

## WHITCHURCH HERALD EXTRACTS 1910 - 1919

- 19/02/1910 Reports from Frank Lloyd's Sales. The Drury Farm, Tybroughton and Tallarn Green Farm both Jabez Evans and Jonathan Hughes having retired from farming. The stock brought tip-top results.
- 26/02/1910 Deaths. Pritchard - 20th instant, at Oldcastle, Malpas, Joseph the beloved husband of Harriet Pritchard, aged 52 years.
- 05/03/1910 Frank Lloyd & Sons were selling by auction at the New House Farm, Tybroughton, on instructions from the Misses Edwardes, who had let the farm, live and dead farming stock and household furniture.
- 19/03/1910 We were informed that telegraphic information has been received of the death of Mr Nugent Howard, second son of the late Mr and Mrs Robert Howard of Broughton Hall, Malpas. Mr Howard had companied Lord Kingston on a big-game shooting expedition to Africa and it is understood that on the homeward journey, Mr Howard was taken ill on board and was landed at Brindisi, Lord Kingston accompanying him. News of his illness arrived at Broughton Hall on Thursday and Miss Howard at once set out for Brindisi to tend her brother in his illness. It is believed that she has reached Paris where it is hoped she will receive a message arresting her progress and conveying to her the sad news of her brother's death. Mr Howard was well known in the district and well thought of. He was a keen all-round sportsman, a rider to hounds and an enthusiastic golf player. The new of his death will be received with regret by all who knew him.
- 02/07/1910 Broxton Petty Sessions, Edward Bebbington, licensee of the Queen's Head Inn, Threapwood, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his premises on May 24th. The defendant was fined 40s and £3 4s costs. Referred to during the case were James Arthan, cattle dealer, Cholton and Andrew Hewitt, Threapwood, labourer, who had been drinking in the pub. Also referred to was Hewitt's sister's house, which was close by Sarn Lane, Threapwood. Her name was Mrs Wynn. Edward had held the licence of the Queen's Head for twelve months. Also referred to was George Jones, shoemaker, another customer in the pub and Mrs Catherine Lloyd, who resided apposite the Queen's Head.
- 20/08/1910 Tybroughton Property Sale at Whitchurch. Still another addition was made yesterday (Friday) at the Victoria Hotel to the list of recent highly important and successful property sales, conducted by Messrs Frank Lloyd & Sons in this and adjacent neighbourhoods. A very large company was met by the genial personality of Mr Frank Lloyd, who personally conducted the sale and who, in the opening remarks, made a graceful reference to the late Mr Blain of Tybroughton, to whose lamented death the sale was due. The property comprised a freehold residential estate at Tybroughton, containing 115 and a half acres and including Tybroughton Hall Farm (85 and 3/4 acres), 2 cottages and 3 accommodation fields, extending to 29 1/2 acres; the whole being submitted to auction on instructions from the Trustees of the late Mr W J Blain. Tybroughton Hall Farm was first offered and for this the first bid was £5000 advancing by fifties to £5,350. The property was knocked down at this figure to Mrs G C Hockenhull of Kiln Green, The 2 cottages brought an initial offer of £250 and this was promptly improved to £265 on which Mr Hockenhull was declared the purchaser. Lot 3 was a 16 acre field, which was bought by Mr George Wardle for £800. Mr Wardle also purchased the next lot - a 10 acre field for £560 and the remaining lot a field containing 3 3/4 acres, fell to Mr Hockenhull at £190. The whole of the property thus realised the highly satisfactory total of £7,165.
- 24/09/1910 Great interest was evidenced in Malpas and district on Tuesday last on the occasion of Mr Frank Lloyd of Frank Lloyd & Sons submitting to auction at the Wyvern Hotel, Malpas, a dairy farm known as Stockton Hall and a few smallholdings situate about 2 miles from Malpas. The Sale room was crowded and Mr Frank Lloyd, having set forth the attraction of the property in a masterly manner, invited bidding for Stockton Hall, containing 203 acres. Bidding opened at £6,500 and speedily reached £9,922 (inc timber) at which sum Mr G C Dobnell of Oldcastle was declared the purchaser. This gentleman also obtained the following other lots; Lot 2, a smallholding of 4 acres at £474, Lot 4, 2 cottages and 6 acres £809. Lot 7 pasture field 1 acre £150, whilst Lot 3, a smallholding of 4 3/4 acres was sold at £515 to Mr S Caldecott of Ruabon, Mr Harry Lee of 40, Dodington, Whitchurch acted as solicitor to the vendor.
- 01/10/1910 Broxton Petty Sessions. There was an application for the transfer of the licence of the Queen's Head from the late tenant, Mr Bebbington to Mr John Newnes. The owner was Mr George Williamson.

