard and Martha married in 1874, and moved to Church Stoke, where they had their next two children, Alfred and Walter. They then moved back to Kerry, to a house of their own (Blaen Cwmydalfa) where they had another three children, Martha, Richard and Gertrude.

Richard Jones	b.	Abt	1849	Kerry	
Martha Francis	b.	Abt	1852	Church Stoke	
m. 1874					
Fanny Selena Jones	b.	12	Oct	1872	Montgomery
Alfred Jones	b.			1875	Church Stoke
Walter Jones	b.			1878	Church Stoke
Martha Jones	b.			1879	Kerry
Richard Jones	b.			1880	Kerry
Gertrude Jones	b.			1881	Kerry

Kerry

The Breese Family

1860's — George Breese, Gamekeeper

George Breese married Katherine Beddoes on the 22 May 1863. Their son, George Samuel Breese, was born at Dolforgan, Kerry on 15 Feb 1865. Katherine died of gastric fever later that year, on 29 Dec 1865. George married again, to Catherine Jones, on 4 Mar 1869. Their children were Catherine, Margaret, Mary, John and Samuel.

At the time of his first marriage, George Breese gave his occupation as "labourer", but by the time of his second marriage he was a gamekeeper. In the 1881 census, his family are shown living at Keeper's Cottage, Kerry; perhaps the cottage came with the job?

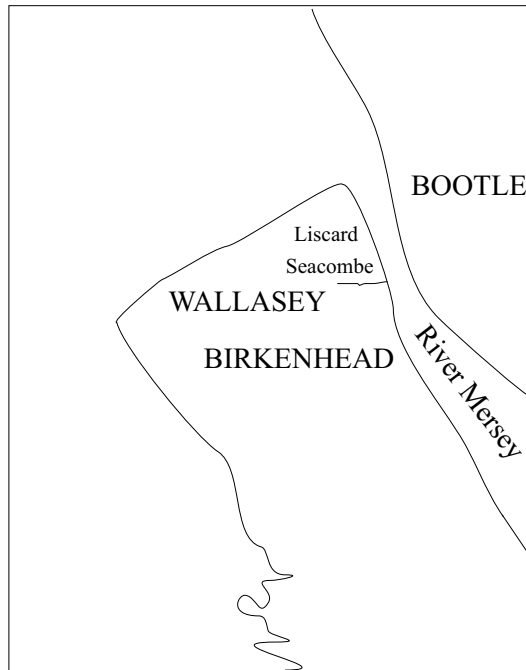
George Breese	c.	9	Dec	1832	Kerry
Katherine Beddoes	b.		Abt	1835	
	d.	29	Dec	1865	Kerry
m. 22 May 1863, Kerry					
George Samuel Breese	b.	15	Feb	1865	Kerry

George Breese	c.	9	Dec	1832	Kerry
Catherine Jones	b.		Abt	1837	Aberystwyth
m. 4 Mar 1869, Kerry					
Catherine Breese	b.	18	Oct	1869	Kerry
Margaret Breese	b.			1872	Kerry
Mary Breese	b.			1875	Kerry
John Breese	b.			1876	Kerry
Samuel Breese	b.			1879	Kerry

Wallasey

1890's — Departure from Wales

William Albert Llewellyn Woosnam married Catherine Breese at the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Newtown, Montgomery on 4 Sep 1895. At that time, Albert was a blacksmith. By 1898, they had left Wales for Wallasey, and Albert had a new job as a water meter inspector. By 1905, Albert had become a water meter fitter.



William Albert Llewellyn Woosnam	b.	1	Jan	1870	Kerry
Catherine Breese	b.	18	Oct	1869	Kerry
m. 4 Sep 1895, Newtown					
Mary Louise Woosnam ("Molly")	b.	28	Aug	1896	Wallasey
Catherine Evelyn Woosnam ("Eva")	b.	15	Feb	1898	Wallasey
William Albert Woosnam	b.	25	Dec	1899	Wallasey
Edith Hilda Woosnam ("Waz")	b.	29	May	1902	Wallasey
Francis Llewellyn Woosnam ("Frank")	b.	18	Oct	1905	Wallasey
Margaret Lillian Woosnam ("Peggy")	b.	1	Feb	1907	Wallasey
George Eliot Woosnam	b.	2	Apr	1909	Wallasey
Ethel Winifred Woosnam	b.	12	Jan	1911	Wallasey

Timelines

Official Records

- 1543 The Lay Subsidy (a tax) is introduced in Wales
- 1641 All adult males are required to sign an oath of allegiance
- 1662-1689 The Hearth Tax
- 1733 England and Wales change to using English for official records
- 1752 England and Wales change to using the Gregorian Calendar
- 1754 The Hardwick Marriage Act makes clandestine marriages illegal
- 1813 The Parochial Registration Act standardises the format of parish register entries
- 1837 Civil registration of births, marriages and deaths is introduced (1 July)
- 1841 The first census that records people's names

Transport

- 1821 The Montgomeryshire Canal is extended to Newtown
- 1865 A railway line is built between Bishop's Castle and Lydbury North

Religion

- 1744 John Wesley holds the first Methodist "Conference"
- 1807 (31 May) Hugh Bourne's Methodist meeting at Mow Cop
- 1808 Hugh Bourne expelled from the Methodists
- 1812 (February) Hugh Bourne's group call themselves the Society of Primitive Methodists

Hunting

- 1828 The Night Poaching Act
- 1831 The Game Act
- 1844 The Night Poaching Act (again)
- 1862 The Poaching Prevention Act
- 1880 The Ground Game Act
- 1906 The Ground Game Act (again)

