

A  
**HISTORY**  
 OF THE  
**CARDIFF BRANCH**

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An History of Cardiff Branch of the Laterday Saints from the Commencement as taken from a Book keped by Priest John Thomas Rewritten by Lewis Watkins by order of the Presidant James Ellis. The first known to Preach the gospel in Cardiff was one Thomas Jones in Millicent Street in the year 1846, William Jenkins being the First that was Baptised. The Apostle Tailor Called hear on his way to Merthyr Conferance in the year 1846. Captain Jones and Brother Phillips Established this Branch the first of Janury 1847 in Henry Jones his House in Maryann Street, and in the begining of the year 1847 I James Ellis yealded obediance. We held our Meeding in Maryann Street and the Spirit of God desended on us like a mighty Rushing wind untill the whole House was filled and we received the Spiritual gifts abundantly. Henry Jones being unable to walk howing to a weakness in his Limbs he was caried to the waters of Baptisem but Soon gained his Health and Strenth under the Hands of Elder Phillips. As Eddifying Brothers whare coming every Sunday from Merthyr with the prayers of the Saints the work prospered very well. In the year 1846 I John Thomas remember hearing that there was Laterday Saints in Cardiff under the Presidency of William Jinkins ; in March 1847 I first heard the Gospel Preached at a funaral in Charlotta Street. from that time I continued a constant hearer of the Doctrin untill I yealded Obediance to the Gospel.

During the time the Brothers whare Preaching through the Cuntry and organised a Branch at Twn y Rotin. William Thomas was Ordained Presidant over that Branch. In June 1847 as William Jinkins was Baptizing in a Field adjoining the Cardiff Armes Crouds of Peoaple with the Magistrate of the Town came and demanded Brother Jinkins of the premisis but he whold not untill he had Baptized the person. With that James James the Maultser made a blow at Jinkins with a Stick but without Sucses. In December 1847 Captain Jones and Orson Spencer Came down to our Saints meeting and gave teachings concerning many Spirits that had gon out to the world whitch proved very Edifying to the Church and Enabeled the Servants to go and

preach the Gospel through the Cuntry with more energy &c. In the falawing Conferance at Merthyr there was mor Servants called to work of the ministry and in going forth a flood of presecutions falawed after them. At this time we rented a room in the Tredegar Armes whitch was the Roman Catholics Club Room. on the Sunday Captain Jones and Brother Howells Preached at 11 Oclock ; kepted Saint Meeting at 2. Captain Jones Said at the time that a Seadan change Shuld take place whitch came to pass before night ; as we returned to the 6 Oclock Meeting we found the room locked up, so Captain and the whole Congrigation was on the Open Street. then we thought it adviseable to take the Beanchis Back to the ould room in Millicent Street and Captain Jones preached to large Congrigation whitch proved a blessing, for many whare baptized in a Short time after. The Above was cased [caused] by one of the Roman Chatholic leaders.

Soon after Thomas Richards Preached on the old Bridge taken up by a Policeman before a Beanch of Magistrates to answar the charge but he was discharged. He also Preached on the warf Bridge and was presecuted by rebellions and worst of them was James Williams, one of the Baptist class Leader who was always in the habit of doing so when he had the chance. Another time when William Jinkins and James Ellis was Preaching by the River Side a Poliesman came and dispersed the whole Congrigation and pulled James Ellis of the Platform. Also as John George was Preaching before his own house Some of the Baptist members came and Shuded him of the wall but Still continued his Sermond through all presecutions into the end. At this time the Servants whare Preaching in different Street through the Town Stopped by police and the Peoaple of the world frequently throughed durt in thyer Faces &c. At the Same time James Ellis had to preach in Tredegar Street without desturbans and the work of God prospered very well. Thease pesecutions hapened in the Summer of 1848. At this time we whare frequently visited by Brothers Jones and Phillips and Other Officers from Merthyr. About this time William Jinkins and Other Officers whent to Bro Evans Hills Terres whose wife was an unbeliever. Shee was at this time quite blind and through weekness unable to move in Bed and given up as uncurable by all the professions ; they anointed her and laid Hands and Shee received the blessing fourthwith and afterwards Baptized and continued to gain Strength. Shortly after this Presitant James Ellis was Struck with a Stone as he was Preaching at Twynyrotin. During this time we heald our meetings at the Barraks Rooms and our presiding Elder Still whent through the Cuntrey Preaching the Gospel ; it happened Elder James Ellis profisaid That William Jinkins