- 22/10/1910 Agricultural Dispersal (or Dispersion) Sale at Tybroughton Hall. Enormous Company. Extraordinary Prices. On Wednesday last Messrs Frank Lloyd & Sons opened their two-day sale of the agricultural effects of the late Mr W J F Blain at Tybroughton Hall. The weather was by no means favourable for such a fixture but the exceptional possibilities of the sale had been emphasised by the auctioneers in an admirably compiled catalogue and the consequent interest was such that an enormous crowd of people had assembled by the time (on the stroke of 12.20) when the business of the day was proceeded with. The crowd indeed was probably larger than any seen in this district at any fixture of the character the largest since the great dispersion sale conducted by the same firm some years ago at the Twemlows. As will be seen by the appended particulars, operations were followed with keen interest and spirited competition.
- Agricultural implements were first brought under notice and some notable prices in this section included a swath turner £10, a horse rake £8, a roller £6, a one-way plough £4 15s, a corn drill £12 and a reaper and mowing machine 10gns. A cart made £13 and a lurry £24 and a three-horse (3 h.p?) Petter petroleum engine was sold for £24. while a grinding (mill?) made £8 15s. Pigs, eagerly sought after, 19 bacons making £102 8s. While a sow and her followers were disposed of for £16 and 11 porkets at £37.19s. Dairy cattle were, of course a feature of the show and the care bestowed by the late Mr Blain on the make up of his herd reached (reacted?) favourably on the terms of their disposal. The prices made were fully equal to anything that might be expected at the spring of the year; and this applied also to the calving heifers bred by the late owner. Keen judges present were agreed that for the time of year cattle had rarely, if ever, been disposed of so advantageously. It is worthy mentioning perhaps that all the cows were for early spring note. A roan cow made £19 5s another £18 and 25 of them averaged over £16 10s apiece, while a pair of two year old calving heifers went at £24 5s and singles reached as much as £17. Rearing calves (late reared) made £6 each. The team of wagon horses made up to 45gns each, whilst a 3 year old realized 56gns. The winter keep sold remarkably well, 4 stacks of unthreshed white oats made £83 10s or £9 an acre; 4 bays of hay, all this year's growth changed hands at £148 (over £7 an acre); and a stack of hay estimated at 8 tons, at £31.
- The second day's sale of dairy vessels, household furniture and miscellaneous effects was carried out in the presence of another very large company and the big prices of the previous day were well maintained. Among the prices made for miscellaneous effects were as follows; 3-light garden frame £3 5s, Hearson's incubator £5, garden roller £1 11s, wooden poultry house £4 and poultry at 5s 6d a couple. Dairy vessels; cheese making apparatus £10 5s, cheese presses to £3 17s 6d, weighing machine £3 15s churn £3 2s 6d, vats 1/2 gn per pair and a curd mill 32s. Household furniture included an oak sideboard £10, a set of 6 chairs 4gns, oak table 5gns, bedroom suite £11 10s and an oak kitchen piece £3 5s. The sale (comprising about 450 lots) was concluded in good time each day and was conducted with the dispatch characteristic of the firm. Refreshments were very satisfactorily catered each day by Mr W Gladdy
- 03/12/1910 Frank Lloyd conducted on behalf of Mr A J Robinson, who is retiring, a sale of farm stock at Topwood Farm, Oldcastle, Malpas.
- 11/02/1911 The Broxton Licensing Sessions were held before Chairman Mr George Barbour, Lord Arthur Grosvenor, Mr S H Sandbach, Captain R W Ethelston, Dr T B Brierley and Messrs John Howard etc. The case of the Queen's Head Inn, Threapwood was raised. This had been closed from October 1 to 29, 1910, in consequence of the owner's refusing to allow the licensee to carry on the business owing to his conviction. Subsequently the Justices declined to transfer the licence to a fresh applicant. The licensee had apparently slept off the premises and the house was without furniture. The matter was adjourned until March 6.
- 25/02/1911 Frank Lloyd & Sons have sold 5 small croft of pasture land, comprising 4 1/2 acres or thereabouts at Threapwood for £405 to Mr Atkins of Threapwood.
- 01/04/1911 Frank Lloyd & Sons had been instructed by Mr A J Robinson, who had retired from farming and had entirely refurnished his small residence, to sell at Topwood Farm, Oldcastle, all the household furniture, including dining room suite, handsome sideboards, china display cabinets and ornamentals, telescopic dining tables, hall chairs, gent wardrobes, bedroom suites, sets of all-brass and other bedsteads, Brussels and Bedminster carpets, a large oil painting 'The Conversion of St Paul' by Barker, various pictures a few lots of glass, china and electroplate, a vertical iron grand pianoforte, a fine mahogany gents wardrobe, also cheese-making apparatus for 40 cows, complete by Cluett, 5 double and single iron spring cheese presses, windlass churn, wood curd mill, 3 iron cheese stools, 20 pairs of 11 inch to 5 inch vats, milk pans, cream steins, sieves etc, plus a chestnut hackney mare, winner of numerous prizes, in foal to Whitegate Swell' 20 coupled of poultry, a wagonette with moveable top to carry 6, garden requisites and miscellaneous effects.

