

## GRAVE NO: F95 [Pink Obelisk]

### JONES-PARRY, Thomas, PARRY, William & Mary



#### ***Inscription:***

##### **Side 1:**

Erected by public subscription.  
To the memory of  
T. JONES-PARRY  
County Councillor, Guardian  
And Temperance Advocate.  
Died June 30<sup>th</sup> 1906 aged 54 years.

##### **Side 2:**

Also of  
WILLIAM PARRY father of the aforesaid  
Died April 27<sup>th</sup> 1901 aged 83 years.  
And of  
MARY PARRY his mother  
Died Nov 5<sup>th</sup> 1895 aged 77 years.

*'With Christ which is far better.'*

This Victorian polished red granite obelisk-style monument with restrained classical detailing is characteristic of late Victorian funerary monuments. It is quite an imposing and expensive form of grave for the period, which tells us something about the family's status and aspirations.

It was erected by public subscription in memory of Thomas Jones-Parry, reflecting the high regard in which he was held within his community. He is commemorated not only as a private individual but as a public servant, described on the stone as a County Councillor, Guardian, and Temperance Advocate. Thomas died on 30 June 1906 at the age of fifty-four.

The memorial also records the deaths of his parents, William Parry and Mary Parry. William, the father of the aforesaid, died on 27 April 1901 aged eighty-three, while Mary predeceased him on 5 November 1895 at the age of seventy-seven. Their inclusion on the monument emphasises its role as a family memorial, linking Thomas's public life with his family origins.

The closing inscription, "*With Christ which is far better,*" is drawn from the Epistle to the Philippians and reflects the strong moral and religious values associated with the family. Taken together,

the wording and scale of the monument suggest a family of rising status whose work, conduct, and public service earned lasting recognition within their parish and beyond.

## **BACKGROUND**

Thomas Parry was born in Talgarth, Breconshire, in about 1848, the younger son of William Parry, a blacksmith originally from Brecon St John, and his wife Mary, a native of Talgarth. At the time of the 1851 Census, two-year-old Thomas was living with his parents and his elder brother William near the Swan Inn in Talgarth, a setting that already reflected the family's close association with inns and roadside trades.

By 1861 the family had moved to the Radnor Arms on Trefecca Road, Talgarth, where Thomas, aged thirteen, was recorded as a scholar. His father William combined the roles of innkeeper and blacksmith and was employing one man, indicating a modest but established livelihood. Thomas's mother Mary and his elder brother William, then seventeen and also a scholar, completed the household.

In the 1871 Census, Thomas was living independently in Talgarth, lodging near the Bridge End Inn with Elizabeth Moore, a widow, and her family. At twenty-two, he was single and working as a post office telegraph operator, marking a shift from the family's traditional trades into clerical and communications work.

By 1891, Thomas had returned to live with his family, now settled on Main Road, Maesygartha, Llanelly. Aged forty and still unmarried, he was employed as a solicitor's clerk. His parents, William and Mary, both seventy-five, were living with him, William now retired from blacksmithing, along with Thomas's elder brother William, a forty-seven-year-old carpenter, also single.

Mary Parry died on 5 November 1895 at the age of seventy-seven. In the 1901 Census, Thomas, recorded as Thomas Jones Parry, was living at Gwent House on Turnpike Road, Clydach. He was fifty-one, single, and working as an accountant. He shared the household with his widowed father William, aged eighty-three, and his brother William, now fifty-six and still working as a carpenter.

William Parry died on 27 April 1901 and was buried at St Elli, Llanelly, on 1 May, aged eighty-three. Thomas Jones Parry survived him by only a few years, dying on 30 June 1906 at Gwent House, Clydach, aged fifty-four. He was buried on 4 July, and probate of his estate was granted to his brother William Parry, carpenter, bringing to a close the story of a family closely rooted in Talgarth and Llanelly for more than half a century.

## **RECORDS**

### **1851 Census of Wales living next to the Swan Inn, Talgarth, Breconshire.**

Thomas Parry aged 2 born 1848 in Talgarth, with parents William 33 a smith of Brecon St John and Mary 33 of Talgarth and sibling William aged 6 years.

### **1861 Census of Wales living at Radnor Arms, Trefecca Road, Talgarth.**

Thomas Parry aged 13, a scholar with parents William 43 Innkeeper and Blacksmith employing one man, and Mary 43 and William 17 also a scholar.

### **1871 Census of Wales living near the Bridge End Inn, Talgarth.**

Thomas Parry 22, single, a post office telegraph operator lodging with Elizabeth Moore a widow and family.

**1891 Census of Wales living in Main Road Maesygartha. Llanelly, Breconshire.**

Thomas J Parry aged 40 single, a Solicitors Clerk with parents William 75 a retired blacksmith and Mary 75 and sibling William 47 a carpenter also single.

**1895 DEATH RECORD Crickhowell Oct Nov Dec Vol 11b page 78**

5<sup>th</sup> November death of Mary Parry aged 77 years.

**1901 Census of Wales living at Gwent House, Turnpike Road, Clydach.**

Thomas Jones Parry aged 51 single and an accountant with father William 83 a widower and brother William 56 a carpenter.

**1901 DEATH RECORD St Elli [Llanelly Parish Records]**

27<sup>th</sup> April William Parry of Clydach dies and is buried on 1<sup>st</sup> May aged 83 years.

**1906 DEATH RECORD Index of Wills and St Elli.**

30<sup>th</sup> June Thomas Jones Parry of Gwent House Clydach dies and is buried on July 4<sup>th</sup> aged 54 years. Probate granted to William Parry carpenter.