

GRAVE: F19 {Link F20 Phyllis Evans}

POWELL, Arthur John, Rosina Dorothy, Louisa Ann & Thomas ROBERTS, Lancelot



Inscription

In loving memory of
ARTHUR JOHN
son of THOMAS AND L A THOMAS
of Clydach
who died April 12th 1885
aged 7 months
Also LANCELOT ROBERTS
who died November 15th 1896
aged 11 years.
*He shall gather the lambs with His arm and
carry them in his bosom.*
Also ROSINA DOROTHY
died in infancy.
Also in endearing memory of
LOUISA ANN
wife of THOMAS POWELL
died July 30th 1901 age 43 years.
Also in ever loving memory of the above
THOMAS POWELL who fell asleep March
24th 1930 aged 73 years.

Thomas Powell, His Family, and the Clydach Grocer's Shop

In 1881, twenty-four-year-old Thomas Powell was living with his widowed father, William Powell, on Old Road in the parish of Llanelly. William, then fifty-nine, worked at the local Iron Works, while Thomas earned his living as a grocer. Thomas's younger sister, Margaret A Powell, aged eighteen, was still at home, and two of William's grandchildren were also part of the household: William Clarke, aged eight, and Elizabeth A Powell, aged four.

At the same time, Louisa Anne Roberts, aged twenty-two, was lodging with the Walby family in Club Row, Clydach. Born in Cwmavon, Glamorgan, she was employed as a schoolmistress. The census for both households was taken on 3 April 1881; soon afterwards, Thomas and Louisa married. Their marriage was registered in the Crickhowell district during the second quarter of that year.

Their first child, Arthur John Powell, was born in late 1884. Sadly, his life was short: he died on 12 April 1885 at just seven months old and was buried at St Elli Church four days later. The following year brought the birth of another son, Lancelot Roberts Powell, registered early in 1886.

By 1891, Thomas and Louisa were running a grocer's shop in Clydach—later known as Shop Terrace on Station Road. The census of that year shows Thomas, then thirty-four, and Louisa, thirty-three, living with four of their growing children: Emily T, aged eight; Lancelot, aged five; Agnes, aged three; and Cyril, eleven months old. Emily was registered at birth as *Emily Felicia* in 1882 and was later known within the family as *Phyllis*.

Tragedy struck again in 1896 when eleven-year-old Lancelot died. He was buried at St Elli Church on 19 November. Three years later, Thomas and Louisa welcomed another daughter, Rosina Dorothy, born in the summer of 1899. Heartbreak followed swiftly: Rosina died at just one month old and was laid to rest at St Elli on 1 September.

In 1901 the family was living at Cae Robin, Clydach. The census records Thomas, forty-four, still working as a grocer, and Louisa, forty-three, with several children still at home: eighteen-year-old Emily Felicia, who was helping in the shop; thirteen-year-old Agnes; ten-year-old Cyril; nine-year-old Edith; and five-year-old Irvine. Only a few months later, on 30 July 1901, Louisa died aged just forty-three. She, too, was buried at St Elli.

By 1911, Thomas—now a widower aged fifty-four—was continuing to run his combined grocer's and draper's business in Clydach, assisted by his children. Agnes, aged twenty-three, and Cyril, aged twenty-one, were both working in the family business, while nineteen-year-old Edith kept house. The census notes that Thomas had been married for thirty years and had fathered eight children, three of whom had died young.

On 3 June 1914, Thomas remarried. His second wife was Sarah Davies, a fifty-year-old spinster from Stockton-on-Tees, daughter of Abraham Davies, a works manager. Thomas's father, William Powell, was recorded as an iron worker.

The 1921 census places Thomas and Sarah back at the grocer's premises in Clydach—Shop Terrace—alongside Thomas's adult children. Thomas, then sixty-four, was still working as a grocer, assisted by thirty-three-year-old Louise Agnes (formerly known simply as Agnes) and thirty-one-year-old Cyril, who also worked as a grocer. Margaret Edith, aged thirty, was recorded as an outfitter, while Irvine, twenty-six, was a carpenter. A visitor, Mary Davies, aged forty-five, was also present. Cyril would later serve during the First World War and is commemorated in the book published by Gilwern u3a, *Llanelly Parish Remembers*.

Thomas Powell died in early 1930, aged seventy-three. His burial took place at St Elli Church on 27 March. Probate records reveal that he left his effects to his wife Sarah, his son Cyril, and his daughter Phyllis (registered as Emily Felicia), who by then had married Ben Evans.

The Powell Family Grocer's Shop: A Century in Clydach

The history of the Powell family is inseparable from the history of their long-running grocery business. Although the exact date the shop first opened is unknown, a conveyance dated 4 November 1887 indicates that Thomas Powell had been renting the property—one of four cottages now known collectively as Shop Terrace—since 1874. He purchased the building in 1897 for £85. The payment was divided among its owners: Reverend Francis Jayne, Basil Jayne, Reverend Hamilton Ashwin, William Edward Jayne, and George Lewis Hiley. The Jaynes, prominent ironmasters, owned extensive land in the area; Ashwin married into the family, while Hiley was the canal superintendent.

The property remained in Powell hands until 1961, when Thomas's youngest son, Irvine Powell, finally sold it.

In 1921 the family clearly still lived at Shop Terrace, as confirmed by the census, and Thomas's death in 1930 also recorded his address as Station Road—almost certainly the shop premises.

Thomas bought the Supply Stores, the shop in Clydach North, in 1921 from the Duke of Beaufort for £75, expanding the business. When Thomas died in 1930, Cyril inherited Supply Stores and Irvine inherited Shop Terrace. The 1939 Register shows Cyril living at Supply Stores—known locally as *Shop Supplies*—with his wife, Flossie, and their children Thomas, Peter, and Jeffrey.