01/04/1911 On Thursday last at Bittering Hall, Norfolk, the residence of her son-in-law, the Rev. R W Wilberforce, Catherine Judith Fountayne, widow of Sir Richard Puleston of Emral, died. Lady Puleston was known in the Worthenbury district by her many act of charity and the deep interest she took in the welfare of the parish has endeared herself to all. Recently she had only resided at Emral in the summer, the winter being spent at Bittering Hall. She had let Emral Hall, the old mansion, to Mr. K W Summers M P, Lady Puleston was the youngest daughter of Mr Fountayne Wilson MP of Melton Park, York and she married Sir Richard Puleston in 1853. They had 3 daughters, the eldest, Annetta Fountayne, now deceased, married in 1877 Mr Philip York of Erddig. The second daughter, Mary Sophia, married Colonel L.E.S. Porry of Pengwern Hall, Rhuddlan. The youngest, Catherine Theodosia Fountayne, married the Rev. R W Wilberforce. Sir Richard died in 1893 and was succeeded by his half brother, the Rev. Sir Theophilus Gresley Puleston, Rector of Worthenbury, who died in 1896, when the male line became extinct. The original surname of the family was De Pyvelesdon and its settlement in England dates to the Conquest Two centuries later, the Lord of Dinas Bran left a widow, whose dower house was Emral, which was said to have been built for her. A daughter of Henry de Audley, she was dispossessed of all land in both Maelors and according to tradition, died in Overton Castle in 1278. Roger Puleston, the trusted friend of Edward 1, was granted the Emral Estates and he established himself at Emral about 1280. Being in need of a liberal subsidy for a French war, Edward 1 levied a tax 'in various places of his kingdom and especially in Wales' Sir Roger was appointed collector for the north of the principality but the Welsh, averse to foreign rule and taxation, seized upon him and caused him to be hanged. Sir Robert Puleston, a direct descendant, married Lowry, sister of Owen Glyndwr and Sir Robert's estates were forfeited in consequence of his support of the claims of his brother in law and he was slain. The estates were subsequently restored to the family. In the Wars of the Roses, John Puleston espoused the Lancastrian cause and he, with John and William Hanmer and others, were impeached for aiding and abetting the Duke of Somerset to escape from the battle of Barnet in 1471. At one time a large band of armed retainers was maintained at Emral, not only to protect the place, but for the King's service and this is given as the reason for the existence of the chapel, which the soldiers might attend without leaving the Hall. Large bodies of troops occupied the hall during the Civil War, first for the King and then for the Parliament. In later times, Sir Richard Puleston, who succeeded to the estate in 1775 was Colonel of the Ancient British Fencibles, a regiment raised by Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, which saw service in the Irish Rebellion. It is stated that his horse was shot from under him and that a Worthenbury lad named Tom Crane, rescued him. Sir Richard was a personal friend of the Prince Regent and had the honour of receiving the Duke of Clarence, afterward William IV. He was succeeded in 1840 by his only son, who was in turn succeeded by the husband of the lady, the subject of this notice. It is not inappropriate to mention here, in view of the approaching visit of the King and Queen of the Principality to take part in the investiture of the young Prince of Wales, that the first Sir Richard was permitted to change the family crest with ostrich feathers within a prince's coronet, in commemoration of his having had the honour of introducing the Prince of Wales to the Principality on September 9 1806.

01/04/1911 Lady Puleston's funeral. She was brought from Norfolk to Emral on Monday. On Tuesday her remains were laid to rest in a brick-lined grave between the grave of her husband and eldest daughter in Worthenbury churchyard. The Rector, the Rev. C r Pembridge took the first part of the service. The principal mourners were Colonel & Mrs Parry and Miss Parry. The Rev. R W & Mrs Wilberforce and Miss Wilberforce, Mr Philip Yorke, Captain Lloyd Priestly and Mr F J O Montagu (Lynford Hall, Norfolk). The bearers were Messrs Thomas Huxley, J Davies, Thomas Davies, John Bate, William Humphreys, John Huxley (Shocklach) John Huxley (Mulsford), Joseph Skitt and Pryce Williams. Others present included Mr J H Warburton Lee, Mr J Howard, the Rev, R H Malyn, Mr Oliver Ormerod and Mr C Purcell (Sarn).

08/04/1911 Frank Lloyd's sale of furniture at Topwood Farm, Oldcastle, attracted a large company and was highly satisfactory. Some of the prices were; Walnut suite £12 12s 6d, mahogany suite £5 17s 6d, long-case 8-day clock £4, piano £12, Axminster carpets £3 2s 6d and £1, oil painting "2 10s, sporting gun £2 etc. Cheese presses brought £2 10s, cheese making apparatus £5 5s.

10/06/1911 The sale at the Victoria Assembly Room, Whitchurch, on behalf of Sir Wyndham Hanmer Bart, by Frank Lloyd & Sons, of property known as the Tybroughton Estate, being the outlying portions of the Bettisfield Park Estate. Mr Frank Lloyd personally conducted the sale which was divided into about 20 lots. Lot 1, The Brook Farm, Tybroughton, tenanted by Mr Thomas Beardmore, 51 acres. Bidding started at £2000 and advanced rapidly by fifties to £2600 at which figure it was purchased by the tenant, the result being applauded by the audience. Lot 2, 5 accommodation lands occupied by Mr R Watson, area 11 acres. Bidding opened at £500 and was knocked down to Mr Watson at £730. Lot 3, Dairy farm known as The Drury Farm, occupied by Mr. Thomas Evans, acreage 132. the initial bid was £5000 followed by several advances of hundreds and subsequently fifties, till it reached £6000 at which figure the tenant was declared the purchaser. Lot 4, The Brunette Dairy Farm, 137 acres, at Tybroughton, tenanted by Mr H Craddock. This opened at £4000 but rose to £4750 and was withdrawn for a time at this point to be offered again at a

10/06/1911 Contd...

