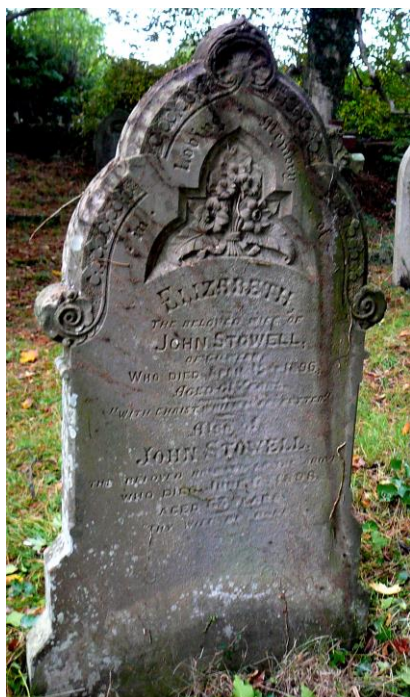


GRAVE NO: F55
STOWELL, Elizabeth & John



Inscription

In Loving Memory of
ELIZABETH
the beloved wife of
JOHN STOWELL
of Gilwern
who died April 15th 1896
aged 60 years.

"With Christ which is far better"

Also of
JOHN STOWELL
the beloved husband of the above
who died June 7th 1898
aged 63 years.
"Thy will be done".

In the year 1835, as the Industrial Revolution was transforming Britain, two children were born who would later find their lives intertwined. In the parish of Llanelli, Elizabeth Parry came into the world, daughter of William, a coal miner, and his wife Elizabeth. That same year, across the Bristol Channel, John Stowell was born to John, a lawyer's clerk in Bristol.

Twenty-one years later, their paths would somehow cross, leading to a spring wedding in 1856 at Llanelli Parish Church. John, who was a boatman (likely on the local Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal), married Elizabeth, both of them 21 years old. The canal was a vital artery for the region's industrial growth, transporting coal, iron, and limestone, and John would have played an essential role in this bustling trade.

The newlyweds made their home together at Turnpike Road in Aberbaiden. By the 1861 census, they had welcomed their first child, a daughter named Elizabeth, after her mother. John, now 25, continued his work as a boatman on the canal.

The 1871 census found John, at 36, had changed professions, now working as a labourer at the Tin Works on Forge Row. He and Elizabeth now had three daughters.

Another decade brought another move, this time to 14 Gilwern Road. John, at 45, had found new work in a limestone quarry, likely one of the many that dotted the area and supplied material that was transported along the canal where he had once worked. Their household now included just two daughters, Annie and Sarah, as their eldest had likely married and moved on.

By 1891, the census painted a picture of an extended family under one roof on Gilwern Road, Aberbaiden. John, now 55, had become a machine man. Their daughter Sarah had married William Overton, a colliery haulier, and they lived with John and Elizabeth, now 58. The house had welcomed a new generation with the arrival of baby Elizabeth Annie Overton, just two months old.

The spring of 1896 brought sorrow to the family when Elizabeth passed away at the age of 60. She was laid to rest at Llanelli Church on April 18th. John followed her two years later, dying on June 7th, 1898, at the age of 63. Their lives, which had begun in different places but had been joined in marriage, were now both complete, leaving behind a legacy in their children and grandchildren.

Through their story, we see a reflection of their era: the importance of the canals to Welsh industry, the changing nature of work, and the endurance of family bonds. From canal boatman to machine man, from newlyweds to grandparents, John and Elizabeth Stowell's lives paint a picture of a Victorian working-class family, adapting and persevering through the changing times of 19th century Wales.

BIRTH RECORDS

1835 Elizabeth Parry born in Llanelli to William, a Coal Miner and Elizabeth Parry.

1835 John Stowell born in Bristol, father John, a Lawyers Clerk.

1856 MARRIAGE RECORD Llanelli Parish Church.

John Stowell bachelor aged 21 years, a boatman, marries Elizabeth Parry spinster aged 21 years.

1861 Wales Census living on the Turnpike Road, Aberbaiden.

John Stowell, aged 25 years, a Boatman from Somerset with wife Elizabeth aged 26 years with daughter Elizabeth.

1871 Wales Census living in Gilwern

John Stowell, aged 36 years, a labourer at Llanelli Tin Works on Forge Row, with wife Elizabeth and three daughters.

1881 Wales Census living at 14 Gilwern Road

John Stowell, aged 45 years, a labourer in the Limestone Quarry with wife Elizabeth aged 46 years with 2 daughters Annie and Sarah.

1891 Wales Census living in Gilwern Road, Aberbaiden

John Stowell aged 55 years, a Machine Man with wife Elizabeth, aged 58 years and family including daughter Sarah and husband William Overton, a Colliery Haulier and offspring Elizabeth Annie aged 2 months.

1896 DEATH RECORD

15th April Elizabeth Stowell dies aged 60 years and is buried at Llanelli Church on the 18th April.

1898 DEATH RECORD

7th June John Stowell Dies aged 63 years.