

THE FAMILY OF
GEORGE ORMOND AND ESTHER DAVIES
OR BANK HOUSE

George Ormond was born 22 October 1836 at “Old Wintern” (the Ormond Home name) Marloes, District of Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, Wales, the son of John Ormond and Elizabeth Codd. He was the third child his parents named George, the two earlier sons by the name of George died in infancy. They seemed determined to have a son George in their family and the third one lived a long life.

True to the custom of the times, the boy went to work very young and soon entered the employ of a Mr. Price in Haverfordwest as a gardner where he remained employed for several years. While still quite young he met Esther Davies who had come to live on Slade Lane, Haverfordwest, and when he was still only 19 years of age and the girl 17, they were married in St. Martin’s Church of the city of Haverfordwest on 13 February 1857. Esther was born 22 October 1836, at Herbrandston, Pembs., Wales. The young couple began life in a little stone cottage on Slade Lane which became the home street to them for life.

According to a grand-daughter, Gladys Friend, “With her first baby still in the shall, Granny followed her young husband to Swansea where he had decided to go to work in the mines, hoping to improve his fortune.” But in a few days the young mother was so homesick that she made it known to all about her that she was going back to Slade Lane. Friends assured her that she would have to stay a few weeks as trains did not run often. She stayed three weeks and returned by next train, made her way to Slade Lane, found the owner of the only vacant cottage, and promptly rented it, making the necessary deposit. She told the landlord that: “If “Georgie” wants to stay in Swansea he can!” but she was going to live here. George followed his young wife shortly and went back to his old job. In that tiny stone cottage, a typical one of the Nineteenth Century in Wales, this couple raised their family of eight children.

Esther was a shrewd woman and trained her children well in the arts of the home. George was hardworking and thrifty and soon began to acquire a piece of land across the street from the little home. Here in 1909 he built a new home known as Bank House—A four room house and a luxury for that day. A little to the back of the house in a hollow was a little spring which furnished water for culinary purposes, always transported in buckets by hand. He had two little donkeys with which to do the farm work, and gradually acquired some dairy cows. His daughters operated the Dairy.

The couple had one son whom they named William, but soon became Billy to his friends and the family. As a boy he entered a school for Infants (which later became Ellis Grammer School) on Tower Hill. His parents payed a fee of one penny a week at first and later advanced to two pennies a week. At an early age he was apprenticed as a carpenter to Preece James. He was paid nothing for the first year, then received a shilling a week until he had finished his time. At the age of twenty, this only son decided to go to America, leaving a very sorrowful father and mother. He went to Wisconsin where his two uncles, William and Charles, and many of his cousins had gone. He made only one visit to his Native Land and his parents.

The eldest daughter, Mary Ann (Polly) and her sister Elizabeth lived at Herman's Hill, Haverfordwest, and operated a laundry, doing for the better class of town. Elizabeth left to become head laundry girl at Picton Castle with Sir Charles and Lady Phillips. Mary Ann died quite suddenly at the age of forty-five, 30 August 1902, and was buried in City Cemetery. Elizabeth married John Hamily Friend, a game keeper from Holsworthy, Devon, and made their home at Amroth where they reared three daughters. Elizabeth died 16 January 1934, age 74, and he died 11 April 1936; both are buried at Amroth.

Annie was a Dairy Maid, married late in life and died without having any children. Esther Ellen was a cook with a High Court Judge, Wilford Baugh Allen of Bromcot, Notingham. She died at the age of 41 in Slade Lane. Florence was a Children's Nurse, but her career ended at the age of 16. Fanny Maria and Emily entered "Gentleman Service" as Parlor and Kitchen Maids in London, but, when their aging Parents needed help, returned home to Bank House to care for them tenderly until their death at a ripe old age. These two daughters lived on at Bank House till they needed help and a neice, Gladys, came home to care for them. Fanny died in 1950 and Emily on the 14 April, 1959. The whole family are burried, except the two, in the City Cemetery, Haverfordwest.