later stage in the proceedings. Lot 5, Another dairy farm, The Hully, occupied by Mr F Simcock, 113 acres This also opened at £4000 and advanced rapidly to £5100, being purchased at that sum by Mr Frank Jagers of Wrexham. Lot 6. Three accommodation pasture fields adjoining Lot 4, being part of the Brunette Farm and let to Mr H Craddock, 8 acres, £300 was the first offer and Mr Appleby of Wigland made a final bid of £340, which was accepted. Lot 7. Two fields at Iscoyd, 15 acres, occupied by Messrs H Craddock and Mrs F Simcock, knocked down at £650 to Mr Hopley but some misunderstanding was apparent and it was decided to offer the lot again subsequently. Lot 8. Two fields 13 acres, adjoining Lots 3, 4 and 7 and tenanted by Messrs E Simcock and T Evans. This was bought by Mr Hopley at £550. Lot 9. A small holding opposite Lot 8, occupied by Mr H Duckers, 6 acres, Mr. Higgins bought this at £500. Lot 10. Another small holding close to Lot 9, 14 acres, tenanted by Mr J Fox, Mr Lloyd of Bank House bought this at £870. Lot 11. Accommodation field of 6 acres adjoining Lot 9 was bought by Mr Higgins of Bar Hill at £60. Lot 13. Two pasture fields, 3 acres, was bought by Mr Higgins for £210. Lot 14. Small holding at Tybroughton, let to Mrs J Huxley, 28 acres. This was bought at £1240 on behalf of Flintshire County Council. Lot 15. Waen reef Farm, Iscoyd, a dairy farm of 52 acres, occupied by Mr C Butler. This was also purchased by Flintshire County Council at £57. Lot 17. Three pasture fields of 2 acres, adjoining Lot 16, also in the occupation of Mr C Butler, was bought by Flint County Council for £175. Lot 18. The Ruscoe Farm, Bronington, dairy farm 73 acres, tenanted by Mr S Beckett, Mr Powell of the Hole bought this for £3605. Lot 19. Two acres of woodland known as the Gelli Wood, surrounded by the property of Lord Kenyon. This was purchased by Lord Kenyon at £60.

17/06/1911 Malpas R D C discussed the water supply at Threapwood. Mr Hughes of Threapwood had written, drawing attention to the pollution of the water which flowed from Oldcastle Well on to Threapwood. This water ran in an open watercourse from which several drew their water supply. Pollution had been traced to Mr. Dobell's farm at Oldcastle. It was said to smell very badly. It was agreed to form a committee consisting of Colonel Barnston, Messrs G S Morgan and W Penk, who would inspect and report.

15/07/1911 Malpas RDC Colonel Barnston had written to say that his committee had examined the brook from Oldcastle to Dog Lane and had found no trace whatever of sewage in it. There was however sewage tank at Mr Cooper's farm which badly wanted emptying but it did not appear to empty into the watercourse. The committee were thanked for their services.

22/07/1911 Coronation festivities at Threapwood were held on Friday July 7. A procession headed by the Whixall Silver Band, consisting of school children, members of the committee and most of the parish's inhabitants, went to Broughton Hall, the residence of Mr J Howard, where the children sang hymns and gave three cheers for the Howard family. They then proceeded through the village calling at Mr G Rose's house, where the band played a selection of music. Then, in a field near the school lent by Mr Skelland, amusements were provided, including swings, roundabouts, coconut shies and the Wrexham Pierrots. In the school, the children partook of sandwiches and cakes and then the parishioners', about 280 in number, partook of a sumptuous meat tea, catering being done by Mr W Gladly of Cuddington. During the afternoon, Mrs and the Misses Howard gave out coronation mugs containing chocolates, kindly given by Miss Howard, for all the children of the parish. Dancing continued till a late hour,

23/09/1911 Threapwood Annual Harvest Thanksgiving in the Sunday School was held on Sunday, Mrs Ikin and Miss Howard, the school managers, were gratified by the number of eggs they received, namely 259, contributed by children, each one being inscribed with their names and the Institution to which they were to be sent, 87 went to the Chester Infirmary, 90 to the Alexandra Convalescent Home, Rhyl and 82 to the Wrexham Infirmary.

09/12/1911 A pretty wedding was solemnized at the Parish Church, Oystermouth, on Tuesday November 21 between the Rev. Richard Henry Malyn (vicar of Threapwood) and of Tallarn Green Parsonage, Malpas, Cheshire. Son of the late Mr E Malyn, Tymawr, Abergwili and Miss Margaret Louisa Davies, daughter of the late Rev. D S Davies (Rector of Cilrhedyn, Pem) and of Mrs Davies, Lynewood, Mumbles. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. J Davies, Rector of Vaynor (uncle of the bride). The bride, who wore a dress of white ninon over satin, with a veil over a wreath of orange blossoms and carried a bouquet of lilies of the valley and white roses, was given away by her brother, the Rev. Latimer Davies (Caxton Barry), Miss Elinor Davies acted as bridesmaid. (There followed a long list of presents, which had come from far and wide, including the Parishioners' of Tallarn, a silver tea service; from the Parishioners of Threapwood, a silver tea tray; from The Hon Georgina Kenyon, a cheque from Mr & Mrs Warburton Lee, a picture). Mr & Mrs Malyn received a very hearty reception on their homecoming on Thursday November 30. The village was gaily decorated with flags and an arch had been erected over the gate leading to the Parsonage. Among those present to welcome them were the Hon. Georgina Kenyon, the mistress and scholars of Tallarn School, the churchwardens and

9/12/1911 Contd..

the postmasters of Threapwood and Tallarn, Mr Ditchfield and Mr Jones and many others from Threapwood and Tallarn Green. Hearty cheers greeted them as they arrived in a motor car and having received the congratulations of those present. Mr Malyn thanked them all very much for giving them such a hearty welcome home and he was sure that his wife would be very happy among them when she got to know them all, and he should always look back with pleasure on the kindness they had shown to his wife and himself.

