

CAPTAIN JOHN EVANS (MILFORD HOUSE)



Captain John Evans & Dr Albert Evans (Son)

John Evans went to sea when he was approximately 15/16yrs old and he was classed as a boy whilst on the Mountain Lass in January 1859. He graduated to Seaman, Ordinary Seaman, Able Seaman whilst sailing on Susan Jane, Louisa Jane, Henry & Dora etc ships of Aberystwyth and the Rosetta and Magnet of Liverpool.

Captain John Evans received his Master's certificate at Bristol in 1867. His first command was probably the **Brig Ann** 17 tons which sailed from Greenock in March 1869 for Buenos Ayres to Fray Ventos and back to Liverpool South America. He was 25 and earned £8.00 per month. In 1870 the **Ann** went to Africa. In 1871 he became the captain of the Mosquito sailing for Sierra Leone then the Adela which went to Valparaiso and the Falkland Islands. His last command was in 1876 on the **Catharina Maria** of London 35 tons with a crew of 15 which sailed to Belize and other ports on the east coast of South America.



Catharina Maria © Elinor Gwilym

Dr Albert Evans had kept the records of the voyages his father had undertaken. One interesting note is on the voyage to Benin in 1870 when Ordinary Seaman Llywelyn Lloyd aged 19 from Pwllhelli was taken ill, on the 8th of March. Despite taking him to a surgeon in Benin he died on 22nd of March at 2am and was then buried at 3pm probably at sea?

A list of the seaman's possessions is given in the records:-

5 oilskin trousers, 2 cloth trousers, 2 draws, 4 flannel shirts 1 muffler, 1 blanket, 1 rug, 2 jumpers, 1 Guernsey frock, 4 pairs of stockings 1 oilskin coat, 3 caps, wellington boots , 13 books, 2 maps, 1 pocket book, 1 slate, 3 tin boxes, 1 small box containing earrings. Wages for 3 months and 12 days was £5/19/0.

Captain John Evans retired from the sea in the late seventies and founded the merchant firm of Davies and Evans with his brother in law Thomas Davies. The Aeron Express an aerial carriage, over Aberaeron harbour was introduced by Capt John Evans. It has been said the carej bach was built to ferry the workmen across the harbour to the sawmills after damage had occurred to the main bridge on the Aberaeron Cardigan Road.

Aeron Express



Carej Bach (initially a two-seater)

The late Mr S Fowler noted that in her childhood she would run from Tabernacle Street with sandwiches for the man who operated the carriage and would often get a free ride for doing so.

Captain John Evans died on the 4th December 1919 aged 76.

His wife Anne died on 25th October 1930 aged 80.

They had 5 sons:

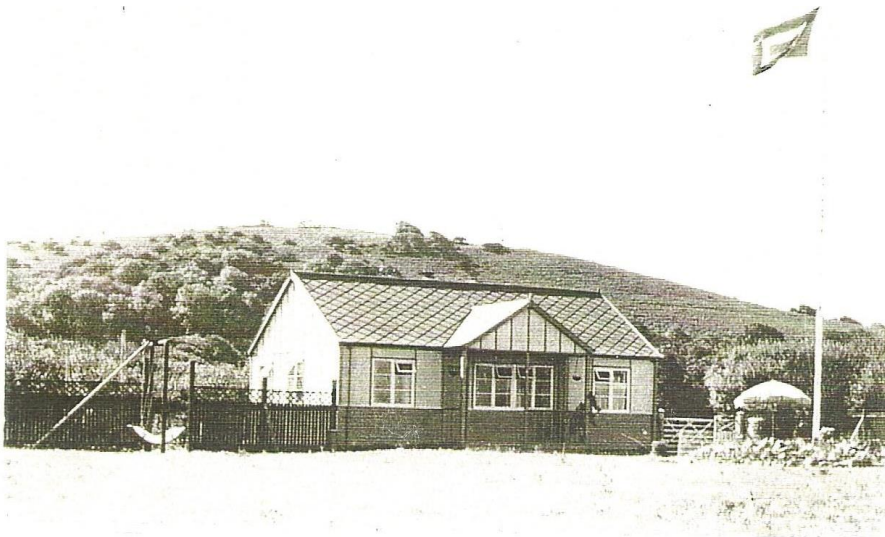
Dr Evan Evans	1875-1958
John Evans (FRICS)	1876-1945
Major David Evans	1877-1957
Dr Garfield Evans	1883-1972
Dr Albert Evans	1892-1975

The family grave is to be found at Henfynyw churchyard.

Dr Albert Evans

Dr Albert Evans had a practice in Lampeter he had a particular interest in the maritime history of Aberaeron and district, He was an amateur artist and painted various seascapes etc. Seven of his paintings were displayed in the Exhibition of Painting of Sailing Ships and Ships Equipment held in Aberaeron in 1971. He also loaned the painting of the Catherine Maria (commanded by his father) to the Exhibition.

Dr Albert bought a plot of land between Newquay and Cei Bach in 1933 and Majoda was built, where he and his family would spend their holidays. Majoda was named after his three children **M**argaret, **J**ohn and **D**avid.



Above: Majoda when newly built (c. 1933)

© Mrs Gillian Morgan

Majoda was leased to Dylan & Caitlin Thomas from September 1944 to July 1945). Dylan wrote several poems there which were later published. Various escapades also occurred in the locality particularly the notorious 'shooting incident' in New Quay.

The late John Evans (son of Dr Albert) produced a very interesting account based on the letters written by Dylan Thomas during his stay in New Quay. Mr John Evans also kindly donated the half model of the ship Cadwgan to Ceredigion Archives. The Cadwgan was commissioned by Capt John Evans and built by David Jones.

Information provided from Ceredigion, Vol V1, 1969, also manuscript records of D. L Jones

With thanks to the late Mr Philip Morgan an ancestor of the Evans family and his wife Mrs Gillian Morgan