was Preaching in a certain place to a large Congregation of People which was afterwards proved to be Exactly Right ; this was in the year 1848. At this time the gift of Healing was received powerfully which the Church at the time stood in need of. Sister Margret Jenkins was taken very ill in as much that some thought that Life was extinct, but the Elders William Jenkins and James Ellis were sent for and laid Hands on her and at the time she screamed very much which brought crowds of People around the House thinking she was in the agonies of Death ; but when they knew the Elders were there they sent for the Police, but before they came the Sister had received the blessing out of bed heating a hearty Supper and walked down to the Barrack Room that same Night. Very shortly after Captain Jones came and taught the Saints to be faithful as there were plagues at hand etc, and in a very short time his words came true, for in the year 1849 the Collara Morbus broke out amongst the People. Still the servants went through the Country preaching and baptizing the People in midst of all persecutions.

In December 1848 James Ellis was made president of the Cardiff Branch at Merthyr Conference ; at this time John George was invited to Cogg and offered a House to preach in but it was Jacob Jones and David Jenkins was the first that preached the gospel in Cogg ; but it was John George was the first that baptized there, and in the beginning of 1849 a branch was established in Cogg under the presidency of James Ellis, and Abraham Rees was made President of the Branch. In Febr 1849, 7 out of our Branch emigrated for the Land of Zion. Now under the Presidency of James Ellis the Spirit of God made manifest that the Saints was in a decaying State owing to faults or contrary teaching by a Nicholite while Bro Jenkins presided in 1848, but Bro Phillips being led by the Spirit of God with the exertions of Bro Ellis and other officers led by the same Spirit, they removed the Evil from the Branch, and the work of God prospered and the servants went to preach the Gospel through Town and Country with Great Energy in spite of all their foes.

Now comes the true sayings of Captain Jones ; the Collara Morbus broke out and swept hundreds to Eternity in spite of all the Medical Energy. We had Great many Cases amongst the Saints but through God & Mercy by his healing Spirit we only lost 2 out of the whole Branch which was Sister Bleaton and Brother Richards was severely attacked, but the ordinance being administered with the prayers of the Saints he was revived entirely from the Collera, but however on the 12th Day he died from some unknown Cause in the fullness of the faith while others at the same time died in a few

Hours from the Collera ; he was born in the year 1813, died in 1849, aged 36 years. At this time it seemed as if God gave the gift of Healing more powerfully. Sister How. was severely attacked but refused Doctors ; but she received the blessing and gained her health and strength by the laying on of Hands and at the same time received the Spiritual gifts. Now Richard Hows Daughter, aged 6 years, was taken very ill. Doctor Payn attended her and she died under his treatment but Doctor Payn thought that the Medicine had not been given according to his Direction ; he summonsed Richard How and George Taylor to the Town Hall and they appeared before the Coroner and Jury. God moved a worldly man to defend their Cause and they were set at liberty.

Brother Ellis was also severely attacked with the Collera three times in so much that he was at one time given up as dead, but through the faith and perseverance of Elders Pugh and Phillips they brought him to his former Health and strength, and many more of the Saints received the blessing ; as I can mention few more names as follows : Thomas Matthews, Hannah Morgan, Sister Ellis, John Thomas, &c., all received their Health by administering the Ordinances. David Jones and Thomas Evans are worthy of having their names recorded in this Book for their labours amongst the Saints Day and Night during the Malady as God preserved them in Health to fulfill their office, and Great many received the blessing under their Hands. The blessings of Health were so many during the Collera that I do not think it wisdom to enter the whole of the particulars in this Book. At this time the servants were preaching the gospel through town and Country and carrying on the work of God in spite of all our Enemies, as God dealt very mercifully with us ; but our foes were cut down both on our left and on our right with the dreadful malediction. As I and other Brothers were preaching in John Payns House in Mellicant Street crowds of people gathered about the Dore and the wife of David Wilkins was amongst the rebellious with a Bowl in her Hand. Shee throughed it in the House and said at the same time if the Saints were to preach before her Dore that shee would through fier in their Faces ; but in less than 24 Hours the same person was laying in her Grave from a visitation of Death.