- 24/02/1912 A concert was given at Threapwood School on Friday last by the Malpas 'Merrie Minstrels' Contributions included 'Patrick mind the baby' and 'If they ask you what your name is' The jokes caused roars of laughter, particularly the local ones. The Rev. R H Malyn thanked the Troupe and Mr H Ankers replied on behalf of the Troupe, Mr T W Sutton of Worthenbury was the accompanist.
- 11/05/1912 Worthenbury Accident. On Thursday, as Mr Albert Broad of Threapwood, in the company of Mr S Latham, were making a call on Mr Brereton of Dolenion Farm, the horse for some reason, when they arrived in the yard ran away and got entangled in a fence. Both men were thrown out of the gig but beyond a severe cut on Mr Broad's finger, neither men nor horse were injured but the gig was badly damaged in the front.
- 11/05/1912 Worthenbury Entertainment. On Friday evening the Threapwood White Star Minstrels gave an entertainment in the school. (Probably Worthenbury School) assisted by Mr R (Penkers?) and Mr L Hewitt of the Malpas Merrie Minstrel Troupe. The items were much enjoyed by those present but we are sorry to state that the attendance was very poor, and when expenses are paid there will not be much to hand over to the Rector for parish purposes, which was the intention of the Troupe.
- 15/06/1912 Threapwood Thunderstorm. On Sunday night a violent thunderstorm passed over this district. The house belonging to Mr Lloyd Gostage and tenanted by Miss Montgomery was struck by lightning. The chimney pots were knocked off and the wall cracked from top to bottom, the house being otherwise considerably damaged. The tenant had a very narrow escape, the electric fluid passing through the room where she was sitting and out of the back door.
- 15/06/1912 Marriages. Freeman - Moore - 3rd instant at the Congregational Church, Threapwood by the Rev.W Plaskett (pastor) Richard T Freeman, eldest son of Mr & Mrs Freeman, Sunnybank Farm to E Miriam Moore, second daughter of the late F J Moore and Mrs Moore, Cae-ly-cae.13/1
- 13/07/1912 Note:- There is at the moment a serious epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease raging among cattle in Cheshire.
- 28/09/1912 Note:- Miss Atkin and Miss Howard are joint managers of Threapwood Sunday School.
- 09/11/1912 Threapwood. On Tuesday night last Mr Thomas Jones died very suddenly at his house at Sarn Bank. He had complained of heavy pain during the day but became worse at night. He however did all his ordinary work and went into the kitchen about half past eight. Standing over the fireplace he again complained of pain and fell over, dying at once. The deceased was one of the churchwardens of Threapwood Church and strange to say on the day previous to his death, he was one of the bearers for his fellow warden, Jonathan Houlbrooke. Thus both wardens have been buried in the same week, deceased being buried on Saturday.
- 30/11/1912 Mr Purcell of the Sarn provided lunch when Frank Lloyd & Sons held a sale of live and dead farming stock at the Oak Farm, Tallarn Green on behalf of the executors of the late John Shone. There was a large gathering of agriculturists from near and far and a remarkable competition ruled throughout. Cattle made up to £22 2s 6d, calving heifers fetched £13 5s each, a light lurry-mare raised 27 1/2 guineas, a cart went for £13 7s 6d a swath turner for £4, a mowing machine for £3 5s, a horse rake £4, a roller £3 2s 6d, seed harrows for £1 8s, in-pig sows raised £7 2s 6d each, cheese-making apparatus went for £4 10s, a churn £3 7s 6d, cheese presses up to £3, 250 lots passed under the hammer.
- 01/03/1913 Broxton Petty Sessions. Amelia Barnes, wife of John Thomas Barnes, labourer, who she had married at Bunbury in 1908, was charged with bigamously marrying on 23 December last. William James, labourer, Threapwood, her former husband being then alive. (The prisoner had been arrested at Threapwood where she had been living with William James as his wife. She was charged with bigamous marriage at Threapwood. Her maiden name was Dean. Evidence was given that she had previously been married at Bunbury. Henry Griffith, parish clerk and sexton at Threapwood, said he was present on 23 December 1912 when she married William James, The Clerk said he had heard a rumour of her being married but on enquiring she had told him that was not so. The prisoner was committed to Chester Assizes on £25 bail)

31/05/1913 Threapwood. The School. Florence Matthews, a pupil at the Elementary School (headmistress Miss Stevenson) was awarded a special prize for an essay on 'The prevention of cruelty to animals' offered by Mr R A YerburchMP. The prize was presented by the Mayor of Chester at the Chester Town Hall on Saturday, Mr Robert Howard, who, with the Misses Howard, take a great interest in the school, has presented an English dictionary to the successful scholar.

05/07/1913 The Battle of The Wych, Contributed by Major Godsal. In your leading article last week, you mention the fact that I have put up a board on a tree beside the road at the top of the Wych hill, with the inscription 'Slaughter Field - A Battle was fought here September 3 1146' and your readers may like to know the story and to be able to judge for themselves from the evidence whether it is true. I have a skin map 200 years old which, amongst other interesting names shows that the field between Maes-y-groes Farm and the Wych was then called the Slaughter Field and according to another map, over 100 years old, it is still called by that name. For a long time all I knew was that this name must refer to human slaughter and that that slaughter could not have taken place long before the Norman Conquest, or a slightly different name would have been given 'slaughter' not being a word in Early English. About two years ago I was reading the excellent History of Wales by J E Lloyd M A, professor of history in the University College of North Wales at Bangor and I came upon the following sentences, which I quote word for word -

Page 497 - The year 1146 supplies a concrete instance of the mutual distrust which, during this reign (King Stephen's) tied the hands of the English and gave the Welsh their opportunity, Earl Ranulph, hard pressed at this time by the vigorous onslaughts of the men of Groynedd (North Wales), appealed to Stephen for support, hoping that, as in 1114, a King of England and an Earl of Chester might again march together into the wilderness of Snowden (!) and bring the Welsh insurgents to their knees, Stephen was at first disposed to accede to this request but a hostile faction at his Court at once raised a great outcry, alleging that the scheme was a traitorous plot on the Earl's part to get the King into his power. Nothing, they asserted could be more dangerous to the royal person than this madcap expedition into a land of forest and mountains, destitute of food and water for the needs of an army and inhabited by an enemy whose wiles none could foresee. Instead of receiving in his defence of the frontier the assistance of a royal army, the Earl was decoyed to Court and then thrown into prison; the sequel was the capture by Owain at the close of the year at the Cheshire fortress of Mold.

