



International's grandmother died in America

MRS NAOMI Biggs Forward, who emigrated to America from Varteg in 1935 to join her five daughters, has died at the home of one of them in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Aged 89, Mrs Forward was the grandmother of Pontypool's Welsh international, Allen Forward. She leaves 41 other grandchildren, 60 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Born in Blaenavon to the late Mr and Mrs Thomas Pitman Biggs, Mrs Forward married her husband, William, in April 1883. Two years after his death she went to the USA. And in 1940 became an American citizen.

Her son Edwin, Allen's father, lives in Cwmavon. Her five daughters in America are Mesdames Harriet Pitts, Richard C. Thomas, Joseph Sleight, James L Wheat, Carlo Klitgaard and Thomas Biggs. She also has two brothers and a sister alive.

A convert to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Mrs Forward died in the city that was founded by the early members of her faith after a trek of several thousand miles across America and took many years to complete.

MR E. FORWARD, CWMAVON

Mr Edwin Forward, aged 65, of Forge Row, Cwmavon, one-time member of Blaenavon RFC and father of the well-known family of footballers, was buried at Varteg Road Cemetery, Blaenavon, the Rev. Ronald Price officiating.

Mr Forward, a native of Varteg, worked most of his life at Vipond's Collieries and later at Blaenavon Works.

He is survived by his wife and a large family, Mesdames Lois Buchanan and Megan Courdrey (both of Salt Lake City), Ellen Williams (Griffithstown) and Miss Betty Forward (Cwmavon), Messrs Allen (the Welsh Rugby forward), Gordon, Wilfred, Malcolm (who was recalled from his honeymoon for the funderal) and Colin Forward (serving with the SWB).

Mourners: Allen, Gordon, Wilfred, Malcolm, Clin, sons; Jack Wally, son-in-law; Melvin, Glyn, Jack, Billy Ken, Jim, Cyril, Vince, Roydon, Emlyn, Roy, nephews; D Harris, H. Skyrme, A. Skyrme, A. Davies, D. Kear, W. Seabourne, W. G. Allen, cousins.

At the house: Wife; Ellen and Betty, daughters; Enid, Iris, daughters-in-law; Harriet, sister; Ethel, Martha Ann, Gret, Aunt Gret, Gran Booth, Aunt Bertha, Lily, Dorothy, niece; Abegal, Ann Green, cousins; Esther.

Bearers: Messrs E. Phillips, C. Pritchard, S. Marshall, E. Richards, W Yemm, H. Davies, R. Women, C. Williams.

Also present: County Councillor Arthur Griffiths, Don Cormack(Pontypool RFC), Will R. Pritchard (Mon. County RFC and Blaenavon RFC), Inspector R. Scott, PS Briggs and PC G. young (Mon. Police). Messrs Gethin and Elwyn Palser, H. Protheroe, A. Wookey, Tom and [?] Llewellyn, [?] Burg[?] [?] Watkins, A. Daniel, T.E. Marshall, H Eason, J. Taylor, H. Grout, W. Jones, D. Hughes, E. Thomas, F. Percy.

Flowers: Wife and Children; Lois and Meg (USA); Pat and Megan; Uncle Will, Gret and family; Mrs N. Williams and family, Griffithstown; Ethel and family; Tom and Martha Anne; Noah, Doll, Dave, Doreen and family; Harriet, Marg, and Don; Ivy and family; Sisters Ruth, Ellen, Naomi, Mabel and Alice, (USA); Aunt Bertha and family; Aunt Beat and Glyn; Jim Glemys and family; Melvin, Ada and Lynette; Annie Mercy and family and Alf; Dorothy, Cyril and Anne; Uncle Joe Syrme & family; Aunt Miranne and family; Wilf and family; Children of Uncle James Allen; Pontypool RFC; Neighbours of Forge Row; Mr and Mrs Billy Rees; Mr and Clar Pritchard and family; Mr and Mrs Edwards and friends of The Railway Inn; Mr and Mrs C. Morton and Betty; Mr Harry Davies and family; Elwin, Gethin & Dot; Abersychan Section Mon. Police; Tom, Harry and Mrs Eason; Hazel, Jim and family; Doll, Ed and family, Coventry; Mr Coombes and family, Blaenavon.

[handwritten note: died 4 August 1955.]