Family memories add nuance to the records. In 1915 Thomas purchased Clydach Villa from the Duke of Beaufort, and a 1918 photograph labelled “Home Sweet Home” shows the family in its garden. Further photographs reveal that Jeffrey Powell and his siblings were living at Clydach Villa in the 1930s; Jeff himself was born there in 1934. The family left the villa after his mother’s death in 1941, although the 1939 Register lists them at Supply Stores.

An oral history interview with Jeffrey Powell, Cyril’s son and Thomas’s grandson, offers additional clarity. He explained that his father opened the Clydach North shop in 1925. For generations of residents, it became known simply as Powell’s Shop, operating until 1990. Cyril, along with his sons Peter and Jeffrey, all ran the store at various times, but it was Jeff and his wife Carol who eventually closed the business. *(You can read Jeffrey Powell’s oral history on the Gilwern u3a website, under the Family & Social History Group, Oral Histories section.)*

For more than a century and immense social change, the Powell family grocery served the people of Clydach. Their story is not merely a family history—it is the story of a community institution woven into village life across generations.



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Left to right standing: Agnes, Cyril, Phyllis {F20} Seated Thomas, Louisa, Edith, standing front Irvine Powell.

SOURCE RECORDS

1881 Wales Census living on Old Road, Llanelly Parish {Thomas Powell}

Thomas Powell, aged 24 employed as a grocer living with his Father William Powell, a widow aged 59, employed at the Iron Works and sister Margaret A Powell, aged 18. Two grandchildren of William Powell were also living with the family, Wm Clarke aged 8 and Elizabeth A Powell aged 4.

1881 Wales Census living in Club Row, Clydach {Louisa Roberts}

Louisa A Roberts, aged 22, born Cwmavon, Glamorganshire, employed as a school mistress was lodging with the Walby family.

The census was taken on Sunday 3rd of April 1881 and shortly after this Thomas and Louisa married.

1881 MARRIAGE RECORD {Crickhowell Apr May Jun Volume 11b page 186}

Thomas Powell married Louisa Anne Roberts

1884 BIRTH RECORDS {Crickhowell Oct Nov Dec Volume 11b Page 105}

Birth of Arthur John Powell

1885 DEATH RECORD

12th April Arthur John Powell died aged 7 months and was buried at St Elli Church on 16th

1886 BIRTH RECORD {Crickhowell Jan Feb Mar Volume 11b Page 115}

Birth of Lancelot Roberts Powell

1891 Wales Census living at the Grocer Shop, Clydach. {This is now known as Shop Terrace, Station Road, Clydach}

Thomas Powell, aged 34 born Llanelly, Grocer, Louisa Powell, aged 33 and four children Emily T aged 8, Lancelot aged 5, Agnes aged 3 and Cyril aged 11 months
{Emily T was registered as Emily Felicia born 1882 later known as Phyllis Grave No: F20}

1896 DEATH RECORD {Crickhowell Oct Nov Dec Volume 11b Page 87}

15th November Lancelot Roberts Powell died aged 11 years and was buried at St Elli Church on the 19th.

1899 BIRTH RECORD {Crickhowell Jul Aug Sep Volume 11b Page 98}

Birth of Rosina Dorothy

1899 DEATH RECORD {Crickhowell Jul Aug Sep Rosina Dorothy, Volume 11b page 77}

Rosina Dorothy Powell died aged 1 month old and was buried at St Elli Church on the 1st September.

1901 Wales Census living at Cae Robin, Clydach

Thomas Powell, aged 44, Grocer, Louisa Powell, aged 43, Emily F Powell, aged 18 assisting in the family business, Agnes E Powell aged 13, Cyril Powell aged 10, Edith M Powell aged 9 and Irvine aged 5 years.

The census was taken on the 31st of March 1901 and a few months later Louisa died

1901 DEATH RECORD {Crickhowell Jul Aug Sept Volume 11b Page 80}

30th July Louisa Powell died aged 43 and was buried at St Elli Church on the 2nd of August.

1911 Wales Census living at Grocer and Draper Clydach {Shop Terrace as neighbouring house are Cae Robin}

Thomas Powell, widow, aged 54, Grocer and Draper, Agnes, aged 23, Cyril aged 21, both assisting in family business, and Edith aged 19, housekeeper. Thomas had been married for 30 years, had 8 children 3 of whom died.

1914 MARRIAGE RECORDS

3rd June Thomas Powell widow, aged 57, Grocer of Clydach, father William Powell, Iron worker married Sarah Davies, spinster aged 50, Stockton on Tee, father Abraham Davies, works manager.

1921 Wales Census living in Clydach Shop {Shop Terrace as neighbouring houses are Cae Robin}

Thomas Powell aged 64, Grocer, Sarah Powell, aged 57, born Glasgow, Louise Agnes, aged 33, assisting in business, {Previously used just Agnes} Cyril Powell, aged 31, Grocer, Margaret Edith, aged 30, outfitter, {previously used just Edith} Irvine, aged 26, carpenter, Mary Davies, aged 45 visitor.
{Cyril Powell served in WW1 see Llanelly Parish Remembers U3a Gilwern}

1930 DEATH RECORD {Crickhowell Jan Feb Mar Volume 11b Page 140}

Thomas Powell of Station Road, Clydach died aged 73 and was buried at St Elli Church on 27th March. Probate records detail that he left effects to his wife Sarah Powell, son Cyril Powell and daughter E F Evans, {F20} wife of Ben Evans.