War

- 1642 (Aug) Start of the Civil War
- 1646 (May) Charles I surrenders
- 1793 (1 Feb) France declares war on Britain
- 1794 (17 Apr) Volunteer Corps established by act of parliament
- 1797 (22 Feb) French attempt to invade Wales at Fishguard
- 1802 (27 Mar) Peace of Amiens ends French Revolutionary War
- 1803 (May) War resumes between France and Britain
- 1808 The Local Militia is established
- 1815 (18 Jun) Napoleon defeated at the battle of Waterloo
- 1816 The Local Militia is disbanded
- 1899-1902 The Boer War
- 1914 (28 Jun) Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand
- 1918 (11 November) Armistice Day, end of First World War
- 1939 (1 Sep) Germany invades Poland
- 1945 (8 May) VE Day — Germany surrenders

Sources

Llandinam

Parish register

- Powys county archives, microfilms MP 118 and MP 263

Census

- 1841: Family History Library (Salt Lake City), microfilm #464338
- 1851: Family History Library (Salt Lake City), microfilm #104258
- 1881: Family History Library (Salt Lake City), microfilm #1342318

Hearth Tax

- “Montgomeryshire Hearth Tax Returns 1671”, Society of Genealogists, 1983. (Typescript, copy in the Society of Genealogist’s library)
- Public Records Office, E179/265/10/58

Non-conformist registers

- Family Records Centre (London), microfilm RG/4098. Contains a copy of the register for Llanidloes Wesleyan Methodist chapel, including the baptism of Thomas, son of **Thomas** and Ann Woosnam on 30 Mar 1837; their abode is given as Gwerndolphin, Llandinam. This is probably not the same person as the Thomas, son of **William** and Ann Woosnam, baptised on 31 May 1835 at Llandinam parish church.

Mochdre

Parish Register

- “*Parish of Mochdre* Register of Baptisms 1813-1866”, Montgomeryshire Records no. MR/C/03, published by the Montgomeryshire Genealogical Society
- “*Parish of Mochdre* Register of Marriages 1813-1838”, Montgomeryshire Records no. MR/W/02, published by the Montgomeryshire Genealogical Society

Kerry

Parish register

- “*Parish of Kerry Register of Baptisms 1813-1837*”, Montgomeryshire Records no. MR/C/07, published by the Montgomeryshire Genealogical Society.

Bishop’s Transcripts

- Family History Library (Salt Lake City), microfilm #104468, item 3

Census

- “Montgomeryshire — Parish of Kerry — 1841 census”, published by the Powys Family History Society, ISBN 1-900655-72-1 ; copy held in the library of the Society of Genealogists
- 1841: Family History Library (Salt Lake City), microfilm #464340
- 1851: Family History Library (Salt Lake City), microfilm #104259
- 1881: Family History Library (Salt Lake City), microfilm #1342318

Military Records

The following documents in the Public Records Office, Kew refer to Thomas Edmonds:

- WO/97/1096/157 - Discharge papers of Thomas Edmonds
- WO/13/1862 - Muster Rolls of the Shropshire Regiment of Militia, 1780-1797. (This box contains a Muster Roll for each period of six months from 1793 to 1797, as well as bundles of documents from 1780 and 1781).
- WO/3/4470 - The Montgomeryshire Volunteers, pay-lists and returns 1803-1808. (This box includes a letter from Cecil Jenkinson, dated 30 Jan 1809, confirming that the legion has been disbanded).
- WO/13/3559 - The Royal Eastern Montgomery Local Militia, Pay Lists and Returns 1808-1816

The records seem to disagree on when he was promoted. The Muster Rolls in WO/13/1862 give the dates of his promotions, but these are not consistent with the length of service given in his discharge papers in WO/97/1096/157.

Poor Law Records

In the Public Records Office, MH/12/16597 is the correspondence of the Newtown and Llanidloes Poor Law Union from 1834 to 1842. Items of interest include:

- Letter dated 7 Feb 1836, from Charles Thomas Woosnam, concerning a removal order for Evan Bumford.
- Letter dated 14 April 1837, from John Davies, describing riots against the Poor Law Amendment Act.
- Poster dated 17 April 1837, announcing a public meeting in Newtown to discuss petitioning the Houses of Parliament to repeal the Poor Law Amendment Act.
- Petition stamped 22 Feb 1840, from over two thirds of the ratepayers of Kerry, asking for the appointment of a second Guardian of the Poor for their parish
- Petition, dated 11 Feb 1842, from inhabitants of Kerry, again asking for the appointment of a second Guardian of the Poor for their parish.

Old Radnor

Parish register

- Powys county archives, microfilm MP 242

Bishop’s Transcripts

- Powys county archives, microfilm MP 252

Albany, Wisconsin

The references in this section were supplied by Ms. A Marshall.

Newspaper Articles

- Albany Vindicator (Obituary for Richard Edmonds)
- Albany Vindicator, 3 Dec 1903 (Thomas Edmonds treated for cancer)
- Albany Vindicator, 17 Mar 1904 (Obituary for Thomas Edmonds)

Gamekeepers

“Register of documents enrolled with the Clerk of the Peace. Comprises Conveyances of tollhouses to trustees to private parties and appointments of gamekeepers”, Powys county archives, MONT M/QS/RX/3. This includes the appointments of gamekeepers by Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Lord of the manors of Cyfeilog and Arwystley, and Edward James, Earl of Powis. Gamekeepers who are mentioned include Francis Beech Gell, Henry Bailey of Lymore, William Jones, George Legge of Walcot, Thomas Till of Montford and Henry Lester Smith. Unfortunately, George Breese is not mentioned.

The Corn Laws

The figures for grain prices are taken from “English Historical Documents vol. XI 1783–1832” by A. Aspinall and E. Anthony Smith, which reproduces them from “The Progress of the Nation” by G. R. Porter (1836). The original source of the data is the London Gazette.