Then on page 491 we read -

Reference has already been made to the Earl of Chester's concern at the threatening state of affairs in 1146; his appeal to the King for support, whatever his enemies might say, was fully justified by the state of the border. No sound was ever brought to Wales of the Earl's captivity in Northampton; then the men of Powys crossed the Dee and began to ravage Maelor Saesneg. They were met at Wich on 3 September by Robert of Mold, hereditary steward of the Earldom and defeated with great slaughter - a footnote shows that this story is derived from the Annales Cestriences, I give a translation of the Latin - 1146 Earl Ranulph of Chester treacherously seized by King Stephen at Northampton on August 29. When they heard this the Welsh ravaged the shire (NB - Maelor was part of the Earldom of Chester in those days) - against them, Robert the Steward marched with a small force and slew many thousands of them at the Wich September 3.

We may discount many thousands perhaps and read instead 'over a thousand' or even less. However, I have now the direct evidence, I will now give my own inferences derived from the evidence, coupled with an intimate knowledge of the district and I hope a fair comprehension of the military points in the situation of affairs on the Welsh border in 1146. For the sake of brevity I will not develop the arguments in support of each inference. First, it is evident that there was a party at King Stephen's court adverse to Ranulph, Earl of Chester and in collusion with the Welsh and that the Welsh had a force waiting near Ruabon for the news of the expected imprisonment of the dreaded Earl. As it must have taken three days or more for the news to reach Wales from Northampton the men of Powys could not have crossed the Dee at Overton before the 1 September and more probably they crossed at sunrise on 2 September and it was the knowledge of the Earl's imprisonment which encouraged them to advance boldly, doubtless sweeping up cattle and sending them to Wales and then, in a moment of recklessness, they decided to go on to the Wych to get salt to eat with their beef. What was there to fear with the great Earl in prison and his followers leaderless? They could be off with their salt next morning and be back across the Dee before the man of Cheshire could assemble. But the petty tribal chieftains of the Welsh had evidently reckoned without an opponent who could organize a system of border defence and who was great enough to employ a subordinate a man who was as good a soldier as himself, namely Robert of Mold, the hereditary steward of the Earldom. For the rest, we can but briefly state what must have happened, because fortunately, there are not the proverbial three courses open to us; there are not two, there is only one and that one is in accordance with sound military science. Nothing less could have secured such a signal victory.

The men of Cheshire were always ready for a fight, more especially if they were certain it would take place tomorrow - and that they could be back again on their farms on the next day - all this had been provided for, if only the Welsh could for once be caught on the Cheshire side of the Dee. We may be sure that trusted men with horses handy were watching the River Dee. Let us suppose that the Welsh crossed at the latest moment, namely at daybreak on the 2 September. They would be reported at Chester and also of course at Whitchurch by 7 o'clock and the beacon fires would be lit and answered by others at Beeston Castle and on the Cheshire Hills.

05/07/1913 Contd... Battle of the Wych

This much granted, no soldier can doubt for a moment what the standing orders must have been. I will only give the result. Every man, with what armour and weapons he possessed, rode or ran to Malpas. The women had to finish the milking that day. By that evening, Robert of Mold would have some three or four thousand eager men under his command and he would have heard many reports of the reckless and careless advance of the Welsh and his one hope would be that if they were left alone they would venture to the Wych. As soon as he had put his men into some sort of order, Robert would certainly advance to Stockton and no Welshman could have been aware of his presence so near to their line of retreat. With the first streak of dawn, Robert must have crossed the Wych brook at Oldcastle and, sending a small force up the valley, he would, with his main body, march by Pen-y-bryn, High Lanes and Foxholes to Kill Green. As the Welsh in the Wych began to rub their eyes and stretch themselves and begin to tie their bags of salt to their saddles, they would become aware that their retreat to Wales was cut off and that, whether they like it or not, they must stand and fight and we must remember that there is no reason to suppose that the men of Whitchurch had been idle and a large detachment from Whitchurch, must have come to the support of Robert's right flank. Now, if it be granted that a Welsh force was once upon a time caught in the Wych so that they had to stand and fight then there is only one spot where they could do so with the ground in their favour and this is still called 'The Slaughter Field'

