

Jemima ELLIS nee Butcher 1819-1868

Jemima BUTCHER was born in Hopton Wafers, Shropshire and at about the age of 18 months moved with her parents to the nearby market town of Ludlow. She was the daughter of Jemima [1] Butcher nee Jennings and Thomas Butcher. Her brothers and sisters were born in Ludlow. Her father, Thomas was from Hopton and his family are recorded as having been there for some time. His occupation, on the baptism register, was 'carpenter' and in later years according to census' was a 'millwright'.

By the time that Jemima married James ELLIS in Brecon her mother was dead. By some accounts Jemima [2] may have had to have learnt to speak Welsh, certainly her children and grand children were well versed in it. But I have detected a feeling of Englishness that was preserved by some of her antecedents. From the census returns we can show that James and Jemima ELLIS had eight children in this order:- Jemima [3] 1847, James 1849, Emma 1850, Mary 1852, Eleanor 1855, William 1860, Annie 1861 & Thomas 1864. Jemima [2] died in 1868; James is recorded as a widower on the 1871 census.

James' family probably had links with Llanspyddid, a village near Brecon on the A40. Doreen, my mother, visited the Church of St. Cattwg with her Dad, in the period 1933-36. Using her directions my cousin Llew Goodfield & wife Marilyn, (from California), firstly found the church on March 8 2001, and then after about 20 mins of graveyard wanderings - still using the directions given us by Doreen - found the grave of Jemima and James. The following is the inscription etched on to an elaborate sandstone gravestone - the style indicated that it had cost a lot of money in its time. The sides were missing - probably destroyed by frost and water damage.



The top cover stone was supported by slate that looked to be in very good condition, but there was a little subsidence that was probably caused by a general settlement that had occurred over a long time. It was amazing to think that this memorial had lain undisturbed and infrequently visited for some one hundred and thirty years. These are the details from the gravestone that we found in March 2001.

*In Loving remembrance of Jemima the wife of James Ellis,
Gamekeeper to Col. Pearce Ffrwdgrech who departed this life May
2 1868 aged 48 years.*

And written in a smaller case below-

*Long days and nights I bore great pain
Crying for help but all in vain
Till God who knew what time was best
Did ease my pain and give me rest*

And on the other side of the gravestone -

*Sacred to the memory of James Ellis Gamekeeper late of Ffrwdgrech who departed this life April 15
1873 aged 53 years.*

Thy will be done

Llewellyn Goodfield in the Spring of 2002 arranged for this grave to be restored by a South Wales firm. The company provided photographs of before and after and the work was well done.

From 'Our Family History' – Michael Thomas / Llewellyn Goodfield – James & Jemima's gggrandsons - January 2009 - contactable on hcdthomas@live.com