

GRAVE NO: A19

LAWRENCE, Major Thomas Lewis, PARRY, Dr Evan and Louisa, and PYNE, Anna Maria Louisa



Inscription

In memory of Major T L Lawrence
of the Duffryn Mawr died
February 5th 1852 aged 75 years

Side 2 Also Dr Evan Parry late of
Crickhowell died May 11th 1898
aged 84 years

Side 3 In memory of Louisa, wife
of Evan Parry, Crickhowell, died
June 11th 1888 aged 65 years

Side 4 Also his sister Anna Maria
Louisa relict of Captain Henry
Pyne RN died September 12th
1873 aged 93 years

The Lawrence and Pyne families' story spans over a century, beginning with Thomas Lawrence's military service, including the defense of the Îles St-Marcou in 1798. His sister, Ann Maria Louisa, married naval officer Henry Pyne, and their daughter Louisa wed surgeon Evan Parry. Across generations, the family's journey unfolds through military valour, medical dedication, and steadfast familial bonds, culminating in their lasting legacy in Llanelly and beyond.

In the December of 1776, a new life began. Thomas Lawrence, the son of Richard and Ann Lawrence, was privately baptized on December 11th, a tradition repeated five years later when his younger siblings, Ann Maria Louisa and John Lawrence, were also christened on December 8th, 1781.

Thomas grew into a formidable young man, dedicating his life to service. By May 5th, 1798, aged 22, he had risen to the rank of Lieutenant in the Marines, serving aboard the Badger. (The HMS Badger involved in the events of 1798 was a 4-gun gun vessel, formerly a Dutch hoy, purchased by the Royal Navy in 1794 and sold in 1802. These vessels were typically small, shallow-draft ships used for coastal operations and support roles).

His bravery shone in the defense of the Îles Saint-Marcouf, where he helped repel a fierce French attack, later earning the clasp for Egypt - a distinction awarded to British military personnel who served in the Egyptian campaign between 1801 and 1802. Given that the Battle of the Îles Saint-Marcouf occurred in 1798, it's possible that Thomas Lewis Lawrence participated in the Egyptian campaign in subsequent years, leading to his receipt of the clasp.

The Battle of the Îles Saint-Marcouf took place on May 7th, 1798, during the French Revolutionary Wars. The Îles Saint-Marcouf are located near the Cotentin Peninsula on the Normandy coast of France. The British had established a garrison on these islands in 1795, using them as a resupply base for Royal Navy ships patrolling northern French waters. Recognizing the strategic importance of the islands, French forces aimed to dislodge the British garrison. However, the British defenders successfully repelled the French attack, maintaining control over the islands. The successful defense of the Îles Saint-Marcouf was a significant achievement for the British, demonstrating the strategic value of the islands and the effectiveness of their coastal defenses.

Meanwhile, his sister, Ann Maria Louisa Lawrence, followed a different path, finding love and partnership with Henry Pyne, a naval officer. The couple wed on May 2nd, 1812, at St. Augustine the Less in Bristol, with Curate Richard Bedford presiding. Ann gave birth to their daughter, Louisa Pyne, who was baptized alongside her brother Henry on March 13th, 1817, in the same church.

By 1841, Thomas Lawrence had retired as a Major and taken up residence at Duffryn Mawr, in Gilwern in Llanelly parish. At 60, he was a farmer and head of the household, which included his younger brother Daniel, a Navy man, and Amelia Pyne, a widow, presumably his sister, Ann Maria Louisa. Louisa Pyne, now a young woman of 20, also resided there, alongside the household's loyal servants.

In 1847, Thomas Lawrence found companionship in his later years, marrying Ann Jones. Meanwhile, Louisa Pyne, now of Clifton, married Evan Parry, a skilled surgeon from Crickhowell, on February 27th, 1851, in St. Andrew's Parish Church. Their home in Ivy Tower, Crickhowell, became a centre of medical practice and familial support, as Louisa's widowed mother, now 68, lived with them.

The following year, on February 5th, 1852, Thomas Lewis Lawrence passed away at the age of 75. He was laid to rest on February 13th at Llanelly Church, his life commemorated by Arthur Griffiths, the incumbent. His Will was probated on March 17th, 1852, in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

The years rolled on. By 1861, Evan and Louisa Parry had settled into their lives on Beaufort Street, Crickhowell. Louisa's mother, now 78, continued to live with them. A decade later, in 1871, the family had moved to High Street, Crickhowell. Anna Maria Louisa Pyne, now 90, remained under their care, a living link to a past that spanned nearly a century. On September 12th, 1873, she passed away at the remarkable age of 90.

Louisa Parry, a devoted wife and daughter, continued her life with Evan until June 11th, 1883, when she too passed away at 65. She was buried in Llanelly Church on June 15th, with Rector Arthur Griffiths presiding. Evan Parry, now a widower, continued his service as a medical practitioner until he retired. By 1891, he resided in Alma Crescent, Llanarth, Cardiganshire, living out his twilight years.

On May 11th, 1898, Evan Parry passed away at 84 years old. His remains were laid to rest at Llanelly Church on May 14th, with Henry Martin, Vicar of Holy Trinity, officiating the burial. His probate was granted in London in July 1898, closing the chapter on a life of service, dedication, and family.