28/02/1914 Death of Mr W Penk. A Romantic Career. We regret to have to record the death of Mr Williams Penk of Wigland which occurred at his residence on Saturday night last. The deceased was in his 73rd year and had been ill for several months. He was well know and respected, particularly in the Malpas district, as a man of integrity and uprightness and as a faithful public servant in several capacities. Brusque in manner, he was nevertheless a man kindly heart and as a member of the Whitchurch Board of Guardians for about 20 years he performed the duties pertaining to this office with conscientiousness and regularity, while the same may be said of his membership of the Malpas Rural District Council, which extended back to the formation of that Authority and also of the Malpas Joint Burial Committee. Subject to purchasing and settling down upon the farm at Wigland, Mr Penk had had a very remarkable career as a driver. During the period covered by his pursuance of this hazardous vocation, he was responsible fore the performance of many remarkable feats and perhaps the most notable of these was the Shanghai Expedition of 1869-70, which is almost unsurpassed as an authentic story of treasure hunting. The ship 'Hamilla Mitchell' was wrecked off Shanghai in 1869 and she was reported as irrevocably lost, with a valuable cargo of specie, amounting to something like £50,000. A Captain Lodge, greatly daring, conceived the notion of an expedition for the recovery of the specie. He took out with him two men, one named Ridyrd and the other William Penk. After a long search at various depths (of from 120 to 145 feet), they came upon the hull of the vessel, beneath a ledge of rock; but the after-part, containing the gold has rolled to a considerably greater depth. They took turns in the trying work of recovery and it is said that Ridyrd actually remained below four hours. Some 64 boxes were brought up, containing £40,000, Mr Penk had gone out on some adjacent rocks to secure some fresh water for his companion when, chancing to look across the horizon, he saw to his consternation a fleet of Chinese junks containing pirates, coming in their direction. The little party hid behind some rocks and by an extraordinary stroke of fortune the piratical fleet passed by in blissful ignorance of the riches which lay within their reach and it is needless to say that on their departure, the little crew lost no time in making tracks for a more congenial atmosphere. On their return the three men were awarded £1,500 apiece for the work which they had carried out with such intrepidity and skill and some idea of the nature of the feat which they accomplished (unequaled, it is said either before or since) may be gathered by the fact that they had to resist a pressure of 73 pounds to the square inch, involving literal perspiration of blood. It may be interesting to quote in this connection a passage from an authoritative work on 'Air chambers in caissons' - 'At the St Louis Bridge across the Mississippi, the maximum depth attained was 100 1/2 feet and the greatest pressure was 51 pounds to the square inch, a pressure which proved fatal in some instances for the workmen'

Mr Penk was for many years associated with Freemasonry,. He was initiated in the Mersey Lodge (447) in 1878 and was exalted in the Chapter of Fidelity (in connection with the Mersey Lodge) in 1878. His parchments were endorsed in many languages and in the course of his many journeyings he had a variety of experiences which proved most entertaining to those whom he chose to relate them, though, never a lover of notoriety, he was not easily drawn. His wife (a Miss Taylor of Wigland) had predeceased him by some 13 or 14 years and there was no family.

The Funeral. The funeral took place on Tuesday last when the body was laid to rest in Malpas Cemetery. The service was conducted by the Rev. L Armistead, (Rector of Malpas). The mourners included Miss Penk (niece), Miss Taylor (sister-in-law) M H Danily, E Bebington, T Lievesley.

28/02/1914 Frank Lloyd & Sons sold the farm stock belonging to Mr George Freeman at Threapwood. He was retiring from farming.

22/08/1914 The outbreak of the Great War has occurred. Sir Wyndham Hanmer has been appointed as a representative of the Hundred of Maelor on the Executive Committee of The Flint County War Relief Committee.

- 21/11/1914 Messrs Thorn & Bessell were selling on instructions from Mr Joseph Mason, who was leaving the Cottage, Threapwood, the whole of the live and dead farm stock, on Friday Nov, 27.
- 05/12/1914 Threapwood Roll of Honour. The Forest of Threapwood in ancient history well retains its fighting proclivities in the Roll of Honour, as compared with other townships - out of a population of 300, it has sent forward 12 candidates up to now, giving a good 4% - whilst we read of much larger areas only giving 1%. We are still looking forward to another score who reside in the district going forward to join His Majesty's colours. The following is a list of the candidates who have already joined:- Alfred Williams, William Manford, George Matthews, William Matthews K.L.S.I; Alf Penlington, Ellis Manford, Royal Welsh Fusiliers; James L Large, Fred Crump, Walter Jones, South Lancashire; Levi Manford, RFA; Thomas Roscoe NCO, Drilling RFA; Williams James, Fred Groom, Nugent Basons RFA.
- 06/03/1915 Private W Matthews, son of Mr G Matthews of Elm Tree Cottage, Threapwood, is at present at Loughborough hospital, suffering from a shell wound in the leg, received while repulsing an attack by the Prussian Guards at Ypres. He is progressing as favourably as can be expected and is quite happy. The good people of Loughborough are doing their utmost to entertain the gallant men who are suffering in their country's cause and everything is being done to ensure their comfort. It will be a long time before Private Matthews is about again, but he should make satisfactory progress under such excellent conditions - Mr Matthew's other son, George, has been in the fighting line since August and writing home recently, said that shrapnel shell was falling all round the place where he was stationed - they were in a tight corner but he was so far unhurt.
- 06/03/1915 On Saturday last Messrs Thorn & Bessell conducted a highly successful sale at The Oaks, Threapwood, for Mr George Jones, who is leaving the district.
- 10/04/1915 Among the latest lists of casualties to hand are the following:- Killed Private George Matthews KSLI (Threapwood) Killed on February 5.
- 20/11/1915 Miss Cotton of Threapwood was among those sending gifts to Malpas Red Cross Hospital.
- 01/01/1916 Worthenbury. Mrs Howard, Broughton Hall, distributed the prizes on Thursday in last week, to the children attending the Sunday School. She was accompanied by Miss Howard, Miss E Howard, who is a teacher at the school, being unable to be present as she is nursing wounded soldiers in France. Mrs Howard has provided the prizes and distributed them for a great number of years. Besides the prizes, each child was given a bun and an orange.
- 01/04/1916 Threapwood. A very successful social and sale by auction was held in the School on Wednesday March 22 in aid of the Red Cross funds, Much amusement was caused by a gentleman's hat trimming competition, the winner being Monsieur Maes, a popular Belgian soldier, residing in the village. As a result of the movement, a cheque for £50 5s was handed to Miss Howard (Broughton Hall) hon. treasurer, and by her forwarded to the Red Cross Society.
- 13/05/1916 Bugler W Matthews, son of Mr G Matthews of Threapwood, writes to his father that he was engaged with the Shropshires in the big fight recently and he managed to come through all right. He says "We all regard it (the fight) as a big thing"
- 23/09/1916 Mrs Aitkin, Threapwood, gave plums to the Malpas Red Cross Hospital.
- 28/07/1917 Among the gifts sent to the Red Cross Hospital, Malpas were potatoes, eggs, tea, bread, cakes, butter, jam, cheese and flowers from a service at Threapwood Congregational Church. Also butter from Mrs W Crump, Oldcastle and Mrs Cooper, Dog Lane and cheese from Mr Lee, The Greaves.
- 01/09/1917 At a fete at Broughton Hall Park, Mr Purcell of Tallarn Green won a goose, which realised £8. A cheese, which was drawn for, went to Mr Atkins of Threapwood.
- 24/11/1917 An inquest was held before the West Cheshire coroner, Mr J C Bate, in the Congregational Schoolroom, Threapwood, on Thursday afternoon, touching the death of Alice Biscoe, aged 26, wife of Alfred Biscoe, coal miner, 3 Wrexham Road, Pentre Broughton, Denbighshire. The deceased was found hanging on Wednesday morning by a cord from the ceiling in the back kitchen at Mr Povey's, North View, Threapwood, where she had formerly lived. She was married only in July. Alfred Biscoe, the widower, stated that after the marriage, he went to live with his wife and mother at Pentre Broughton. They were quite happy and comfortable together. Shortly after their marriage however his wife seemed unable to settle herself to the house and district. About a fortnight ago she was seen by a doctor, who described