In 1849 I was preaching with William Bevan by the Five Bells ; a Man by the name of Roberts did try to set a Great Mastiff Dog on us but the Dog refused and that also was cut off in a very short time. Brother Bevan has since died in the fullness of the faith and on his death bed he requested his wife to call in Brother Ellis, but

Shee refused. As I was Preaching in Canton on a Sunday Night and Saying that Children where not to be Baptized, but people capable of repentance, I was Collered and drged about the Street, and a Man by the name of William Morgan Said I aught to be Shot. On the 10th of June falowing the Said William Morgan was killed by a Stone falling on his Head at Merthyr Works ; but this was not all the judgements that befell them that presecuted the work of God at that time, but we the Servants thanked for the prosperity we had in the year 1849, for in December at Merthyr Conferance there where three Branches Established in his Naighborud under the presidency of James Ellis.

In January 1850, 19 Members out of our Branch Emmigrated for the Land of Zion. On the 10th of January Sister How propheseyd that a Great many accidence Shuld take place Shortly, and on the 11th, whitch was the fallowing Day, Thomas Evans, a Carpenters Son was Drownded in a pann [pond] of water behind the House ; on the 12th John Thomass Son was killed by a Horse and Cart ; also a man named Bennet was kiced by Horse and broke his Leg ; also a man throughed of a Horse in Crockherblown and Convaied to the Infirmary ; on the 13th a Pilot Boy Drownded in the Cull. There where Seven accidence happened on the 11th besides the one above Stated. there where 13 accidence from Saints on Wednesday Night untill Saturday Morning, and out of them three fatal Deaths. James Ellis and three more Elders where asked to come and See a Childe of John Morris ; the Docters had given him up as totaly blind, but by anointing, praying and the laying of Hands the Childe received his Eyesight. Brothers Phillips and Pugh came down often about this time and by giving good teachings it always proved Edifying and Removed many Evels from the Church.

In March Dr. Leavey Richard came and Preached in the room. Shawed the nesesity of Knowing God the Father as a Father and how he is to be known through Obediance. June the 10th Apostle Tailor colled in the Branch. We hiered the Brutish Schoolroom on the Ocation for whitch they charged a Sovereign. he preached to a large congrigation the First princebels of the Gospel and the blessings that atended the Same. July 1st we had the pleasure of Seeing the very first that Brother Howells Baptized in France and the first that Obayed the Gospel in that Country. Shee gived us an interesting acount of the French Mission and the Great blessing of Health Shee receved under Brother Howellss Hands and her determination to go on with the work, &c. July the 3d we where visited by Captain Witlock and Brother Henshaw. Brother Witlock Expresed the inconveniance he labored under in not understanding the Welch

Language, but he was happy to Say that by the Gospel whitch is Preached in this Dispensation we shall all come to Speke and understand the Same Language ; he also delivered Ellegant Discourse concerning the Sheep and the Goates, the hireling Servants of the Day, &c., and proved that there was a knowledge Existing between different Spirits and we the Living.

July the 5th we where favoured with Brother Witlock and Henshaw againe ; Henshaw adressed the officers and urged them to do thyer duty, &c., and Brother Witlock Opened many interesting princeples with the History and Travels of the Brothers in America ; at the Same time Brother Ellis Exorted the Servants to huis [use] Brotherly love ; with that our Meeting Seperated. By this time the Officers of Cardiff knew what [it] was to travel through the Countys of Monnmouth and Glannmorgan without a House to Shelter in from the Storme, but now they have Six Branches to visit, five of whitch is under the presidency of James Ellis ; by this [time] there is Some of the Children that was born in Cardiff Branch Presiding over other Branches in different parts of the Cuntry. This concluds the History from the year 1846 untill June 1850.

