

**M/BI/4 John Mills & Co (Llanidloes) Ltd. Railway Foundry, and the Mills family**

**Accs 1659 & 1746**

This material was catalogued by Mr Michael Brown, who is married to a direct descendant of the Mills family. The notes and comments are his.

**/DWT *Diaries of William Thomas (1823-1893)***

The entries are relatively brief and relate mainly to business affairs and business travel, but touch on chapel, legal and personal matters. For Monday 12 June 1893 we read “went by the 11 am train to Rhayader to see Mr S Williams about the Rhayader Water Works. Came home 3-35 pm” but on Thursday 11 “at home till 2 pm then went to Llandinam to the unveiling of David Davies Esquire statue”.

/1	Diary	1881
/2	Diary	1882
/2a	Diary	1883
/3	Diary	1884
/4	Diary	1886
/5	Diary	1887
/6	Diary	1888
/7	Diary	1890
/8	Diary	1891
/9	Diary	1892
/10	Diary	1893

***Calvinistic Methodist Diaries***

With exceptions such as ‘School trip to Aberystwyth’, the entries are largely for Sundays only and show (presumably) visiting preachers’ names and texts.

/11	Diary	1877
/12	Diary	1878
/13	Diary	1879
/14	Diary	1880
/15	Diary	1881
/16	Diary	1882
/17	Diary	1884
/18	Diary	1885
/19	Diary	1886
/20	Diary	1887
/21	Diary	1889
/22	Diary	1890
/23	Diary	1891
/24	Diary	1892

**/DJM**      ***Diary of John Mills (1843-1922)***

/1      Diary - the entries are mainly in Welsh. There are some notes on Sunday preachers and texts, but also many other meetings, mostly related to chapel.      1880

**/BB**      ***Bank Books***

/1      The North and South Wales Bank Ltd, Llanidloes: Mr William Thomas, Ironfounder, Llanidloes      Jan 1863-Jun 1868  
A supplement to the account shows 'Count of money on interest' as at 25 November 1876. The balance exceeds £18,000. There was a mortgage "on the Foundry and plant at 4½ per cent" (*sic*) of £10,150

/2      The North and South Wales Bank Ltd, Llanidloes: Mr William Thomas (Iron founder a/c, Llanidloes)      May 1870-Mar1878

/3      The North and South Wales Bank Ltd, Llanidloes: William Thomas Esq      Apr 1878–Aug 1887  
Tucked into the book is an undated mss note, on a torn out scrap of accounts' paper:

"Dear Mr Mills  
Will you kindly give bearer a duplicate receipt for the late Mr Thomas' bill for building and improvement at the Trewythen Hotel. Amt is £1 183 19. 8. Sorry to trouble you but am compelled to have it so as to settle up my mothers affairs.  
[signed] Mr Marshall"

/4      The North and South Wales Bank Ltd, Llanidloes: William Thomas Esq ("Foundry Account")      Apr 1880-Jun 1885

/5      The North and South Wales Bank Ltd, Llanidloes: William Tomas Esq (Foundry a/c)      Jun 1885-Jun 1893  
On a closing balance of £7,246 13s 3d, the half-year (?) interest was £130 5s 6d

/6      The North and South Wales Bank Ltd, Llanidloes: Mrs Elizabeth Thomas & Mrs Anne George (Lloes. Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Organ Fund a/c)      Feb-May 1895  
It is said that a not inconsiderable scandal lies behind these figures

/7      The North and South Wales Bank Ltd, Llanidloes (London Joint City & Midland Bank Ltd as from 30 September 1918): Mr John Mills, The Foundry, Llanidloes (No 2 a/c)      Aug 1897-Oct 1924

/8 The London and Provincial Bank Ltd, Llanidloes: Mrs Elizabeth Thomas, Foundry Terrace, Llanidloes (No 2 a/c) Dec 1898-Nov 1899

/9 The London and Provincial Bank Ltd, Llanidloes: Mr John Mills, Mid Wales Villa, Llanidloes (2 a/c) Jun 1913–Dec 1923

**/RB Rent Books**

There are three books, covering a continuous period from February 1883 to August 1899, kept by different hands with varying degrees of neatness (although firm control of rent arrears seems to have been maintained throughout). At the start of the period, there were only 24 properties on the roll, numbered as such; presumably these were the Foundry Terrace cottages. By 1894, however, the coverage extended beyond Foundry Terrace to Great Oak Street, Church Street, New Street, across the Short Bridge to Huntsman's Cottages, Cae Jonathan & Kennel Fields, Glanynant, Lower Green and Old Turnpike – over 50 properties. Median rents, then, were still around 2/6 per week, but with some tenants paying monthly and some quarterly.

/1 Rent book Feb 1883-Jan 1889

/2 Rent book Jul 1889-Jun 1894

/3 Rent book Jul 1894-Aug 1899

**/PC Petty Cash Book**

/1 Petty cash book - this obviously relates to the Foundry. On January 23 1889 the Borough Rate was £2 12s 6d. "Rly fare 4 men to Newtown" cost four shillings. The waggoner from the Van Mines received a tip of sixpence. The telegraph service was in frequent use. Oct 1888-Dec 1890

**/IN Inventory**

/1 Inventory - this Inventory of the Foundry is signed off and certified by John Mills, but undated; it is possibly later than 1900, from the prices. For example, in the "Machine and fitting shop" there was "1 pair New 16" Air Compressors with Spur and Fly Wheels" which were valued at £100. The Inventory totalled £2,002 8s 3d. n/d [post 1900]

**/NB Notebooks**

/1 The notebook is combined with a purse and wallet; the ivory pencil survives. Whilst unsigned, it is also clearly William's, from the hand. The contents are similar to /1. On 29 March 1875 the railway fare to Derby was 8/11½, and 3/6 was spent 1874-1875

on refreshment. A couple of pages on, William noted some “Friendly Advice”: “Call frequently/Drink moderately/Pay honourably/Be good company/Part friendly/Go home quietly”.

- /2      Pocket book of William Thomas’, used for notes on jobs, sketch plans of foundry work, expenses, costs and addresses, written in others’ hands, mostly of (presumably) customers or suppliers, but with such exceptions as ‘London Sunday School union 56 Old Bailey’. William’s spelling is variable: work at the Trewythen (Hotel) required materials including “42 length of bede” (*sic*) and there is a sketch for “6 brackets” with “18" centers”.      1874-1879
- /3      This notebook is from another generation, having belonged to “William Mills/Foundry Terrace/Llanidloes/Montgomeryshire/N. Wales/Wales/England/British Isles/Europe/Eastern Hemisphere/World”. William (Willie) Mills (1873-1928) was John Mills’ son and the notebook may have been put with the other material by a fond father. It mainly contains worked examples in arithmetic and algebra – Willie was up to quadratics – together with a miscellany of chapel questions, a recipe, a list of hymns and corresponding tunes and the programme of (presumably) a chapel concert. There are some nice problems (possibly copied from the board): “If 60 horses eat 9 bushels in 3 days in what time will 24 horses eat 12 bushels”. One of Willie’s text books was ‘Baker’s Mensuration’.      n/d [c 1883]