her as being run down. He prescribed a "pick-me-up" for her. About nine days ago she said she was going home to Threapwood. She was then crying.

James Povey, North View, Threapwood, small holder, stated that the deceased came to his house from Staffordshire about 15 years ago. Nine days ago, when she came to Threapwood, she appeared very low and weak. He got up about 6.30 on Wednesday and lighted the fire and was about to go milking when his wife called out "Molly is not in bed" Witness ran to the well, as the deceased had threatened to drown herself. He saw nothing of her there and then went into the kitchen where he saw her hanging by a rope from the ceiling. He cut her body down. The deceased in his opinion was dead. He sent for a constable and Dr Paulin of Malpas and the deceased's husband. Mary Povey, wife of the last witness, said the deceased had often said she would drown herself. On Tuesday night she seemed to be more wakeful than usual and was very talkative. Witness did not hear her go downstairs. P C Ernest Tudor, Threapwood, said the rope was tied tightly round the deceased's neck four times. She was fully dressed. Dr Paulin had examined the body but found no marks of violence. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased committed suicide while in an unsound state of mind.

- 09/03/1918 Broxton Petty Sessions. The licence of the Queen's Head, Threapwood was transferred from Mr Thomas Ruscoe to his wife, Elizabeth Ruscoe
- 31/08/1918 Broxton Petty Sessions. Williams Clarke, farm labourer, Threapwood, was summoned for assaulting Alice Mary Clarke of the same place. The complainant was employed by Mr Done, farmer and she had been riding her bicycle on her way to Miss Broad's shop for groceries when at the top of Sandy Lane the defendant had come across the common on his bicycle, dismounted, approached her and pushed her off, hitting her on the right side of the face and pulling her hair down and striking her on the breast. The defendant's wife also worked for Mr Done. The complainant, in evidence, said defendant was her uncle. When he had accosted her, he had said, referring to his wife. "I'll make you leave her alone or I'll kill you" His wife, the complainant said, wanted to get her away from the farm. She was afraid of him. Another witness, H Williams, a labourer, said he saw the complainant fastening her hair soon after the encounter. The defendant denied threatening to kill the complainant, but admitted boxing her ears. Her mother had many times told him to do it, he said. The complainant denied this. The defendant said he had just stepped against the machine with his foot and held it with one hand while he boxed her ears with the other. Her hair had come down itself. Defendant was fined 10s and costs.
- 29/03/1919 Frank Lloyd were also selling a small holding of 6 acres, occupied by Mr W James at Threapwood.
- 31/05/1919 For sale by private treaty. Orchard Farm, Threapwood, containing 6 acres, occupied by Mr W James, rent £27. Price £650. Apply to Messrs Henry Lee, Bygott & Eccleston, Solicitors, 40 Dodington, Whitchurch.
- 29/11/1919 Broxton Petty Sessions. Reference was made to the recent deaths of Mr George Barbour, their chairman and of Mr Wolley-Dod another magistrate, Harry Baker of Threapwood was fined 5s for failing to give notice of change of ownership of a motor cycle. The police evidence said that he was seen riding motor cycle B 1862. When he was asked if he had got the registered number transferred to him, he admitted he had not.
- 27/12/1919 Ref. Sale of Dog Lane Farm, it is occupied by Mr James Cooper.