In August 1850 thare was a Child with Charles Sheppard that had withered away to a mear Skelliton and quite Blinde, but by Brothers Witlock and Ellis administering the Ordinance of the Church the Child receved his Health and Eyesight. Sister Rebecca Flours was Struck with a Parralectic Strock untill one of her Sides where quite Dead and uisless ; but in Brothers Ellis and Pugh administering the Ordinance of the Church Shee receved her Health. I have heard her testify the Same Several times. It happened that Sister Scheen of Canton fell into a deep well of water and was thare neerly an Houre ; then Shee [was] brought Home could [cold] and Helpless as a Corpes and the Moast of them thought that life was Extinct ; her Husband came the distance of a mile to fetch the Elders. Brothers Ellis and Pugh whent and laid Hands on her and through the power of God Shee gained her health and Strength at the time. I remember going with John George to See William Nicholass wife whitch was very bad Grasping for breath when we Got thare, and Shee had been so for three Days. John George anointed her and through the laying on of Hands and the blessing of God Shee was restored to her perfect health.

Sept 21 we where vissited by Elder Dalling from Newport ; he adressed the Saints concerning the Happy time they Shuld gather Home to Zion and also Desiered them to live faithfull. President Ellis Spoke concerning the Spirit of God and proved it to be a Supstance.

The Meeting was opened for testifying, &c. Elder Dalling Said a worldly man had received a wanderfull Gift of Health under his Hands at Newport, and Elder Evanss Son received his Health the Same time. At 6 Oclock Dr Leavey Richards Spoke concerning the king of Heaven, how he is to be known and how the Nations of the Earth is to be Governed and the word of God whitch his [is] the Book of Morman Shows that narrow his [is] the Gate and Straight his [is] the path that leadeth to life and that revelation is nessary for the Gathering of the Saints, &c. Sepr 27th Elder Peack related the travels of the Saints through America and how they Suffered in that countrey through presecution and that thare was a 1000 Dollers offered for the Prophets Head, &c., and Said that he Elder Peack was the first white man that Entered the Sault Lake Valley and that when they Started back from thare they had only 10 lbs of Flour for Eatch person to travel the distance of 1033 Miles. Elder Peack was ill for Several Days at Presidant Elliss House but received his Health and whent on to the Manchester conferance.

Sunday Sepr 29 Saints Meeting and Elder Pugh adressed the Saints concerning the Ordinance, &c. This was the first time we uised Wine in our Branch for the Sacrement. October 2nd Our Presidant spoke of the comming of Christ and the Baptisem for the Dead and many Other interesting Discourse that Proved Edifying to the Church. Octr 6 Elder John George Preatch his farewell Sermon urgeing his friends to obay the commandments of God and telling his Determination to go on with the worke of God. On the 7th Seven Saints Emmigrated from this Branch for the Land of Zion. Presidant Ellis whent with them so fur as Leverpool as a Brotherly kindness.

Octr 11th Receaved from Cogg Branch Seven Shillings for the French Mishon. Thursday Night the 17th Elder Thomas Evans Presided when the Elders Js Ellis, Phillips, Pugh, Evans and Williams returned from Liverpool. Elder Evans adressed the Saints to be faithfull, &c. Elder Williams wished the Saints to Strive more for the Spirit of God and to come to more knowledge and to be faithfull and to avoid Evel doings, &c. Elder Pugh Hoped God whold bless the Saints in all circomstances and that they whold prove faithfull as God whold call the just and the unjust to the Same platforme and wished his friends to obay the commandments of God, &c. President Pillips adressed the meeting and Said that the Welch Saints had payed nearly 20 of Tithing at Leverpool and that there was a power on Earth that no man could resist and unless the Man that wants this Room will repent Spidily let the curse of God be on his Head. Janury 1851 conferance heald at Merthyr and a Branch Established at White Church ;

in Febry Two of our Saints Emmigrated for the Land of Zion. In April an English Branch was Established at Cogg. And of late many have ben Restored to Health by the power of Priesthood and the Gospel Preatched through town and Countrey, Some Yelding obediance and Others rebelling, and the Judgements of God falling on them in various ways. While the Priests and Elders whare Preatching in different Parts of the town amangst Rebellious Peoaple Elder John Evans was taken to the Lockup House for Preatching in the open Street, but was let at Liberty in a few Hours without being put to any Trouble.

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